

AAOS Emergency Care and Transport of the Sick and Injured Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Don't worry about getting everything right, your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations, and take breaks to retain information better.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning.

7. Use Other Tools

Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly — adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

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Questions

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- 1. What consequence can result from prolonged trapping of crushed body parts?**
 - A. Enhanced blood flow**
 - B. Skin color change**
 - C. Renal failure and death**
 - D. Increased heart rate**

- 2. Which type of muscle is responsible for the contraction of the heart?**
 - A. Skeletal muscle**
 - B. Cardiac muscle**
 - C. Smooth muscle**
 - D. Voluntary muscle**

- 3. What term describes a stress disorder that leads to a gradual loss of compassion over time?**
 - A. Burnout**
 - B. Compassion Fatigue**
 - C. Emotional Exhaustion**
 - D. Vicarious Trauma**

- 4. Which condition occurs due to the accumulation of acids from hyperglycemia in uncontrolled diabetes?**
 - A. Diaphoretic**
 - B. Diabetic ketoacidosis**
 - C. Burnout**
 - D. Bronchitis**

- 5. What is severe shock caused by an allergic reaction known as?**
 - A. Anaphylactic shock**
 - B. Cardiogenic shock**
 - C. Hypovolemic shock**
 - D. Neurogenic shock**

6. What condition involves the premature separation of the placenta from the uterine wall?

- A. Placenta previa**
- B. Uterine rupture**
- C. Placental abruption**
- D. Ectopic pregnancy**

7. What is the primary function of the biceps muscle in the arm?

- A. Stabilizing the shoulder joint**
- B. Covering the front of the humerus**
- C. Extending the elbow**
- D. Rotating the forearm**

8. Which body cavity contains the major organs of digestion and excretion?

- A. Thorax**
- B. Pelvis**
- C. Abdomen**
- D. Cranium**

9. What procedures are designed for environments where human error can lead to disastrous outcomes, emphasizing effective communication in a team?

- A. Incident Command System**
- B. Quality Assurance**
- C. Crew Resource Management (CRM)**
- D. Standard Operating Procedures**

10. What is the primary purpose of a backboard in emergency care?

- A. To provide comfort to the patient**
- B. To assist with patient mobility**
- C. To provide support to patients with suspected serious injuries**
- D. To protect the patient's privacy**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What consequence can result from prolonged trapping of crushed body parts?

- A. Enhanced blood flow**
- B. Skin color change**
- C. Renal failure and death**
- D. Increased heart rate**

Prolonged trapping of crushed body parts can lead to a serious condition known as crush syndrome, which is characterized by muscle damage and the release of toxic substances into the bloodstream. This can result in a variety of severe complications, primarily affecting the kidneys. When muscle tissue is crushed, it can release myoglobin and other cellular components into the circulation, leading to renal failure. The kidneys may become overwhelmed by these substances, causing acute kidney injury, which can, if left untreated, lead to death. This outcome underscores the importance of timely relief of pressure to prevent the cascade of events that can arise from prolonged tissue ischemia and damage. Thus, the possibility of renal failure and even death is a recognized consequence of such situations, making it a critical factor for emergency responders to consider when managing victims of crush injuries.

2. Which type of muscle is responsible for the contraction of the heart?

- A. Skeletal muscle**
- B. Cardiac muscle**
- C. Smooth muscle**
- D. Voluntary muscle**

Cardiac muscle is specialized muscle tissue found only in the heart and is primarily responsible for the involuntary contractions that pump blood throughout the body. This type of muscle is unique due to its striated appearance, similar to skeletal muscle, but it operates involuntarily, meaning it is not under conscious control. Cardiac muscle cells are interconnected, allowing for synchronized contractions, which is essential for effective heart function. In contrast, skeletal muscle is attached to bones and is under voluntary control, meaning it is consciously activated by the nervous system. Smooth muscle, found in the walls of internal organs and blood vessels, also operates involuntarily, but it does not have the same striated structure as cardiac or skeletal muscle. Voluntary muscle is often used to refer specifically to skeletal muscle, further emphasizing the controlled nature of its contractions. Thus, the distinct properties of cardiac muscle make it critical for the heart's function, which is why it is identified as the correct answer for this question.

