

Bioethics Exam 2 Practice (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. In ethics of care, which factor is emphasized to ensure the well-being and understanding of research participants?**
 - A. Maximizing data collection quickly**
 - B. Public health benefit above individual welfare**
 - C. Maintaining strict anonymity**
 - D. Empathy and patient welfare**

- 2. What is the requirement regarding risk in moral considerations for trials?**
 - A. Risk must be ignored**
 - B. Risk must be minimized and balanced with potential benefits**
 - C. Risks must be high to test safety**
 - D. Only financial risk matters**

- 3. In clinical research, a placebo is:**
 - A. An inactive or fake treatment**
 - B. A standard care treatment**
 - C. An active drug with known efficacy**
 - D. A treatment with random side effects**

- 4. What did Whitehead initially want regarding Baby M?**
 - A. Keep Baby M**
 - B. Relinquish Baby M**
 - C. Adopt Baby M**
 - D. Sell Baby M**

- 5. Under the natural law position described, killing an innocent person is:**
 - A. It is permissible in some cases**
 - B. It is wrong**
 - C. It depends on the context**
 - D. Unknown**

- 6. Which term describes paying a woman to carry a pregnancy?**
- A. Womb-Renting**
 - B. Adoption**
 - C. Gestational Surrogacy**
 - D. Reproductive Tourism**
- 7. In Natanson v. Kline, which statement best describes its contribution to informed consent doctrine?**
- A. It expanded the information that should be disclosed to patients, particularly the risks involved**
 - B. The case held that consent is always in writing**
 - C. The case limited the duty to disclose to only the most common complications**
 - D. It set a precedent in medical malpractice law and made it easier for patients to seek compensation for injuries caused by medical negligence, by clarifying disclosure duties**
- 8. In research ethics, which principle emphasizes respecting an individual's right to decide whether to participate or withdraw from a study?**
- A. Beneficence**
 - B. Justice**
 - C. Autonomy**
 - D. Nonmaleficence**
- 9. Which of the following describes what can be done with unused IVF embryos?**
- A. Cryopreserve**
 - B. Donate to research**
 - C. Donate to infertile couples**
 - D. Destroy**

10. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study is most criticized for which ethical violation?

- A. It observed information about syphilis without providing treatment when it became available.**
- B. It observed patients with full consent and transparency.**
- C. It studied the effects of vaccines on healthy individuals.**
- D. It was conducted with modern ethical oversight.**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In ethics of care, which factor is emphasized to ensure the well-being and understanding of research participants?

- A. Maximizing data collection quickly**
- B. Public health benefit above individual welfare**
- C. Maintaining strict anonymity**
- D. Empathy and patient welfare**

Ethics of care centers on relationships, attentiveness, and responding to people's concrete needs. When researchers aim to support participants' well-being and ensure they truly understand what participation involves, they must approach with empathy and a focus on welfare—seeing the participant as a person with feelings, concerns, and a context that shapes their experience. This caring stance builds trust, enables ongoing consent, and fosters meaningful engagement, which are central to ethical research under this framework. While protecting privacy matter, balancing anonymity, or considering public health outcomes are important in other respects, they don't embody the relational, welfare-focused emphasis of care.

2. What is the requirement regarding risk in moral considerations for trials?

- A. Risk must be ignored**
- B. Risk must be minimized and balanced with potential benefits**
- C. Risks must be high to test safety**
- D. Only financial risk matters**

In ethical human subjects research, the guiding requirement is to minimize risk to participants and weigh that risk against the potential benefits. Trials should be designed to reduce harm as much as possible, and any remaining risks must be justified by the anticipated benefits to participants or to society. This risk-benefit balance is what determines whether a study is ethically permissible. Risks should not be ignored, and they are not justified by pursuing high risk to test safety or by focusing only on financial concerns; rather, all plausible harms (physical, psychological, social) are considered and weighed against potential benefits.

3. In clinical research, a placebo is:

- A. An inactive or fake treatment**
- B. A standard care treatment**
- C. An active drug with known efficacy**
- D. A treatment with random side effects**

The main idea is that a placebo is an inactive or fake treatment used as a control in clinical trials to separate the true therapeutic effect of the experimental intervention from psychological effects and other non-specific factors. It is designed to look and feel like the real treatment so participants and investigators remain unaware of who receives the actual therapy, preserving blinding and reducing bias. A placebo has no active therapeutic ingredient, so any improvement in the placebo group is not due to a pharmacologic effect of the treatment being tested. Standard care refers to the real treatment patients would receive outside and inside the study, which is active; an active drug with known efficacy is itself a real therapeutic agent, not a placebo; a treatment with random side effects implies pharmacologic activity, which a placebo should not have.

4. What did Whitehead initially want regarding Baby M?

- A. Keep Baby M**
- B. Relinquish Baby M**
- C. Adopt Baby M**
- D. Sell Baby M**

In surrogacy cases, the surrogate's stated intent about the baby after birth is a central factor in the legal and ethical analysis. Mary Beth Whitehead initially wanted to keep Baby M. She had agreed to carry the child for the Sterns, but after birth she developed an intent to raise the child herself, which sparked the custody dispute and highlighted tensions between contract enforceability and the child's welfare. This moment shows why surrogacy arrangements raise complex questions: even with a contract, the surrogate may change her mind, challenging whether such agreements can or should be legally binding.

