

CDCA Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) 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

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- 1. What is the clinical presentation of ectodermal dysplasia?**
 - A. Absence of teeth and hair**
 - B. Skin rash and lesions**
 - C. Excessive sweating**
 - D. Brittle hair**

- 2. When addressing cheek biting issues, which condition is notably similar to the mechanisms involved?**
 - A. Dry mouth**
 - B. Cheilitis**
 - C. Gingivitis**
 - D. Periodontitis**

- 3. What condition is indicated by square crowns with multiple open contacts on a panoramic radiograph?**
 - A. Amelogenesis imperfecta**
 - B. Dentinogenesis imperfecta**
 - C. Hypoplasia**
 - D. Orthodontic issues**

- 4. Which symptom is NOT associated with hyperthyroidism?**
 - A. Fatigue**
 - B. Weight loss**
 - C. Increased appetite**
 - D. Heat intolerance**

- 5. When is a denture reline indicated?**
 - A. When dentures are broken**
 - B. When the patient has swelling**
 - C. When ridges resorb**
 - D. When the denture base is chipped**

- 6. If a maxillary central incisor has a radiolucent area around the root and was treated endodontically 2-3 days ago, what should be done next?**
- A. Redo endodontic treatment on the affected tooth**
 - B. Extract the maxillary incisors**
 - C. Perform an apicoectomy on the maxillary incisors**
 - D. Conduct endodontic treatment on the adjacent tooth**
- 7. How many SLOB (Same-Lingual Opposite-Buccal) questions must be answered during an examination?**
- A. 1 SLOB question**
 - B. 2 SLOB questions**
 - C. 3 SLOB questions**
 - D. 4 SLOB questions**
- 8. When evaluating a radiograph indicating a radiolucent area near the roots of teeth, which choice is most appropriate?**
- A. Conclude it is benign**
 - B. Refer for endodontic evaluation**
 - C. Consider it a sign of infection**
 - D. Assume it is periodontal disease**
- 9. After scaling and root planing (ScRP), what type of healing is expected in terms of the periodontal tissue?**
- A. Granulation tissue healing**
 - B. Bone regeneration**
 - C. Long junctional epithelium**
 - D. Connective tissue healing**
- 10. When observing for post positioning in endodontic treatment, which principle is correct?**
- A. Post should extend beyond the canal**
 - B. Post should fill the entire canal**
 - C. Post should be less than the canal width**
 - D. Post should have a secure fit without excessive force**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the clinical presentation of ectodermal dysplasia?

- A. Absence of teeth and hair**
- B. Skin rash and lesions**
- C. Excessive sweating**
- D. Brittle hair**

Ectodermal dysplasia is a group of genetic disorders characterized by abnormalities in the development of ectodermal structures, which include the skin, hair, nails, and teeth. The hallmark features of this condition often include the absence or hypoplasia (underdevelopment) of teeth and varying degrees of hair loss or sparse hair. In individuals with ectodermal dysplasia, the absence of teeth can manifest as a complete lack of teeth (anodontia) or a partial absence of teeth (hypodontia), which can significantly affect chewing and speech. Hair involvement leads to reduced hair density or complete absence of hair (alopecia). This characteristic is a primary reason why the option highlighting the absence of teeth and hair aligns well with the clinical aspects of ectodermal dysplasia. Other symptoms may present in some variants of the condition, such as skin issues or sweating anomalies, but they are not as definitive or characteristic as the absence of teeth and hair. Thus, the correct answer encapsulates the most prominent and recognizable features of ectodermal dysplasia, providing a clear understanding of its clinical presentation.

2. When addressing cheek biting issues, which condition is notably similar to the mechanisms involved?

- A. Dry mouth**
- B. Cheilitis**
- C. Gingivitis**
- D. Periodontitis**

When addressing cheek biting issues, the condition that is notably similar to the mechanisms involved is cheilitis. Cheek biting often occurs in response to irritation or inflammation in the oral cavity, and cheilitis, which refers to the inflammation of the lips, can have similar underlying causes. Both cheek biting and cheilitis may be influenced by external factors such as irritation from dental appliances, habitual behavior, or even stress. Additionally, they can be exacerbated by conditions that lead to dryness or cracking of the lips, making them more susceptible to injury or irritation, much like how continuous biting can lead to self-induced trauma in the cheeks. Recognizing the relationship between these conditions helps in understanding the behavioral and physiological factors at play, thus allowing for better management and treatment approaches for patients experiencing cheek biting. This context underscores the need to consider various oral health issues holistically, as they may share similar pathophysiological mechanisms.

