

# Preparing for Professional Certification with Online Learning Tools

The International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE) is a non-profit organization established to develop and administer a certification examination for lactation consultants. Founded in 1985, IBLCE administers annual examinations, in multiple languages and at numerous sites around the world. The IBLCE certification program for lactation consultants has been continuously accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) since 1988. Candidates who pass the certification exam are awarded the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) credential.

In 2011, 6,176 candidates across 50 countries took the exam, with 82% certifying for the first time. The IBLCE requires that lactation consultants recertify every five years either by taking the exam or by earning continuing education credits. Jones & Bartlett Learning offers JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review, based on *Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review, Third Edition* by Linda J. Smith, an online program designed to help lactation consultants prepare for the IBLCE certification exam.

We recently surveyed 485 users who completed JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review between 2010 and 2012 and found that:

- 98% said it helped them learn
- 96% would recommend it to others
- 94% reported that it helped them pass the IBLCE exam

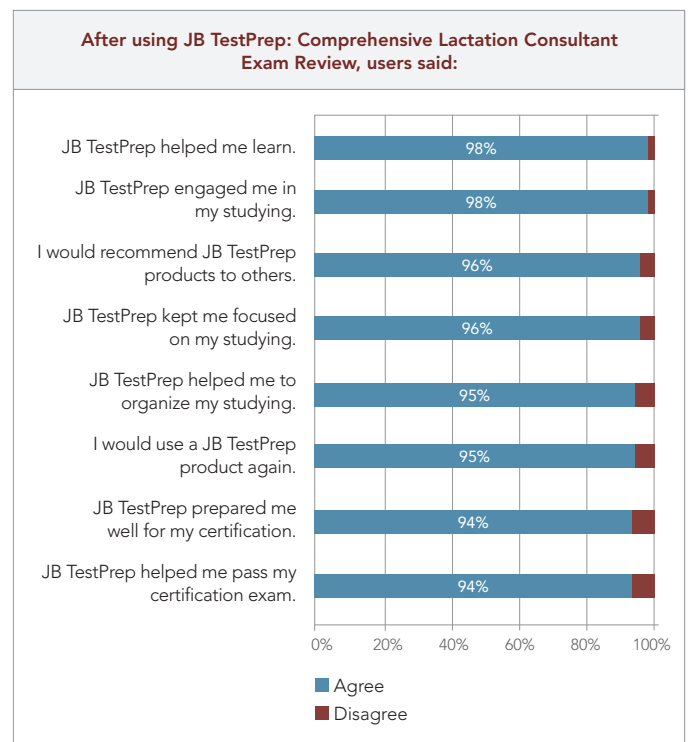
Our findings also showed some initial evidence that JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review users scored higher than the 2011 IBLCE pass rate average according to the IBLCE's Statistical Report.

	IBLCE: 2011 (N = 6,176)	JB TestPrep Users (N = 311)
Pass Rate	88.4%	97.3%
Mean Score	76.2	81.2

How did JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review benefit users studying for the IBLCE exam?

- ▶ "For me [it] was THE most important way to study."
- ▶ "I was very satisfied as it helped me to organize my study and prepare for the actual sitting of the exam and improved my confidence."
- ▶ "It was the most helpful resource I used."

