

Board Certified Gerontological Nutritionist (BCGN) Practice Test (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. Which vitamin's absorption decreases with age, necessitating monitoring in the elderly?

- A. Vitamin A**
- B. Vitamin C**
- C. Vitamin D**
- D. Vitamin B12**

2. What is the role of JCAHO in healthcare?

- A. Regulates pharmaceutical practices in hospitals**
- B. Provides voluntary inspections of healthcare facilities for accreditation**
- C. Funds health programs for the elderly**
- D. Handles medical waivers for nursing home care**

3. Which dietary component should contribute less than 7% of total calories according to TLC guidelines?

- A. Polyunsaturated fat**
- B. Saturated fat**
- C. Monounsaturated fat**
- D. Carbohydrates**

4. How is coverage defined for Medicare Part A based on length of stay (LOS)?

- A. Completely covered for 1-30 days**
- B. 100 days fully covered regardless of LOS**
- C. Fully covered for the first 20 days, then prorated up to 100 days**
- D. Average daily coverage throughout any hospitalization**

5. Why should older adults be encouraged to maintain regular meal schedules?

- A. To decrease social activity**
- B. To enhance nutrient intake and stability in blood glucose levels**
- C. To skip meals if busy**
- D. To focus on eating only snacks**

6. What services related to diabetes does Medicare cover for eligible recipients?

- A. Home health care services only**
- B. Diabetes screening and supplies**
- C. Meal preparation services**
- D. Physical therapy for diabetes management**

7. What is a recommended dietary practice for those experiencing cardiac cachexia?

- A. Three large meals per day**
- B. Small frequent meals**
- C. Intermittent fasting**
- D. High carbohydrate diet**

8. What is the effect of high sodium intake on the health of elderly individuals?

- A. It has no impact on health**
- B. It can lead to hypoglycemia**
- C. It can lead to hypertension**
- D. It aids in healthy weight management**

9. What dietary pattern is often recommended for older adults to support heart health?

- A. A high-sugar diet**
- B. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains**
- C. A diet solely consisting of supplements**
- D. Excessive red meat consumption**

10. According to therapeutic lifestyle changes (TLC), what percentage of calories should come from fat?

- A. 10-20%**
- B. 25-35%**
- C. 35-45%**
- D. 40-50%**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which vitamin's absorption decreases with age, necessitating monitoring in the elderly?

- A. Vitamin A**
- B. Vitamin C**
- C. Vitamin D**
- D. Vitamin B12**

Vitamin B12 absorption tends to decrease with age due to various physiological changes in the gastrointestinal tract. As individuals age, there may be a reduction in the production of intrinsic factor, a protein essential for the absorption of vitamin B12 from the digestive system. Additionally, older adults may experience changes in gut health, such as a decrease in stomach acidity, which can further hinder the ability to absorb B12 effectively. Monitoring vitamin B12 levels in the elderly is crucial since a deficiency can lead to significant health issues, including anemia and neurological problems. Unlike some other vitamins that may also experience altered absorption with age, such as vitamin D and vitamin A, the specific mechanisms related to vitamin B12 transport and absorption highlights the importance of vigilance and potential supplementation in older populations. Furthermore, since vitamin B12 is primarily found in animal products, elderly individuals who have dietary restrictions or less appetite may also be at increased risk of deficiency.

2. What is the role of JCAHO in healthcare?

- A. Regulates pharmaceutical practices in hospitals**
- B. Provides voluntary inspections of healthcare facilities for accreditation**
- C. Funds health programs for the elderly**
- D. Handles medical waivers for nursing home care**

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), now known simply as The Joint Commission, plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of healthcare in the United States by providing a framework for healthcare organizations to meet certain performance standards. The correct answer emphasizes that this organization conducts voluntary inspections and surveys of healthcare facilities to assess their compliance with established standards for quality and safety. Accreditation from The Joint Commission is considered a mark of excellence, signaling to patients and the public that the facility meets high standards of care. While the other options present important aspects of healthcare, they do not accurately depict the main function of JCAHO. For instance, regulating pharmaceutical practices falls under governmental bodies such as the FDA. Funding health programs for the elderly is typically managed by government programs like Medicare and Medicaid, rather than an accrediting body. Similarly, medical waivers for nursing home care involve regulatory and administrative processes rather than the accreditation efforts of organizations like The Joint Commission. In summary, The Joint Commission's focus on accreditation through voluntary inspections underlines its role in safeguarding and improving patient care nationwide.

