

ACVIM General Boards Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. 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.

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. 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!

Questions

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- 1. What type of immune response is Systemic Lupus Erythematosus associated with?**
 - A. Innate immunity**
 - B. Adaptive immunity**
 - C. Autoimmunity**
 - D. Immunodeficiency**

- 2. What is the hormone responsible for stimulating appetite?**
 - A. Insulin**
 - B. Leptin**
 - C. Ghrelin**
 - D. Glucagon**

- 3. What process is primarily responsible for the release of ghrelin?**
 - A. Adipose tissue secretion**
 - B. Stomach secretion**
 - C. Liver function**
 - D. Pancreatic function**

- 4. What is the mechanism of action of doxycycline?**
 - A. Inhibits DNA replication**
 - B. Binds to 30S ribosomal subunit, inhibiting protein synthesis**
 - C. Blocks RNA polymerase activity**
 - D. Disrupts cell membrane integrity**

- 5. What can induce a hemolytic crisis in a dog with PFK deficiency?**
 - A. Rest**
 - B. Cold weather**
 - C. Exercise**
 - D. Heat exposure**

- 6. What is the most antigenic blood type in dogs?**
- A. DEA 1.0**
 - B. DEA 1.1**
 - C. DEA 1.2**
 - D. DEA 7.0**
- 7. A goat shows neuro signs, circling to the right and CP deficits on the left. Which part of the brain is affected?**
- A. Left hindbrain**
 - B. Right forebrain**
 - C. Left forebrain**
 - D. Right hindbrain**
- 8. What is considered the most sensitive test for diagnosing hyperthyroidism?**
- A. Total T4**
 - B. Free T4**
 - C. Thyroid stimulating hormone**
 - D. Nuclear scintigraphy**
- 9. What is the most common side effect of oclacitinib?**
- A. Vomiting**
 - B. Diarrhea**
 - C. Lethargy**
 - D. Weight gain**
- 10. What cranial nerve abnormality is observed in the right eye of a dog that is circling to the left?**
- A. Menace response decreased**
 - B. Pupillary light reflex normal**
 - C. Nasal sensation normal**
 - D. Pelvic limb coordinated proprioception normal**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of immune response is Systemic Lupus Erythematosus associated with?

- A. Innate immunity**
- B. Adaptive immunity**
- C. Autoimmunity**
- D. Immunodeficiency**

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a complex autoimmune disease characterized by the body's immune system erroneously attacking its own tissues. This misdirection stems from a breakdown in the immune response regulatory mechanisms, resulting in the production of antibodies that target various cellular components, leading to widespread inflammation and tissue damage. The association with autoimmunity is critical in understanding SLE because it highlights the underlying mechanism of the disease as one where the immune system fails to distinguish between self and non-self. Various factors contribute to this aberrant immune response, including genetic predisposition, hormonal influences, environmental triggers, and infectious agents. In contrast, innate immunity focuses on the body's initial defense against pathogens using nonspecific mechanisms such as phagocytes and natural killer cells. Adaptive immunity involves a more targeted response through specific lymphocytes (B cells and T cells) and the generation of antibodies, but in the case of SLE, it specifically leads to autoimmune phenomena, making the distinction clear that autoimmunity is the hallmark of this condition. While innate and adaptive immunity are essential components of the overall immune system, it is the dysfunction in the regulatory aspects of the adaptive immune response that culminates in autoimmunity—making autoimmunity the most

2. What is the hormone responsible for stimulating appetite?

- A. Insulin**
- B. Leptin**
- C. Ghrelin**
- D. Glucagon**

Ghrelin is the hormone that plays a significant role in stimulating appetite. It is often referred to as the "hunger hormone" because its levels rise before meals and fall after eating. Produced predominantly in the stomach, ghrelin signals the brain to increase food intake and promote fat storage. This hormone acts on the hypothalamus, the area of the brain involved in regulating hunger and energy balance, making it a crucial player in appetite regulation. Insulin, while important for glucose metabolism and storage, primarily functions to lower blood sugar levels and does not have a direct stimulatory effect on appetite. Leptin, produced by adipose (fat) tissue, is involved in signaling satiety; it informs the brain about energy stores, leading to a reduction in appetite. Glucagon is primarily known for its role in increasing blood sugar levels by promoting the release of glucose from the liver, and it does not stimulate appetite directly. Therefore, ghrelin's unique role in appetite stimulation distinguishes it as the correct answer.

