



Understanding Your Score Report

Receiving your exam results can be overwhelming, especially with terms like "scaled scores" and "pretest items." Here is a quick breakdown of how we calculate your score and what those numbers actually mean for your journey toward becoming ACHI Certified.

1. What is a Scaled Score?

We do not report your score as a simple "percent correct." Instead, we use scaled scores ranging from 200 to 800.

- **The Passing Mark: 500**
- **Why we use scales:** Different versions of the exam may vary slightly in difficulty. Scaling ensures that a 500 on a "harder" version of the test represents the same level of knowledge as a 500 on an "easier" version. It keeps the playing field level for everyone.

2. The 150 vs. 170 Question Count

You may have noticed you answered 170 questions, but your score is only based on 150.

- **Scored Items (150):** These are the questions that determine your final result.
- **Pretest Items (20):** These are new questions we are "testing out" for future exams. They do not count toward your score and they are mixed randomly, so you won't know which is which. This helps us ensure our future exams are fair and accurate.

3. Understanding Your Content Area Scores

On your report, you'll see a breakdown of how you performed in specific topics.

- **For Guidance Only:** These sub-scores are meant to show you your strengths and weaknesses.
- **The "Small Sample" Caution:** Because these sub-sections have fewer questions than the full exam, the scores can fluctuate easily.
- **Our Recommendation:** Even if you scored well in one specific area, we strongly recommend reviewing all content areas before retaking the exam.

4. Next Steps

If you did not pass this time, don't be discouraged. Use the content area scores as a roadmap for your next study session, focusing on the sections where your scaled score was furthest from 500.