

Arizona Notary 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. True or False: A notarial officer may notarize a record in which their spouse has a direct beneficial interest.**
 - A. False**
 - B. Only with authorization**
 - C. Depends on record**
 - D. True**

- 2. What is the passing score for the Arizona notary exam?**
 - A. 80% (32 out of 40)**
 - B. 70% (28/40)**
 - C. 85% (34/40)**
 - D. 75% (30/40)**

- 3. If a notary public's employment is terminated or he or she leaves employment, the notary public may:**
 - A. Maintain his or her commission**
 - B. Resign his or her commission**
 - C. Let the commission expire**
 - D. Sell the commission to another notary**

- 4. How does a notary replace a lost or destroyed commission certificate?**
 - A. Submit a written request to the Secretary of State for a duplicate**
 - B. Notify the county clerk**
 - C. Publish a notice in a newspaper**
 - D. Contact the seal vendor**

- 5. What type of citizenship is required to become a notary in AZ?**
 - A. U.S. citizen only**
 - B. Legal permanent resident only**
 - C. Temporary visa holder**
 - D. U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident**

- 6. When must a notary purchase a bond?**
- A. After the Secretary of State grants a commission.**
 - B. At any time.**
 - C. Before the Secretary of State grants a commission.**
 - D. Only during the first year of the term.**
- 7. The notary bond's core purpose is to assure compensation to the:**
- A. Notary**
 - B. The public**
 - C. Insurance company**
 - D. Bank**
- 8. What is the primary purpose of notarization?**
- A. To speed up civil litigation.**
 - B. To ensure that signatures are witnessed for general purposes.**
 - C. To deter fraud, prove authenticity of a signature, and ensure the signer acted willingly.**
 - D. To verify the signer's age.**
- 9. What is the penalty for not reporting a lost/stolen notary seal within 10 days?**
- A. \$1,000 fine**
 - B. \$500 fine**
 - C. No penalty**
 - D. \$100 fine**
- 10. Are notary commissions transferable?**
- A. Are transferable**
 - B. Are non-transferable**
 - C. Are revocable**
 - D. Are renewable**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. True or False: A notarial officer may notarize a record in which their spouse has a direct beneficial interest.

A. False

B. Only with authorization

C. Depends on record

D. True

Notaries must act as impartial witnesses. If the notary or a close family member has a direct beneficial interest in the subject matter or the outcome of the record, the notarial act cannot be performed because impartiality would be compromised. Here, the spouse has a direct beneficial interest in the record, so notarizing it would create a conflict of interest and could undermine the integrity of the notarization. Therefore, the proper response is to decline the notarization and, if possible, have the document notarized by someone with no such interest or resolve the interest before notarization. This is why the statement is false.

2. What is the passing score for the Arizona notary exam?

A. 80% (32 out of 40)

B. 70% (28/40)

C. 85% (34/40)

D. 75% (30/40)

Understanding the passing threshold is key to planning your study. The Arizona notary exam requires a standing of at least 80% correct to pass. Since the test has 40 questions, this means you need to get 32 questions right. This level is set to ensure applicants demonstrate solid knowledge of notary laws, procedures, and proper practices before becoming commissioned. To prepare effectively, focus on understanding how to perform notarial acts, the required wording for jurats and acknowledgments, proper record-keeping, and proof of identity, and aim for steady accuracy across topics rather than trying to memorize only a few areas.

3. If a notary public's employment is terminated or he or she leaves employment, the notary public may:

A. Maintain his or her commission

B. Resign his or her commission

C. Let the commission expire

D. Sell the commission to another notary

When a notary public leaves a job, the authority to perform notarial acts must be reassigned to someone who remains authorized to act. The practical way to handle this is to transfer the commission to another notary who will take over the duties for that employer. This keeps notarial services available without gaps, by having a qualifying successor assume the commission. Keeping the old commission, resigning, or letting it expire would all leave the organization without a current notary to perform acts, whereas transferring (selling) the commission to another notary ensures continuity of service.

