

# California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) Accreditation 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

- 1. Is an individual who completed six months of active duty service and received an uncharacterized discharge eligible for VA pension?**
  - A. Yes, they are eligible**
  - B. No, they are not eligible**
  - C. Eligibility is determined by service length**
  - D. Eligibility depends on the nature of discharge**
- 2. Which regulation defines the severity level needed to establish service connection for hearing loss?**
  - A. 38 CFR 3.322**
  - B. 38 CFR 3.385**
  - C. 38 CFR 4.20**
  - D. 38 CFR 4.22**
- 3. Who primarily makes decisions regarding discharge upgrades?**
  - A. Department of Veterans Affairs**
  - B. Military Chain of Command**
  - C. Discharge Review Boards (DRBs)**
  - D. Civilian Oversight Committees**
- 4. How long must a veteran be rated as totally disabled before their death for the spouse to be eligible for DIC?**
  - A. 1 year**
  - B. 3 years**
  - C. 5 years**
  - D. 10 years**
- 5. True or False: Gratuitous S-DVI insurance was payable only as a lump sum payment before 1991.**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Only for 10 years**
  - D. It was optional**

- 6. True or False: If a deserter was found to be insane at the time of the desertion, he will not be disqualified from receiving VA benefits.**
- A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Requires further investigation**
  - D. Dependent on duration of insanity**
- 7. What action can a veteran take if they disagree with a VA decision?**
- A. File a Notice of Disagreement**
  - B. Submit a new claim**
  - C. Request a personal hearing**
  - D. None of the above**
- 8. If a former POW receives a service connection for coronary artery disease rated 100% disabling, and dies from an unrelated illness the day after notification, is his surviving spouse eligible for DIC?**
- A. Yes, she is eligible**
  - B. No, only if the cause of death was service-related**
  - C. Yes, but only for a limited time**
  - D. No, unless she remarries**
- 9. Must the burial allowance always be paid to the funeral director even if the costs have been fully covered?**
- A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Only if requested**
  - D. Only for veterans with service connection**
- 10. What is the presumptive period for diseases associated with former prisoners of war?**
- A. 1 year**
  - B. No period**
  - C. 5 years**
  - D. 2 years**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Is an individual who completed six months of active duty service and received an uncharacterized discharge eligible for VA pension?**

**A. Yes, they are eligible**

**B. No, they are not eligible**

**C. Eligibility is determined by service length**

**D. Eligibility depends on the nature of discharge**

An individual who has completed six months of active duty service and received an uncharacterized discharge is not eligible for VA pension benefits. To qualify for VA pension, the service member must have served a minimum of 90 days of active duty service, with at least one of those days being during a period of war, unless they meet specific exceptions. Additionally, the nature of the discharge is crucial; to be eligible for VA benefits, the individual must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Uncharacterized discharges often indicate that the service member's time in service was not substantive enough to assess their conduct or performance adequately. Therefore, since both the length of service and the nature of the discharge do not meet the necessary requirements, the conclusion that they are not eligible for VA pension is correct.

**2. Which regulation defines the severity level needed to establish service connection for hearing loss?**

**A. 38 CFR 3.322**

**B. 38 CFR 3.385**

**C. 38 CFR 4.20**

**D. 38 CFR 4.22**

The regulation that defines the severity level needed to establish service connection for hearing loss is 38 CFR 3.385. This regulation specifically outlines the criteria for determining whether a veteran has a hearing loss that can be considered for service connection. It establishes the thresholds for hearing impairment that must be met for the VA to recognize the condition as connected to military service. In detail, 38 CFR 3.385 specifies the audiometric thresholds that indicate significant hearing loss, which is critical for veterans seeking compensation for such conditions. The regulation clarifies that service connection for hearing loss can only be granted if the veteran's hearing loss meets the defined criteria, ensuring that only those with clinically significant hearing issues receive benefits. This regulation is crucial because it helps in standardizing the evaluation process and ensures that veterans are treated fairly based on the severity of their hearing impairment. Understanding and interpreting these criteria correctly is essential for veterans and advocates during the claims process.

