

Church of God (COG) Exhorter History and Polity Practice Test (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. No conference will be held in a district except under the direction of the ____.**
 - A. District Overseer**
 - B. Local Elder**
 - C. Church Board**
 - D. Conference Supervisor**

- 2. In what year did the Church of God have its beginning?**
 - A. 1860**
 - B. 1875**
 - C. 1886**
 - D. 1899**

- 3. The International General Council is composed of all which individuals of the Church of God?**
 - A. Exhorters**
 - B. Ordained bishops**
 - C. Laity**
 - D. Elders**

- 4. A local church can determine if it is practical to have a ____.**
 - A. Church and Pastor's Council**
 - B. Finance Committee**
 - C. Mission Board**
 - D. Elders Council**

- 5. A ____ takes care of business arising between regular conferences.**
 - A. called conference**
 - B. annual conference**
 - C. district conference**
 - D. general conference**

- 6. At the international level, which body governs the ownership of church property?**
- A. State World Missions Board**
 - B. International Executive Council**
 - C. International General Assembly**
 - D. District Assembly**
- 7. At the second General Assembly, the Assembly instituted a new order of ministry. What was it called?**
- A. Evangelist**
 - B. Elder**
 - C. Deacon**
 - D. Bishop**
- 8. What was renamed in 1947 to honor F.J. Lee?**
- A. Barr College**
 - B. Lee College**
 - C. F.J. Lee Academy**
 - D. Bible Training School**
- 9. Which body elects the Council of Eighteen?**
- A. General Council**
 - B. International General Assembly**
 - C. International Executive Committee**
 - D. Laity**
- 10. The usual order of business in a conference includes ____.**
- A. financial reports of various departments of the church; other reports of committees, and so forth; transfer of membership, if any; unfinished business, if any; and new business**
 - B. sermon topics of the month**
 - C. choir rehearsals**
 - D. construction plans**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. No conference will be held in a district except under the direction of the ____.

- A. District Overseer**
- B. Local Elder**
- C. Church Board**
- D. Conference Supervisor**

In Church of God polity, district-level events and conferences are under the authority of the District Overseer. This role carries the responsibility to oversee and authorize what happens within the district, ensuring that gatherings align with doctrine, governance, and order. The District Overseer represents the district in coordinating ministers, speakers, and delegates, and provides spiritual and administrative leadership for all churches in that area. The Local Elder operates at the level of the local church rather than the district, the Church Board governs the local congregation, and a Conference Supervisor is not a standard role in this system. Because district conferences require district-wide oversight, the District Overseer is the appropriate directing authority.

2. In what year did the Church of God have its beginning?

- A. 1860**
- B. 1875**
- C. 1886**
- D. 1899**

The year marks the moment a revival movement within the holiness tradition became a distinct church body. In 1886, believers organized in Anderson, Indiana, to form the Church of God as a named denomination, giving it a formal structure and identity beyond informal meetings. That year is used because it represents the official founding, not just earlier revival activity or later organizational changes. Earlier dates reflect the broader holiness awakening, while a later year would miss the actual starting point of the Church of God as a separate body.

3. The International General Council is composed of all which individuals of the Church of God?

- A. Exhorters**
- B. Ordained bishops**
- C. Laity**
- D. Elders**

In the Church of God, the International General Council is the globally governing body whose members are those who have been ordained as bishops. Ordained bishops carry the authority to oversee doctrine, policy, and discipline across regions, making decisions that affect the entire church. Exhorters and elders serve in ministry at local levels and are not ordained to the episcopate, while laity are non-ordained members; they do not sit on the international governing council. Therefore, the council is composed of ordained bishops.

4. A local church can determine if it is practical to have a _____.

- A. Church and Pastor's Council**
- B. Finance Committee**
- C. Mission Board**
- D. Elders Council**

Local church governance rests with the leadership body that includes the pastor and lay representatives—the Church and Pastor's Council. This council has the authority to assess the church's needs, set policy, and decide how the church should be organized, including whether it's practical to establish or adjust governance structures. The other groups described—finance-focused committees, mission boards, or an elders group—are specific bodies that handle particular duties under that broader governance framework; they aren't the ones charged with deciding whether such a leadership council should exist in the first place. Therefore, the Church and Pastor's Council is the best fit because it is the governing body empowered to determine the church's organizational structure.

