

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CDVA) ACCREDITATION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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. Is a veteran with no service-connected disabilities eligible for a pension under any circumstances?**
 - A. Yes, under certain conditions
 - B. No, he must have service-connected disabilities
 - C. Yes, but subject to income limits
 - D. No, only if receiving another form of government assistance
- 2. Which activity follows up on applications for claims?**
 - A. Intake Processing Center
 - B. Development
 - C. Rating
 - D. Public Contact
- 3. True or False: A veteran can appeal any decision made by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding their claim.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only certain decisions
 - D. Depends on the type of claim
- 4. Beginning in 1991, how is gratuitous S-DVI insurance payable to the beneficiary?**
 - A. As a monthly payment
 - B. As a percentage of the insurance
 - C. Only as a lump sum payment
 - D. As annuity payments
- 5. What is the role of Public Contact in relation to veterans?**
 - A. Review claims submitted by veterans
 - B. Provide mental health services to veterans
 - C. Conduct personal interviews and respond to inquiries
 - D. Assist in processing awards for veterans

- 6. Can a veteran establish service connection for a condition not documented in their service records?**
- A. Yes, with medical evidence
 - B. No
 - C. Only if diagnosed within 90 days post-service
 - D. Yes, but only for chronic conditions
- 7. Does the remarriage of a deceased veteran's widowed mother automatically bar further payment of the parents' DIC?**
- A. Yes, it is an automatic bar
 - B. No, it is based on income
 - C. Yes, unless the remarriage is annulled
 - D. No, if there are dependent children involved
- 8. A veteran suffers from a service-connected disease that affects both feet rated 20% each. What is the total combined evaluation when he also has ratings of 40%, 20%, and 10%?**
- A. 60%
 - B. 70%
 - C. 80%
 - D. 50%
- 9. Is it true that rating decisions must now address any findings that are favorable to the claimant under the Appeals Modernization Act?**
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Depends on the case
 - D. Only for specific claims
- 10. What is the time limit for applying for coverage under the VAlife insurance program?**
- A. No time limit if grant of service-connection is approved
 - B. 90 days from the grant notification
 - C. One year from the grant notification
 - D. Six months from the grant notification

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Is a veteran with no service-connected disabilities eligible for a pension under any circumstances?

- A. Yes, under certain conditions**
- B. No, he must have service-connected disabilities
- C. Yes, but subject to income limits
- D. No, only if receiving another form of government assistance

A veteran with no service-connected disabilities may still be eligible for a pension under certain conditions. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides pension benefits for veterans who meet specific service requirements, are low-income, and are over a certain age or disabled, even if their disabilities are not service-connected. This means that veterans who have served during wartime and meet the criteria for financial need can qualify for pension benefits, regardless of whether they have service-connected disabilities. The eligibility hinges on several factors, including the veteran's income level, net worth, and sometimes age or health status, rather than solely on the presence of service-connected disabilities. Thus, a veteran in this situation can indeed receive a pension if they meet these eligibility requirements.

2. Which activity follows up on applications for claims?

- A. Intake Processing Center
- B. Development**
- C. Rating
- D. Public Contact

The correct choice regarding which activity follows up on applications for claims is Development. This phase involves gathering additional information or evidence that may be necessary to substantiate a veteran's claim. Once a claim is submitted, it often requires further verification or clarification to ensure that all relevant facts are considered, which is what the Development phase focuses on. During Development, the claims examiner assesses the initial application and determines whether it needs more documentation, such as medical records or service history, to make an informed decision. This process is crucial as it significantly affects the outcome of the claim by ensuring that all pertinent details are carefully evaluated. In contrast, activities like Intake Processing Centers are primarily focused on the initial submission of claims, while Rating refers to the determination of a claim's validity and the assessment of the benefits to be awarded. Public Contact generally involves communication with claimants regarding their claims status or to answer queries, but does not specifically address the follow-up and investigation into claims applications.

3. True or False: A veteran can appeal any decision made by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding their claim.

