

Take a practice test, have your resources next to you

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- 1) Mark down whether each question was **type 1**, 2, or 3 and then figure out the distribution of the types.
- 2) With 3+ weeks left until your exam date your goal is to lower the # of **type 3** questions to 0-10% of your practice questions. Obviously you want a higher # of type 1 questions than **type 2** for the remaining 90% distribution. But if your **type 3** questions still make up about 30% of the distribution, type 1 vs type 2 may be a moot point... you're going to have to get a little lucky on the exam to pass in my opinion.
- 3) With a couple days left until the exam your ideal distribution should probably around **80%+ type 1**, **0-10% type 2**, **0-10% type 3**.
- 4) I've put some thought into these numbers, if I end up doing well on the CPJE ill elaborate in a longer guide.

Type 3 questions are questions you expect to miss on the test, you made a wild guess and just hoped for the best. **They are often clinical questions (if it's a law question, it's more likely that it's a type 2 and you just need to navigate your law reference better).** Best case scenario is that you simply lacked the background knowledge to figure out what the question was asking, find a way to buff up your background knowledge and see if you can turn this question into a type 2 or type 1 question. Worst case scenario, it is an outdated question (maybe the drug was a top 100 drug at the writing of the question, but guidelines have changed and professors focus on new drugs instead). Either way, it will probably take you a month to fully turn this into a type 1 question.

With one month left until the exam, reducing the amount of type 3 questions should be your primary goal. Any reputable "course" should either turn these questions into type 2 or type 1 questions. The fastest/cheapest way to do this is to devote one week to reading RxPrep or Apha review book cover to cover without any focus on memorization. If you are not a book learner, go buy the online lectures (they may take more than 1 week to finish). If money is not a problem but time is, go do something like PassNaplexnow. I guarantee you if you ask any licensed pharmacist in California to take a sample CPJE, less than 10% of the questions will be type 3 to them, and that 10% will comprise of outdated questions, questions related to a field of pharmacy they haven't been in for several years, and super hard questions that probably came from some random pharmacy professor.

Type 2 questions - depending on your references/learning ability/memorization skills these are questions you can turn into a type 1 question in a couple of weeks.

If it's a law question, go back to your law reference and reread that chapter again. If it seems like almost all your law questions are type 2 either re-read your law reference or go buy a new one. Pharmacists (for the most part) are not lawyers, you are not going to get asked a law question that you're going to have to go to a mock trial over. If you ask the busiest, most overworked, understaffed pharmacist in CA in the middle of his or her shift a law question from the CPJE, he or she can answer you right away or find out the answer in less than a minute either from the manager or a poster in the pharmacy.

If it's a clinical question, the drug is most likely in the top 200-300. Go to your clinical **reference**, can you figure out the answer in a minute or so? If not, you might need to tweak your references a little bit. Using brand/generic flash cards? Use brand/generic/MOA or Indication/monitoring parameters instead. Using something like Pharmacy charts from ebay? Bookmark that page/topic because you need to go over that page again and again until questions from that topic are type 1 questions for you.

All your type 2 questions are type 1 questions to someone else who is studying to take this exam. Studying your clinical and law references should turn these into type 1 within a couple of weeks (maybe a month if you don't have that much time to study), otherwise you might need a different type of reference. Re-evaluate yourself every 16-24 hrs of studying,

make sure you are making progress towards that 80%+ **type 1 question goal.**