5. A _____ takes care of business arising between regular conferences.

- A. called conference**
- B. annual conference**
- C. district conference**
- D. general conference**

The main idea being tested is that urgent or time-sensitive church business arising between scheduled gatherings is handled by a called conference. A called conference is a specially summoned meeting designed to address matters that can't wait until the next regular conference. It follows the church's rules for calling such meetings—notice given, a defined quorum, and the authority to decide on issues on behalf of the wider church (with any required steps for ratification if the bylaws demand it). Regular conferences are the planned, periodic gatherings where routine governance, reports, and essential legislation are considered, while called conferences exist specifically to handle between-session business. District or general conferences are versions of regular gatherings at different levels; they're not the mechanism for mid-cycle issues. So, when something urgent comes up between regular conferences, a called conference is the appropriate vehicle to address it promptly.

6. At the international level, which body governs the ownership of church property?

- A. State World Missions Board**
- B. International Executive Council**
- C. International General Assembly**
- D. District Assembly**

In this denomination, ownership of church property at the international level is governed by the International General Assembly. This body acts as the highest legislative authority for the whole church, setting policies and bylaws that bind all districts and local churches. Because it has the final say on church-wide governance, decisions about how property is acquired, titled, managed, or disposed of fall under its jurisdiction, ensuring a unified approach across the entire denomination. The other bodies operate at different scopes. The International Executive Council handles the implementation of Assembly policies and overall administration between assemblies. District-level bodies deal with affairs within their own geographical regions, including local property issues within that district. State or regional mission boards focus on mission-related planning and funding within their areas. Their roles are important, but they do not govern ownership of church property on an international scale.

7. At the second General Assembly, the Assembly instituted a new order of ministry. What was it called?

- A. Evangelist**
- B. Elder**
- C. Deacon**
- D. Bishop**

The question centers on how the Church of God formalized ministry to support outreach beyond a single congregation. At the second General Assembly, they created an official order specifically for itinerant preaching and revival work to establish churches and spread the gospel beyond one local body. That role was named Evangelist, reflecting its purpose as a traveling minister who focuses on preaching, revival, and church-planting across gatherings. This fits better than the other options because elders and deacons are typically tied to local church governance and service, while a bishop would imply a higher level of hierarchical oversight not created at that moment. The Evangelist designation gave the movement a distinct, portable ministry for evangelistic expansion.

8. What was renamed in 1947 to honor F.J. Lee?

- A. Barr College**
- B. Lee College**
- C. F.J. Lee Academy**
- D. Bible Training School**

The key idea here is recognizing how a leader's impact is honored through a name change. In 1947, the church college was renamed to Lee College to honor F.J. Lee for his long and influential service in the Church of God's educational work. This renaming publicly acknowledged his contributions to developing church education, ministerial training, and broader educational leadership within the denomination. The other names were not the chosen tribute in that year, so the renaming to Lee College specifically reflects recognizing F.J. Lee's impact.

9. Which body elects the Council of Eighteen?

- A. General Council**
- B. International General Assembly**
- C. International Executive Committee**
- D. Laity**

In Church of God governance, the General Council is the representative body entrusted with electing leadership that serves between General Assemblies. The Council of Eighteen acts as the executive arm, carrying out policy, administration, and church-wide coordination under the General Council's direction. That makes the General Council the body responsible for choosing the Council of Eighteen, ensuring that the church's day-to-day governance remains accountable to the broader assembly and its delegates. Laity do not directly appoint this council, and while the International General Assembly and the International Executive Committee have their own roles, the specific act of electing the Council of Eighteen is carried out by the General Council.

10. The usual order of business in a conference includes ____.

- A. financial reports of various departments of the church; other reports of committees, and so forth; transfer of membership, if any; unfinished business, if any; and new business**
- B. sermon topics of the month**
- C. choir rehearsals**
- D. construction plans**

In a church conference, meetings follow a formal order of business to keep governance orderly and transparent. The standard sequence begins with financial reports from various departments, then reports from committees, followed by any transfers of membership. After that comes unfinished business, and finally new business. This flow lets members review the church's finances and ongoing work before considering new items, ensuring oversight and orderly decision-making. Items like sermon topics for the month belong to worship planning, not the governance agenda. Choir rehearsals are a music/ministry activity rather than a governance matter. Construction plans would only appear if they are raised as a specific agenda item under the appropriate stage (often as new or unfinished business), rather than as a routine part of the standard order.

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://cogexhorterhistorypolity.examzify.com>

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

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