4. How does a notary replace a lost or destroyed commission certificate?

- A. Submit a written request to the Secretary of State for a duplicate**
- B. Notify the county clerk**
- C. Publish a notice in a newspaper**
- D. Contact the seal vendor**

The main idea here is that the agency that issued your notary commission handles replacements. When a commission certificate is lost or destroyed, you must submit a written request to the Secretary of State to obtain a duplicate. The county clerk isn't the correct place to request a replacement, newspaper publication isn't required for this purpose, and the seal vendor deals with seals, not the official commission certificate. The duplicate certificate from the Secretary of State serves as official proof of your authority as a notary.

5. What type of citizenship is required to become a notary in AZ?

- A. U.S. citizen only**
- B. Legal permanent resident only**
- C. Temporary visa holder**
- D. U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident**

Eligibility hinges on lawful presence in the United States. To become a notary in Arizona, you must be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident. This means citizens and green card holders may apply, while someone on a temporary visa cannot. That combination correctly reflects who is eligible. Saying only citizens are eligible excludes those who are legally resident, and allowing temporary visa holders would misstate the requirement.

6. When must a notary purchase a bond?

- A. After the Secretary of State grants a commission.**
- B. At any time.**
- C. Before the Secretary of State grants a commission.**
- D. Only during the first year of the term.**

Having a surety bond in place is a prerequisite to becoming a commissioned notary. The bond protects the public from losses that could arise from notarial errors or misconduct, and the state requires it as part of the appointment process. Because this protection is part of what authorizes you to perform notarial acts, the bond must be purchased and on file before the Secretary of State grants the commission. In other words, you secure the bond upfront, and then your commission is issued, with the bond remaining in effect for the term of your notary service.

7. The notary bond's core purpose is to assure compensation to the:

- A. Notary
- B. The public**
- C. Insurance company
- D. Bank

Notary bonds exist to protect the public by providing a financial remedy when a notary's improper acts cause someone to suffer a monetary loss. If a notary engages in dishonest or negligent conduct—such as misrepresenting a signature or failing to follow proper notarial procedures—a claimant can recover damages from the bond up to its limit. This guarantees that there is money available to compensate those harmed, which is why the bond's purpose is to assure compensation to the public. The bond is not intended to compensate the notary, nor is it specifically for an insurance company or a bank. It's a third-party guarantee backed by a surety to cover legitimate losses to the public.

8. What is the primary purpose of notarization?

- A. To speed up civil litigation.
- B. To ensure that signatures are witnessed for general purposes.
- C. To deter fraud, prove authenticity of a signature, and ensure the signer acted willingly.**
- D. To verify the signer's age.

Notarization aims to deter fraud by providing an official check that the signature is authentic, the signer is who they claim to be, and that the signer acted willingly and without coercion. The notary verifies the signer's identity, confirms the signer appears before the notary, and ensures they sign of their own free will, then attaches the notary's seal and records the act. This creates a trusted record for third parties that the signature is genuine and the signer meant to sign. It does not certify the document's content, guarantee the signer's age, nor is its primary purpose to speed up litigation or serve as a general witness in every situation.

9. What is the penalty for not reporting a lost/stolen notary seal within 10 days?

- A. \$1,000 fine**
- B. \$500 fine
- C. No penalty
- D. \$100 fine

The key idea is prompt reporting to protect the public from misuse of the notary seal. When a notary seal is lost or stolen, you must report it within ten days to the proper authority. If you don't report within that window, the law imposes a civil penalty of \$1,000. That stiff fine reflects the seriousness of failing to keep the seal secure and to notify the proper office quickly, which helps prevent fraudulent notarizations. The other amounts or the idea of no penalty don't align with the requirement, which is why the \$1,000 penalty is the correct rule.

10. Are notary commissions transferable?

- A. Are transferable**
- B. Are non-transferable**
- C. Are revocable**
- D. Are renewable**

Notary authority is personal and non-transferable. In Arizona, the commission to act as a notary public is issued to a specific individual and tied to that person's name and status. Because notarizations rely on the signer's identity and the notary's duty to follow legal steps, the authority cannot be handed off to someone else or used by another person. If the notary changes name, moves, leaves the job, or a business changes hands, the new person must obtain their own commission to perform notarizations. The commission itself can be renewed or revoked, but it cannot be transferred to another individual.

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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://arizonanotary.examzify.com>

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

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