



Music Therapy Board Certification Updated Board Certification Domain Framework

From the 2024 Music Therapy Practice Analysis Study, Effective October 27, 2025

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SLIDE 1: Every five years, the Certification Board for Music Therapists conducts a practice analysis survey among board-certified music therapists.

Board Certification Domains



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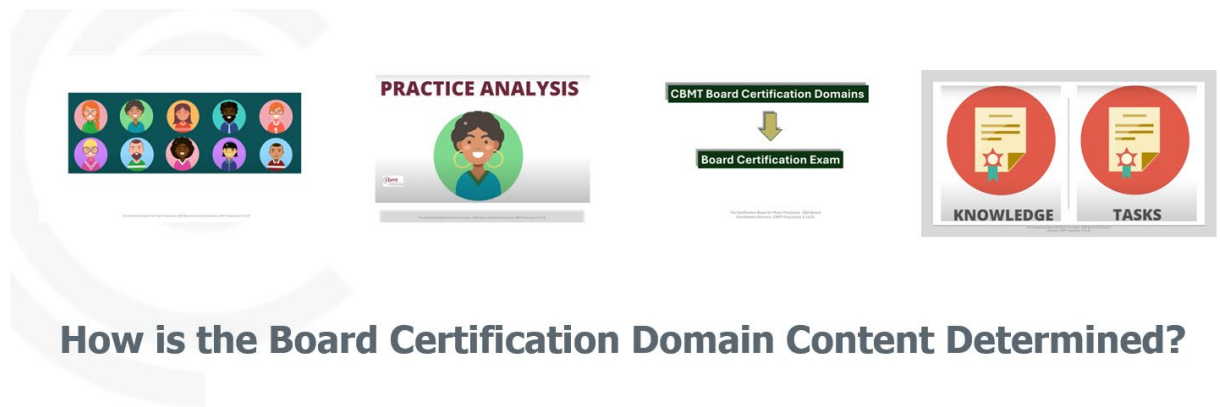
SLIDE 2: The survey results are used to
update the content and format of the Board
Certification Domains.

Five Main Domain Areas

Competency Areas	
1	Safety
2	Referral, Assessment, Interpretation of Assessment, and Treatment Planning
3	Treatment Implementation and Documentation
4	Evaluation and Termination of Treatment
5	Professional Development and Responsibilities

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SLIDE 3: Domain areas are the key competencies critical for safe and competent music therapy practice.



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SLIDE 4: Before I share the updated Board Certification Domains, let's do a quick review of how the practice analysis informs content development.



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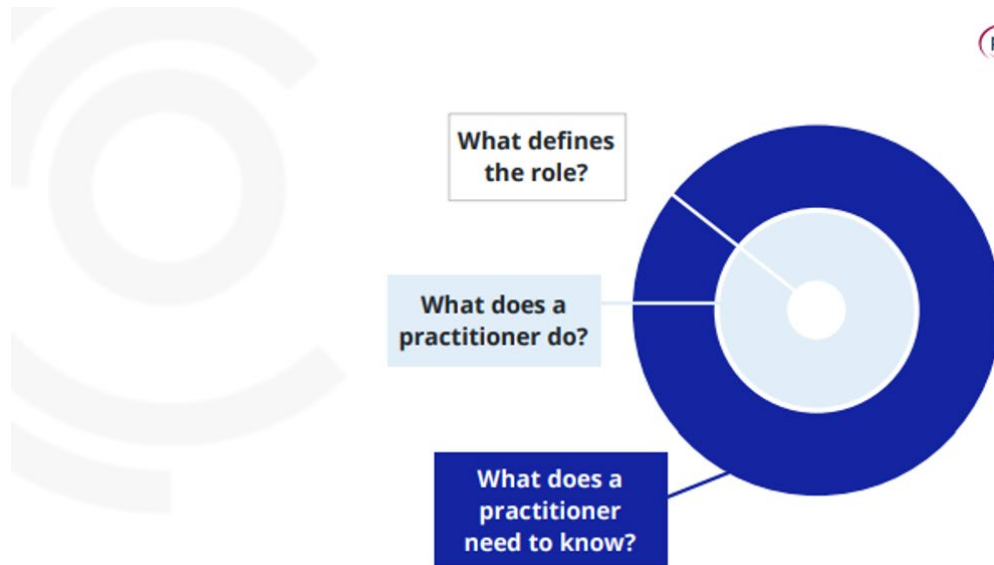
SLIDE 5: Analysis of survey responses is conducted by a committee of board-certified music therapists who incorporate the results into the board certification domains framework. The committee adheres to guidelines provided by the professional testing company.

PRACTICE ANALYSIS



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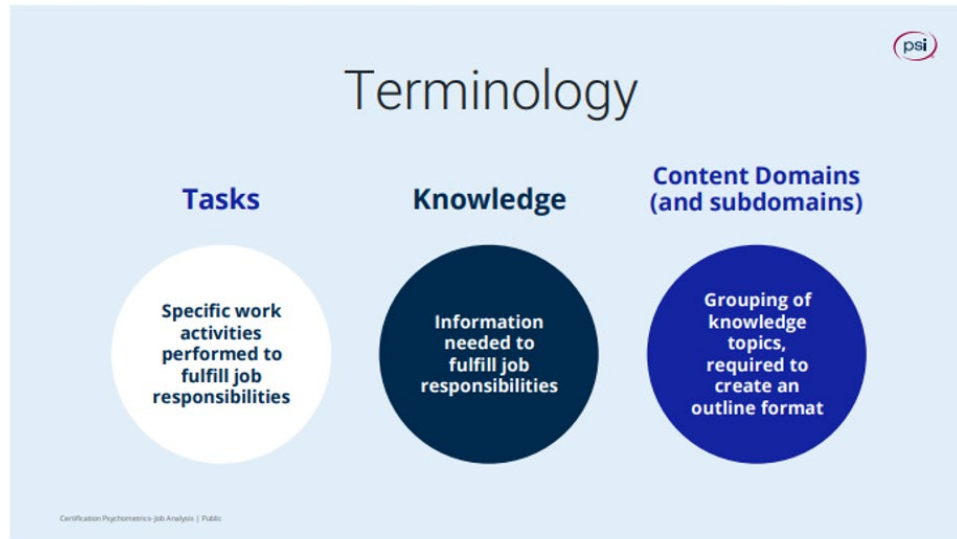
SLIDE 6: The practice analysis process ensures that the board certification exam aligns with current practices and remains relevant for the next five years.



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SLIDE 7: The practice analysis process

addresses the definition of a music therapist's role, the duties of a music therapist, and the knowledge necessary to perform safely and competently.

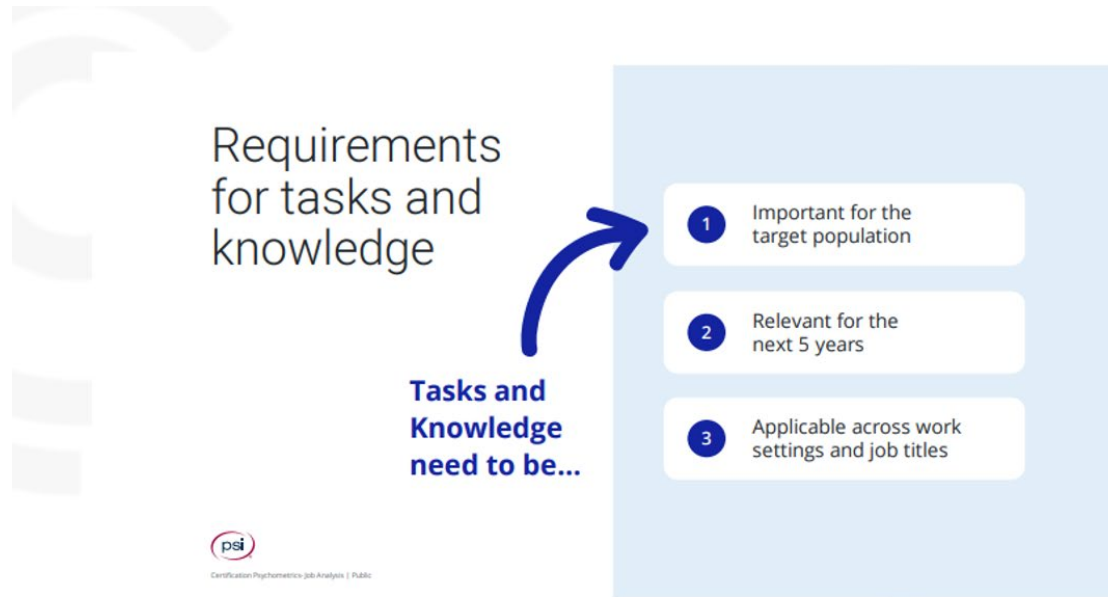


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SLIDE 8: The practice analysis survey requests that respondents evaluate essential tasks and knowledge required for safe and competent practice. This information is utilized in the board certification-domains framework to classify the tasks and

knowledge by larger domain and subdomain areas.

The Task Statements are listed under domain and subdomain areas and help us understand the underlying responsibilities of the music therapist. The Knowledge Statements are also listed under domain and subdomain areas and provide us with a list of the knowledge or information needed to safely and competently fulfill the job responsibilities of a music therapist.



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SLIDE 9: The knowledge and task statements are significant, relevant for the next five years, and applicable across different work settings and job titles.



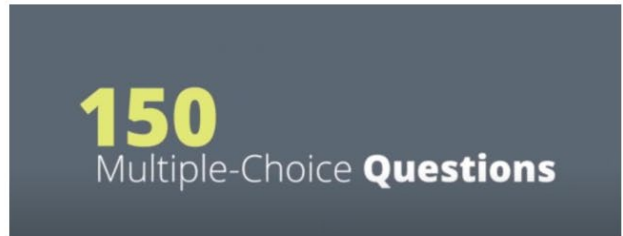
The diagram consists of two dark grey rectangular boxes with white text. The top box contains the text 'CBMT Board Certification Domains'. A large, hollow, olive-green arrow points downwards from the bottom center of the top box to the top center of the bottom box. The bottom box contains the text 'Board Certification Exam'. In the background, there are faint, light grey concentric circles on the left and light purple concentric circles on the right.

CBMT Board Certification Domains

Board Certification Exam

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SLIDE 10: The Board Certification Domains offer an extensive and structured framework for the examination content.



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SLIDE 11: The Knowledge and Task Statements are used by the exam content writers to write exam questions. The examination consists of 150 multiple-choice questions (130 scored and 20 non-scored pretest questions). The non-scored pretest questions will be scattered throughout the

examination and you will not be able to discern pretest from scored questions while taking the examination.

You will be expected to respond to all 150 questions in the three-hour time limit. You are presented with a question and are asked to choose the correct answer from four options.



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SLIDE 12: Experts including board certified music therapists, psychometricians, and exam content specialists collaborated to develop the updated Board Certification Domains Framework, and the associated

exam content. As a result, the exam content accurately reflects real practice and includes recall, and application and analysis questions, based on a consistent formula.

Cognitive Complexity Levels

Cognitive Level	Description
1 - Recall	Ability to identify, remember, or recognize specific information
2 - Application/Analysis	Ability to calculate, classify, interpret, or apply knowledge; Ability to analyze information, combine information together to arrive at a solution, and/or evaluate the usefulness of particular solution

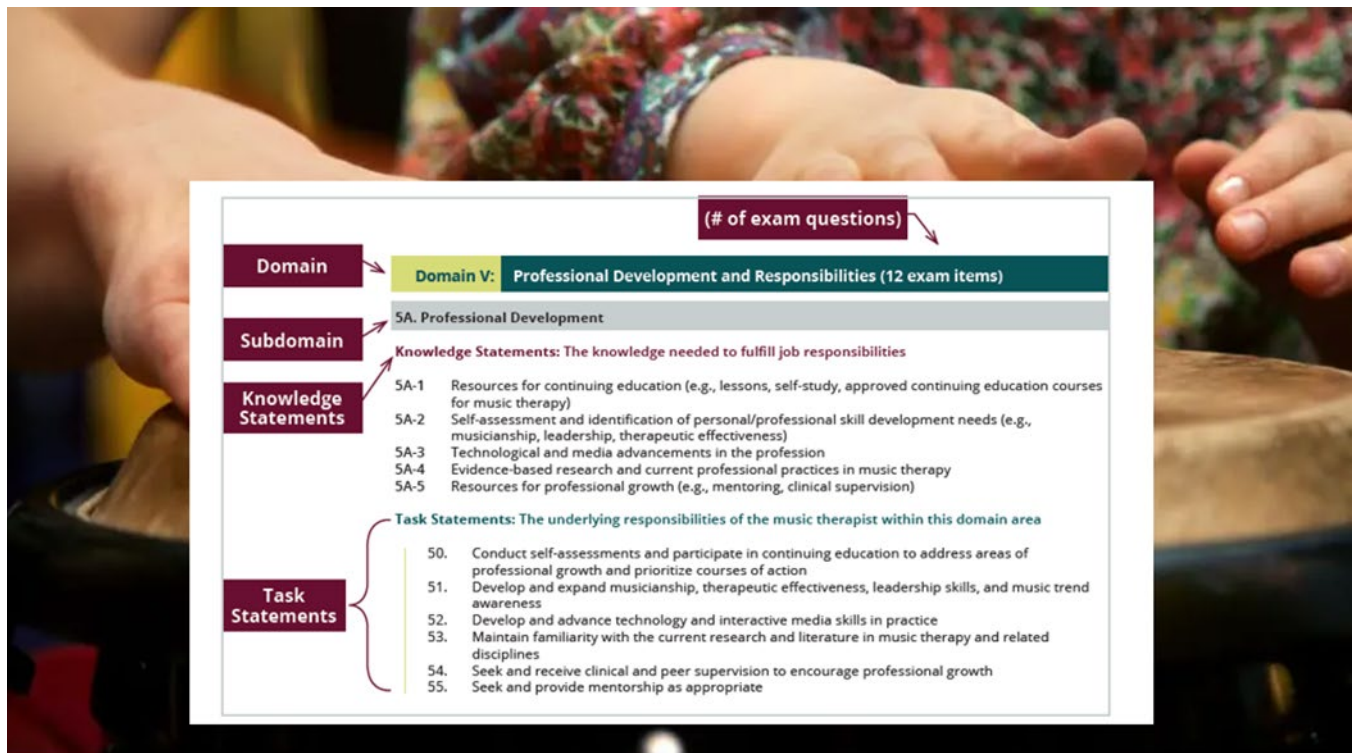
Cognitive Level	Minimum Required	Maximum Allowable
Recall	15%	25%
Application/Analysis	75%	85%

Each MT-BC exam form contains between 15% to 25% recall questions and between 75% to 85% application/analysis questions.

