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OPRA EXAM SYLLABUS (2025)



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OPRA (Overseas Pharmacist Readiness Assessment) exam, as the name indicates it is an exam test the readiness of the overseas pharmacists who want to practice as a pharmacist in Australia. To pass this opra exam, you need a strong grasp of key pharmaceutical topics, the ability to apply your knowledge in real-life situations, and a good understanding of patient care practices. This guide will break down the syllabus, offer helpful preparation tips, and give you practical advice from a student's point of view to help you succeed.

OPRA EXAM SYLLABUS



The main syllabus is sub divided into 5 content areas. It is designed to access your knowledge in multiple domains of pharmacy including pharmacology, clinical pharmacy and Pharmacy practice.



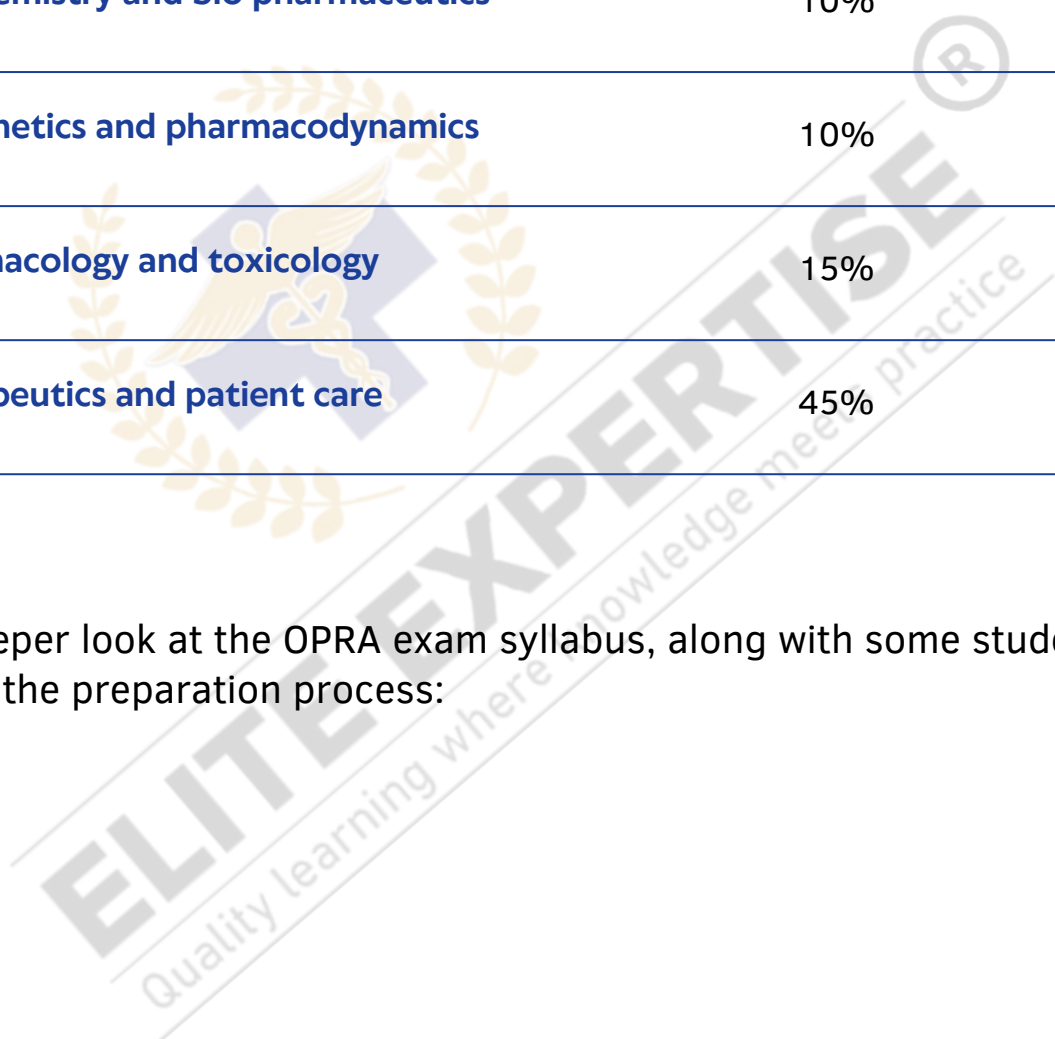
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Key components of OPRA Exam

Below is the blueprint for the OPRA exam:

Content Area	Percentage of questions allocated
Biomedical sciences	20%
Medicinal chemistry and bio pharmaceuticals	10%
Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics	10%
Pharmacology and toxicology	15%
Therapeutics and patient care	45%

Let's take a deeper look at the OPRA exam syllabus, along with some student tips to simplify the preparation process:



1. Biomedical sciences

Student Tip: Focus on foundational knowledge in biochemistry and physiology. Build strong concepts in pathophysiology for disorders like asthma, cardiovascular diseases, and infections etc.

