

Certified Ophthalmic Assistant Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What color is the light filter used in applanation tonometry?**
 - A. Green**
 - B. Blue**
 - C. Yellow**
 - D. Red**
- 2. Retinoscopy is an example of what type of refractometry?**
 - A. passive**
 - B. subjective**
 - C. active**
 - D. objective**
- 3. A disadvantage of chemical-based contact lens care systems is**
 - A. Deposits of proteins**
 - B. Irritation**
 - C. Decreased permeability**
 - D. Increased comfort**
- 4. The Hruby lens is used for examination of the**
 - A. Anterior chamber**
 - B. Posterior chamber**
 - C. Vitreous body**
 - D. Retina and macula**
- 5. Which test measure tear flow?**
 - A. Hardy-Rand-Ritter**
 - B. Ishihara**
 - C. Schirmer**
 - D. Titmus/Wirt**
- 6. What does the numerator stand for in the 20/20 notation?**
 - A. distance from patient's eyes to the chart**
 - B. size of the letter**
 - C. distance at which the letter could subtend one minute of arc**
 - D. distance from the chart**

- 7. Which of the following symptoms require same-day appointments according to urgent eye care guidelines?**
- A. Blurred vision**
 - B. Flashes of light**
 - C. Itchy eye**
 - D. Watery eye**
- 8. If a patient must be kept waiting, what should you inform them about?**
- A. The available discounts on services**
 - B. The clinic's operating hours**
 - C. The emergency exit locations**
 - D. How long the wait may be and the schedule uncertainties due to emergencies**
- 9. Approximately how many meridians should be examined during Goldman perimetry?**
- A. 6**
 - B. 8**
 - C. 10**
 - D. 12**
- 10. According to universal precautions, which equipment should be sterilized before each patient use?**
- A. Instruments touching intact skin**
 - B. Respiratory devices**
 - C. Computers in the office**
 - D. Office furniture**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What color is the light filter used in applanation tonometry?

- A. Green**
- B. Blue**
- C. Yellow**
- D. Red**

The light filter used in applanation tonometry is typically blue in color. This specific color helps enhance the visibility of the fluorescein dye that is used during the procedure. The blue filter allows for better contrast and visibility of the corneal surface, which is crucial for accurately measuring the intraocular pressure.

2. Retinoscopy is an example of what type of refractometry?

- A. passive**
- B. subjective**
- C. active**
- D. objective**

Retinoscopy is an example of objective refractometry. Objective refractometry techniques do not require any input or feedback from the patient, and the results are obtained solely based on the optical principles of the eye. In retinoscopy, the ophthalmic assistant uses a retinoscope to shine a light into the patient's eye and observes the reflex or movement of light within the eye to determine the refractive error. This method provides an objective measurement of the patient's refractive error without relying on the patient's responses. In contrast, subjective refractometry, which is not the case in retinoscopy, involves the patient's feedback and responses to determine the refractive error, making it a different approach from objective refractometry.

3. A disadvantage of chemical-based contact lens care systems is

- A. Deposits of proteins**
- B. Irritation**
- C. Decreased permeability**
- D. Increased comfort**

Chemical-based contact lens care systems can sometimes lead to irritation because certain individuals may have sensitivities or reactions to the chemicals present in these solutions. This can cause discomfort, redness, or itching for the wearer. It is important to assess each patient's needs and consider alternative solutions if they experience irritation with a particular contact lens care system. The other options are not disadvantages commonly associated with chemical-based contact lens care systems.

4. The Hruby lens is used for examination of the

- A. Anterior chamber
- B. Posterior chamber
- C. Vitreous body
- D. Retina and macula**

The Hruby lens is a contact lens used in ophthalmology to examine the retina and macula. It provides a wide-field, high-resolution view of the central retina and is particularly useful in assessing the macula for conditions such as age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and macular holes. This lens allows for a detailed examination of the back of the eye, making it the correct choice in this scenario. Option A, the anterior chamber, is often evaluated using a slit lamp and a gonioscopy lens. Option B, the posterior chamber, can be examined using various techniques such as ultrasound or OCT imaging. Option C, the vitreous body, is typically assessed with techniques like dilation and indirect ophthalmoscopy.

