



FREE REPORT

What is actually in the ICS exam

We downloaded the seven official papers the ICS publishes, read them question by question and counted them. This report is the result, with a source for every figure. It is free, asks for no email, and you are welcome to share it.

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Edition: **r1-2026-07-30**

Papers downloaded on **27.07.2026** · Links checked on **30.07.2026**

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01

How we did this

The ICS publishes the full papers and the answer keys of previous rounds on its exam-preparation support page. We downloaded 38 PDFs on 27.07.2026 and worked with the seven papers that exist for Nursing and for Nursing Assistant: four nursing papers (2015, 2016, 2018 and the stabilisation round) and three assistant papers (2015, 2018 and the stabilisation round). ²

The PDFs are scans with no text layer, so we ran them through OCR (Tesseract, Catalan model, 200 dpi, ~97 % word accuracy) and then classified every question stem by hand into the themes of the official syllabus. The counts for the most recent papers are exact, question by question. The 2015, 2016 and 2018 counts carry a ± 2 margin because the OCR dropped some numbering; they are labelled as approximate wherever they appear.

- No figure in this report comes from an academy, a forum or a WhatsApp group: every one of them comes from the official document cited beside it.
- Where something has not been published, we say so. There are no predictions dressed up as data here.
- We reproduce no question and no answer from the papers: this is structure, counts and rules only. The full papers are at the official links.

What this analysis canNOT tell you

We do not know how many questions the 2026 Nursing or Nursing Assistant paper will have until their tribunal publishes its criteria. Everything else here is history, not a promise.

The 2015 and 2016 papers rest on rules and clinical guides that have since changed. Use them to see the format and the weighting, not to study the content.

02

There is no “standard” ICS paper: each tribunal sets the number of questions

It is the most asked and the worst answered question. The rules of round 100-2025 nowhere state how many questions the exam has or how long it lasts. Each category's tribunal decides that in a criteria notice published a few weeks before the exam. ¹

On 30.07.2026 the ICS published the criteria notices for 8 categories of this very round. Side by side they are the clearest possible proof that there is no single format: the test runs from 60 to 80 questions, the practical from 20 to 45, and the time allowed from 100 to 150 minutes. Same round, same day, different rules. ³

CRITERIA ALREADY PUBLISHED FOR ROUND 100-2025 (NOTICES DATED 30.07.2026)

CATEGORY	TEST	PRACTICAL	WRONG ANSWERS	TIME
Biodiagnostics (A1-108)	70	30 questions (2 cases chosen from 8)	no deduction	135 min
Midwifery — obstetric and gynaecological nursing (A2-127)	70	1 case · 33 questions	−¼ per wrong answer	125 min
Physiotherapy (A2-128)	70	3 cases · 45 questions	−¼ per wrong answer	150 min
Obstetrics and gynaecology (A1-118)	80	7 cases · 40 questions	−¼ per wrong answer	150 min
Paediatrics, primary care (A1-120)	70	8 cases · 30 questions	no deduction	135 min
Family and community medicine, primary care (A1-121)	60	10 cases · 30 questions	no deduction	120 min
Social work (A2-135)	70	3 cases · 20 questions	−¼ per wrong answer	100 min
Genetic counselling (A1-107)	70	4 cases · 30 questions	−¼ per wrong answer	150 min
Nursing (A2-129) · Nursing assistant (C2-159)	not published yet	not published yet	not published yet	not published yet

Note: Neither Nursing (A2-129) nor Nursing Assistant (C2-159) is among those 8 categories. Their criteria are not published yet, and until they are, nobody can honestly say how many questions they will have. ³

The seven published papers confirm it looking backwards: the test has ranged from 50 to 100 questions depending on the year and the category.