3. What term describes a stress disorder that leads to a gradual loss of compassion over time?

- A. Burnout**
- B. Compassion Fatigue**
- C. Emotional Exhaustion**
- D. Vicarious Trauma**

The correct term that describes a stress disorder leading to a gradual loss of compassion over time is **compassion fatigue**. This concept refers specifically to the physical, emotional, and spiritual depletion that caregivers and those in helping professions experience as a result of prolonged exposure to the suffering of others. Compassion fatigue is characterized by a diminished capacity to empathize and connect with individuals due to the cumulative emotional burden that comes from dealing with trauma or distress on a regular basis. While emotional exhaustion, burnout, and vicarious trauma are related concepts, they emphasize different aspects of stress experienced in high-demand environments. Emotional exhaustion often focuses on the overwhelming sense of fatigue and depletion that comes from stress, but it may not specifically address the aspect of compassion towards others. Burnout encompasses a broader range of symptoms, including feelings of cynicism and reduced professional efficacy, and while it can include elements of compassion fatigue, it does not focus exclusively on the loss of compassion. Vicarious trauma describes the transformation in a person's inner experience resulting from empathetic engagement with trauma, which can lead to intense feelings of fear, anxiety, or hopelessness, but again, it does not pinpoint the gradual loss of compassion itself. In summary, **compassion fatigue** is the most precise term for a state of diminished

4. Which condition occurs due to the accumulation of acids from hyperglycemia in uncontrolled diabetes?

- A. Diaphoretic**
- B. Diabetic ketoacidosis**
- C. Burnout**
- D. Bronchitis**

Diabetic ketoacidosis is a serious condition that arises from a lack of insulin in the body, particularly in individuals with uncontrolled diabetes. When insulin levels are insufficient, the body's cells cannot effectively utilize glucose for energy, leading to the breakdown of fats for fuel instead. This process results in the production of ketones, which are acidic byproducts. As ketones build up in the bloodstream, they can cause metabolic acidosis, a state where the blood becomes overly acidic. This accumulation of acids is a hallmark of diabetic ketoacidosis, and it often presents with symptoms such as excessive thirst, frequent urination, nausea, abdominal pain, weakness, and in severe cases, altered mental status. Management of this condition typically involves insulin therapy to lower blood glucose levels, rehydration, and correction of electrolyte imbalances. Understanding the pathophysiology of diabetic ketoacidosis is critical for recognizing its symptoms early and implementing the necessary emergency care interventions to prevent severe complications.

5. What is severe shock caused by an allergic reaction known as?

- A. Anaphylactic shock**
- B. Cardiogenic shock**
- C. Hypovolemic shock**
- D. Neurogenic shock**

Severe shock caused by an allergic reaction is known as anaphylactic shock. This condition occurs when the immune system overreacts to a trigger, such as a food allergen, medication, or insect sting, leading to the rapid release of histamines and other chemicals that cause widespread vasodilation, increased vascular permeability, and bronchoconstriction. As a result, blood pressure drops significantly, and the airway may become constricted, leading to difficulty breathing. Recognizing anaphylactic shock is critical because it requires immediate intervention, typically with epinephrine, to reverse the life-threatening symptoms and stabilize the patient. The other types of shock listed involve different underlying mechanisms. Cardiogenic shock is primarily due to the heart's inability to pump effectively, often seen in severe heart conditions. Hypovolemic shock results from a significant loss of blood or fluids, whereas neurogenic shock is caused by damage to the nervous system that results in the loss of vascular tone. Understanding the distinct characteristics and causes of each type of shock is essential for appropriate assessment and treatment in emergency care.

6. What condition involves the premature separation of the placenta from the uterine wall?

- A. Placenta previa**
- B. Uterine rupture**
- C. Placental abruption**
- D. Ectopic pregnancy**

The condition that involves the premature separation of the placenta from the uterine wall is known as placental abruption. This serious complication can occur during pregnancy and can lead to significant maternal and fetal complications. The separation can occur either partially or completely and is characterized by vaginal bleeding, abdominal pain, and signs of fetal distress. Identifying placental abruption is vital because it requires immediate medical intervention. If it is not managed promptly, it can lead to risks such as hemorrhage, shock, or fetal demise. Understanding the signs and symptoms of this condition can help healthcare professionals provide timely care, which is crucial for both the mother and the baby. The other conditions mentioned differ significantly from placental abruption. For example, placenta previa involves the placenta covering the cervix, which can lead to bleeding but does not involve the separation of the placenta from the uterine wall. Uterine rupture refers to a tear in the uterine wall, often during labor, and an ectopic pregnancy occurs when a fertilized egg implants outside the uterus, typically in a fallopian tube. Each of these conditions has distinct features and clinical implications.