Content area	General description		Content assessed	Examples of topics (non-exhaustive)
1. Biomedical sciences	Normal and abnormal body functions including at cellular level, and the manner in which diseases and disorders affect normal body functions. It includes the causes (aetiology) of disease and disorders and the recognition of normal and abnormal body functions	1	Physiological processes and normal bodily function for all systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central nervous, digestive, cardiovascular, lymphatic, nervous, respiratory, urinary, endocrine, and reproductive systems, and their integration; blood and other body fluids.
		2	Pathophysiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alteration of normal physiological processes and genesis of disease states by genetic factors, environmental, chemical/drug causes, physical injury or infectious agents or other causes.
		3	Medical microbiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pathogenesis of infections (bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other parasites).
		4	Immunology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immune responses and defence mechanisms against infectious agents. Vaccines and vaccine preventable disease.
		5	Disorders affecting bodily fluids	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluid and electrolyte disorders, metabolic acid-base disorders, and blood disorders.
		6	Symptoms and physiological values of disease states and disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluid and electrolyte disorders, metabolic acid-base disorders, and blood disorders.

2. Medicinal Chemistry and Biopharmaceutics:

Student Tip: Chemistry content has been streamlined and combined with biopharmaceutics. Focus on mastering ADME concepts and their role in drug delivery.

Content area	General description		Content assessed	Examples of topics (non-exhaustive)
2. Medicinal chemistry and bio pharmaceutics	Principles of drug design and development and the factors that influence and/or determine the materials and methods used in the formulation of medicines	1	Physicochemical properties of drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physicochemical properties of drugs of relevance to drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME).
		2	Formulations for the delivery of drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properties of solids, solid dosage forms, solvents, solutes, aqueous and non-aqueous solutions, liquid-liquid solutions, solid-liquid solutions, gas-liquid solutions, suspensions, and emulsions.
		3	Drug and chemical stability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mechanisms of degradation (hydrolysis, oxidation), zero and first-order degradation, effect of temperature and pH.
		4	Solubility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factors affecting solubility, dissolution, partition, and thermodynamics of pharmaceutical solutions.
		5	Drug formulation M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials and methods used in the formulation of drug delivery systems for common routes of administration, including oral, pulmonary, transdermal, parenteral, ophthalmic, nasal, rectal, and vaginal.
		6	Pharmaceutical microbiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation, antimicrobial agents, and sterilisation processes

3. Pharmacokinetics and Pharmacodynamics:

Student Tip: Solidify your understanding of core pharmacokinetics concepts like half-life and steady-state to simplify dosage calculations.

Content area	General description		Content assessed	Examples of topics (non-exhaustive)
3. Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics	Factors that influence how medicines are absorbed, distributed, metabolized, and eliminated (ADME) from the body, and how pathophysiological changes impact ADME and the selection of treatment options	1	Drug metabolism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical and biochemical basis for drug action and pathways for drug metabolism, drug absorption, disposition, biotransformation, elimination, receptor theory, signal transduction mechanisms, and molecular pharmacology
		2	Principles of pharmacokinetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bioavailability and bioequivalence, biological half-life, elimination and clearance concepts, distribution, protein binding, steady state considerations
		3	Factors affecting drug impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determinants of drug onset, drug duration, and effect of factors such as disease/conditions and diet on absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion
		4	Evaluation of pharmacokinetic data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinetics of drug interactions, drug concentration vs time curves and interpretation of pharmacokinetics of low-therapeutic-index drugs
		5	Using pharmacokinetic data in treating patients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of pharmacokinetics to calculate, evaluate, and individualise drug therapy, including monitoring and adjustment of doses in renal and hepatic dysfunction, loading doses and time to reach a steady state.
		6	Drug metabolism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical and biochemical basis for drug action and pathways for drug metabolism, drug absorption, disposition, biotransformation, elimination, receptor theory, signal transduction mechanisms, and molecular pharmacology.

4. Pharmacology and Toxicology:

Student Tip: Focus on pharmacology as a primary area of study. Understanding drug interaction and mechanisms of actions will also simplify therapeutic decisions.

