

AAERT Certified Deposition Reporter (CDR) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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- 1. What distinguishes opinion testimony from other forms of testimony?**
 - A. It is collected under penalty of perjury**
 - B. It is based solely on personal knowledge**
 - C. It involves inference on facts in dispute**
 - D. It is submitted in their written form**
- 2. What does estoppel prevent in legal cases?**
 - A. It allows the introduction of new evidence**
 - B. It bars litigants from relitigating issues that have already been tried**
 - C. It permits the appeal of a decision**
 - D. It forces a settlement agreement**
- 3. What is the meaning of a motion in limine?**
 - A. A motion to compel the appearance of a witness**
 - B. A request made on the threshold of the case**
 - C. A procedure to submit written questions to another party**
 - D. A type of evidence suppression request**
- 4. What does the root word "hydro-" signify?**
 - A. Air**
 - B. Water**
 - C. Fire**
 - D. Earth**
- 5. What role does punctuation play in court reporting?**
 - A. Punctuation is optional in court reporting**
 - B. Punctuation is used to indicate speaker changes**
 - C. Punctuation is essential for conveying meaning and clarity**
 - D. Punctuation only matters in formal documents**
- 6. What type of connection can a mixer use for output?**
 - A. USB or Parallel**
 - B. FIREWIRE or XLR**
 - C. USB or FIREWIRE**
 - D. HDMI or Coaxial**

- 7. What is a key function of the charge to the jury?**
- A. To determine the guilt of the accused**
 - B. To clarify the applicable law for a case**
 - C. To assess damages in civil cases**
 - D. To summarize witness testimony**
- 8. What is a primary function of an Examination Under Oath (EUO)?**
- A. To entertain witnesses**
 - B. To secure all relevant facts**
 - C. To gather juror opinions**
 - D. To make legal decisions**
- 9. What is "timestamping" in transcription?**
- A. Marking the start of the deposition only**
 - B. Indicating specific points in the transcript with timestamps**
 - C. Highlighting important statements in the text**
 - D. Recording only the time when a witness is speaking**
- 10. Which root word refers to 'vessel'?**
- A. Spondylo-**
 - B. Sym-**
 - C. Vaso-**
 - D. Thoraco-**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. C

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Explanations

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1. What distinguishes opinion testimony from other forms of testimony?

- A. It is collected under penalty of perjury**
- B. It is based solely on personal knowledge**
- C. It involves inference on facts in dispute**
- D. It is submitted in their written form**

Opinion testimony is characterized by the use of the witness's personal beliefs or interpretations rather than just the presentation of factual evidence. This form of testimony is significant in legal contexts because it can help clarify complex issues that require expertise or a specialized understanding. When a witness provides opinion testimony, they may be drawing inferences from the facts at hand to express a view on what those facts imply or suggest. This inference is essential, as it distinguishes opinion testimony from factual testimony, which strictly adheres to recounting specific events or experiences without personal interpretation. In situations where the nature of evidence or the impact of certain circumstances is not straightforward, opinion testimony can bridge the gap between raw data and legal understanding, helping the judge or jury interpret the significance of the facts presented. Thus, the reliance on inference in opinion testimony is what fundamentally sets it apart from other forms of testimony.

2. What does estoppel prevent in legal cases?

- A. It allows the introduction of new evidence**
- B. It bars litigants from relitigating issues that have already been tried**
- C. It permits the appeal of a decision**
- D. It forces a settlement agreement**

Estoppel is a legal principle that prevents a party from arguing something contrary to a claim made or position taken previously, especially when that claim or position has been established by a court's decision. This means that if a particular issue has already been adjudicated and determined in a previous case, parties involved are barred from relitigating that same issue in future proceedings. This principle upholds the integrity of the judicial system by ensuring that once a decision has been made by a competent authority, it should not repeatedly be contested, thus promoting finality and certainty in legal matters. While it may seem beneficial for litigants to introduce new evidence, pursue appeals, or seek settlement agreements, estoppel specifically relates to the consistency of legal arguments regarding already decided matters. This focus on maintaining the outcomes of prior judgments is critical to preventing unnecessary litigation and fostering trust in legal decisions.

3. What is the meaning of a motion in limine?

- A. A motion to compel the appearance of a witness
- B. A request made on the threshold of the case**
- C. A procedure to submit written questions to another party
- D. A type of evidence suppression request

A motion in limine refers specifically to a request made before a trial begins, often at the threshold of the case, to exclude certain evidence from being presented during the trial. This is typically done to avoid the potential prejudice that could arise from allowing jurors to hear evidence that may be considered irrelevant, misleading, or excessively prejudicial. In practice, litigants may file a motion in limine to address various issues regarding what will or will not be allowed in front of the jury, aiming to shape the legal landscape of the trial and ensure fairness. This type of motion serves as an important pre-trial tool for attorneys looking to protect their case's integrity and maintain a focus on relevant issues, contributing significantly to trial strategy and case management. While the other options touch on different legal procedures, they do not accurately capture the essence of a motion in limine as it pertains specifically to pre-trial evidentiary concerns.

4. What does the root word "hydro-" signify?

- A. Air
- B. Water**
- C. Fire
- D. Earth

The root word "hydro-" originates from the Greek word "hydor," which means water. This prefix is commonly used in various fields, particularly in science and medicine, to denote anything related to water. For instance, terms like "hydration" refer to water content in the body, and "hydrology" pertains to the study of water and its movement in the environment. Understanding this root is essential for grasping the meaning of many scientific terms that involve water in specific contexts.

