

American Board of General Dentistry (ABGD) Practice Exam (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. Which statement about ultrathin metal matrices for posterior Class II composites is false?**
 - A. Tight interproximal contacts are easy to achieve**
 - B. They provide superior proximal contours**
 - C. They complicate matrix placement**
 - D. They enhance restoration outcomes with light-reflecting wedges**

- 2. What is true regarding a pulpotomy in permanent teeth compared to primary teeth?**
 - A. The calcium hydroxide pulpotomy technique is recommended for permanent teeth**
 - B. Formocresol is the medicament of choice for pulpotomy in permanent teeth**
 - C. Pulpotomy technique for primary teeth involves only partial removal of the pulp**
 - D. Formocresol should be placed directly on the pulp stump for hemorrhage control**

- 3. What condition is characterized by the spread of infection from the oral cavity to the cavernous sinus?**
 - A. Abscess**
 - B. Cavernous sinus thrombosis**
 - C. Osteomyelitis**
 - D. Trismus**

- 4. Which of the following statements is true regarding caries in dental radiography?**
 - A. Both statements are true**
 - B. Both statements are false**
 - C. First statement is true, second is false**
 - D. First statement is false, second is true**

- 5. When discussing submandibular and sublingual space infections, which statement is true?**
 - A. The first statement is true, the second statement is false.**
 - B. The first statement is false, the second statement is true.**
 - C. Both statements are true.**
 - D. Both statements are false.**

- 6. What is the primary function of leucite added to dental ceramics?**
- A. To raise the coefficient of thermal expansion**
 - B. To increase opacity for esthetic restorations**
 - C. To decrease the coefficient of thermal expansion**
 - D. To decrease phase transformation toughness**
- 7. Which term describes the healing of the area of the root that was not previously exposed to the pocket following surgical detachment?**
- A. Regeneration**
 - B. Reattachment**
 - C. New Attachment**
 - D. Repair**
- 8. Which desensitizing agent and its proposed mechanism of action is incorrect?**
- A. Potassium nitrate reduces nerve excitability**
 - B. Oxalates reduce dentin permeability and occlude tubules**
 - C. Calcium phosphates remineralize enamel crystalline structure**
 - D. Fluoride may reduce sensitivity by precipitation in tubules**
- 9. What is the significance of EPT and thermal testing in evaluating dental trauma?**
- A. They are highly reliable following trauma**
 - B. They may give false results due to potential nerve damage**
 - C. They are the only tests needed for diagnosis**
 - D. They are only needed if there are visible symptoms**
- 10. Which statement is NOT true regarding ovate pontics and soft tissue development?**
- A. A minimum of 2.5 mm of gingival tissue is needed**
 - B. Creating a concave pontic receptor site is ideal**
 - C. Preparation of the teeth and soft tissue must be considered**
 - D. Plasty tissues should be directly contacted with the provisional**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement about ultrathin metal matrices for posterior Class II composites is false?
- A. Tight interproximal contacts are easy to achieve
 - B. They provide superior proximal contours
 - C. They complicate matrix placement**
 - D. They enhance restoration outcomes with light-reflecting wedges

Ultrathin metal matrices are designed to create optimal conditions for restoring posterior Class II cavities. One of the advantages of using ultrathin metal matrices is that they are crafted to allow easy placement and adaptation to the tooth's surface, which helps to produce tight interproximal contacts and superior proximal contours. Because of their thin profile, these matrices can adapt well to the contours of the teeth, facilitating better contact formation and esthetics. The statement regarding the complication of matrix placement is not accurate when considering the intended design and use of ultrathin metal matrices. Clinicians often find that these matrices simplify the process of placement, especially in tight interproximal spaces, rather than complicating it. The use of light-reflecting wedges can further enhance the adaptation and effectiveness of these matrices, improving the overall restoration outcomes. In essence, the primary goal of ultrathin matrices is to facilitate the creation of ideal interproximal contacts and contours, so asserting that they complicate matrix placement contradicts their purpose and established benefits in clinical practice.

2. What is true regarding a pulpotomy in permanent teeth compared to primary teeth?
- A. The calcium hydroxide pulpotomy technique is recommended for permanent teeth**
 - B. Formocresol is the medicament of choice for pulpotomy in permanent teeth
 - C. Pulpotomy technique for primary teeth involves only partial removal of the pulp
 - D. Formocresol should be placed directly on the pulp stump for hemorrhage control

In the context of pulpotomy procedures, particularly when differentiating between permanent and primary teeth, the use of calcium hydroxide is a significant aspect for permanent teeth. Calcium hydroxide is favored for its medicinal properties, which assist in promoting the formation of a dentin bridge and help in the healing process when performing a pulpotomy on permanent teeth. This technique is particularly important in cases of irreversible pulpitis where preserving pulp vitality is crucial for the long-term health of the tooth. The calcium hydroxide provides a protective barrier over the remaining pulp tissue, facilitating regeneration and maintaining pulp vitality, which is vital in permanent teeth as opposed to primary teeth where different considerations are taken. In contrast, other techniques and materials like formocresol are traditionally used in primary teeth pulpotomies, emphasizing the distinction in the approach to treatment based on the tooth's longevity and functional demands. The choice of medicament highlights the differences in biological goals between the temporary nature of primary teeth and the longevity desired in treating permanent teeth. Thus, understanding these distinctions aids in selecting the appropriate treatment methodologies for pulpotomy procedures.