THE SEVEN PUBLISHED OFFICIAL PAPERS, ONE BY ONE

CATEGORY	ROUND	PAPER SAT ON	TEST	PRACTICAL	TOTAL	TIME
Nursing	Stabilisation round (code 100) ³	02.06.2024	70	25	95	2 h
Nursing	Open round 2018 ⁵	12.05.2019	76	24	100	2 h
Nursing	Internal promotion 2016 ⁷	11.06.2017	50	20 (candidate picks 1 of 2 cases)	70	not stated on the paper
Nursing	Open round 2015 ⁸	19.06.2016	100	—	100	not stated on the paper
Nursing assistant	Stabilisation round (code 100) ⁴	2024	60	20	80	1 h 40 min
Nursing assistant	Open round 2018 ⁶	02.06.2019	59	21	80	90 min
Nursing assistant	Open round 2015 ⁹	19.06.2016	80	—	80	not stated on the paper

Where “the exam has 100 questions” comes from

Two places. First, the 100 points of the exam phase (50 for the test + 50 for the practical), which really are always 100. Second, the 2018 open-round nursing paper, which had 76 test questions plus 24 practical ones: exactly 100 questions. True for that paper, false for five of the seven.

03

Do wrong answers subtract? This year, in most categories, yes

In the published papers the answer was no. Every criteria page said so flatly: “unanswered and wrongly answered questions do not subtract and therefore carry no value” (nursing, most recent round). The 2018 papers say the same. The 2015 and 2016 papers carry no criteria page, so about those we can say nothing. ^{4,5,6}

That has changed. In the notices published on 30.07.2026 for round 100-2025, 5 of the 8 categories introduce a penalty: “wrongly answered questions will subtract $\frac{1}{4}$ of the value of a correctly answered question”. The other 3 keep the old rule. Neither comes from the published rules of the round: each tribunal decides. ³

Les preguntes no contestades no tindran cap valor ni descomptaran puntuació. Les preguntes contestades erròniament descomptaran $\frac{1}{4}$ del valor d'una pregunta contestada correctament.

Criteria notice of the physiotherapy tribunal (A2-128), round 100-2025, signed 30.07.2026 ³

The practical consequence is immediate. Under the old rule leaving a question blank made no sense at all: answering everything was free. With a $\frac{1}{4}$ deduction, a blind guess between four options has an expected value of zero, and guessing only pays once you can rule an option out. Do not change strategy on rumour: when your

category's notice appears, read point "Segon" of the first exercise. It is four lines and it tells you exactly what to do.

What you should check

The criteria notice for YOUR category — not another one's, not last year's. It is published on the ICS news page. Until it is there, the honest answer to "do wrong answers subtract at the ICS?" is: it depends on the category, and this year some tribunals already do subtract.

04

The finding: the cross-cutting syllabus is 3–10 % of the paper

The cross-cutting syllabus is eleven themes common to every category: the framework statute, public-employee law, occupational risk prevention, equality, quality, office software, the health plan, how the ICS is organised, the patient charter... It eats an enormous share of many candidates' study time, because it is long, dry and easy to turn into flashcards. ¹

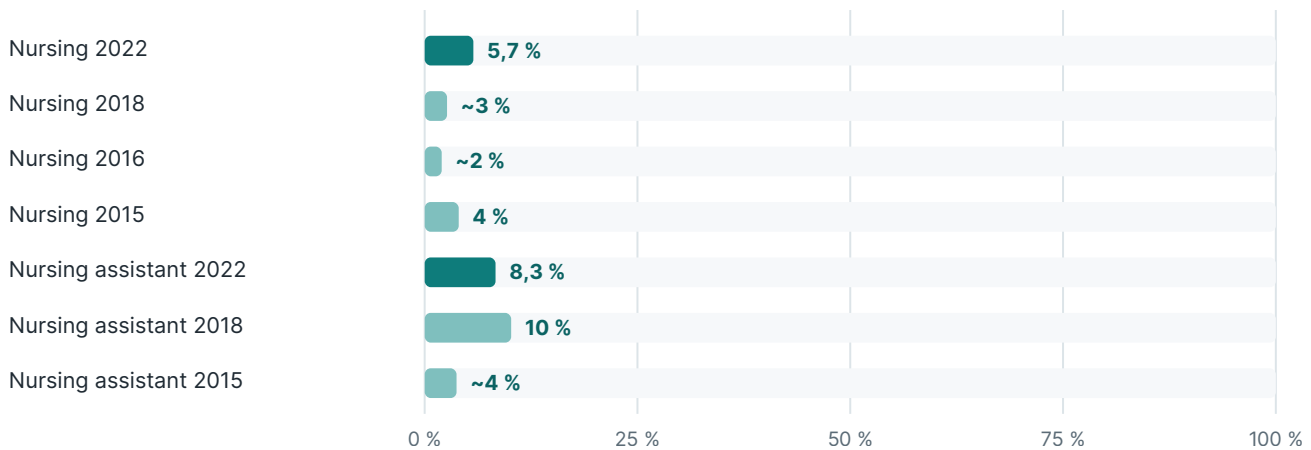
We classified every question in all seven papers. The cross-cutting share does not reach a tenth of any paper. The most recent nursing paper had 4 cross-cutting questions out of 70. Four. ⁴

