

California Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Written Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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. What cavity classification indicates the use of an anterior dental dam clamp?**
 - A. Class I**
 - B. Class II**
 - C. Class III**
 - D. Class IV**
- 2. Work practice controls include the use of a**
 - A. Full-body protective gear**
 - B. One-handed recapping technique**
 - C. Biohazard disposal system**
 - D. Two-person operation method**
- 3. Where are auxiliary attachments found on braces?**
 - A. On the wires only**
 - B. Brackets and bands**
 - C. On the dental chair**
 - D. In the patient's dental record**
- 4. What system accomplishes the mixing of final impression material for the assistant?**
 - A. Hand mixing**
 - B. Suction-based**
 - C. Auto-mix**
 - D. Vortex mixing**
- 5. The water/powder ratio of plaster for pouring a model is**
 - A. 100/30**
 - B. 100/40**
 - C. 100/50**
 - D. 100/60**

- 6. How long should you wait before separating a model from the impression?**
- A. 15-30 minutes**
 - B. 40-60 minutes**
 - C. 1-2 hours**
 - D. Immediately**
- 7. Which form of gypsum is used to fabricate a die for making an indirect restoration?**
- A. Model plaster**
 - B. Dental stone**
 - C. High-strength stone**
 - D. Impression plaster**
- 8. What tooth surface would receive a veneer?**
- A. Occlusal**
 - B. Facial**
 - C. Lingual**
 - D. Distal**
- 9. Who is responsible for ensuring accessibility of the exposure control plan for employees?**
- A. The CDC**
 - B. The employer**
 - C. The employee**
 - D. OSHA**
- 10. What gypsum material is most commonly used for fabricating orthodontic diagnostic models?**
- A. Stone**
 - B. Plaster**
 - C. Die stone**
 - D. High-strength stone**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What cavity classification indicates the use of an anterior dental dam clamp?

- A. Class I
- B. Class II
- C. Class III**
- D. Class IV

A Class I cavity is located on the surface of the tooth, while a Class II cavity involves the interproximal surfaces (between two teeth). Both of these cavity classifications would not require the use of an anterior dental dam clamp. A Class III cavity is on the anterior (front) surface of a tooth, which would require the use of an anterior dental dam clamp. A Class IV cavity involves both the interproximal and anterior surfaces, and would also require the use of an anterior dental dam clamp. Therefore, the correct cavity classification that indicates the use of an anterior dental dam clamp is Class III.

2. Work practice controls include the use of a

- A. Full-body protective gear
- B. One-handed recapping technique**
- C. Biohazard disposal system
- D. Two-person operation method

The use of a one-handed recapping technique serves as an important work practice control within healthcare settings. This method is designed to minimize the risk of needlestick injuries, which are a significant concern when handling sharp instruments like needles. By using a technique that allows for recapping with one hand, healthcare professionals can maintain control over the needle and avoid the potential hazards associated with using both hands, which increases the risk of accidental injury. This approach reflects principles of safety and risk management in a clinical environment, emphasizing the need to reduce exposure to bloodborne pathogens. While other options may address safety concerns, they do not directly focus on personal handling techniques that are critical in day-to-day practice. For instance, full-body protective gear and biohazard disposal systems contribute to overall safety but do not specifically mitigate the risks during needle recapping. The two-person operation method can enhance workplace safety under certain conditions, yet it does not directly address the immediate actions taken by an individual during the recapping process. Therefore, the one-handed recapping technique is a focused and practical work practice control crucial for maintaining safety in medical procedures.

3. Where are auxiliary attachments found on braces?

- A. On the wires only
- B. Brackets and bands**
- C. On the dental chair
- D. In the patient's dental record

Auxiliary attachments, such as hooks and elastics, are typically found on braces on the brackets and bands. The wires, option A, are typically used for adjusting the position of teeth, rather than attaching auxiliary components. The dental chair, option C, would not have any attachments to the braces as it is simply used for positioning the patient during procedures. The patient's dental record, option D, would have information about the patient's treatment and progress, but would not physically contain any attachments to the braces. Therefore, option B is the most accurate answer.

