

# Certified Paraoptometric (CPO) Practice Exam 2026 (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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**SAMPLE**

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## **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.**

## **7. Use Other Tools**

**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!**

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## **Questions**

- 1. Which type of lens may crack or break when it becomes dry?**
  - A. Rigid**
  - B. Soft**
  - C. Hard gas-permeable**
  - D. High-definition**
- 2. True or False: One prism diopter bends a ray of light 1 centimeter for every 1 meter of distance.**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Only for angles less than 10 degrees**
  - D. Depends on the lens thickness**
- 3. What characterizes glaucoma?**
  - A. Inward turning of both eyes**
  - B. A loss of vision in one eye**
  - C. Damage to the optic nerve from increased ocular pressure**
  - D. Formation of excess tears**
- 4. What does the "seg height" measure in multi-focal lenses?**
  - A. The total height of the lens**
  - B. The height from the deepest part of the eyewire to a reference point**
  - C. The thickness of the lens at its center**
  - D. The height of the frame from top to bottom**
- 5. What type of lens is used to diverge parallel light?**
  - A. Convex**
  - B. Concave**
  - C. Spherical**
  - D. Planar**



- 6. What condition is defined as an image focusing on the back of the retina when accommodation is relaxed?**
- A. Myopia**
  - B. Emmetropia**
  - C. Astigmatism**
  - D. Hyperopia**
- 7. What tilt occurs when the bottom of the lenses is closer to the face than the top?**
- A. Monocentric**
  - B. Pantoscopic**
  - C. Inclined**
  - D. Toric**
- 8. Which condition is NOT associated with the issues described in the questions above?**
- A. Diabetic Retinopathy**
  - B. Visual Acuity**
  - C. Pinguecula**
  - D. Graves' disease**
- 9. Which lens has the same power across all areas and is used for correcting myopia or hyperopia?**
- A. Spherical lens**
  - B. Cylindrical lens**
  - C. Multifocal lens**
  - D. Aspheric lens**
- 10. What test is used to assess the binocular relationship of the eyes?**
- A. Retinoscopy**
  - B. Visual Acuity**
  - C. Cover/Uncover test**
  - D. Keratometry**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which type of lens may crack or break when it becomes dry?**

**A. Rigid**

**B. Soft**

**C. Hard gas-permeable**

**D. High-definition**

The correct answer is that rigid lenses may crack or break when they become dry. Rigid lenses, particularly those made from materials like PMMA (Polymethyl methacrylate), are susceptible to drying out, which can lead to brittleness and potential cracking. When these lenses lose moisture, they can become less flexible and more prone to damage upon handling or during insertion and removal. In contrast, soft lenses are designed to retain moisture, making them more resilient to drying effects. They generally maintain their shape and integrity even when exposed to lower humidity levels. Hard gas-permeable lenses, while rigid, are more durable than PMMA and allow oxygen to pass through, making them less likely to crack or break when dry. High-definition lenses refer more to optical clarity or designs and do not specifically relate to dryness and fragility.

**2. True or False: One prism diopter bends a ray of light 1 centimeter for every 1 meter of distance.**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. Only for angles less than 10 degrees**

**D. Depends on the lens thickness**

The statement that one prism diopter bends a ray of light 1 centimeter for every 1 meter of distance is indeed correct. This definition arises from the way prisms function in optics. A prism diopter is a unit of measurement that quantifies the angle of deviation produced by a prism when light passes through it. Specifically, one prism diopter results in a deviation of 1 centimeter at a distance of 1 meter from the prism's apex. This linear relationship holds consistently within typical usage scenarios in optometry. The other options present scenarios that may add complexity not relevant to the straightforward definition of a prism diopter. For instance, the mention of angles less than 10 degrees introduces unnecessary limitations, as the fundamental definition remains valid across a range of angles within practical applications, despite potential deviations in specific cases. Non-uniformity due to lens thickness is another factor that can complicate optics, but for a pure prism setup, the standard measurement remains stable. Therefore, acknowledging the correct definition leads to understanding the basic principle behind prism diopter measurements.

### 3. What characterizes glaucoma?

- A. Inward turning of both eyes
- B. A loss of vision in one eye
- C. Damage to the optic nerve from increased ocular pressure**
- D. Formation of excess tears

The correct answer is characterized by damage to the optic nerve from increased ocular pressure. Glaucoma is primarily associated with elevated intraocular pressure, which can lead to progressive optic nerve damage and visual field loss. This condition typically doesn't present symptoms in its early stages, making regular eye examinations crucial for detection. By specifically focusing on the optic nerve and the effects of raised pressure within the eye, this answer reflects the core aspect of glaucoma's pathology and rationale behind its classification as a leading cause of irreversible blindness worldwide. The other choices describe conditions or symptoms that are not characteristic of glaucoma. For instance, inward turning of both eyes relates more to strabismus or other ocular motility issues, and while loss of vision can occur due to glaucoma, it is not limited to just one eye and is not the defining feature. The formation of excess tears is more associated with other ocular conditions rather than glaucoma.

### 4. What does the "seg height" measure in multi-focal lenses?

- A. The total height of the lens
- B. The height from the deepest part of the eyewire to a reference point**
- C. The thickness of the lens at its center
- D. The height of the frame from top to bottom

The "seg height," or segment height, is an important measurement in fitting multifocal lenses, as it determines the vertical placement of the reading segment in the lens. Measuring from the deepest part of the eyewire to a particular reference point ensures that the segment aligns correctly with the wearer's line of sight while they are reading or engaging in close work. This precise placement is crucial for optimal visual performance and comfort with multifocal lenses. The total height of the lens and the thickness of the lens at its center do not specifically measure how the reading segment is positioned relative to the wearer's gaze. Similarly, the height of the frame from top to bottom simply gives the overall dimensions of the frame rather than focusing on the functionality of the bifocal or multifocal lens segment. Thus, the correct understanding of seg height emphasizes its role in ensuring the effective and appropriate positioning of the reading portion of the lens for the wearer.