REAL WEIGHT OF THE CROSS-CUTTING SYLLABUS, PAPER BY PAPER

PAPER	CROSS-CUTTING QUESTIONS	SHARE OF THE TEST
Nursing 2022 ³	4 / 70	5,7 %
Nursing 2018 ⁵	2 / 76	~3 % *
Nursing 2016 ⁷	1 / 50	~2 % *
Nursing 2015 ⁸	4 / 100	4 % *
Nursing assistant 2022 ⁴	5 / 60	8,3 %
Nursing assistant 2018 ⁶	6 / 59	10 % *
Nursing assistant 2015 ⁹	3 / 80	~4 % *

Our own count over the official papers. Figures marked * are approximate (± 2 questions).

Share of the test given to the cross-cutting syllabus



Our own count over the official papers. Figures marked * are approximate (± 2 questions).

And there is a harder number still: six of the eleven cross-cutting themes got not one single question in any of the three nursing papers of 2016, 2018 and the most recent round. Not one. ^{8,6,4}

Cross-cutting themes with zero questions across the three nursing papers

- T4 — Framework staff statute
- T5 — Public employee statute and III Agreement
- T7 — Occupational risk prevention and harassment
- T8 — Equality and gender violence
- T10 — Quality and the PDCA cycle
- T11 — Office software and e-administration

In the assistant papers the cross-cutting share is slightly higher (8–10 %), and always through the same themes: data protection and confidentiality, the citizens' charter of rights and duties, and how the ICS is organised. The rest of the block barely appears. ^{7,5}

Read this twice

If 90–95 % of your paper comes from your own category syllabus and you spend half your time on the cross-cutting block, you are studying hard in the wrong place. You do need the cross-cutting block — those are cheap points — but it is not where the post is won.

05

Where the questions actually are

This is the split we counted in the most recent nursing paper (70 test questions), theme by theme of the category syllabus. ⁴

NURSING — TEST QUESTIONS PER THEME (70 QUESTIONS)

THEME OF THE CATEGORY SYLLABUS	QUESTIONS	SHARE OF THE TEST
T1 — Ethics, nursing method, clinical languages, research	8	11,4 %
T2 — Promotion and prevention, chronicity, life cycle, family health	10	14,3 %
T3 — Emergencies, pregnancy and birth, cardiovascular, respiratory, renal	8	11,4 %
T4 — Nutrition and metabolism, neurological, infectious, digestive	12	17,1 %
T5 — Skin, haematology, sensory, mental health, end of life	14	20,0 %
T6 — Adherence, pharmacology and drug administration	7	10,0 %
T7 — Patient safety, asepsis, healthcare-associated infection, hand hygiene	6	8,6 %
T8 — Adaptation and coping, family carers, grief	1	1,4 %
Cross-cutting syllabus	4	5,7 %

The assistant syllabus is not numbered the same way, so we grouped its questions by subject. These ten blocks take three quarters of the test. ⁵

NURSING ASSISTANT — HEAVIEST SUBJECTS IN THE TEST (60 QUESTIONS)