3. What condition is indicated by square crowns with multiple open contacts on a panoramic radiograph?

- A. Amelogenesis imperfecta**
- B. Dentinogenesis imperfecta**
- C. Hypoplasia**
- D. Orthodontic issues**

The condition indicated by square crowns with multiple open contacts on a panoramic radiograph is amelogenesis imperfecta. This genetic disorder affects the development of dental enamel, leading to defects in the enamel's quality and appearance. In amelogenesis imperfecta, the enamel can be thin, hypoplastic, or hypocalcified, which results in abnormal tooth shape, color, and the characteristic square appearance of the crowns. The presence of multiple open contacts typically suggests that the affected teeth are not properly proportioned or shaped due to the enamel development issues. The square crown shape can occur because the enamel fails to develop normally, leading to broader and flatter surfaces rather than the usual anatomical contour of the tooth. In contrast, conditions like dentinogenesis imperfecta primarily affect dentin rather than enamel, resulting in discolored and brittle teeth, but they do not usually present with square crowns. Hypoplasia refers to underdevelopment of the enamel, which can be caused by various factors, but it may not specifically lead to a square appearance or consistent open contacts. Orthodontic issues generally relate to the positioning and alignment of teeth, which would not typically result in the specific crown shape and open contacts seen in amelogenesis imperfecta.

4. Which symptom is NOT associated with hyperthyroidism?

- A. Fatigue**
- B. Weight loss**
- C. Increased appetite**
- D. Heat intolerance**

Fatigue is a common symptom associated with various conditions, including hyperthyroidism. In hyperthyroidism, the body's metabolism is accelerated due to an excess of thyroid hormones, which often leads to increased energy levels for many individuals. However, it can also induce fatigue in patients as their body copes with the heightened metabolic demands and the resulting strain on physiological systems. In contrast, weight loss, increased appetite, and heat intolerance are hallmark signs of hyperthyroidism. Patients typically experience significant weight loss despite having an increased appetite, as the body's metabolic rate is so elevated that it outpaces caloric intake. Heat intolerance arises because hyperthyroidism can lead to increased sweating and a heightened sensitivity to warm temperatures, resulting from the body's hypermetabolic state. Overall, while fatigue can occur in some individuals with hyperthyroidism, it is not an expected or definitive symptom, making it the answer to the question regarding which symptom is not typically associated with this condition.

5. When is a denture relined indicated?

- A. When dentures are broken
- B. When the patient has swelling
- C. When ridges resorb**
- D. When the denture base is chipped

A relining of a denture is indicated primarily when there is resorption of the alveolar ridges. Over time, as teeth are lost and the underlying bone and gum tissue begin to change shape or shrink, the fit of the denture can become loose. This can lead to discomfort for the patient as well as a reduction in the effectiveness of the denture for chewing and speaking. The relining process involves adding material to the tissue-fitting surface of the denture to create a better fit that accommodates these changes in the anatomical structures supporting the denture. This adjustment helps to ensure that the dentures remain functional and comfortable for the patient as their mouth's shape changes over time. In contrast, situations such as broken dentures or chipped denture bases typically require repairs rather than relining, addressing structural damage rather than fit. Swelling may require a different course of action, which often includes examining the underlying cause of the swelling before proceeding with adjustments to the denture. Thus, relining is specifically warranted in cases where there is a change in the fit due to the resorption of the ridges.

6. If a maxillary central incisor has a radiolucent area around the root and was treated endodontically 2-3 days ago, what should be done next?

- A. Redo endodontic treatment on the affected tooth
- B. Extract the maxillary incisors
- C. Perform an apicoectomy on the maxillary incisors
- D. Conduct endodontic treatment on the adjacent tooth**

In the context of endodontic treatment and the presence of a radiolucent area around the root of a recently treated maxillary central incisor, the correct action is to conduct endodontic treatment on the adjacent tooth. This decision stems from understanding the potential causes of the radiolucency, which may indicate persistent infection or inflammatory response from adjacent structures. Performing endodontic treatment on the adjacent tooth can help address any possible source of infection that could be contributing to the radiolucent lesion. It is not uncommon for adjacent teeth to become affected if there is an underlying issue not solely confined to the treated tooth, especially in terms of shared periodontal health or anatomical proximity. This approach also allows the clinician to ensure that all possible sources of endodontic issues are managed, rather than simply redoing treatment on the affected tooth, which may not effectively resolve the complication. It helps in assessing the overall periodontal status and providing comprehensive care. In considering the other options, redoing the endodontic treatment on the infected tooth without further investigation may not resolve the problem, as the source of the infection could be external or connected to the adjacent teeth. Extracting the incisor might be premature, especially when treatment options exist that

7. How many SLOB (Same-Lingual Opposite-Buccal) questions must be answered during an examination?

- A. 1 SLOB question**
- B. 2 SLOB questions**
- C. 3 SLOB questions**
- D. 4 SLOB questions**