3. What process is primarily responsible for the release of ghrelin?

- A. Adipose tissue secretion
- B. Stomach secretion**
- C. Liver function
- D. Pancreatic function

Ghrelin is primarily produced and released by the stomach, specifically from cells located in the gastric fundus. It is often referred to as the "hunger hormone" because its levels rise before meals and fall after eating, influencing appetite and food intake. The secretion of ghrelin is a response to certain stimuli related to hunger and the physiological state of the body, primarily originating from the gastrointestinal tract. Other organs like adipose tissue, liver, and pancreas have different roles in metabolism and energy balance but are not responsible for the primary production of ghrelin. For instance, while adipose tissue secretes leptin, which has a regulatory effect on hunger, it does not produce ghrelin. The liver is involved in various metabolic processes, including the regulation of glucose metabolism, but it does not secrete ghrelin. Similarly, the pancreas releases hormones like insulin and glucagon but does not secrete ghrelin. Thus, the correct identification of the stomach as the source of ghrelin release highlights its critical role in the regulation of appetite and energy homeostasis.

4. What is the mechanism of action of doxycycline?

- A. Inhibits DNA replication
- B. Binds to 30S ribosomal subunit, inhibiting protein synthesis**
- C. Blocks RNA polymerase activity
- D. Disrupts cell membrane integrity

Doxycycline is a tetracycline antibiotic that functions primarily by binding to the 30S ribosomal subunit of bacterial ribosomes. This binding inhibits protein synthesis by preventing the attachment of the aminoacyl-tRNA to the ribosomal acceptor site, effectively obstructing the translation process. As a result, the production of proteins essential for bacterial growth and reproduction is halted, leading to the bactericidal or bacteriostatic effect of the drug, depending on the concentration and susceptibility of the bacteria. This mechanism is crucial because it highlights how doxycycline selectively targets bacterial ribosomes without affecting eukaryotic ribosomes, allowing for its therapeutic efficacy in treating a variety of infections caused by susceptible bacteria. The other mechanisms mentioned in the other choices, such as inhibiting DNA replication or RNA polymerase activity, do not pertain to doxycycline's specific action and are characteristic of different classes of antibiotics or other types of antimicrobials. Additionally, disrupting cell membrane integrity is not a mechanism associated with doxycycline, as its primary action is related to protein synthesis inhibition via the ribosomal subunit.

5. What can induce a hemolytic crisis in a dog with PFK deficiency?

- A. Rest**
- B. Cold weather**
- C. Exercise**
- D. Heat exposure**

A hemolytic crisis in a dog with phosphofructokinase (PFK) deficiency can be induced by exercise. This is because PFK deficiency is a hereditary condition that affects the glycolytic pathway, leading to inadequate energy production in red blood cells during high-intensity activities. When a dog with this condition engages in exercise, the increased metabolic demands can overwhelm the compromised energy production capability, leading to hemolysis of the red blood cells. During exercise, muscles require rapid energy, which the compromised cells cannot provide efficiently due to the metabolic defect. This results in the destruction of the red blood cells, causing a hemolytic crisis characterized by anemia and other related symptoms. In contrast, other factors such as rest, cold weather, or heat exposure do not exert the same acute metabolic demand on the dog's red blood cells and therefore are less likely to trigger a crisis. While extreme environmental conditions may have other physiological effects, exercise stands out as the direct trigger for hemolytic issues in dogs with PFK deficiency due to the high energetic requirements it imposes.

6. What is the most antigenic blood type in dogs?

- A. DEA 1.0**
- B. DEA 1.1**
- C. DEA 1.2**
- D. DEA 7.0**

In dogs, the most antigenic blood type is DEA 1.1. This blood group is considered highly immunogenic, meaning it is more likely to provoke an immune response if mismatched during blood transfusions. Dogs that are DEA 1.1 positive can stimulate an adverse reaction in DEA 1.1 negative recipients if they receive a transfusion of DEA 1.1 positive blood without previous sensitization. Understanding the significance of the DEA (Dog Erythrocyte Antigen) blood types is crucial for managing blood transfusions and preventing hemolytic reactions. Dogs that are DEA 1.1 negative can develop antibodies against DEA 1.1 positive blood, leading to potentially life-threatening consequences upon subsequent transfusions. This is particularly important in clinical veterinary settings, where blood typing and cross-matching become vital in ensuring safe transfusion practices. The other blood types, while also important, do not generally provoke the same level of response in terms of antigenicity as DEA 1.1. Thus, recognizing DEA 1.1 as the primary focus when evaluating blood type related immunogenicity in dogs is essential for practitioners involved in veterinary care.

