

OPINIONS ABOUT PRACTICE TESTS

RESULTS FROM SESSION PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT: OR DOES IT? N=19

1. DO CANDIDATES FOR CREDENTIALING EXAMINATIONS BENEFIT (IN THE BROADEST SENSE) FROM TAKING PRACTICE TESTS?

PRE-PRESENTATION RATING

YES N=16 (84%)*
NO N=3 (16%)

POST-PRESENTATION RATING

YES N=16 (94%)*
NO N=1 (6%)
1 DOESN'T KNOW; 1 NO RESPONSE

2. SHOULD PRACTICE TESTS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR A CREDENTIALING EXAMINATION FREE OF ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGE?

PRE-PRESENTATION RATING

YES N=6 (33%)
NO N=12 (67%)*
1 CAN GO EITHER WAY

POST-PRESENTATION RATING

YES N=7 (41%)
NO N=10 (59%)*
1 CAN GO EITHER WAY; 1 NO RESPONSE

3. IS IT A CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR SPONSORS OF CREDENTIALING PROGRAMS TO OFFER PRACTICE EXAMINATIONS?

PRE-PRESENTATION RATING

YES N=7 (37%)
NO N=12 (63%)*

POST-PRESENTATION RATING

YES N=3 (19%)
NO N=13 (81%)*
1 MAYBE; 2 NO RESPONSES

4. DOES THE INCREASING USE OF INTERNET-BASED PRACTICE TESTS ENCOURAGE OR CONTRIBUTE TO THE SHARING OF COPYRIGHTED EXAMINATION MATERIAL ON THE INTERNET BY CREDENTIALING CANDIDATES SIMILAR TO WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY?

PRE-PRESENTATION RATING

YES N=11 (61%)*
NO N=7 (39%)
1 NO RESPONSE

POST-PRESENTATION RATING

YES N=12 (80%)*
NO N=3 (20%)
4 NO RESPONSES

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

ATTENDEES AGREED THAT CANDIDATES DO BENEFIT FROM PRACTICE TESTS AND GENERALLY SUPPORT CHARGING AN ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS SERVICE. THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED INDICATE THAT THE OFFERING OF PRACTICE TESTS BY SPONSORS OF CREDENTIALING PROGRAMS DOES NOT REPRESENT A CONFLICT OF INTEREST, PARTICULARLY IF THE PRACTICE TESTS ARE CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATED FROM TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION. THERE IS ALSO RECOGNITION THAT THE CONTINUED USE OF THE INTERNET AS THE DISTRIBUTION CHANNEL FOR PRACTICE TESTS ENCOURAGES THE EASY SHARING OF OTHER PROPRIETARY TEST MATERIAL THROUGH THE SAME MEDIUM. THE LATTER TWO VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED SOMEWHAT MORE STRONGLY IN THE RATINGS FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATIONS.