

California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) Accreditation Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. True or False: A veteran with an honorable discharge can be barred from benefits if he or she is a noncitizen who requested release from service during a time of hostilities.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only in certain scenarios**
 - D. Not applicable to veterans**
- 2. What is a requirement for veterans applying for education benefits under CH30?**
 - A. The veteran must have served in combat**
 - B. The veteran must have a college degree**
 - C. The veteran must have completed high school**
 - D. The veteran must have served overseas**
- 3. How long does a veteran have to convert an SGLI policy to VGLI after separation from active duty?**
 - A. 60 days**
 - B. 120 days**
 - C. 180 days**
 - D. One year**
- 4. What is the presumptive period for Multiple Sclerosis after service?**
 - A. No specific period**
 - B. 1 year**
 - C. 7 years**
 - D. 10 years**
- 5. True or False: Claimants are not allowed to be represented by an attorney until an appeal is made to the CAVC.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only for specific cases**
 - D. None of the above**

- 6. Who has the initial responsibility to determine if a disability claim needs a VA exam?**
- A. Intake Processing Center**
 - B. Development**
 - C. Rating**
 - D. Post-Determination**
- 7. What is the primary purpose of a DRB?**
- A. To reward service members**
 - B. To review and recommend changes to discharges**
 - C. To enforce military law**
 - D. To provide mental health services**
- 8. What must a claimant do to facilitate the VA's request for evidence?**
- A. Respond within 15 days**
 - B. Submit evidence from any source**
 - C. Provide evidence within 30 days**
 - D. Only submit evidence from federal agencies**
- 9. Does a former member of the Air Force have the option for a personal appearance hearing before the BCMR?**
- A. Yes, they have that option**
 - B. No, they do not have that option**
 - C. It depends on the type of discharge**
 - D. Only under certain conditions**
- 10. An appeal from a BVA decision must be filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims within:**
- A. 60 days after the date of the BVA decision**
 - B. 120 days after the date of the BVA decision**
 - C. Six months after the date of the BVA decision**
 - D. One year after the date of the BVA decision**

Answers

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- 1. A**
- 2. C**
- 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. True or False: A veteran with an honorable discharge can be barred from benefits if he or she is a noncitizen who requested release from service during a time of hostilities.

A. True

B. False

C. Only in certain scenarios

D. Not applicable to veterans

The statement is true. A veteran with an honorable discharge who is a noncitizen can indeed be barred from certain benefits if they requested release from service during a period of hostilities. The eligibility for veterans' benefits is often influenced by the nature of a service member's discharge, their citizenship status, and the circumstances surrounding their service. The criteria in place reflect the legal and policy frameworks that determine which individuals qualify for specific benefits. Noncitizens have different eligibility requirements, and requesting a release from service during hostilities could lead to a review of their case, potentially affecting their benefits. These nuances are particularly significant in the context of veterans' benefits, where both military service and citizenship status play crucial roles in determining access to those benefits. Other options may imply that there are no restrictions or that the situation is not applicable, but the correct understanding acknowledges that specific conditions can indeed restrict access to benefits for noncitizen veterans under particular circumstances.

2. What is a requirement for veterans applying for education benefits under CH30?

A. The veteran must have served in combat

B. The veteran must have a college degree

C. The veteran must have completed high school

D. The veteran must have served overseas

The requirement for veterans applying for education benefits under Chapter 30 (CH30) of the Montgomery GI Bill is that they must have completed high school or obtained a high school equivalency certificate. This prerequisite ensures that applicants have met a basic level of education before receiving benefits for further education or training. It serves as a foundation for the educational programs that the veterans will pursue and aligns with the program's aim to support higher learning and vocational training. While serving in combat, holding a college degree, or having served overseas might be relevant experiences for some veterans, they are not required conditions for eligibility under the CH30 program. The focus is primarily on having completed high school as a fundamental step before government support can be extended for further educational opportunities. This requirement underscores the importance of foundational education in accessing advanced educational resources.

3. How long does a veteran have to convert an SGLI policy to VGLI after separation from active duty?

- A. 60 days**
- B. 120 days**
- C. 180 days**
- D. One year**

The correct duration for a veteran to convert a Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) policy to Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) after separation from active duty is 120 days. This period is critical as it ensures that veterans can maintain life insurance coverage without needing to undergo a medical exam, which can be beneficial for those who may have developed health issues during their service. After separation, veterans must act within this specified timeframe to successfully convert their SGLI to VGLI. This conversion process offers peace of mind and continuity of insurance for transitioning servicemembers as they embark on civilian life, where financial security becomes even more essential. Understanding this timeline helps veterans to make informed decisions about their insurance needs as they adjust to post-military life.

4. What is the presumptive period for Multiple Sclerosis after service?

- A. No specific period**
- B. 1 year**
- C. 7 years**
- D. 10 years**

The presumptive period for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) after service is established as 7 years. This means that veterans who develop MS within this time frame after leaving active duty are eligible for certain benefits, as the condition is recognized as service-connected. This specific time frame is based on studies and historical data that indicate a higher incidence of MS among veterans, leading to the acknowledgment that the disease can be linked to military service. By having a defined presumptive period, the California Department of Veterans Affairs aims to facilitate and streamline the process for veterans who may be impacted by this debilitating condition. It is important to remember that not all conditions have a specific presumptive period, which is why some answers indicate "No specific period." However, for MS, the established 7-year timeframe reflects an understanding of the disease's onset and its potential relationship to service.