**5. What type of lens is used to diverge parallel light?**

- A. Convex
- B. Concave**
- C. Spherical
- D. Planar

The correct choice is the concave lens. A concave lens is designed to diverge parallel light rays that enter it. When parallel light rays pass through a concave lens, they are refracted outward, spreading apart. This characteristic makes concave lenses useful in various applications, such as in eyeglasses for nearsightedness and in optical devices like cameras and microscopes. In contrast, a convex lens converges light rays to a focal point rather than diverging them, making it the opposite of what is being asked in the question. Spherical refers to the shape of the lens rather than its function regarding light rays, and planar indicates a flat surface rather than a lens type that would diverge light. Thus, the unique function of concave lenses to diverge light confirms its correctness in this context.

**6. What condition is defined as an image focusing on the back of the retina when accommodation is relaxed?**

- A. Myopia
- B. Emmetropia
- C. Astigmatism
- D. Hyperopia**

The condition where an image focuses on the back of the retina when accommodation is relaxed is known as hyperopia, which is often referred to as farsightedness. In hyperopia, light rays converge behind the retina, leading to difficulty in focusing on nearby objects. This condition typically requires corrective lenses that allow for proper refraction of light so that images can focus properly on the retina. Emmetropia, in contrast, is the state of having normal vision where images are sharply focused on the retina without the need for corrective lenses. It indicates that the eye can accommodate effectively for different distances without any refractive error. Understanding these distinctions is vital for recognizing how various refractive errors affect vision and the need for appropriate corrective measures.

**7. What tilt occurs when the bottom of the lenses is closer to the face than the top?**

- A. Monocentric**
- B. Pantoscopic**
- C. Inclined**
- D. Toric**

The correct answer is pantoscopic tilt. This term describes the situation where the bottom of the lenses is positioned closer to the face than the top, allowing for a more comfortable and natural vision while looking downward, which is useful for activities such as reading or using a computer. Pantoscopic tilt also helps to align the optical center of the lenses with the visual axis of the eyes, aiding in reducing distortion and enhancing overall visual clarity. Monocentric refers to single-focus lenses and does not pertain to lens tilt. Inclined tilt generally refers to an adjustment in the angle of the lenses that does not specifically align with the described situation. Toric typically relates to lenses with different focal points for astigmatism correction, rather than the tilt of the lenses.

**8. Which condition is NOT associated with the issues described in the questions above?**

- A. Diabetic Retinopathy**
- B. Visual Acuity**
- C. Pinguecula**
- D. Graves' disease**

Graves' disease is an autoimmune disorder that primarily affects the thyroid gland, leading to hyperthyroidism. While it can have ocular manifestations (known as Graves' ophthalmopathy), it is not directly associated with the specific visual or retinal conditions implied by the question. In contrast, diabetic retinopathy is a well-known complication of diabetes that affects the vascular system of the retina, leading to vision issues. Visual acuity refers to the clarity or sharpness of vision and is a critical aspect when discussing eye health and any conditions affecting sight. Pinguecula, a growth on the conjunctiva of the eye, can also influence visual comfort and health, particularly due to its common association with environmental exposure and its potential to cause irritation. Thus, within the context of ocular conditions, Graves' disease stands out as less related to the specific retinal and visual acuity issues being discussed, making it the correct choice as the condition not linked to those visual challenges.



**9. Which lens has the same power across all areas and is used for correcting myopia or hyperopia?**

**A. Spherical lens**

**B. Cylindrical lens**

**C. Multifocal lens**

**D. Aspheric lens**

A spherical lens is designed with a uniform curvature across its entire surface, resulting in consistent optical power throughout the lens. This property ensures that it can effectively focus light entering the lens, making it suitable for correcting conditions like myopia (nearsightedness) and hyperopia (farsightedness). In contrast, cylindrical lenses have a varying curvature that addresses astigmatism by bending light differently in one direction, while multifocal lenses contain multiple areas for different viewing distances, making them unsuitable for conditions that require a single lens power. Aspheric lenses are designed to reduce distortion and aberrations by having a gradual change in curvature, but they still do not provide the uniform power that a spherical lens offers. Thus, a spherical lens is the ideal choice for correcting myopia or hyperopia with consistent optical measurements across the entire lens surface.

**10. What test is used to assess the binocular relationship of the eyes?**

**A. Retinoscopy**

**B. Visual Acuity**

**C. Cover/Uncover test**

**D. Keratometry**

The cover/uncover test is utilized to evaluate the binocular relationship of the eyes, specifically to assess for strabismus or other alignment issues between the two eyes. During this test, one eye is covered while the other is exposed, and then vice versa. This allows the practitioner to observe how each eye moves when the other is covered and to detect any misalignment. If the uncovered eye moves to fixate on an object when the covered eye is uncovered, this indicates that there may be a problem with eye alignment. In contrast, other options listed serve different purposes. Retinoscopy is used to determine the refractive error of the eyes by observing the reflection of light in the retina. Visual acuity tests measure how well a person can see at various distances but do not assess eye coordination or alignment. Keratometry measures the curvature of the cornea, primarily for contact lens fitting and evaluating corneal conditions, rather than assessing the relationship between the two eyes.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://certifiedparaoptometricexam.examzify.com>**

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