3. What condition is characterized by the spread of infection from the oral cavity to the cavernous sinus?

- A. Abscess**
- B. Cavernous sinus thrombosis**
- C. Osteomyelitis**
- D. Trismus**

The condition characterized by the spread of infection from the oral cavity to the cavernous sinus is cavernous sinus thrombosis. This serious condition occurs when an infection, such as that from dental abscesses, spreads into the cavernous sinus, a large venous sinus located at the base of the skull. When infection occurs in the area of the face and mouth, particularly from teeth or periodontal tissues, it can lead to the formation of clots within the cavernous sinus due to the inflammation and disruption of normal blood flow. Symptoms can include severe headache, fever, visual disturbances, and neurological deficits because of the close proximity of the cranial nerves and structures to the cavernous sinus itself. This process can lead to significant and potentially life-threatening complications, hence the importance of recognizing and managing dental infections promptly to prevent their progression to regions like the cavernous sinus.

4. Which of the following statements is true regarding caries in dental radiography?

- A. Both statements are true**
- B. Both statements are false**
- C. First statement is true, second is false**
- D. First statement is false, second is true**

Understanding the role of dental radiography in the diagnosis of caries is crucial for effective dental practice. Radiography allows clinicians to visualize areas of demineralization that may not be clinically apparent. If the first statement highlights the ability of radiography to detect interproximal caries due to the contrast of enamel and dentin density, and the second statement incorrectly states that radiographs cannot detect caries in various surfaces, then the correct choice aligns with the established understanding of these concepts. The first statement's accuracy stems from the fact that radiographic images can reveal carious lesions that are often hidden between teeth, which is a critical factor in managing patient oral health. Conversely, the second statement suggests a limitation of radiographs that is not supported by current dental imaging practices. Effective diagnosis often necessitates the use of multiple modalities, including clinical inspection and radiographic findings, confirming that one statement highlights the advantages while the other misrepresents the capabilities of radiographic imaging. Thus, the chosen answer regarding the truthfulness of the statements accurately reflects the nuances of caries detection in dental radiography, emphasizing the significance of evidence-based practice in dentistry.

5. When discussing submandibular and sublingual space infections, which statement is true?
- A. The first statement is true, the second statement is false.
 - B. The first statement is false, the second statement is true.
 - C. Both statements are true.**
 - D. Both statements are false.

In the context of submandibular and sublingual space infections, both statements being true suggests that key characteristics or facts about these infections are accurately represented. Submandibular and sublingual infections may arise from various sources, including dental infections or trauma, and can present with specific clinical signs that are well-documented in literature. For instance, submandibular space infections are often associated with swelling, pain, and potentially airway compromise due to the anatomical positions of these spaces. Sublingual space infections can also have similar presenting symptoms but may have distinct implications for airway management due to their close association with the floor of the mouth. Additionally, the management protocols for these two types of infections typically involve considerations of the patient's airway, the extent of the infection, and possible complications such as abscess formation. Understanding the nature of the tissues involved and the potential routes of spread for infection allows practitioners to make more informed decisions regarding treatment. In this scenario, having both statements be true indicates a comprehensive understanding of the clinical presentation, management, and consequences of submandibular and sublingual space infections, which is crucial for providing effective dental care and ensuring patient safety.

6. What is the primary function of leucite added to dental ceramics?
- A. To raise the coefficient of thermal expansion**
 - B. To increase opacity for esthetic restorations
 - C. To decrease the coefficient of thermal expansion
 - D. To decrease phase transformation toughness

The primary function of leucite in dental ceramics is to increase opacity for esthetic restorations, which enhances the visual characteristics of the materials used in dentistry. Leucite is a potassium aluminum silicate that serves a crucial role in the optical and physical properties of ceramic materials. When leucite particles are incorporated into ceramic matrices, they help improve the material's ability to mimic natural teeth by providing enhanced light scattering and influencing the overall translucency. This is particularly important in restorative dentistry, where the esthetic outcome is vital for patient satisfaction. One of the other functions of leucite is to affect thermal expansion properties, as leucite does help to buffer thermal expansion and contraction within the ceramic structure, but its significant contribution to improving opacity and esthetic appearance is a major reason for its inclusion. Therefore, understanding the properties of leucite and its primary function helps dental professionals select appropriate materials for aesthetic restorations, considering how they will interact visually with the surrounding tooth structure.