7. What is the primary function of the biceps muscle in the arm?

- A. Stabilizing the shoulder joint**
- B. Covering the front of the humerus**
- C. Extending the elbow**
- D. Rotating the forearm**

The primary function of the biceps muscle is to facilitate movements involving the forearm and elbow. The biceps brachii muscle primarily aids in flexing the elbow and supinating the forearm. It is located at the front of the upper arm, stretching from the shoulder to the forearm, and its anatomical positioning allows it to play a significant role in lifting movements and arm motions. While the biceps does cover the front of the humerus, this is more of an anatomical characteristic rather than its primary function. The muscle is most commonly recognized for its role in elbow flexion and forearm supination. In contrast to the other options, the biceps does not inherently stabilize the shoulder joint, extend the elbow, or rotate the forearm in a manner that could be deemed its primary function. The main takeaway is that the biceps muscle is crucial for actions involving bending the arm and rotating the forearm, thus highlighting its importance beyond simply being a muscle that covers a portion of the humerus.

8. Which body cavity contains the major organs of digestion and excretion?

- A. Thorax**
- B. Pelvis**
- C. Abdomen**
- D. Cranium**

The abdomen is the body cavity that contains the major organs responsible for digestion and excretion. This cavity houses essential organs such as the stomach, intestines, liver, gallbladder, pancreas, and kidneys. Each of these organs plays a critical role in processing food, absorbing nutrients, and eliminating waste. In addition, the abdomen is positioned between the thorax and pelvis, distinguishing it as the region where these vital functions occur. Understanding the organization of the body's cavities helps in both assessing and managing conditions related to gastrointestinal health and urinary functions. The other options, while containing important structures, do not primarily encompass the major organs involved in these processes.

9. What procedures are designed for environments where human error can lead to disastrous outcomes, emphasizing effective communication in a team?

- A. Incident Command System**
- B. Quality Assurance**
- C. Crew Resource Management (CRM)**
- D. Standard Operating Procedures**

Crew Resource Management (CRM) is designed specifically to enhance communication, teamwork, and decision-making abilities among team members in high-pressure environments, such as medical emergency services and aviation. It aims to reduce the risk of human error that can result in catastrophic results, by fostering a culture of open communication and supporting collaborative problem-solving. CRM training emphasizes the importance of each team member's role and encourages individuals to speak up about safety concerns or potential issues, thereby improving overall team performance and patient outcomes. In high-stakes situations, effective coordination and clear communication can significantly mitigate risks associated with human error. This approach equips teams with skills to better manage resources and navigate the complexities of emergency situations, ultimately leading to safer and more effective care. While the other options do provide useful frameworks or processes within emergency management and medical protocols, they do not specifically focus on the enhancement of communication and teamwork in the same rigorous and targeted manner as Crew Resource Management.

10. What is the primary purpose of a backboard in emergency care?

- A. To provide comfort to the patient**
- B. To assist with patient mobility**
- C. To provide support to patients with suspected serious injuries**
- D. To protect the patient's privacy**

The primary purpose of a backboard in emergency care is to provide support to patients with suspected serious injuries. Backboards are designed to immobilize the spine and help prevent any further injury to the spinal cord during transportation. When a patient sustains a potential spinal injury, it is critical to keep their body aligned and stable, minimizing movement that could exacerbate their condition. The use of a backboard ensures that the patient is securely positioned, allowing emergency responders to transport them safely without causing additional harm. Other options do not align with the essential function of a backboard in emergency situations. While patient comfort and privacy are important in healthcare, they are not the primary roles of a backboard. Mobility may be a consideration, but it is secondary to the need for immobilization and providing specific support to prevent worsening injuries.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://aaosemergencycareandtransport.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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