5. True or False: Claimants are not allowed to be represented by an attorney until an appeal is made to the CAVC.

A. True

B. False

C. Only for specific cases

D. None of the above

The statement that claimants are not allowed to be represented by an attorney until an appeal is made to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) is false. Veterans and their claimants can be represented by an attorney at various stages of the claims process, not just after a denial when appealing to the CAVC. Representation can occur during the initial claims process with the Department of Veterans Affairs, allowing attorneys to assist claimants in preparing and submitting their claims for benefits. This means that claimants have the right to have legal support right from the beginning, which can help them navigate the complexities of veterans' benefits and ensure that their claims are as strong as possible. Therefore, representation is permissible at the initial stages, making the statement inaccurate and validating the choice that it is, indeed, false.

6. Who has the initial responsibility to determine if a disability claim needs a VA exam?

A. Intake Processing Center

B. Development

C. Rating

D. Post-Determination

The initial responsibility to determine if a disability claim requires a VA examination falls under the Development phase. During this stage, evidence is gathered to facilitate an informed decision regarding the claim. The Development team evaluates the submitted information, including medical records and any other pertinent documentation, to assess whether more information is needed to substantiate the claim. If there's insufficient evidence to make a decision, they may determine that an examination is necessary to evaluate the veteran's condition accurately. While other sections like Intake Processing, Rating, and Post-Determination each play crucial roles in the claims process, they do not initially assess the need for medical examinations. The Intake Processing Center primarily focuses on acknowledging the claim's receipt, while the Rating section is responsible for determining the disability percentage and compensation, relying on the evidence developed. The Post-Determination phase follows the completion of the decision-making process, which would be too late for determining the necessity of an exam. Thus, the Development phase is correctly identified as the stage responsible for this determination.

7. What is the primary purpose of a DRB?

- A. To reward service members**
- B. To review and recommend changes to discharges**
- C. To enforce military law**
- D. To provide mental health services**

The primary purpose of a Discharge Review Board (DRB) is to review and recommend changes to discharges issued to service members. The DRB conducts a detailed examination of the circumstances surrounding a discharge, ensuring that it aligns with regulations and justifications. If a discharge is found to be unjust or improper, the board has the authority to recommend upgrades or modifications. This process is vital as it serves as a means for service members to appeal their discharges, potentially obtaining benefits and rights that may have been adversely affected by a less-than-honorable discharge status. The other options listed do not reflect the main function of a DRB. While they may relate to broader aspects of military service, their scopes do not encompass the core mission of the DRB, which is specifically focused on the evaluation and alteration of discharge statuses.

8. What must a claimant do to facilitate the VA's request for evidence?

- A. Respond within 15 days**
- B. Submit evidence from any source**
- C. Provide evidence within 30 days**
- D. Only submit evidence from federal agencies**

The requirement for a claimant to provide evidence to facilitate the VA's request is primarily about ensuring timely processing of claims. By providing evidence within 30 days, the claimant allows the VA to review the necessary information and make a more informed decision regarding their claim. This timeframe is important as it aligns with the VA's regulatory framework, which aims to expedite the claims process and ensure claimants receive the benefits to which they are entitled in a timely manner. Responding within the 30 days also helps prevent delays that could arise if the evidence is submitted later, ultimately supporting the VA in fulfilling its duty to assist claimants. Other options may suggest specific or limited ways in which evidence can be submitted, but the 30-day period is a clear and direct guideline that encompasses various forms and sources of evidence. Thus, understanding this requirement is essential for claimants to effectively interact with the VA.

9. Does a former member of the Air Force have the option for a personal appearance hearing before the BCMR?

- A. Yes, they have that option**
- B. No, they do not have that option**
- C. It depends on the type of discharge**
- D. Only under certain conditions**

A former member of the Air Force does not have the option for a personal appearance hearing before the Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR). The BCMR typically conducts hearings based on the information submitted in writing rather than in person. This process allows the board to evaluate the case using records, evidence, and overview submissions without requiring the presence of the applicant. In most circumstances, the BCMR focuses on the review of documented evidence rather than allowing appearances, which streamlines the process and ensures that decisions are made based on the merits of the case as presented in written form. Thus, the correct understanding is that personal appearance hearings are not a standard option for former Air Force members seeking to appeal or request corrections regarding their military records before the BCMR.

10. An appeal from a BVA decision must be filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims within:

- A. 60 days after the date of the BVA decision**
- B. 120 days after the date of the BVA decision**
- C. Six months after the date of the BVA decision**
- D. One year after the date of the BVA decision**

An appeal from a Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) decision must be filed with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims within 120 days after the date of the BVA decision. This timeframe is established by law to ensure that veterans and their representatives have a clear and defined period to initiate an appeal if they believe that the BVA's decision was incorrect. Filing within this 120-day period is crucial because failing to do so results in the loss of the right to appeal that decision in the federal court system—essentially concluding the appeal process at the administrative level. Understanding this timeline helps veterans navigate their options after receiving a decision from the BVA and allows them to take necessary actions within the legal framework provided.