

**BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS, AND GEOLOGISTS**

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Alternate Item Types

At the February 21, 2019 meeting, the Board received a presentation by the Exam Unit Manager and Prometric, the Board's examination vendor, on the Board's use of its examination development process and an introduction to Alternate-Item-Type (AIT) question formats.

The advances in Computer-Based-Testing (CBT) have made it possible to expand upon traditional Multiple-Choice (MC) items and use AIT technology to assess an examinee's knowledge and competencies in many different ways. Development of exam questions has progressed from offering only MC type questions of selecting one answer from several response alternatives to the ability to drag and drop objects, perform extended matching, rank order items sequentially, select a hot spot, or choose multiple choice-multiple response, just to name a few of the options available for question format. National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (NCEES) first began phasing in AIT-formatted questions for the national engineer and surveyor exams several years ago so many of the Board's licensure candidates may have already experienced AIT questions.

Beginning in Fall of 2019, the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Geologists (BPELSG) will begin introducing a small number of AIT questions across selected state examinations as an alternative to the typical-used Multiple Choice question format. The introduction of AIT questions will not increase the total number of questions on the exam. While initially these AIT questions will not impact the passing score, BPELSG does plan on fully integrating AIT questions which will be scored with the more typical MC questions by Fall 2020.

Over the next year, BPELSG will post more information and samples of the AIT formatted questions on the Board's website, in addition to outreach events, so licensure candidates can review and become familiar with these question formats. BPELSG encourages all candidates sitting for exams in the upcoming year to provide feedback at the time of their testing by providing comments after the examination.