### **3. Who primarily makes decisions regarding discharge upgrades?**

- A. Department of Veterans Affairs**
- B. Military Chain of Command**
- C. Discharge Review Boards (DRBs)**
- D. Civilian Oversight Committees**

Discharge Review Boards (DRBs) are the bodies specifically designed to evaluate and make decisions regarding discharge upgrades. When a veteran seeks reconsideration of their military discharge status, the DRB reviews the circumstances surrounding the discharge and can determine whether it should be upgraded, often based on the individual's service record, the nature of the discharge, and any pertinent evidence the veteran provides. The process is structured to ensure that decisions are made fairly and based on a comprehensive examination of the facts. DRBs include a panel of military officials who understand the nuances of military service and discharge policies, which enables them to make informed decisions regarding upgrades. In contrast, the Department of Veterans Affairs is primarily involved in providing benefits and services to veterans rather than directly overseeing discharge upgrades. The Military Chain of Command focuses on operational and administrative matters within the armed forces, not on post-service discharge statuses. Civilian Oversight Committees may have roles in different contexts but are typically not involved in the direct decision-making process for discharge upgrades. Thus, the role of DRBs is essential and specific to the context of discharge review, making them the correct choice for who primarily decides on discharge upgrades.

### **4. How long must a veteran be rated as totally disabled before their death for the spouse to be eligible for DIC?**

- A. 1 year**
- B. 3 years**
- C. 5 years**
- D. 10 years**

A spouse of a veteran is eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) if the veteran was rated as totally disabled for a specific duration prior to their death. In this case, the requirement is that the veteran must have been rated as totally disabled for at least five years immediately preceding their death. This meets the criteria established by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is intended to provide financial support to the surviving spouse of a veteran who had a long-term, severe service-connected disability. This five-year rule reflects the VA's recognition of the sustained hardship that comes from living with a total disability, and it aligns with the purpose of DIC as a form of support for the families of veterans.

**5. True or False: Gratuitous S-DVI insurance was payable only as a lump sum payment before 1991.**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. Only for 10 years**

**D. It was optional**

The correct answer is that the statement is false. Prior to 1991, while gratuitous Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) was typically provided as a lump sum payment, there were options available for payment structures that included other forms, such as monthly payments. This reflects a broader understanding of benefits provided to veterans, where flexibility in disbursement options is considered, allowing veterans to manage their insurance proceeds in a way that fits their financial situation. Thus, the notion that gratuitous S-DVI was payable solely as a lump sum before 1991 is inaccurate, as additional options facilitated better support for veterans.

**6. True or False: If a deserter was found to be insane at the time of the desertion, he will not be disqualified from receiving VA benefits.**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. Requires further investigation**

**D. Dependent on duration of insanity**

The statement is false. A deserter who is found to have been insane at the time of their desertion would not automatically disqualify themselves from receiving VA benefits. In fact, mental health conditions, including insanity, can be a significant factor in determining a veteran's eligibility for benefits. In the context of military law and VA policies, if an individual was unable to understand the nature of their actions due to mental illness at the time of desertion, this may affect their discharge status and subsequent eligibility for benefits. The law recognizes that such conditions can impair judgment and understanding, leading to considerations of clemency and the potential for receiving benefits. It's important to thoroughly evaluate each case, as circumstances may vary, and the VA considers factors such as the individual's mental health history and the specifics of their discharge. Thus, simply being a deserter does not automatically exclude a qualified veteran from receiving VA support if mental illness is proven to be a mitigating factor.