3. Which dietary component should contribute less than 7% of total calories according to TLC guidelines?

- A. Polyunsaturated fat**
- B. Saturated fat**
- C. Monounsaturated fat**
- D. Carbohydrates**

Saturated fat should contribute less than 7% of total calories according to the Therapeutic Lifestyle Changes (TLC) guidelines. These guidelines are designed to promote heart health and overall wellness, particularly for individuals at risk of cardiovascular disease. High intake of saturated fat has been shown to raise levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, often referred to as "bad" cholesterol, which can lead to an increased risk of heart disease and stroke. By limiting saturated fat to below 7% of total caloric intake, individuals can help manage blood lipid levels more effectively. In contrast, polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats are generally considered healthier fat sources that can provide beneficial effects on lipid profiles and cardiovascular health when consumed in moderation. Carbohydrates are a necessary part of a balanced diet, and their recommendations are typically based on total caloric intake rather than a percentage limitation like those for saturated fat.

4. How is coverage defined for Medicare Part A based on length of stay (LOS)?

- A. Completely covered for 1-30 days**
- B. 100 days fully covered regardless of LOS**
- C. Fully covered for the first 20 days, then prorated up to 100 days**
- D. Average daily coverage throughout any hospitalization**

Medicare Part A coverage is particularly structured to provide benefits for inpatient hospital stays, skilled nursing facilities, and hospice care. The correct understanding of how coverage is defined, particularly in relation to skilled nursing facilities, indicates that beneficiaries are fully covered for the first 20 days of care. After this initial period, coverage continues but becomes prorated, meaning that beyond the 20 days, the patient is responsible for a daily copayment for the remaining days, up to a total of 100 days. This tiered approach allows for substantial coverage that adjusts based on the length of stay, ensuring that initial needs are fully met while gradually introducing cost-sharing for extended care. The other potential options presented do not accurately reflect the structure of Medicare coverage. For instance, the assertion of complete coverage for 1-30 days or a flat 100-day coverage regardless of duration misrepresents the graduated nature of the benefit, which has a clear cut-off at 20 days. Furthermore, the idea of average daily coverage throughout any hospitalization overlooks the specific provisions that determine different levels of coverage based on the duration of stay. Thus, the tiered system encapsulated in the correct answer effectively depicts how Medicare Part A handles coverage duration and responsibilities concerning skilled nursing care.

5. Why should older adults be encouraged to maintain regular meal schedules?

- A. To decrease social activity
- B. To enhance nutrient intake and stability in blood glucose levels**
- C. To skip meals if busy
- D. To focus on eating only snacks

Encouraging older adults to maintain regular meal schedules is essential for several reasons, primarily focusing on enhancing nutrient intake and promoting stability in blood glucose levels. As individuals age, their metabolism, digestion, and nutritional needs can change, making it crucial to ensure they receive adequate nutrition consistently. Regular meal timing supports a balanced intake of macronutrients and micronutrients, which is vital for maintaining overall health, preventing malnutrition, and managing chronic health conditions that may be prevalent in older adults. Additionally, predictable meal times help regulate the body's circadian rhythms, which can improve metabolic processes. Moreover, stable blood glucose levels are particularly important for older adults, especially those with diabetes or prediabetes. Eating at consistent times helps to prevent spikes and drops in blood sugar, which can lead to noticeable fluctuations in energy, mood, and cognitive function. In summary, maintaining a regular meal schedule aids in meeting nutritional needs and helps regulate blood sugar levels, contributing to overall health and well-being in older adults.

6. What services related to diabetes does Medicare cover for eligible recipients?

- A. Home health care services only
- B. Diabetes screening and supplies**
- C. Meal preparation services
- D. Physical therapy for diabetes management

Medicare covers diabetes screening and supplies for eligible recipients to ensure early detection and proper management of diabetes, which is crucial for preventing complications associated with the disease. This coverage includes not only the screening tests, such as blood glucose tests, but also essential supplies like blood sugar monitors, test strips, and insulin, which are vital for daily management of diabetes. By providing access to these services, Medicare supports the health and well-being of individuals living with diabetes, allowing them to maintain better control over their condition and reduce the risk of severe complications. This comprehensive approach to diabetes management is essential in gerontological nutrition, as older adults are at a higher risk for diabetes and need adequate resources to manage their health effectively. While other services like home health care and meal preparation might assist individuals with diabetes, they do not directly address the essential aspects of diabetes management covered under Medicare, such as screening and necessary medical supplies. Physical therapy can be beneficial for related conditions but does not specifically fall under the realm of diabetes management services as directly as the coverage for screening and supplies.