7. Which term describes the healing of the area of the root that was not previously exposed to the pocket following surgical detachment?

- A. Regeneration**
- B. Reattachment**
- C. New Attachment**
- D. Repair**

The term that accurately describes the healing of the area of the root that was not previously exposed to the pocket following surgical detachment is "Reattachment." This process refers to the return of the periodontal fibers to the tooth's root surface after surgical procedures. In cases of periodontal surgery, when the tissues are reattached to the root, it creates a new connection between the tooth and the surrounding supportive structures. Reattachment is critical as it can improve the overall health of the periodontal tissues by restoring the functional relationship between the tooth and the periodontal attachment apparatus. This differs from other terms such as regeneration, which involves the complete restoration of lost or damaged periodontal tissues, including bone and ligament, and typically implies the formation of new tissues. New attachment encompasses the formation of a new attachment apparatus but does not necessarily involve the return to the periodontal structures after surgical procedures. Repair, on the other hand, generally refers to the healing of tissues but can be associated with scarring and does not specifically denote the re-establishment of the original attachment apparatus. This understanding clarifies why reattachment is the correct term in this scenario, as it specifically refers to the direct process occurring after surgical detachment in relation to healthy gums and the tooth's root.

8. Which desensitizing agent and its proposed mechanism of action is incorrect?

- A. Potassium nitrate reduces nerve excitability**
- B. Oxalates reduce dentin permeability and occlude tubules**
- C. Calcium phosphates remineralize enamel crystalline structure**
- D. Fluoride may reduce sensitivity by precipitation in tubules**

While calcium phosphates are well-known for their role in the remineralization of enamel and dentin, the specific mechanism is often misunderstood in the context of sensitivity reduction. The proposed mechanism of action primarily involves the deposition of calcium and phosphate ions that can help rebuild tooth structure and enhance mineral density. However, the term "remineralize enamel crystalline structure" may imply a direct effect where sensitivity is reduced purely through the formation of minerals. In fact, the process of remineralization itself involves more nuanced interactions and doesn't solely focus on crystalline structure per se but rather on the overall integrity of the enamel and dentin. Furthermore, while fluoride ions do play a role in decreasing sensitivity by forming a barrier or "precipitating" in pre-dentin or dentinal tubules, the main effect is through the enhancement of remineralization and reduction of demineralization processes, leading to decreased sensitivity over time. Thus, the aspect of solely attributing sensitivity reduction to crystallization lacks a comprehensive view of calcium phosphate's full range of actions in dental health.

9. What is the significance of EPT and thermal testing in evaluating dental trauma?

- A. They are highly reliable following trauma**
- B. They may give false results due to potential nerve damage**
- C. They are the only tests needed for diagnosis**
- D. They are only needed if there are visible symptoms**

The significance of electric pulp testing (EPT) and thermal testing in evaluating dental trauma lies primarily in their potential to yield false results due to nerve damage. After a dental injury, the vitality of the tooth can be compromised, affecting the nerve's ability to react appropriately to these tests. Damage to the dental pulp can lead to situations where a tooth may appear to be non-vital even if it still has some degree of health, or conversely, it may seem vital when it is actually non-vital. As a result, while EPT and thermal tests are valuable tools in assessing the health of the pulp, they must be interpreted with caution, especially in the context of recent trauma. A thorough examination should consider the possibility of nerve damage, ensuring that diagnostic conclusions take into account the potential for misleading test results. This understanding is crucial for developing an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan for patients who have experienced dental trauma.

10. Which statement is NOT true regarding ovate pontics and soft tissue development?

- A. A minimum of 2.5 mm of gingival tissue is needed**
- B. Creating a concave pontic receptor site is ideal**
- C. Preparation of the teeth and soft tissue must be considered**
- D. Plasty tissues should be directly contacted with the provisional**

Ovate pontics are designed to mimic the natural contours of the gingiva and promote proper soft tissue healing and aesthetics. In this context, the notion that a minimum of 2.5 mm of gingival tissue is needed is not accurate. This figure does not reflect a universally accepted standard for soft tissue development around pontics since successful integration and soft tissue management depend on various factors, including the specific patient's anatomy and the clinical situation. The emphasis in tissue management is more on establishing proper contours and ensuring adequate contact between the pontic and the tissue rather than adhering to a specific measurement. The other statements are rooted in principles of periodontal health and prosthetic dentistry. Creating a concave pontic receptor site promotes a natural emergence profile and helps in establishing a proper relationship with the surrounding tissues, facilitating optimal aesthetics and hygiene. Considering the preparation of the teeth and the condition of the soft tissues is crucial for ensuring a successful outcome, as both play a significant role in how the pontic will be received and integrated within the oral environment. Additionally, ensuring that the provisional prosthesis contacts the tissue directly allows for better adaptation and tissue shaping during the healing phase, leading to improved aesthetic and functional results once the definitive restoration is placed.

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://americanboardgendentistry.examzify.com>

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

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