A. True

B. False

C. Only certain decisions

D. Depends on the type of claim

A veteran has the right to appeal virtually any decision made by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding their claim. This includes decisions related to disability compensation, pension benefits, and other veteran services. The appeals process is an essential aspect of the Veterans Affairs system, designed to ensure that veterans have an opportunity to contest decisions that they find unsatisfactory. While there may be some nuances in the process based on the specific type of claim or circumstance, the overarching principle is that veterans can appeal decisions as a means to seek a fair evaluation of their situations. It is important for veterans to understand their rights and the procedures available to them for effectively navigating this process. This ability to appeal serves as a critical mechanism for accountability within the VA system, allowing for further review and reconsideration of cases.

4. Beginning in 1991, how is gratuitous S-DVI insurance payable to the beneficiary?

A. As a monthly payment

B. As a percentage of the insurance

C. Only as a lump sum payment

D. As annuity payments

Gratuitous Service-Disabled Veterans' Insurance (S-DVI), which was made available to eligible veterans starting in 1991, is structured to provide financial support in a specific way. The correct option indicates that upon the death of the policyholder, the benefit is paid out solely as a lump sum to the designated beneficiary. This lump sum payout simplifies the financial transaction for beneficiaries, providing them with immediate access to the funds, rather than having to navigate ongoing payments or distributions. This structure is designed to address the needs of beneficiaries who may require immediate financial assistance in the event of the insured's passing, rather than committing them to a longer-term payment model, which could involve ongoing administrative processes. Additionally, by offering the benefit as a lump sum, it ensures that beneficiaries can utilize the funds in a way that best suits their individual circumstances, whether that be covering immediate expenses, paying off debts, or investing in future needs. Other payment mechanisms like monthly payments, percentages, or annuity payments do not apply in this context, as they do not align with the specific intentions and regulations governing the gratuitous S-DVI insurance issued by the CDVA.

5. What is the role of Public Contact in relation to veterans?

- A. Review claims submitted by veterans
- B. Provide mental health services to veterans
- C. Conduct personal interviews and respond to inquiries**
- D. Assist in processing awards for veterans

The role of Public Contact in relation to veterans primarily involves conducting personal interviews and responding to inquiries. This function is essential for ensuring that veterans have a reliable point of communication where they can ask questions, receive information, and seek guidance about benefits and services available to them. By engaging directly with veterans, Public Contact personnel help clarify potential misunderstandings, facilitate access to resources, and provide necessary support in navigating the various programs offered. The importance of this role cannot be overstated, as it fosters a connection between veterans and the services they might need. It is through these interactions that veterans can feel supported and understood, which is particularly important given the challenges many face when transitioning back into civilian life. This role acts as a bridge, helping to create a more informed and connected veteran community. While reviewing claims, providing mental health services, and assisting in processing awards are important functions, they fall under the purview of specific departments or professionals within the CDVA and thus do not encompass the broader role of Public Contact, which is primarily focused on communication and availability for inquiries from veterans.

6. Can a veteran establish service connection for a condition not documented in their service records?

- A. Yes, with medical evidence**
- B. No
- C. Only if diagnosed within 90 days post-service
- D. Yes, but only for chronic conditions

Establishing service connection for a condition not documented in service records can indeed be accomplished by presenting medical evidence. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes that not all conditions will be recorded in service records, especially if they have manifested after a veteran's service or were not apparent during active duty. For a veteran seeking to establish service connection, the key factor is the evidence that links the condition to their military service. This can include medical opinions or evaluations that provide a nexus between the veteran's current health condition and their service. VA regulations allow for such connections to be made through credible medical evidence even if the condition did not show up in service documentation. Significantly, other options suggest limitations that do not accurately reflect the VA's flexibility and understanding of veterans' health issues. For instance, denying all claims based on lack of service documentation overlooks the veteran's right to submit additional evidence. Similarly, the stipulation that connection is only possible within a specific time frame post-service or exclusively for chronic conditions does not align with the broader provisions under the VA that allow for claims to be supported by a variety of evidence sources.

