

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

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. What does the root word "Leuko-" signify?**
 - A. White**
 - B. Small**
 - C. Dark/Black**
 - D. Middling**
- 2. What is the implication of the root word "-osis"?**
 - A. Tumor**
 - B. Condition**
 - C. Bone**
 - D. Shape**
- 3. What are common challenges faced by CDRs during depositions?**
 - A. Availability of a stenograph machine**
 - B. Multi-speaker environments and interruptions**
 - C. The absence of witnesses**
 - D. Overly simplified questions from attorneys**
- 4. What should a CDR bring to a deposition?**
 - A. Only a laptop for transcription**
 - B. Transcription equipment and backup power source**
 - C. A notepad and pen for notes**
 - D. A list of questions for the witness**
- 5. What does the prefix "poly-" mean?**
 - A. Backwards**
 - B. Many**
 - C. Around**
 - D. Fearing**
- 6. What is Black's Law Dictionary primarily used for?**
 - A. A reference for legal terminology**
 - B. Summarizing case law**
 - C. Providing historical context for legal practices**
 - D. Assisting in plea bargain negotiations**

- 7. Which of the following best defines "case in chief"?**
- A. The concluding arguments of a trial**
 - B. The primary presentation of evidence by a party**
 - C. A summation of witness statements**
 - D. The jury's deliberation process**
- 8. What is the first step in court proceedings?**
- A. Filing a complaint**
 - B. Assigning a docket number**
 - C. Setting a court date**
 - D. Gathering evidence**
- 9. What is one possible outcome when a case is dismissed without prejudice?**
- A. The case will never be heard again**
 - B. The case can potentially be refiled at a later date**
 - C. The defendant is released from all charges**
 - D. The plaintiff loses the right to sue**
- 10. What is a colloquy in a judicial context?**
- A. An informal debate**
 - B. A written legal argument**
 - C. A formal conversation during a judicial proceeding**
 - D. A judge's closing remarks**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the root word "Leuko-" signify?

- A. White**
- B. Small**
- C. Dark/Black**
- D. Middling**

The root word "leuko-" originates from the Greek word "leukos," which means 'white.' This prefix is commonly used in various scientific and medical terms to denote a white color or a deficiency of color. For example, in terms like "leukocyte," which refers to a type of white blood cell, the prefix highlights its classification related to the color white. This terminology is significant in medical contexts, particularly in hematology, where distinguishing between different types of blood cells is essential for diagnosis and treatment. Understanding this root word helps in grasping the meaning of several medical terms that describe conditions, reactions, or components associated with whiteness or light.

2. What is the implication of the root word "-osis"?

- A. Tumor**
- B. Condition**
- C. Bone**
- D. Shape**

The root word "-osis" is derived from Greek and is commonly used in medical terminology to denote a condition or process, particularly one that is abnormal or diseased. When attached to a root word, it conveys a sense of a medical condition or a state of being, often related to pathological changes. For example, "fibrosis" refers to a condition characterized by an excess of fibrous connective tissue. In the context of the other options, while "tumor," "bone," and "shape" may denote specific types or aspects of diseases or anatomical features, they do not capture the broader idea of an abnormal condition which "osis" specifically implies. Therefore, recognizing that "-osis" is used primarily to indicate some form of condition provides clarity on why "condition" is the most appropriate choice. This understanding is crucial for accurately interpreting medical terms, especially in fields related to health, biology, and pathology.

3. What are common challenges faced by CDRs during depositions?

- A. Availability of a stenograph machine**
- B. Multi-speaker environments and interruptions**
- C. The absence of witnesses**
- D. Overly simplified questions from attorneys**

Multi-speaker environments and interruptions pose significant challenges for Certified Deposition Reporters (CDRs) during depositions. In these settings, multiple individuals may speak simultaneously or engage in side conversations, making it difficult for the reporter to accurately capture the spoken words. This noise can also lead to missed dialogue, requiring the CDR to seek clarification or acknowledge gaps in the record after the fact. Effective transcription relies heavily on clear audio and the ability to identify distinct speakers. When numerous voices or interruptions occur, the CDR must employ skills in multitasking and focus to ensure that the record remains accurate and complete. Managing this complexity is essential for maintaining the integrity of the deposition transcript, which is a vital component of the legal process. Other factors, such as equipment availability or the presence of witnesses, may also impact the deposition experience, but they do not directly affect the quality of transcription in the same way as the challenges posed by a chaotic auditory environment. Simplified questions may not hinder the ability to capture testimony but might affect the depth of the record instead.

4. What should a CDR bring to a deposition?

- A. Only a laptop for transcription**
- B. Transcription equipment and backup power source**
- C. A notepad and pen for notes**
- D. A list of questions for the witness**

A Certified Deposition Reporter (CDR) must be prepared for various scenarios that may arise during a deposition, and bringing transcription equipment along with a backup power source is essential for ensuring that the deposition is accurately recorded without interruption. The primary responsibility of a CDR is to create a verbatim transcript of the proceedings, and relying solely on a laptop without a power source can jeopardize the ability to record critical testimony if the laptop runs out of battery. Having transcription equipment, such as a steno machine or digital recorder, ensures that all spoken words are captured accurately. Meanwhile, the backup power source protects against unforeseen circumstances, such as power outages or equipment malfunctions, allowing the CDR to fulfill their professional duties without feeling rushed or stressed due to technical issues. While other options like bringing a notepad for notes or a list of questions for the witness may be helpful, they do not address the primary concern of ensuring that the deposition is recorded reliably and accurately. Thus, focusing on the equipment and backup solutions highlights the professionalism and preparedness expected of a CDR.

