Certified Ophthalmic Assistant Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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. **Acuity testing of an illiterate person and preschool children can be performed with all of the following tests EXCEPT**

   A. Allen cards

   B. a potential acuity meter

   C. An E Cube

   D. Landolt's broken ring chart

2. **What is the reading portion of a bifocal prescription known as?**

   A. Segment

   B. Transition

   C. Segment line

   D. Addition

3. **Turning of the eyelid towards the globe is called**

   A. Drusen

   B. Entropion

   C. Pseudophakic

   D. Ptosis

4. **Which test is used to assess stereopsis?**

   A. Hardy-Rand-Ritter

   B. Ishihara

   C. Schirmer

   D. Titmus/Wirt

5. **How are the cones of the human eye categorized in terms of color sensitivity?**

   A. Yellow, cyan, magenta

   B. Red, green, blue

   C. Black, white, gray

   D. Orange, purple, brown

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

A. passive

B. subjective

C. active

D. objective

7. Which surgical instrument is used to remove a chalazion?

A. Curette

B. Dilator

C. Forceps

D. Scissors

8. Which type of drug is used to treat acute allergic reactions?

A. Anesthetics

B. Antibiotics

C. Antihistamines

D. Corticosteroids

9. Which type of tonometer is mounted on a slit lamp?

A. Applanation

B. Goldmann

C. Non-contact

D. Rebound

10. Small yellowish-white lesions located between the retinal pigment epithelium and Bruch's membrane are known as

A. Drusen

B. Hemorrhages

C. Pterygium

D. Entropion

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Acuity testing of an illiterate person and preschool children can be performed with all of the following tests EXCEPT

A. Allen cards

B. a potential acuity meter

C. An E Cube

D. Landolt's broken ring chart

Acuity testing of an illiterate person and preschool children typically requires special testing methods that do not rely on reading letters or numbers. Allen cards, An E Cube, and Landolt's broken ring chart are all examples of tests specifically designed for individuals who are unable to read. These tests utilize pictures, shapes, or other symbols that can be used to assess visual acuity without requiring the ability to read. On the other hand, a potential acuity meter (choice B) is not typically used for individuals who are illiterate or preschool children, as it relies on the ability to discern letters or numbers.

2. What is the reading portion of a bifocal prescription known as?

A. Segment

B. Transition

C. Segment line

D. Addition

The reading portion of a bifocal prescription is known as the "Addition." This is because the addition is the extra power that is added to the lower part of the prescription to help with near vision tasks. The segment, transition, and segment line are not terms used to describe the reading portion of a bifocal prescription.

3. Turning of the eyelid towards the globe is called

A. Drusen

B. Entropion

C. Pseudophakic

D. Ptosis

Entropion is the correct answer. Entropion refers to the inward turning of the eyelid towards the globe, which can cause the eyelashes to rub against the eye surface, leading to irritation and discomfort. Drusen are small yellowish deposits under the retina, pseudophakic refers to the condition of having an intraocular lens implant, and ptosis is drooping of the upper eyelid.

4. Which test is used to assess stereopsis?

A. Hardy-Rand-Ritter

B. Ishihara

C. Schirmer

D. Titmus/Wirt

The Titmus/Wirt test is used to assess stereopsis, which is the ability to perceive depth and see objects in three dimensions. This test typically involves the use of polarized glasses and viewing images that create a sense of depth perception. The other options are not used to assess stereopsis: A. The Hardy-Rand-Ritter test is used to test color vision. B. The Ishihara test is used to assess color vision and detect color deficiencies. C. The Schirmer test is used to measure tear production and assess for dry eye syndrome.

5. How are the cones of the human eye categorized in terms of color sensitivity?

A. Yellow, cyan, magenta

B. Red, green, blue

C. Black, white, gray

D. Orange, purple, brown

Cones in the human eye are categorized based on their color sensitivity into three types: red, green, and blue. These cones are responsible for our ability to perceive colors in the visible spectrum. Option A (Yellow, cyan, magenta), Option C (Black, white, gray), and Option D (Orange, purple, brown) do not accurately represent the categorization of cones in terms of color sensitivity in the human eye.

6. 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.

7. Which surgical instrument is used to remove a chalazion?

A. Curette

B. Dilator

C. Forceps

D. Scissors

The correct instrument used for removing a chalazion is a curette. This is because a chalazion is a cyst that forms due to a blocked oil gland in the eyelid, and the most effective way to excise it is through the use of a curette. A curette is a small, spoon-shaped instrument that allows for gentle scraping and removal of the cyst wall and contents. In practical terms, once the chalazion has been accessed, the curette enables the surgeon to effectively remove the entire contents while minimizing damage to surrounding tissue. The use of this instrument is critical for ensuring adequate removal and helping to prevent recurrence. Other instruments like dilators, forceps, and scissors serve different purposes in ophthalmic surgery. For instance, dilators are more focused on widening or opening structures and would not provide the capability needed to excise a chalazion. Forceps could be thought of for handling tissue but are not used specifically for the removal of cyst contents in this context. Scissors have their own applications in surgery but lack the specific design needed for the delicate task of chalazion removal.

8. Which type of drug is used to treat acute allergic reactions?

A. Anesthetics

B. Antibiotics

C. Antihistamines

D. Corticosteroids

Antihistamines are the type of drug used to treat acute allergic reactions. Antihistamines work by blocking the action of histamine, a substance in the body that causes allergic symptoms such as itching, sneezing, and hives. By blocking the effects of histamine, antihistamines help relieve these symptoms and are commonly used to manage allergic reactions. Anesthetics, antibiotics, and corticosteroids are not typically used to treat acute allergic reactions. Anesthetics are used for numbing pain, antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections, and corticosteroids are used for reducing inflammation in conditions such as asthma or arthritis, but they are not the first-line treatment for acute allergic reactions.

9. Which type of tonometer is mounted on a slit lamp?

A. Applanation

B. Goldmann

C. Non-contact

D. Rebound

The tonometer that is specifically designed to be mounted on a slit lamp is the Goldmann tonometer. This device employs the applanation method for measuring intraocular pressure, which is crucial for detecting glaucoma. The Goldmann tonometer uses a biprism to illuminate the cornea and measures the force required to flatten a specific area of the cornea to determine intraocular pressure. The slit lamp provides a stable and magnified view of the cornea, making it easier to accurately assess the pressure. While applanation tonometry is indeed the underlying principle used in the Goldmann tonometer, the correct answer directly identifies the specific model recognized as being mounted on a slit lamp. This specificity is essential because there are different types of tonometers that operate using various principles, and not all are intended for use on a slit lamp.

10. Small yellowish-white lesions located between the retinal pigment epithelium and Bruch's membrane are known as

A. Drusen

B. Hemorrhages

C. Pterygium

D. Entropion

Small yellowish-white lesions located between the retinal pigment epithelium and Bruch's membrane are known as Drusen. Drusen are a hallmark of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). They are composed of lipids, proteins, and cellular debris and can be seen during a dilated eye exam. Hemorrhages are characterized by the leaking of blood into the retina or vitreous humor and are not related to the description provided in the question. Pterygium is a fleshy growth on the conjunctiva that may extend to the cornea but is unrelated to the location and appearance described. Entropion, on the other hand, refers to an inward turning of the eyelid margin, which is not relevant to the context of the question.

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://ophthalmicassistant.examzify.com

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