7. What is a recommended dietary practice for those experiencing cardiac cachexia?

- A. Three large meals per day**
- B. Small frequent meals**
- C. Intermittent fasting**
- D. High carbohydrate diet**

For individuals experiencing cardiac cachexia, which is characterized by significant weight loss, muscle wasting, and fatigue due to heart disease, small frequent meals are recommended. This approach aids in ensuring that patients receive adequate caloric intake without overwhelming their digestive system or causing discomfort. Smaller meals can also help manage symptoms such as early satiety, which is common in those with cardiac issues. This dietary practice enables better nutrient absorption and provides a steady supply of energy throughout the day, which can be particularly beneficial for maintaining a healthier weight and supporting muscle mass. The frequent intake of food can help in addressing both nutritional needs and the challenges associated with heart disease, ultimately aiding in the management of symptoms related to cardiac cachexia.

8. What is the effect of high sodium intake on the health of elderly individuals?

- A. It has no impact on health**
- B. It can lead to hypoglycemia**
- C. It can lead to hypertension**
- D. It aids in healthy weight management**

High sodium intake can significantly impact the health of elderly individuals, primarily through its association with hypertension, or high blood pressure. As people age, their vasculature often becomes more rigid and less able to accommodate increased blood volume, which can lead to higher blood pressure levels when sodium intake is elevated. Sodium plays a key role in fluid balance in the body; when too much sodium is consumed, the body retains more water to balance the sodium concentration in the bloodstream. This excess fluid can increase blood volume, putting extra strain on the heart and blood vessels. Hypertension is a major risk factor for various cardiovascular diseases, including heart attack and stroke, which are particularly concerning for the elderly population. Managing sodium intake is often recommended as a part of dietary interventions aimed at preventing or controlling high blood pressure, thereby improving overall cardiovascular health and reducing the risk of related complications in this age group.

9. What dietary pattern is often recommended for older adults to support heart health?

- A. A high-sugar diet**
- B. A balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains**
- C. A diet solely consisting of supplements**
- D. Excessive red meat consumption**

The recommended dietary pattern for older adults to support heart health is a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. This approach emphasizes the consumption of nutrient-dense foods that provide essential vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants, which are vital for maintaining overall health and preventing chronic diseases, including cardiovascular conditions. Fruits and vegetables contain a variety of phytochemicals and fiber, which can help lower blood pressure, reduce cholesterol levels, and improve overall heart health. Whole grains offer important dietary fibers that help in maintaining a healthy weight and can lower the risk of heart disease by improving insulin sensitivity and reducing inflammation. The focus on a balanced diet ensures that older adults receive a wide range of nutrients necessary for optimal metabolic function and the maintenance of muscle mass, which is particularly important as they age. This dietary approach aligns with nutrition guidelines that advocate for heart-healthy eating patterns as a means to enhance quality of life and longevity in older populations.

10. According to therapeutic lifestyle changes (TLC), what percentage of calories should come from fat?

- A. 10-20%**
- B. 25-35%**
- C. 35-45%**
- D. 40-50%**

The correct answer is that therapeutic lifestyle changes (TLC) recommend that 25-35% of total daily calories should come from fat. This guideline is established to promote heart health and reduce the risk of chronic diseases, particularly in individuals with elevated cholesterol levels or those at risk for cardiovascular issues. This percentage ensures that fat intake is sufficient to provide essential fatty acids and support overall health, while also encouraging the replacement of saturated and trans fats with healthier unsaturated fats. The TLC approach highlights the importance of balancing macronutrient intake to not exceed these recommendations, which can help manage body weight and reduce cholesterol levels. In the context of dietary recommendations, intakes lower than 25% may not provide enough essential nutrients, while higher intakes could contribute to increased caloric consumption and potential health risks. Thus, the 25-35% guideline is an evidence-based target for achieving a healthy dietary profile.

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://bcgngerontologicalnutritionist.examzify.com>

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

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