5. What role does punctuation play in court reporting?

- A. Punctuation is optional in court reporting
- B. Punctuation is used to indicate speaker changes
- C. Punctuation is essential for conveying meaning and clarity**
- D. Punctuation only matters in formal documents

Punctuation plays a critical role in court reporting as it is essential for conveying meaning and clarity in the transcription of spoken language. In a court setting, where accurate and precise records are crucial, punctuation helps differentiate between statements, questions, pauses, and other intonations that can change the understanding of a witness's testimony or a lawyer's argument. Proper punctuation guides the reader through the document, ensuring that the intended meaning remains clear and unambiguous. For instance, the presence or absence of punctuation can alter the context of a phrase significantly, which may lead to misunderstandings of the testimony or legal statements recorded. Therefore, court reporters must be meticulous with their punctuation to maintain the integrity of the record. This is particularly important in legal settings where every word can have substantial implications for the case at hand. The significance of punctuation extends beyond mere formality; it is a vital tool for clarity and comprehension in the documentation of spoken discourse within the legal system.

6. What type of connection can a mixer use for output?

- A. USB or Parallel**
- B. FIREWIRE or XLR**
- C. USB or FIREWIRE**
- D. HDMI or Coaxial**

The correct answer indicates that a mixer can use USB or FireWire for its output connections. USB (Universal Serial Bus) is a widely used interface that allows for the transmission of audio data from the mixer to a computer or other devices. It is practical for connecting mixers to digital audio workstations (DAWs) and for straightforward recording and playback applications. FireWire, while not as commonly used today, was once a standard for connecting high-bandwidth devices such as audio interfaces and mixers to computers. It can handle multiple audio streams simultaneously and provides a reliable means for transmitting high-quality audio data with low latency. Both USB and FireWire are digital connections, making them suitable for modern audio equipment, which often requires precise and efficient data transfer for high-quality sound production. These connections provide more flexibility for professional audio setups compared to traditional analog connections. The other choices include outdated or less common connection types for audio output. For instance, while parallel connections may have been used for certain devices in the past, they do not typically apply to modern audio mixers. XLR, while important for balanced audio signals, mainly pertains to microphones and speakers rather than direct digital output from a mixer. HDMI, primarily used for video, and coaxial connections, mainly intended for digital

7. What is a key function of the charge to the jury?

- A. To determine the guilt of the accused**
- B. To clarify the applicable law for a case**
- C. To assess damages in civil cases**
- D. To summarize witness testimony**

The key function of the charge to the jury is to clarify the applicable law for a case. This instruction is crucial as it informs jurors about the legal standards and principles they must apply when evaluating the evidence presented during the trial. The charge outlines the elements of the offense or claims made, the definitions of legal terms, and any relevant statutes or precedents that the jury should consider in their deliberations. By providing a clear understanding of the law, the charge helps jurors make informed decisions based on the evidence and ensures that their verdicts align with legal standards. In contrast, determining the guilt of the accused involves the jury's assessment of evidence against the legal framework provided in the charge. Assessing damages in civil cases pertains more to the jury's role in compensation matters rather than legal instruction. Lastly, summarizing witness testimony is not a function of the charge; this is typically part of the attorneys' closing arguments and not a formal instruction to the jury regarding their legal responsibilities.

8. What is a primary function of an Examination Under Oath (EUO)?

- A. To entertain witnesses**
- B. To secure all relevant facts**
- C. To gather juror opinions**
- D. To make legal decisions**

The primary function of an Examination Under Oath (EUO) is to secure all relevant facts. An EUO is a formal legal proceeding where a witness is questioned under oath, allowing attorneys to ascertain detailed information about a case before it goes to trial. This process helps establish the facts surrounding the case and gathers testimony that can be crucial for evaluating claims, assessing cases, and identifying potential issues. By obtaining a witness's sworn testimony, legal teams can build a stronger understanding of the situation, which is vital for legal strategy and decision-making. The other options do not align with the primary purpose of an EUO. Entertaining witnesses or gathering juror opinions is not part of this process. Additionally, making legal decisions is beyond the scope of an EUO; it is primarily focused on gathering information rather than making rulings.

9. What is "timestamping" in transcription?

- A. Marking the start of the deposition only**
- B. Indicating specific points in the transcript with timestamps**
- C. Highlighting important statements in the text**
- D. Recording only the time when a witness is speaking**

Timestamping in transcription refers to the practice of indicating specific points in a transcript with timestamps. This technique allows readers to easily reference when particular statements were made during the proceedings, creating a chronological framework for the content of the transcript. By using timestamps, a reader can navigate the document more effectively, especially in lengthy depositions or meetings where quick access to specific moments is essential. This method is particularly useful in legal contexts, where precise timing can be critical for establishing the context of testimonies or statements. It may also assist in coordinating video records with written transcripts, enhancing clarity and accuracy. The other choices do not fully capture the comprehensive nature of timestamping; for example, marking the start of the deposition only would be incomplete, as it does not provide a systematic way to reference later moments. Highlighting important statements does not involve time indicators, and recording only when a witness speaks ignores other relevant points that may occur during the deposition.

10. Which root word refers to 'vessel'?

A. Spondylo-

B. Sym-

C. Vaso-

D. Thoraco-

The root word that refers to 'vessel' is "vaso-." This prefix is derived from the Latin term "vas" which means vessel. In medical terminology, it is commonly used to describe things related to blood vessels, such as in "vasodilation" (the widening of blood vessels). Understanding this root is particularly useful in medical and anatomical contexts, as it often indicates a relationship to circulatory or vascular systems. In contrast, the other root words have different meanings: "spondylo-" refers to the vertebrae or spine, "sym-" pertains to together or with, and "thoraco-" relates to the chest. Recognizing these distinctions helps in grasping the language of anatomy and ensures clarity when discussing related topics.