7. A goat shows neuro signs, circling to the right and CP deficits on the left. Which part of the brain is affected?

- A. Left hindbrain**
- B. Right forebrain**
- C. Left forebrain**
- D. Right hindbrain**

The scenario presented indicates that the goat is exhibiting neurological signs characterized by circling to the right and exhibiting central postural deficits on the left side. This specific combination of symptoms suggests that the right side of the brain, particularly the forebrain, is involved. When an animal circles to one side, it typically indicates a dysfunction in the brain regions responsible for controlling movement and balance on the opposite side of the body. In this case, the goat is circling to the right, suggesting that the right side of the brain is having a problem. The central postural deficits being noted on the left indicate that there is likely a loss of function that affects the left side of the body, corresponding to damage in the right side of the brain. Understanding this lateralization of brain function helps clarify why the right forebrain is the affected area. The forebrain is involved in higher cognitive functions and overall motor control, while the hindbrain primarily manages basic life functions and balance. Thus, the presence of neuro signs related to movement and the observation of contralateral deficits point towards involvement of the right forebrain in this clinical scenario.

8. What is considered the most sensitive test for diagnosing hyperthyroidism?

- A. Total T4**
- B. Free T4**
- C. Thyroid stimulating hormone**
- D. Nuclear scintigraphy**

The most sensitive test for diagnosing hyperthyroidism is the measurement of free T4. Free T4 refers to the fraction of thyroxine that is not bound to proteins in the blood, providing a more specific indicator of the active thyroid hormone available to tissues. This measurement is particularly important because it reflects the status of thyroid hormone production and metabolism more directly than total T4, which can be influenced by various factors, including protein levels. In cases of hyperthyroidism, the body produces an excess of free T4, which leads to the clinical signs observed in affected patients. This makes free T4 a crucial test in confirming a diagnosis, especially when combined with clinical signs and other test results for thyroid function. Its high sensitivity allows for the detection of hyperthyroidism even in early or less obvious cases, signaling changes before total T4 levels may become altered. While total T4 and nuclear scintigraphy provide useful information in evaluating thyroid function and gland activity, free T4's role in assessing active hormonal status makes it the preferred initial test for diagnosing hyperthyroidism. Thyroid stimulating hormone levels may also indicate hyperthyroidism, but they can sometimes be suppressed and do not provide the same direct assessment of thyroid hormone levels as free T4 does.

9. What is the most common side effect of oclacitinib?

- A. Vomiting
- B. Diarrhea**
- C. Lethargy
- D. Weight gain

Oclacitinib, a Janus kinase inhibitor used primarily for the treatment of atopic dermatitis and other allergic conditions in dogs, has a side effect profile that is well documented in veterinary literature. Among the potential adverse effects, diarrhea is the most commonly reported. This can be attributed to oclacitinib's action, which can lead to gastrointestinal changes in susceptible animals. The occurrence of diarrhea can be dose-dependent, and while it varies between individual patients, it is frequently noted in clinical settings. Monitoring the gastrointestinal health of dogs on this medication is essential to manage and address possible side effects effectively, thereby ensuring the proper adjustment of treatment when necessary.

10. What cranial nerve abnormality is observed in the right eye of a dog that is circling to the left?

- A. Menace response decreased**
- B. Pupillary light reflex normal
- C. Nasal sensation normal
- D. Pelvic limb coordinated proprioception normal

When a dog is circling to the left, this behavior often indicates a neurological issue, potentially involving the right side of the brain. In this context, the decreased menace response observed in the right eye is significant because it suggests that there may be an abnormality in cranial nerve function, specifically cranial nerve II (the optic nerve) or cranial nerve VII (the facial nerve), which are responsible for the visual input and motor response that comprise the menace reflex. The menace response involves a visual stimulus causing the animal to blink. If the right eye has a decreased response, it indicates that there is a neurological impairment in the pathways processing visual information, likely related to the right side of the brain, reinforcing the observation of circling to the left due to a right-sided issue. This connection between the observed behavior and the cranial nerve response helps in localizing the potential site of the problem in the central nervous system. In contrast, the other responses regarding the normal pupillary light reflex, nasal sensation, or pelvic limb coordinated proprioception do not indicate the same neurological involvement. A normal pupillary light reflex suggests intact afferent and efferent pathways, which would be unlikely if there were significant cranial nerve dysfunction affecting visual processing. Similarly

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://acvimgenboards.examzify.com>

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

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