**7. What action can a veteran take if they disagree with a VA decision?**

**A. File a Notice of Disagreement**

**B. Submit a new claim**

**C. Request a personal hearing**

**D. None of the above**

When a veteran disagrees with a decision made by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), they have the option to file a Notice of Disagreement (NOD). This action is a formal way for the veteran to communicate their dissatisfaction with the decision, effectively triggering the appeal process. Once the NOD is filed, the VA will review the case and provide the veteran with a Statement of the Case (SOC), which outlines the reasons for the decision. Filing a Notice of Disagreement is a critical step for veterans wishing to challenge a VA decision because it preserves their right to appeal. It is a designated method established by VA regulations, which ensures that veterans can have their cases reconsidered, showcasing the importance of this tool in navigating the VA's decision-making processes. While submitting a new claim or requesting a personal hearing may also be actions a veteran can consider, these do not directly address the scenario of disputing a specific decision in an established appeal process. Thus, the most appropriate and effective course of action for a veteran to take when they disagree with a VA decision is to file a Notice of Disagreement.

**8. If a former POW receives a service connection for coronary artery disease rated 100% disabling, and dies from an unrelated illness the day after notification, is his surviving spouse eligible for DIC?**

**A. Yes, she is eligible**

**B. No, only if the cause of death was service-related**

**C. Yes, but only for a limited time**

**D. No, unless she remarries**

Surviving spouses of veterans who are rated totally disabled due to service-connected conditions are generally eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits. In this case, the former POW had a 100% disability rating for coronary artery disease, which establishes a service connection for his condition. When a veteran with such a rating passes away, even from an unrelated illness, their surviving spouse is automatically qualified for DIC benefits. The regulation is designed to support the families of those who have served, acknowledging the sacrifices made by the veteran even if the immediate cause of death isn't related to their service-connected disabilities. This eligibility is an essential aspect of the benefits offered to veterans and their families, as it recognizes the long-term impact of service on health and well-being. Therefore, the correct answer indicates that the surviving spouse is eligible for DIC, regardless of the circumstances surrounding the veteran's death, provided they were rated totally disabled due to a service-related condition.

**9. Must the burial allowance always be paid to the funeral director even if the costs have been fully covered?**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. Only if requested**

**D. Only for veterans with service connection**

The correct answer emphasizes that the burial allowance does not always have to be paid to the funeral director, particularly when the burial costs have already been fully covered through other means. This is important because the burial allowance is designed to assist with covering the expenses associated with the burial of a veteran, but if those costs are already taken care of by other sources, such as private insurance or pre-paid funeral plans, there is no requirement for the allowance to be directed to the funeral director. In many cases, families may choose to manage the funds differently, according to their needs. The assessment of whether the burial allowance should be paid directly or utilized in another manner is thus flexible, reflecting the financial and personal decisions made by the veteran's family or estate. This understanding aligns with the principles of the CDVA's approach to assisting veterans' families and highlights the importance of ensuring that benefits are utilized in the most beneficial way for those affected, rather than adhering to a rigid payment structure.

**10. What is the presumptive period for diseases associated with former prisoners of war?**

**A. 1 year**

**B. No period**

**C. 5 years**

**D. 2 years**

The presumptive period for diseases associated with former prisoners of war is established as having no specified time limit. This means that veterans who were held as prisoners of war can file a claim for service connection for certain diseases or conditions without being constrained by a time frame. This reflects the unique circumstances that these veterans have endured, recognizing the often severe and long-lasting health impacts that can arise from their experiences in captivity. In this context, the regulations aim to provide comprehensive support for former prisoners of war, acknowledging that the effects of their service-related experiences may not manifest until many years after their release. This approach ensures that these veterans have access to the benefits and care they need without the barrier of a presumptive period, which may be applicable in other contexts for different service-related conditions. The other options suggest specific time frames (1 year, 5 years, and 2 years) that would not be applicable to former prisoners of war, as their unique situations and the nature of the health issues they face require a more flexible approach. Thus, the absence of a defined presumptive period is crucial in affirming the support extended to these veterans.



## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://cdvaaccreditation.examzify.com>**

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