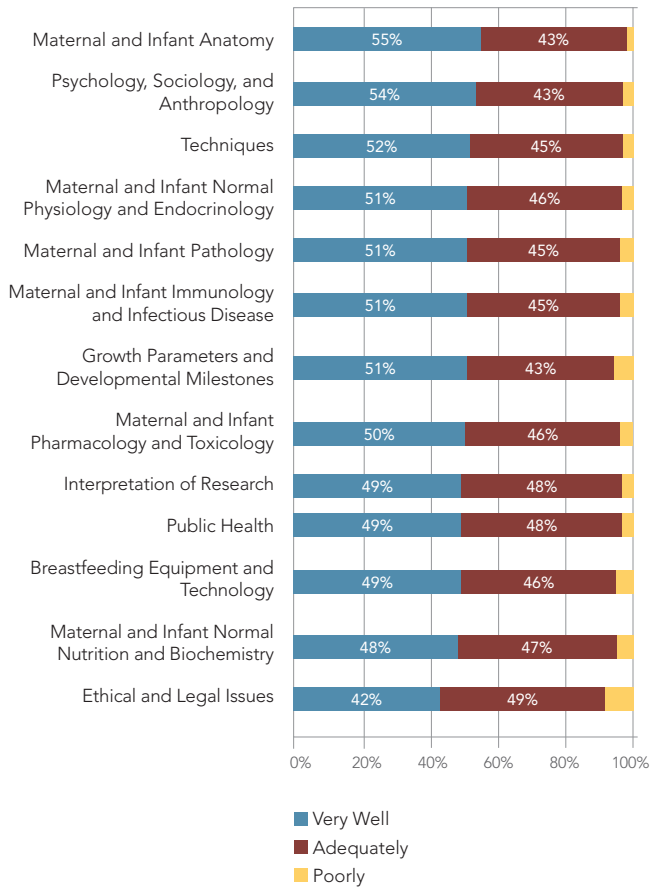
- ▶ "Organization of the material was awesome! Wish I would have purchased it sooner."
- ▶ "...wouldn't have passed without [it]."



JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review simulates the IBLCE exam

- ▶ "Because [JB TestPrep] is formatted like the IBLCE, it was a very effective study tool for me."
- ▶ "...great review and helped me stay focused and organized. It also helped me become familiar with the format of the exam as well as knowing what to look for in the pictures."
- ▶ "...helped me with how the questions were formulated and how to recognize and not get tripped up on the negative questions."
- ▶ "The question format was identical in the prep review as the actual exam. The stem and the answer format were very similar and so were the photos."

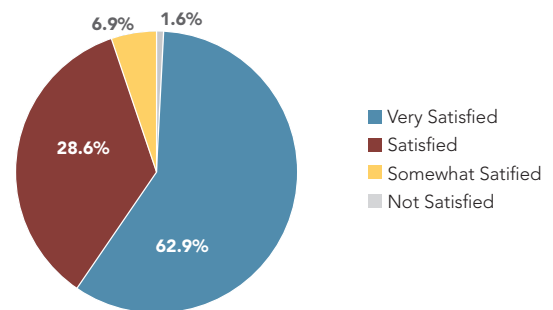
**On average, how well did JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review prepare you for the IBLCE exam by section?**



**What other elements of JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review contributed to user satisfaction?**

- ▶ *"I really liked the online [JB TestPrep]. I am more comfortable with that format and it was easier for me to study that way. I could take my computer someplace other than my home (with my active children) and get away to study. I liked the multimedia approach to it."*
- ▶ *"...helped me organize and refresh myself on writing exams which was very helpful! I also like the explanations for the answers in the book."*
- ▶ *"I enjoyed doing lots of exam practice. I feel the drills helped a lot."*
- ▶ *"[JB TestPrep] helped me to think of lactation and breastfeeding issues in an international point of view."*
- ▶ *"It was easy to use, time effective, and encouraged me to study on regular basis."*

**Overall, how satisfied were you with JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review?**



**JB TestPrep: Comprehensive Lactation Consultant Exam Review built confidence and helped users identify weaknesses**

- ▶ *"...helped me focus on the areas where I needed to spend more study time. It also gave me confidence that I knew what I needed to know."*
- ▶ *"I found [it] very useful to watch your scoring to understand which fields were the ones where I was lacking preparation and where I did need more work on."*
- ▶ *"[I] had a good knowledge base and extensive clinical experience prior to the exam, but [JB TestPrep] helped with practice for test taking, subject review, [and to] focus on areas needing improvement."*
- ▶ *"Questions highlighted areas of strength and weakness and directed my study."*

**Conclusions**

- Initial evidence shows that IBLCE pass rates and exam scores are higher for JB TestPrep users
- Nearly all JB TestPrep users agreed that the product helped them pass the IBLCE exam
- Nearly all JB TestPrep users agreed that the product helped them learn
- Nearly all JB TestPrep users were highly satisfied with the product and would recommend it to other test takers