7. Does the remarriage of a deceased veteran's widowed mother automatically bar further payment of the parents' DIC?

- A. Yes, it is an automatic bar
- B. No, it is based on income**
- C. Yes, unless the remarriage is annulled
- D. No, if there are dependent children involved

The correct response indicates that the remarriage of a deceased veteran's widowed mother does not automatically lead to a bar on further payments of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) for parents based solely on marital status. Instead, the continuation of such payments is contingent upon the income of the remarried parent. DIC for parents is designed to provide financial support and may take into consideration the income level of the parents, meaning that if the remarried mother has a certain level of income that exceeds established limits, then the DIC payments could be affected. Therefore, the specifics of each individual case, particularly regarding income, play a crucial role in determining eligibility rather than marriage status alone. This understanding is essential in recognizing the broader context of benefits administered by the California Department of Veterans Affairs, where the financial stability of surviving parents is prioritized in decision-making regarding DIC payments.

8. A veteran suffers from a service-connected disease that affects both feet rated 20% each. What is the total combined evaluation when he also has ratings of 40%, 20%, and 10%?

- A. 60%
- B. 70%**
- C. 80%
- D. 50%

To determine the total combined evaluation for the veteran, we use the whole person approach established by the Department of Veterans Affairs, which emphasizes that each disability rating reflects the impact on the individual veteran rather than the sum of the percentages. The veteran has service-connected foot diseases rated at 20% each. When combining ratings, we first need to find the effective combined rating for these two 20% evaluations: 1. Start with the first 20% rating. This means the veteran retains 80% functionality ($100\% - 20\% = 80\%$). 2. The second 20% rating is applied to the remaining 80%. So, the calculation is 20% of the remaining 80%, which equals 16% ($0.20 \times 0.80 = 0.16$ or 16%). 3. Add this 16% to the initial 20% to get an effective combined rating of 36%. 4. Rounding this up gives us a combined rating of 40% (as the VA rounds to the nearest 10%). Next, we combine this 40% with the additional ratings of 40%, 20%, and 10%: 1. Starting with the 40% combined rating

9. Is it true that rating decisions must now address any findings that are favorable to the claimant under the Appeals Modernization Act?

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on the case

D. Only for specific claims

Rating decisions must address any findings that are favorable to the claimant under the Appeals Modernization Act (AMA). The AMA, which was implemented to streamline the appeals process for veterans, emphasizes that when a decision is made, it must consider and acknowledge evidence or findings that may benefit the claimant. This requirement ensures transparency and fairness in the adjudication process, allowing claimants to clearly understand how their evidence has been evaluated and how it impacts the decision regarding their claims. The incorporation of favorable findings is a crucial aspect because it helps promote a more veteran-friendly approach, ensuring that all relevant information is taken into account and that claimants are not penalized for the weaknesses in their claims when there might be strengths present. This aligns with the broader goals of the AMA to improve the efficiency and quality of decisions made by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Options that suggest there are exceptions or conditional statements regarding this requirement do not capture the full intent of the AMA, which mandates that all favorable findings be addressed to ensure the process is comprehensive and constructive for the veteran.

10. What is the time limit for applying for coverage under the VAlife insurance program?

A. No time limit if grant of service-connection is approved

B. 90 days from the grant notification

C. One year from the grant notification

D. Six months from the grant notification

The time limit for applying for coverage under the VAlife insurance program is indeed tied to the outcomes of service-connection approvals. When a veteran is granted service connection, they are eligible to apply for VAlife insurance without any specific deadline imposed. This policy reflects the understanding that obtaining the necessary medical documentation and the formal recognition of service-related conditions can take time, allowing veterans the flexibility to apply at their discretion once they have received approval. In contrast, the other options present specific timeframes. Some of these options imply that veterans must rush their applications shortly after receiving their grant notifications, which does not align with the intention of providing support and accessibility to veterans under the VAlife insurance program. Therefore, the absence of a time limit for those who have been granted service connection is meant to facilitate their access to insurance and to allow them to utilize the benefits available to them in a manner that suits their circumstances.

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://cdvaaccreditation.examzify.com>

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

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