

Alternative Item Types (AITs)

1. What are AITs?

AITs refer to questions that are not the conventional multiple-choice, single answer questions. In the past, API exams only utilized the multiple-choice, single answer questions.

2. Why are AITs now included on the exams?

AITs offer more substantive ways for API to test a candidate's capability and knowledge and to help better assess the skill of the minimal level of competency. These include:

- A better way to measure a particular area of the test content that cannot be achieved through the traditional multiple-choice structure
- The ability to measure candidates at higher cognitive levels
- A method to test on practical knowledge that reflect work activities

3. How many AITs will be on each exam?

AITs will be gradually introduced to all the exams. The exams will start with 5-10 AITs for each exam. The rest of the exam questions will be the conventional multiple-choice, single answer questions. AITs will be included on the following new forms: 510 in September 2019, 653 in October 2019 and 570 in June 2020 exams.

4. What are the different types of AITs that I will see on the exam?

Currently, there are four different types of AITs that appear on the exam:

- Drag and Drop - Applicants will be presented with a list of options and must select all that answer the question by placing them in the provided answer box. Applicants will answer the question correctly only if they place all correct options in the provided box. If any option placed in the box is incorrect, the question is wrong. No partial credit is given.
- Ordered Response - Applicants will be asked to identify the correct order of a process. Several options will be listed under the question and applicants must arrange them in the correct step order in the boxes. All options will be used in the answer and no options will be used twice. To answer the question correctly, an applicant must place all options in the right order. If any option is out of order, then the question is incorrect. No partial credit is given.
- Multiple Response – Applicants will be presented with a list of four options and more than 1 may be correct. There will be a note on these questions to select all answers that apply. To answer the question correctly, an applicant must select all correct answers. If all correct answers are not selected, then the question is incorrect. No partial credit is given.
- Matching - Applicants will be presented with two columns and asked to match options in the left column with options in the right column. Multiple options in one column may be matched to a single option in the other column. There may be more options than available selections. To answer a question correctly, the applicant must correctly match the options in both columns. No partial credit is given.

5. How do AITs impact scoring?

AITs will not be scored differently. To view how questions are scored, visit our Scoring section.

6. Can I challenge AITs?

A candidate can challenge all questions on the exam, including AITs. Each question on the exam will have a comments section where you may enter a challenge.

[For additional information on AITs, view the Exam Tutorial.](#)