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SLIDE 13: The questions on the examination included both recall questions testing the ability to remember and recognize specific information and

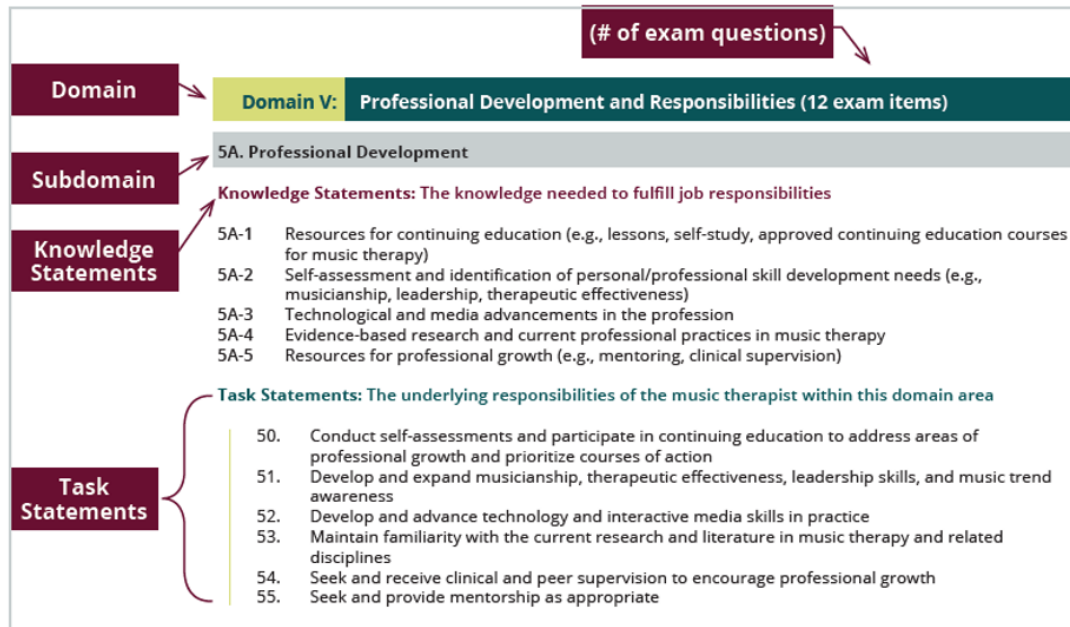
application and analysis questions that test the ability to analyze a situation or the presented information to arrive at a solution. The psychometricians at the testing company ensure that the exam forms are equated in difficulty and contain between 15% and 25% recall questions in addition to 75%- 85% application and analysis questions.



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SLIDE 14: Now let's take a look at the updated 2025 Board Certification Domains and how to use the framework.

The Board Certification Domain document outlines domains, subdomains, knowledge statements, task statements, and the number of exam questions by domain. It guides candidates on requirements for success and the exam structure.



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SLIDE 15: The domain represents the high-level competency area. Some domains are further divided into sub-domains. Each domain encompasses a list of knowledge statements that outline the necessary understanding required for safe and competent practice.

Following the knowledge statements, there is a list of task statements, specifying the duties of a music therapist within the domain area. Note that task statements are action oriented.

Knowledge Statements and Task Statements were used to write recall, and application and analysis cognitive level questions for the examination. The board certification domains framework connects both knowledge and task statements under the domain and subdomain areas.

This means that when taking the MT-BC examination you should be prepared to answer questions that relate to

both knowledge and task statements as both are being tested.

Applying the Board Certification Domains

- Defines the scope
- Guides exam development
- Framework for educational and study materials



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SLIDE 16: The Board Certification Domains framework was created for, and by, board certified music therapists. The process was guided by the examination development experts from the Certification Board for Music Therapist's professional testing vendor, PSI.

The final product provides a comprehensive overview of the test material and is a valuable resource for testers, educators, and the board-certified music therapy community.



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SLIDE 17: Please visit the Certification Board for Music Therapist's webpage for additional information. Check under the resources section for the complete 2025 Board Certification Domains framework labeled with the implementation date. You can also view or



download a transcript of this presentation in addition to a pdf User Guide to assist you in using the updated Board Certification Domain's Framework. Thank you!