THEME OF THE CATEGORY SYLLABUS	QUESTIONS	SHARE OF THE TEST
Sterilisation, disinfection and antiseptics	7	12 %
Tubes, stomas, drains and enemas	6	10 %
Vital signs	4	7 %
Oral health	4	7 %
Positioning and moving patients	4	7 %
Nutrition and diets	4	7 %
Heat and cold therapy	3	5 %
Cross-cutting law (data protection, equality, ICS structure)	3	5 %
Patient rights, advance directives, expert patient	3	5 %
Pressure injuries and skin care	3	5 %

Two points of style that hold for both categories. First: between 30 and 35 % of the stems are negative — “which is FALSE”, “which does NOT belong” — printed in capitals, and that is where people lose points to haste. Second: the questions name their source instrument (“according to the Guide...”, “under Law 17/2015...”, “according to the Catalan vaccination schedule”). They do not ask the concept in the abstract; they ask about the specific Generalitat document that defines it.

The practical part is not an essay: it is multiple choice

Many candidates prepare the second exercise as if they had to write out a care plan. They do not. In all seven published papers the second exercise is a short clinical vignette followed by a chain of multiple-choice questions, four options and one correct answer, exactly like the first part. The difference is that you have to read the vignette to answer them. ^{4,5}

STRUCTURE OF THE PRACTICAL EXERCISE IN THE PUBLISHED PAPERS

PAPER	CASES	QUESTIONS	QUESTIONS PER CASE
Nursing · Stabilisation round (code 100) ⁴	3	25	—
Nursing · Open round 2018 ⁶	3	24	7 + 7 + 10
Nursing · Internal promotion 2016 ⁸	candidate picks 1 of 2 cases	20	20
Nursing assistant · Stabilisation round (code 100) ⁵	2	20	10 + 10
Nursing assistant · Open round 2018 ⁷	3	21	7 + 7 + 7

In the recent papers each case carries between 7 and 10 questions. The exception is the 2016 internal-promotion nursing paper, with a single case of 20 questions and, uniquely, a choice between two cases. The 30.07.2026 notices confirm that the shape changes again by category: some tribunals set a single case of 33 questions, others set ten cases totalling 30.

Practical answers go on the same answer sheet, but from cell 101 onwards, and are marked as a separate exercise. Under the current rules each exercise is scored out of 50 and both are eliminatory: a brilliant test does not rescue a weak practical. ¹

The official structure of the exam, and the requirements

This part does come from the rules of round 100-2025, published in the official gazette on 26 June 2025, and it is the frame that does not change between categories. ¹

HOW THE POINTS ARE SPLIT

ITEM	POINTS
1st exercise · knowledge test	50
— minimum to pass it	25
2nd exercise · practical cases	50
— minimum to pass it	25
Merit phase	50
Total	150

La puntuació màxima de la fase d'oposició és de 100 punts, i està constituïda per una prova amb dos exercicis obligatoris. Els exercicis són eliminatoris. [...] Consisteix a respondre un qüestionari de preguntes tipus test amb quatre respostes alternatives, de les quals només una és correcta, sobre el contingut del temari transversal i el temari que figura a les bases específiques.

Rule 11.3, Resolution SLT/2380/2025 (DOGC 9441, 26.06.2025) ¹

- Four options per question, one correct. Constant across every paper since 2016 and in the current rules.
- Both exercises are eliminatory: you need 25 points out of 50 in each. (In the stabilisation round they were not; that is a change of regime, not a detail.)
- If the tribunal annuls a question, the exercise is marked over the questions finally deemed valid.
- The paper is written in Catalan.
- Catalan language requirement: proficiency certificate (C1) or above for nursing; elementary level (B1) or above for nursing assistants. Holding a level above the one required is worth 1 merit point.

A detail almost nobody explains: the rules do not say how many points a question is worth, because they cannot. Each exercise is worth 50 points shared among all its questions, and since the number of questions changes every round, so does the value of one question.

