



An Explanation of Scaled Scores

What is a scaled score?

A scaled score is a representation of the total number of correct answers (also known as raw scores) a candidate has provided that has been converted onto a consistent and standardized scale. Scaled scores indicate the same level of performance, regardless of which form a candidate has received. For NCCT certification exams, the converted raw passing score is 70 on a scale of 0 to 100. This is NOT a percentage.

Why use a scaled score?

We use a scaled score so direct and fair comparisons can be made about exam scores. Scaled scores indicate the same level of performance, regardless of which form a candidate received. Any differences in form difficulty are accounted for through the use of scaled scores.

As exam forms are developed every year, differences in the difficulty of individual items can result in differences in the difficulty of examination forms. When there are differences in the difficulty of exam forms, the same raw score may represent different levels of knowledge or competency. For example, a higher raw score on an easier form may represent the same knowledge or competency as a lower score on a more difficult form. A scaled score allows candidates to make direct and fair comparisons across forms of differing difficulty.

How are form differences handled?

The same passing standard is applied to forms of varying difficulty through a process called equating. Equating is a statistical procedure that adjusts the passing score to reflect differences in form difficulty, thus maintaining an equivalent passing standard. Equating helps to ensure candidates who take an easier form are not given an unfair advantage and candidates taking a more difficult form are not penalized.

The table below shows an example of how scaled scores are associated to raw scores on two different forms.

Raw Score	Scaled Score	
	Form 1	Form 2
95	75	73
94	74	72
93	73	71
92	72	70
91	71	69
90	70	68

As you can see, Form 1 is more difficult because it requires fewer correct answers to reach a passing scaled score of 70 (90 correct answers). Conversely, Form 2 is easier because it requires more correct answers to reach a passing scaled score of 70 (92 correct answers). The passing score for both of these forms is presented as the same scaled number (70).