Content area	General description		Content assessed	Examples of topics (non-exhaustive)
4. Pharmacology and toxicology	How medicines work in the body, how common chemicals and poisons exert their effect, recognition of toxic and adverse	1	Impact of drugs on the body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effects of drugs on organs and body systems, dose-response relationships, agonists, partial agonists, antagonists, enzyme inducers/substrates/inhibitors, genetic polymorphism, and clinical relevance.
		2	Receptor theory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug receptor interactions, agonists/antagonists, dose-response curves, desensitisation, and super sensitivity.
		3	Adverse drug reactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adverse drug reactions, side effects of medicines and management, and mechanisms of drug-drug interactions.
		4	Drug interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug-drug interactions, drug-receptor interactions, drug-receptor binding, enzyme substrate relationships, hydrophilic and hydrophobic interactions
		5	Drug toxicity and treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug and chemical overdose and antidotes. Signs and symptoms of toxicity and mechanism of toxicity and its management.
		6	Factors causing changes in the pharmacology and toxicity of drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modulators of drug pharmacology and toxicity such as pharmacologic factors (disposition, biotransformation, renal elimination), physiological factors (age, sex, genetics, pregnancy, etc), and pathophysiological factors (liver disease, renal dysfunction).

5. Therapeutics and Patient Care:

Student Tip: Stay updated on over-the-counter products and their indications. Practice scenario-based questions to develop patient care skills. One of the most important and newly introduced topics so have a thorough preparation in this area.

Content area	General description		Content assessed	Examples of topics (non-exhaustive)
5. Therapeutics and patient care	Clinical application of content areas 1-4 in patient care. It includes understanding the principles of health promotion, disease prevention, quality use of medicine, selection of medicines for special populations and provision of medicines information	1	Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculate common patient assessment parameters such as body mass index (BMI) and creatinine clearance.
		2	Dose calculations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of drug, number of doses, dosing based on body weight/ body surface area/ age/ or other pharmacokinetic parameters, ratio and proportion, percentage, stock solutions, dilution, and concentration, alligation, electrolyte solutions (milliequivalents/milliosmoles), reconstitution, infusion flow rates, isotonicity.
		3	Primary health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Select appropriate management options for treating illness and maintaining health and identify circumstances where non-pharmacological treatment is more appropriate
		4	Safe and effective use of medicines in populations requiring extended consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration for medicine use, precautions, and contraindications in special populations: the elderly, children less than 12 years of age, during pregnancy or while breastfeeding.
		5	Safe and effective use of medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and review of management options, including medicines use and promoting adherence to medicines.
		6	Harm minimisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge about strategies for minimising misuse and abuse of medicines at the patient and community level.

5. Therapeutics and Patient Care:

Content area	General description		Content assessed	Examples of topics (non-exhaustive)
5. Therapeutics and patient care	Clinical application of content areas 1-4 in patient care. It includes understanding the principles of health promotion, disease prevention, quality use of medicine, selection of medicines for special populations and provision of medicines information	7	Health promotion and disease prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge about strategies for minimising misuse and abuse of medicines at the patient and community level.
		8	Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding general principles about maintaining confidentiality and professionalism when providing medicines information and handling patient records

OPRA Exam Question Format

The OPRA exam evaluates three cognitive levels:

- Recall (55%): Remembering facts and concepts.
- Understanding (30%): Explaining principles or categorizing information.
- Application (15%): Solving problems by applying learned concepts.

Student Tip: Dedicate more time to recall-based preparation, but ensure you also incorporate understanding and application into your study routine.

Preparation Tips for OPRA Exam

- **Create a Study Schedule:** Assign time to each syllabus area based on its importance and your personal strengths.
- **Prioritize High-Yield Topics:** Focus on pharmacology, therapeutics, and patient care as they are essential for pharmacy practice.
- **Practice Questions:** Solve past papers or practice questions to get familiar with the exam format.
- **Group Study:** Collaborate with peers to tackle challenging topics and share insights.
- **Mock Tests:** Take timed mock tests to improve both speed and accuracy.

- Preparing for the OPRA exam can be overwhelming, especially with the updated syllabus and changing exam patterns. This can lead to anxiety for first-time test-takers. That's where Elite Expertise comes in, providing a clear and supportive learning environment to help you through the process.

Preparation Tips for OPRA Exam

- Our mentors, Arief Mohammad and Harika Bheemavarapu, are practicing pharmacists who bring real-world knowledge to the classroom. With their industry experience, they make complex topics easier to understand, breaking them down into simple, student-friendly lessons. They focus on helping you understand the material, not just memorize it, so even the toughest topics will feel more manageable.



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Why Choose Elite Expertise for OPRA Exam Preparation?

- by-step way, helping students feel confident and organized as they go through the material.
- Experienced Instructors: Learn from practicing pharmacists who share practical tips and strategies for both real-world pharmacy scenarios and the exam itself.
- Personalized Approach: Our lessons are tailored to each student's pace, ensuring that key concepts are clearly understood.
- Exam-Ready Confidence: By the end of the course, students will be fully prepared for the OPRA exam and confident on test day.

- At Elite Expertise, we don't just prepare students for exams; we equip them to tackle challenges head-on with the knowledge and self-assurance needed for a successful pharmacy career in Australia and New Zealand.

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