5. Which test measure tear flow?

- A. Hardy-Rand-Ritter
- B. Ishihara
- C. Schirmer**
- D. Titmus/Wirt

The correct answer is C. Schirmer test measure tear flow by placing special paper strips called Schirmer strips inside the lower eyelid. The strips absorb tears over a certain period, typically 5 minutes, to assess the quantity of tears produced. This test helps in evaluating the tear production of the patient, which is crucial for diagnosing conditions such as dry eye syndrome. The other options: A. Hardy-Rand-Ritter test is used to measure color vision deficiencies. B. Ishihara test is a color perception test to detect color blindness. D. Titmus/Wirt test is used for stereoacuity or depth perception testing.

6. What does the numerator stand for in the 20/20 notation?

- A. distance from patient's eyes to the chart
- B. size of the letter
- C. distance at which the letter could subtend one minute of arc**
- D. distance from the chart

In the 20/20 notation used in optometry, the numerator represents the distance at which the letter could subtend one minute of arc. This means that the numerator (in this case, 20) indicates the distance at which a person with normal vision can see details that subtend an angle of one minute of arc. This notation is commonly used to assess visual acuity in eye examinations. It's important in determining the sharpness or clarity of a person's vision at a specified distance.

7. Which of the following symptoms require same-day appointments according to urgent eye care guidelines?

A. Blurred vision

B. Flashes of light

C. Itchy eye

D. Watery eye

Flashes of light require same-day appointments according to urgent eye care guidelines because they can be a symptom of a serious eye condition such as a retinal detachment. Prompt evaluation and treatment are essential to prevent permanent vision loss in such cases. Blurred vision, itchy eye, and watery eye, although they can also indicate eye issues, are typically not as urgent as flashes of light and may not require immediate attention.

8. If a patient must be kept waiting, what should you inform them about?

A. The available discounts on services

B. The clinic's operating hours

C. The emergency exit locations

D. How long the wait may be and the schedule uncertainties due to emergencies

When a patient must be kept waiting, it is essential to inform them about how long the wait may be and the schedule uncertainties due to emergencies. This helps manage the patient's expectations, ensuring they are aware of potential delays and can plan accordingly. Providing transparency about the wait time and possible schedule disruptions due to emergencies demonstrates respect for the patient's time and helps maintain open communication. This information can also help alleviate any frustration or anxiety the patient may experience while waiting. Options A, B, and C are not relevant in this scenario as they do not address the immediate concern of keeping the patient informed about the wait time and schedule uncertainties.

9. Approximately how many meridians should be examined during Goldman perimetry?

- A. 6
- B. 8
- C. 10
- D. 12**

Goldman perimetry is a method used to assess the visual field by measuring the sensitivity of the retina at different points. In this technique, a series of light stimuli are presented at various locations along specific meridians, allowing for the mapping of the visual field. When performing Goldman perimetry, typically 12 meridians are examined to provide a comprehensive assessment of the patient's visual field sensitivity. These meridians cover different areas of the visual field and are crucial in obtaining accurate and detailed information about any visual field defects or abnormalities present. Therefore, examining 12 meridians during Goldman perimetry is essential for a thorough evaluation of the patient's visual field. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because they suggest examining fewer meridians than the standard practice of 12 meridians in Goldman perimetry, which would not provide a comprehensive assessment of the visual field.

10. According to universal precautions, which equipment should be sterilized before each patient use?

- A. Instruments touching intact skin**
- B. Respiratory devices
- C. Computers in the office
- D. Office furniture

According to universal precautions, equipment that touches intact skin, such as instruments used for examination or treatment, should be sterilized before each patient use. This is crucial to prevent the transmission of infections between patients. Sterilization of these instruments helps maintain a safe and hygienic environment in the ophthalmic practice. Options B, C, and D are not required to be sterilized before each patient use according to universal precautions. While respiratory devices should be cleaned and disinfected between patients, computers in the office should be cleaned regularly but not necessarily sterilized before each use. Similarly, office furniture does not need to be sterilized before each patient encounter.