4. What system accomplishes the mixing of final impression material for the assistant?

- A. Hand mixing**
- B. Suction-based**
- C. Auto-mix**
- D. Vortex mixing**

Auto-mix is the best option because it automates the mixing process, ensuring precise and consistent mixtures every time. Hand mixing, while it may seem simple and convenient, can lead to uneven mixtures and inaccurate results. Suction-based and vortex mixing may also provide inconsistent mixtures and are not specifically designed for final impression material mixing. Therefore, auto-mix is the most effective and reliable option for ensuring accurate and consistent final impression material mixing for the assistant.

5. The water/powder ratio of plaster for pouring a model is

- A. 100/30**
- B. 100/40**
- C. 100/50**
- D. 100/60**

The water/powder ratio of plaster for pouring a model is important because it affects the consistency and setting time of the plaster. A ratio that is too high, like A or B, will create a thinner mixture which can lead to weaker and more fragile casts. Similarly, a ratio that is too low, like D, will create a thicker mixture that may take longer to set and can result in a rougher surface texture on the cast. A 100/50 ratio, as in option C, is generally considered the standard for pouring a model. This creates a creamy mixture that pours easily and produces a smooth and strong cast.

6. How long should you wait before separating a model from the impression?

- A. 15-30 minutes**
- B. 40-60 minutes**
- C. 1-2 hours**
- D. Immediately**

After taking an impression of a model, the recommended time to wait before separating the model is 40-60 minutes. This allows the impression to fully set and prevents distortion of the model when it is removed. Option A of 15-30 minutes may not be long enough for the impression to fully set. Option C of 1-2 hours may be too long, and the impression may become difficult to remove. Option D of immediately is not recommended as it may cause distortion of the impression and affect the accuracy of the model.

7. Which form of gypsum is used to fabricate a die for making an indirect restoration?

- A. Model plaster**
- B. Dental stone**
- C. High-strength stone**
- D. Impression plaster**

High-strength stone is the most suitable gypsum product to use for creating a die for making indirect restorations because it has a higher compressive strength and is less likely to fracture or deform during the fabrication process. Model plaster, dental stone, and impression plaster are all lower in strength and may not provide the necessary precision and durability needed for this application. Therefore, they are not the preferred gypsum products for creating dental dies.

8. What tooth surface would receive a veneer?

- A. Occlusal**
- B. Facial**
- C. Lingual**
- D. Distal**

A veneer is a thin layer of material placed over a tooth to improve its appearance. This cosmetic procedure is usually done on the front surface of a tooth, also known as the facial surface. The occlusal, lingual, and distal surfaces of a tooth are not visible when smiling, so a veneer would not be placed on those surfaces.

9. Who is responsible for ensuring accessibility of the exposure control plan for employees?

- A. The CDC**
- B. The employer**
- C. The employee**
- D. OSHA**

The employer is responsible for ensuring accessibility of the exposure control plan for employees. This is because the employer is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for their employees, which includes implementing measures to prevent occupational exposure to hazardous materials. The CDC (A) is a federal agency that provides guidance and recommendations for preventing and controlling disease outbreaks, but their role does not specifically involve ensuring accessibility of exposure control plans. The employee (C) is responsible for following the exposure control plan and reporting any concerns or issues, but they are not responsible for ensuring its accessibility. OSHA (D) is also a federal agency that sets and enforces workplace safety regulations, including having an exposure control plan in place, but it is ultimately the employer's responsibility to ensure its accessibility for their employees.

10. What gypsum material is most commonly used for fabricating orthodontic diagnostic models?

A. Stone

B. Plaster

C. Die stone

D. High-strength stone

Plaster is the most commonly used gypsum material for fabricating orthodontic diagnostic models because it is a softer and more workable material compared to the other options. Stone and high-strength stone are harder and less workable, making them more suitable for producing prosthetics. Die stone, while also suitable for prosthodontic purposes, is not as commonly used as plaster in orthodontics. Moreover, plaster is less expensive compared to the other options, making it a more affordable and convenient choice for orthodontic practices.

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://californiarda.examzify.com>

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