

## Computer Adaptive Testing And Accommodations

Typically the NREMT provides extra time for qualified candidates to take our examinations after receipt of valid documentation. On this website we provide information on how to obtain an accommodation. Here we will explain how time-and-one-half will work when taking a computer adaptive test.

To begin to understand this process requires one to understand Computer Adaptive Testing or as we refer to it (CAT). An adaptive test is different for every individual. An adaptive test gives each candidate a question based upon how well the individual is doing on the test; hence it adapts based upon the candidates ability. Sometimes a person has a high level of ability and we can determine he/she is “above” entry-level competency within a few questions. Those above competency answer difficult questions correctly. Unfortunately sometimes a candidate has low ability and is “below” entry-level of competency. Those below entry-level competency miss questions that most people get correct. Sometimes a candidate is “near” entry-level competency and because he/she is near, the computer makes them answer many more questions than those above or below competency. Answering more questions allows those near competency to demonstrate more clearly if they are slightly above or below entry-level competency. Eventually this adaptive system can identify where a candidate is on the competency scale.

If a candidate has been awarded time-and-one-half, he/she will have 1.5 minutes, on the average to answer each question (the standard time is 1 minute). The ADA approved candidate is scheduled for time-and-one-half. However, if after 60 questions, and 90 minutes the computer identifies the candidate as being either way above or way below entry-level competency, the computer can “shut-off” and make it appear that the candidate was not given time and one half. If the candidate is near the level of competency, he/she can use more time than standard candidates as per our policy. Because each examination is unique to each candidate and because each candidate has unique abilities, each test and test length is unique.

There are some limitations. There is not an unlimited amount of time. The longest NREMT-Basic examination can contain 110 live questions so at time-and-one-half that would allow near 3 hours to complete an examination. If the computer can not be sure (within 95% confidence) that the candidate is or is not competent within 110 questions and the candidate reaches the maximum amount of time, the computer shuts off and the candidate is dismissed. So, both time and numbers of items are important. Candidates have to answer enough questions to demonstrate competency and do so within the time limit. ADA candidates get extra time if they need it in order to diagnose competency. If it has been determined the individual is not competent the computer can shut off before the maximum time is reached.

We hope this explanation will help you understand our accommodations and computer adaptive testing (CAT).