In the context of the CDCA Objective Structured Clinical Examination, understanding the SLOB rule is essential for interpreting radiographic images, especially when assessing the position of impacted teeth relative to adjacent structures. The SLOB rule is applied when comparing two different radiographic views to determine the relationship between an object and surrounding anatomical landmarks. The correct answer indicates that two SLOB questions must be answered during the examination. This aligns with the examination's emphasis on ensuring sufficient data to confidently assess the occlusal relationships and spatial orientation of dental structures. Answering two questions allows candidates to demonstrate their capability to apply the SLOB rule across different scenarios, reinforcing their understanding of spatial relationships in dental radiography. In practice, answering one question might not provide an adequate assessment of a candidate's understanding, as they would only demonstrate knowledge in a limited context. Three or four questions could ensure thorough understanding but might be excessive for the exam format, which typically seeks to evaluate proficiency without overwhelming the candidate. Hence, the requirement to answer two questions strikes a balance between demonstrating understanding and maintaining an efficient testing process.

8. When evaluating a radiograph indicating a radiolucent area near the roots of teeth, which choice is most appropriate?

- A. Conclude it is benign**
- B. Refer for endodontic evaluation**
- C. Consider it a sign of infection**
- D. Assume it is periodontal disease**

The appropriate choice is to refer for endodontic evaluation when encountering a radiograph that indicates a radiolucent area near the roots of teeth. This approach is based on the understanding that radiolucent areas can signify various conditions related to the health of the tooth and surrounding structures, particularly in the context of the dental pulp and periapical tissues. A radiolucent area near a tooth's root can represent different issues, such as a periapical abscess, cyst, or other pathologies related to the pulp. Referring for endodontic evaluation allows for a thorough examination and diagnosis of these potential conditions. Endodontists specialize in issues related to the pulp and the surrounding periapical tissues, and their assessment may require diagnostic procedures such as vitality testing, further imaging, or clinical examination to determine the necessity of intervention, such as root canal therapy. While considering it a sign of infection or concluding that it is benign might be initial thoughts, these assumptions do not take into account the full spectrum of conditions that can present as a radiolucent area. Likewise, assuming it is periodontal disease oversimplifies the diagnosis and may lead to inadequate treatment. Therefore, a referral for endodontic evaluation is the most prudent response.

9. After scaling and root planing (ScRP), what type of healing is expected in terms of the periodontal tissue?

- A. Granulation tissue healing**
- B. Bone regeneration**
- C. Long junctional epithelium**
- D. Connective tissue healing**

After scaling and root planing (ScRP), the anticipated healing response in the periodontal tissue primarily involves the formation of a long junctional epithelium. This type of healing is characterized by the regeneration of the epithelial attachment at the tooth surface, which plays a critical role in the repair and reestablishment of the periodontium after periodontal therapy. The long junctional epithelium acts as a barrier between the periodontal tissues and the oral environment, providing a means for maintaining periodontal health. It does not restore lost connective tissue or bone directly but serves an important function in stabilizing the tooth and preventing the re-formation of periodontal pockets. This healing response typically occurs within a few weeks following ScRP as the tissues begin to recover from inflammation and heal. In contrast, granulation tissue healing, while part of the broader wound healing process, does not represent the end result expected after ScRP, as it is more transient and primarily indicative of ongoing inflammation rather than a successful repair. Bone regeneration, while a potential outcome in more advanced therapies or healing events, isn't specifically associated with the immediate aftermath of scaling and root planing. Similarly, while connective tissue healing is essential for overall periodontal recovery, it is not the primary type of healing that follows

10. When observing for post positioning in endodontic treatment, which principle is correct?

- A. Post should extend beyond the canal**
- B. Post should fill the entire canal**
- C. Post should be less than the canal width**
- D. Post should have a secure fit without excessive force**

The principle that a post should have a secure fit without excessive force is crucial in endodontic treatment. This ensures that the post stabilizes the restoration effectively without causing damage to the remaining tooth structure or the surrounding periodontal tissues. A secure fit promotes retention of the post while also facilitating adequate stress distribution during functional loading. If a post is inserted with excessive force, it can lead to root fracture, compromise the integrity of the tooth, or displace the post itself. Thus, the goal is to achieve a balance where the post fits snugly within the canal without requiring undue pressure, ensuring both the durability of the restoration and the health of the tooth. Other options may seem plausible at first glance; for example, extending beyond the canal or filling the entire canal can lead to complications, such as increased stress on the tooth structure or obstructing the pathway for potential retreatment. It's essential to recognize that the primary goal is stability and preservation of the tooth integrity, which is best achieved through a secure fit without excessive force.

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://cdcaosce.examzify.com>

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

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