

Scaled and Raw Passing Scores

The score report a candidate receives will show the number of items correctly answered in each content area and the whole test. The whole test score is a candidate's raw score. The report also shows a minimum raw passing score required to pass the 150-item test.

Test forms candidates take will change over time. A new form may be slightly more easy or difficult than earlier forms. However, it should not matter to candidates or the NAECB whether candidates take an easier or more difficult form. Easier forms will have proportionately higher raw passing scores and more difficult forms will have proportionately lower raw passing scores. Exact adjustments are derived from item statistics based on past candidates' responses.

When these adjustments in raw passing scores are driven by form difficulties, the effect is to produce an equitable and constant passing standard. Score reports will then express this fact in a scaled passing score that does not change from form to form. The minimum scaled passing score will always be 75.

A candidate's score report will show scaled and raw test scores. Scaled scores can fall between 0 and 99. Candidates who pass earn scaled scores between 75 and 99. Candidates who fail earn scaled scores between 0 and 74. Two candidates with adjacent raw scores can receive the same scaled score because raw scores range up to 150, while scaled scores only range up to 99. Figure 1 illustrates typical relationships between scaled and raw test scores.

It may help candidates to think about Celsius and Fahrenheit temperature scales to better understand how their test performance can be expressed as scaled and raw scores. Any level of kinetic activity is expressed by two values on these two temperature scales. Likewise, any level of asthma educator ability can be expressed by scaled and raw score values.

In summary, a scaled score is NOT a percentage score. A scaled score is simply a transformation of a raw score. Scaling is done to report comparable results when form difficulties vary over time.

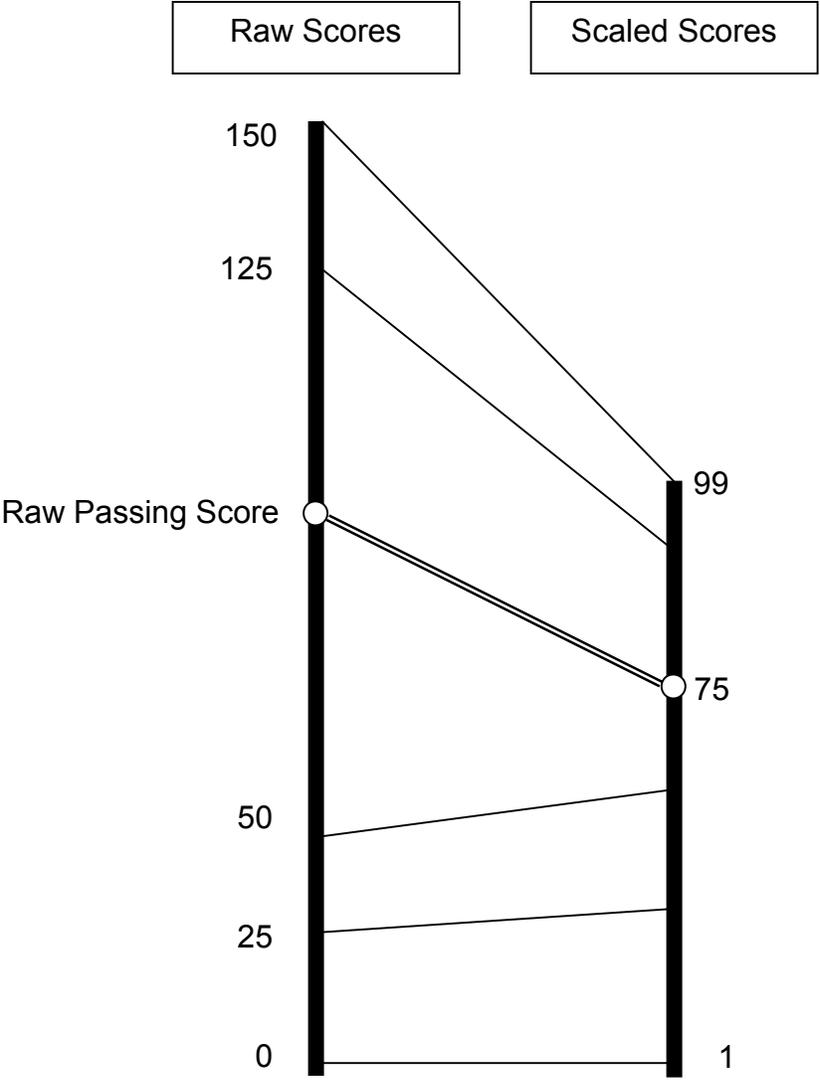


Figure 1.

Lines connect a few equivalent points on both scales.