5. Under the natural law position described, killing an innocent person is:

- A. It is permissible in some cases**
- B. It is wrong**
- C. It depends on the context**
- D. Unknown**

In natural law thinking, morality is rooted in objective human goods and the proper order of life and flourishing. Life is a fundamental good that belongs to everyone, and human beings have a duty to respect it. Killing an innocent person directly treats a person's life as a means to some other end, rather than as an end in itself, and this violates the basic moral order. Because an innocent person has not violated any obligation or posed a justified threat, there is no morally relevant justification under natural law to take their life. The only legitimate uses of force in this framework are to defend against a direct threat or to prevent serious harm, and those defenses target the aggressor or the harmful act, not an innocent bystander. Thus, killing an innocent person is inherently wrong. The other options imply that context, circumstance, or uncertainty could render such an act permissible or unknowable, but natural law holds that the wrongness of harming an innocent is objective and not dependent on the situation.

6. Which term describes paying a woman to carry a pregnancy?

- A. Womb-Renting**
- B. Adoption**
- C. Gestational Surrogacy**
- D. Reproductive Tourism**

Paying a woman to carry a pregnancy is best described as gestational surrogacy. In gestational surrogacy, the surrogate carries an embryo created from the intended parents' gametes or from donors, and she typically has no genetic relation to the child. Womb-renting is a colloquial term sometimes used in media but not standard ethical language. Adoption involves taking in a child who is already born, not carrying a pregnancy, and reproductive tourism refers to traveling abroad to obtain fertility services, not the act of carrying a pregnancy.

7. In *Natanson v. Kline*, which statement best describes its contribution to informed consent doctrine?

- A. It expanded the information that should be disclosed to patients, particularly the risks involved
- B. The case held that consent is always in writing
- C. The case limited the duty to disclose to only the most common complications

D. It set a precedent in medical malpractice law and made it easier for patients to seek compensation for injuries caused by medical negligence, by clarifying disclosure duties

The crucial idea here is how informed consent became a legal duty. *Natanson v. Kline* helped establish that physicians must disclose information that a reasonable patient would want to know about a proposed treatment, including risks and alternatives, so a patient can make an autonomous decision. This case is best interpreted as setting a clear legal standard for disclosure and tying it to liability in medical malpractice. By clarifying what doctors must reveal to obtain valid consent, it created a pathway for patients to seek compensation when important information is withheld and a negligent outcome occurs. It's not about insisting consent be in writing, nor about limiting disclosure to only the most common complications; those descriptions don't capture the legal shift the case represents.

8. In research ethics, which principle emphasizes respecting an individual's right to decide whether to participate or withdraw from a study?

- A. Beneficence
- B. Justice
- C. Autonomy**
- D. Nonmaleficence

Autonomy is the principle that emphasizes respecting an individual's right to decide whether to participate or withdraw from a study. It centers on self-determination, requiring informed consent, voluntary participation, and the freedom to withdraw at any time without penalty. This protection ensures people control what happens to their own bodies and information, safeguarding them from coercion. Beneficence and nonmaleficence focus on maximizing benefits and minimizing harms, while justice concerns fair distribution of research burdens and benefits. They're essential to ethics, but they don't directly address the individual's ongoing right to choose participation or withdrawal in a study.

9. Which of the following describes what can be done with unused IVF embryos?

- A. Cryopreserve**
- B. Donate to research**
- C. Donate to infertile couples**
- D. Destroy**

Unused IVF embryos can be handled in several ways, and one widely discussed route is to donate the embryos to infertile couples. This option treats the embryos as potential future children and honors the donors' intention to help others build a family. It gives the embryos a chance to be born and raised by recipients who want a child, which many donors value as a meaningful continuation of their family-building effort. Choosing to donate to infertile couples typically involves rigorous informed consent procedures, medical and genetic screening, and clear legal arrangements about parental rights, future contact, and the fate of the embryos if circumstances change. These safeguards aim to respect all parties—the donors, the recipients, and any resulting child—while navigating ethical and practical questions about identity, privacy, and the future welfare of the resulting child. Other options like cryopreservation keep the embryos for future use, donation to research advances science, and destruction ends potential life. Each path reflects different ethical considerations and personal priorities, but donating to infertile couples is often highlighted as a way to give embryos a tangible opportunity to become a child within a family.

10. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study is most criticized for which ethical violation?

- A. It observed information about syphilis without providing treatment when it became available.**
- B. It observed patients with full consent and transparency.**
- C. It studied the effects of vaccines on healthy individuals.**
- D. It was conducted with modern ethical oversight.**

The main concept here is the obligation to provide effective treatment and to avoid deceiving or exploiting participants in medical research. In the Tuskegee study, researchers observed the natural progression of syphilis in Black men who were misled into thinking they were receiving care, but they were never given penicillin once it became the standard, proven treatment. Withholding available therapy when it could prevent harm violates beneficence and non-maleficence, and the deception undermines informed consent and respect for persons. This combination—keeping participants untreated despite a known cure and deceiving them about the purpose and care—constitutes the central ethical violation. The other scenarios describe ethically acceptable practices or irrelevant situations, which do not capture the core breach of withholding effective treatment and exploiting a vulnerable group.

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://bioethics2.examzify.com>

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

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