08

The merit arithmetic: a 21–30 point gap before you start

The merit phase is worth another 50 points on top of the 100 from the exam. Of those 50, 30 are professional experience and 20 are other credentials (training, doctorate and master's degrees, having passed a previous round without getting a post, Catalan above the required level, digital-skills certification). ¹

Experience does not score the same everywhere. Each full month at the ICS or another public health service of the Spanish system is worth 0,358 points; the same month at SISCAT or in other public administrations is worth 0,179, exactly half, capped at 15 points.

EXPERIENCE POINTS BY WHERE YOU WORKED

YEARS WORKED	AT THE ICS OR THE SNS	AT SISCAT OR ELSEWHERE
2 years	8,59	4,30
5 years	21,48	10,74
7 years	30,00 (capped)	15,00 (capped)
10 years	30,00 (capped)	15,00 (capped)

Note: 0,358 / 0,179 ¹

Read the other way round: about 7 years at the ICS already reaches the 30-point ceiling, and five years is worth more than twenty points. Someone coming from outside starts 21–30 points behind the established staff, and the only place to make that up is the exam, because it is the only part where everyone starts at zero.

The uncomfortable conclusion

If you have no ICS seniority, the exam is not “part” of the process: it is your part. Every point on the test is worth as much as months of payroll you do not have.

09

The round, in numbers and in dates

6.037

posts advertised

1.713

nursing posts

757

assistant posts

Round 100-2025 offers 6.037 posts across 74 categories. Nursing (A2-129) has 1.713; nursing assistant (C2-159), 757. ¹

On dates, this is everything that has been published, and we quote it as it stands: the 30.07.2026 notices say that “the exam is expected to be held in the second half of October 2026”, and that “during the second half of September 2026 the date, time and place of the exam will be made public”. ³

So: there is no exact date. Anyone giving you one today is either inventing it or copying a forecast. What you do know is when you will know, and that it will arrive on the ICS news page together with the room you are assigned to.

What this means for how you study

1. Split your time the way the tribunal splits the questions, not the way the syllabus splits the pages. If 94 % of your paper comes from the category block, that is where you need question volume, not just reading.
2. Keep the cross-cutting block short and solid: health plan, how the ICS is organised and its values, the patient charter, data protection. Those are the themes that always appear; the rest of the block is cheap insurance.
3. Train the practical for what it is: multiple choice with a vignette in front of you. Reading a case fast and answering in a chain is its own skill, and it is trainable.
4. Get used to negative stems in CAPITALS and to questions that name a guideline. That is this exam's house style.
5. Check your category's criteria notice as soon as it appears: number of questions, time allowed and, above all, whether wrong answers subtract. This year some already do.

Where the official papers are (and their answer keys)

One thing the ICS does well and almost nobody uses: it publishes the full papers of previous rounds and the answer key for each one. It is free and it is the best source you will get. These are the direct links we worked from.

Official ICS page with the papers of previous rounds

<https://ics.gencat.cat/ca/lics/treballeu-a-lics/treball-fix/informacio-suport-preparar-oposicio/>

ICS selection-process news (criteria notices and calendar)

<https://ics.gencat.cat/ca/lics/treballeu-a-lics/treball-fix/novetats/>

Nursing — stabilisation round paper (model A)

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/estabilitzacio2022/DSI/Examen-1a.-prova-DSI-129-model-A.pdf

Nursing — answer key for the stabilisation paper (model A)

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/estabilitzacio2022/DSI/Plantilla-respostes_DSI_MODEL-A.pdf

Nursing assistant — stabilisation round paper (model A)

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/estabilitzacio2022/TCAI/Examen-1a.-prova-TCAI-159-model-A.pdf

Nursing assistant — answer key for the stabilisation paper (model A)

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/estabilitzacio2022/TCAI/Plantilla-respostes-correctes_TCAI-Model-A.pdf

Nursing — 2018 open round paper (model A)

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/conv-dsi-lliure-2018/1a_prova_test_i_suposits_practics_Model-A-DSI-LLIURE-2018.pdf

Nursing assistant — 2018 open round paper

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/convo-lliure-tcai-1a_prova_test_i_suposits_practics_TCAI-LLIURE-2018.pdf