5. What does the prefix "poly-" mean?

- A. Backwards
- B. Many**
- C. Around
- D. Fearing

The prefix "poly-" originates from the Greek word "polus," meaning "many." In various contexts, it is used to denote something that consists of multiple parts or reflects a large quantity. For example, in terms such as "polygamy" (marrying multiple partners) or "polycarbonate" (a type of plastic made from multiple carbonate groups), the prefix signifies the presence of many elements or units. This understanding is crucial as it allows for a clearer interpretation of various scientific, medical, and general terms that incorporate the prefix. Recognizing that "poly-" translates specifically to "many" helps in grasping the meaning of numerous complex words across different fields.

6. What is Black's Law Dictionary primarily used for?

- A. A reference for legal terminology**
- B. Summarizing case law
- C. Providing historical context for legal practices
- D. Assisting in plea bargain negotiations

Black's Law Dictionary is primarily used as a reference for legal terminology, providing definitions and explanations of legal concepts, terms, and phrases. It serves as an essential resource for legal professionals, including attorneys, judges, and paralegals, ensuring they have a clear understanding of the language of the law. This accuracy in terminology is crucial in legal contexts, where precise definitions can impact the interpretation of statutes and the outcomes of legal proceedings. The other options, while they may relate to various aspects of the law, do not accurately capture the primary function of Black's Law Dictionary. Summarizing case law pertains to the objective of case reporters or legal encyclopedias, offering comprehensive views on judicial decisions rather than focusing solely on definitions. Providing historical context for legal practices could involve broader legal history texts or analyses, diverging from the dictionary's role. Assisting in plea bargain negotiations relates more to the strategies employed by attorneys rather than the dictionary's purpose of defining legal terminology.

7. Which of the following best defines "case in chief"?

- A. The concluding arguments of a trial
- B. The primary presentation of evidence by a party**
- C. A summation of witness statements
- D. The jury's deliberation process

"Case in chief" refers to the primary presentation of evidence by a party during a trial. It is the stage where a party presents its significant evidence, including testimonies from witnesses, documents, and other relevant materials, to support its claims or defenses. This presentation is crucial as it lays the foundation for the party's argument and establishes the facts that the court will consider. The case in chief occurs after the opening statements and sets the stage for the opposing party to respond with their own evidence, known as the rebuttal. This process is an essential part of trials, ensuring that each side has the opportunity to present their case adequately. In contrast, other options like concluding arguments represent the final stage of a trial where attorneys summarize their cases, while witness statements can be part of the evidence presented but do not encapsulate the entire evidence presentation process. The jury's deliberation process occurs after all evidence and arguments have been presented, distinguishing it from the definition of "case in chief."

8. What is the first step in court proceedings?

- A. Filing a complaint
- B. Assigning a docket number**
- C. Setting a court date
- D. Gathering evidence

The first step in court proceedings is filing a complaint. This action initiates the legal process by formally stating the grievances of the plaintiff and outlining the remedy sought from the court. When a complaint is filed, it establishes the jurisdiction of the court, identifies the parties involved, and outlines the legal basis for the claims. After the complaint is filed, the court assigns a docket number to the case, which is a procedural step that helps the court track the case throughout its duration. However, placing the docket number is not the first action taken; it follows the filing of the complaint. Setting a court date and gathering evidence are subsequent steps that occur after the case has been acknowledged by the court and the parties have been informed. Therefore, filing a complaint is indeed the critical first step that marks the beginning of court proceedings.

9. What is one possible outcome when a case is dismissed without prejudice?

- A. The case will never be heard again**
- B. The case can potentially be refiled at a later date**
- C. The defendant is released from all charges**
- D. The plaintiff loses the right to sue**

When a case is dismissed without prejudice, it means that the plaintiff is allowed to refile the case in the future if they choose to do so. This type of dismissal does not prevent the plaintiff from bringing the same claims again, giving them the opportunity to correct any issues that may have led to the dismissal initially. This contrasts with a dismissal with prejudice, which would permanently bar the plaintiff from refiling the case. The other options misunderstand the implications of a dismissal without prejudice. While the defendant may not face charges at this time, that does not equate to being released from all charges indefinitely, nor does it diminish the plaintiff's rights to pursue legal action at a later date. Thus, the core reason for the correct option is that it emphasizes the possibility of re-filing and maintaining the plaintiff's right to sue in the future.

10. What is a colloquy in a judicial context?

- A. An informal debate**
- B. A written legal argument**
- C. A formal conversation during a judicial proceeding**
- D. A judge's closing remarks**

In a judicial context, a colloquy refers to a formal conversation that occurs during a judicial proceeding. This interaction typically involves a dialogue between the judge and the parties involved, including attorneys or witnesses. Such discussions can be important for clarifying legal points, understanding procedural aspects, or ensuring that all parties are aware of their rights and responsibilities during the proceedings. This type of communication helps facilitate the court process by allowing judges to interact directly with those present, ensuring everyone comprehends the legal issues being addressed. A colloquy can also serve to enhance the record of the proceedings by documenting the nature of these discussions and any relevant information they may reveal about the case. In contrast, an informal debate does not carry the formal significance or procedural structure required in a judicial setting. A written legal argument is typically referred to as a brief or motion, rather than a colloquy. Lastly, a judge's closing remarks are generally summaries or conclusions presented at the end of a trial or hearing, rather than a dialogue, and are distinct from the concept of a colloquy.