Nursing — 2016 internal promotion paper

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballau_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/conv-dsi-lliure-2016/1a_prova_test_i_suposit_practic_DSI_PI_2016.pdf

Nursing — 2015 open round paper (model A)

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballau_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/conv-dsi-lliure-2015/1a_prova_test_Model-A_DSI-T.LLIURE-2015.pdf

Nursing assistant — 2015 open round paper

https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballau_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/convo-lliure-tcai/1a_prova_test_TCAI.-T.LLIURE-2015.pdf

Rules of round 100-2025 (DOGC 9441, 26.06.2025)

<https://portaldogc.gencat.cat/utillsEADOP/PDF/9441/2095990.pdf>

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<https://web.gencat.cat/ca/avis-legal>

The answer keys are scans of the optical answer sheet with the correct bubbles filled in: perfectly readable on screen, but not text.

12

Sources, limits and small print

Every figure in this report comes from the documents listed below. The papers were downloaded on 27.07.2026; the links and the criteria notices were checked on 30.07.2026.

- The per-theme counts are ours, not the ICS's: we made them by reading the stems one by one. The counts for the most recent papers are exact; those for 2015, 2016 and 2018 carry a ± 2 margin.
- Official information is reused under the Generalitat's published reuse conditions, citing the source and the date. We use no Generalitat or ICS logos or symbols, and we re-host no official PDF: we link the original.
- Each category's criteria notice is published in the ICS convocatòries area and linked from the news page; that is where we read them.
- If you find a mistake, write to us and we will correct it with the source in hand.

Documents cited

- 1 Rules of round 100-2025 (DOGC 9441, 26.06.2025)
<https://portaldogc.gencat.cat/utillsEADOP/PDF/9441/2095990.pdf>
- 2 Official ICS page with the papers of previous rounds
<https://ics.gencat.cat/ca/lics/treballau-a-lics/treball-fix/informacio-suport-preparar-oposicio/>
- 3 ICS selection-process news (criteria notices and calendar)
<https://ics.gencat.cat/ca/lics/treballau-a-lics/treball-fix/novetats/>
- 4 Nursing — stabilisation round paper (model A)
https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballau_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/estabilitzacio2022/DSI/Examen-1a.-prova-DSI-129-model-A.pdf
- 5 Nursing assistant — stabilisation round paper (model A)
https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballau_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/estabilitzacio2022/TCAI/Examen-1a.-prova-TCAI-159-model-A.pdf

- 6** Nursing — 2018 open round paper (model A)
https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/conv-dsi-lliure-2018/1a_prova_test_i_suposits_practics_Model-A_DSI-LLIURE-2018.pdf
- 7** Nursing assistant — 2018 open round paper
https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/convo-lliure-tcai/1a_prova_test_i_suposits_practics_TCAI-LLIURE-2018.pdf
- 8** Nursing — 2016 internal promotion paper
https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/conv-dsi-lliure-2016/1a_prova_test_i_suposit_practic_DSI-PI-2016.pdf
- 9** Nursing — 2015 open round paper (model A)
https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/conv-dsi-lliure-2015/1a_prova_test_Model-A_DSI-T.LLIURE-2015.pdf
- 10** Nursing assistant — 2015 open round paper
https://ics.gencat.cat/web/.content/Seleccio/Treballeu_a_lics/Estabilitzacio/enunciats-proves-anteriors/convo-lliure-tcai/1a_prova_test_TCAI-T.LLIURE-2015.pdf
- 11** Generalitat legal notice and reuse conditions
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Start with Topic 1 — it is free

OposICS has the syllabus and the question bank for both categories, and Topic 1 is open without paying anything: go in, take the test and see whether the way we ask questions suits you. If this report was useful, the product is about exactly this — question volume where the exam actually concentrates it.

Try Topic 1 free

This report is free to share. If it helped, pass it on to your study group — a lot of people are preparing on second-hand information.

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Updated: 30.07.2026 · Edition r1-2026-07-30 · oposics.cat/en/analisi-examen-ics

Good luck with the exam.



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