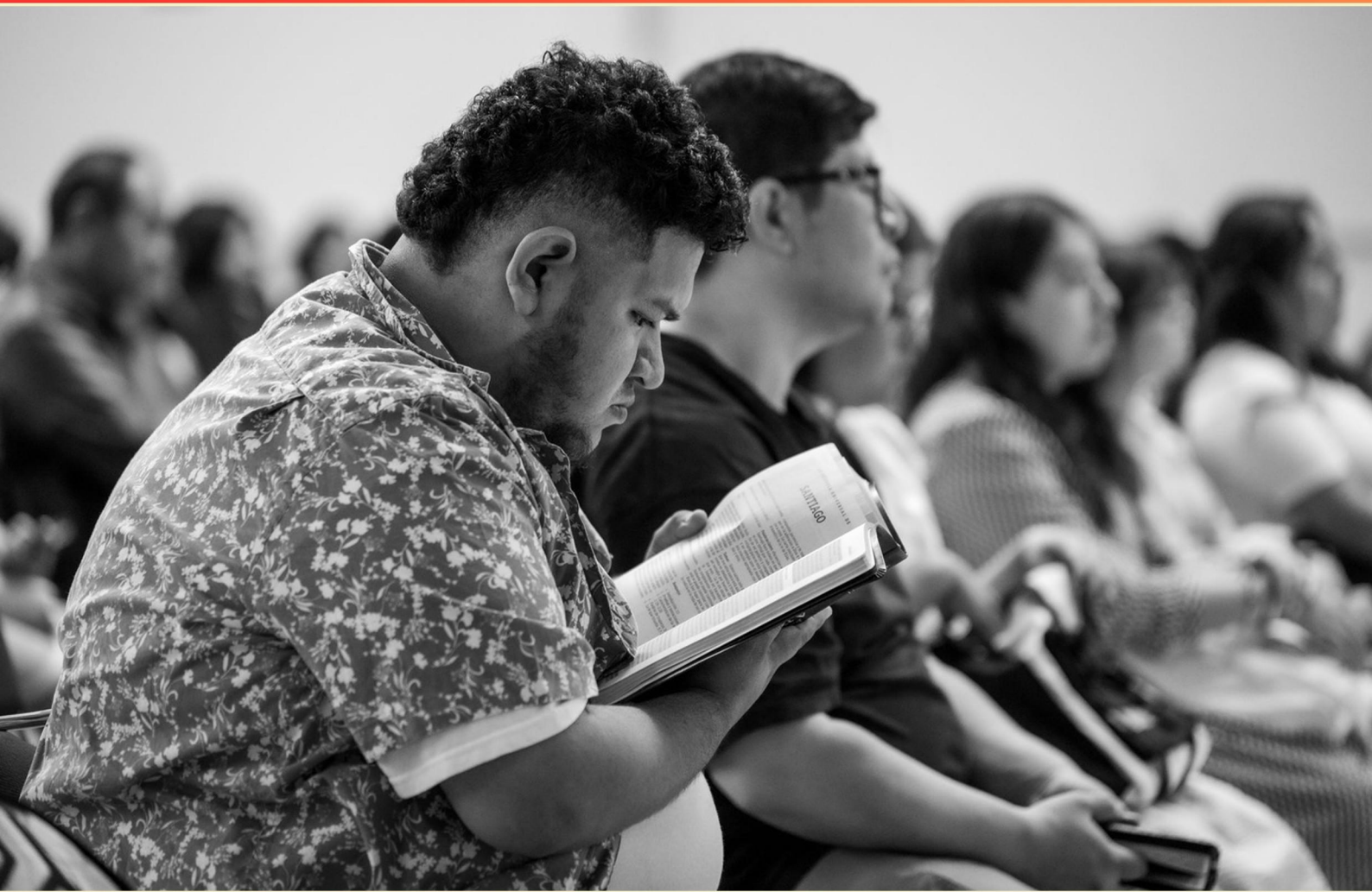


CHURCH OF GOD (COG) EXHORTER HISTORY AND POLITY PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. A member of the Council of Eighteen is eligible to succeed himself for how many term(s)?**
 - A. Two
 - B. One
 - C. Three
 - D. Four
- 2. The Church and Pastor's Council is to be elected biennially by ballot.**
 - A. annually
 - B. biennially
 - C. quarterly
 - D. monthly
- 3. Before approving a building project, who or his designee will determine if the design and financial programs have been approved by proper authorities?**
 - A. State Overseer
 - B. Pastor
 - C. District Overseer
 - D. Local Council
- 4. Which year marked the establishment of the office of general secretary for the Church of God?**
 - A. 1947
 - B. 1923
 - C. 1924
 - D. 1926
- 5. Which body directs district conferences?**
 - A. Pastor
 - B. Board of Trustees
 - C. District Overseer
 - D. Elder

- 6. A local church that owns any property will appoint which body?**
- A. Local Board of Trustees
 - B. Church Council
 - C. Finance Committee
 - D. Pastoral Council
- 7. Which board is responsible for world missions at the state level?**
- A. State Council
 - B. State World Missions Board
 - C. State Music Board
 - D. State Board of Ministerial Development
- 8. Which organization body approves the waiver of the years of active ministry for bishop ordination?**
- A. Administrative Bishop
 - B. Local Church Elders Board
 - C. Executive Council
 - D. General Conference
- 9. Who was the first general overseer of the Church of God?**
- A. J.C. Murphy
 - B. W.F. Bryant
 - C. Richard Spurling
 - D. A.J. Tomlinson
- 10. The ____ is the only rule for government and discipline in the Church of God.**
- A. Bible
 - B. New Testament
 - C. Constitution
 - D. Church Manual

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A member of the Council of Eighteen is eligible to succeed himself for how many term(s)?

- A. Two
- B. One**
- C. Three
- D. Four

The question tests how term limits are set for leadership on the Council of Eighteen. A member may succeed himself for one term, meaning he can be reelected once after his initial term. So a member can serve two terms in succession in total, after which he would need to step aside before another election could occur. This preserves leadership continuity while ensuring rotation and fresh leadership over time.

2. The Church and Pastor's Council is to be elected biennially by ballot.

- A. annually
- B. biennially**
- C. quarterly
- D. monthly

The main idea here is how often leadership is chosen. Biennially means every two years, so electing the Church and Pastor's Council on a two-year cycle fits the statement. The other options describe different frequencies: annually is once per year, quarterly is every three months, and monthly is every month. None of those match a two-year interval. Electing by ballot on a two-year cycle helps maintain continuity in leadership while providing regular, predictable accountability to the congregation.

3. Before approving a building project, who or his designee will determine if the design and financial programs have been approved by proper authorities?

- A. State Overseer**
- B. Pastor
- C. District Overseer
- D. Local Council

The main idea here is who has the ultimate authority to verify that a building project has the proper approvals. In this governance structure, the one who confirms that both the design and the financial programs have been approved by the appropriate authorities is the State Overseer, or a person he designates to stand in for him. The state overseer carries the overall responsibility for ensuring that capital projects comply with church policy and that required approvals from local councils and other authorities have been obtained. A designee—such as a district overseer—can handle the review and sign-off on his behalf when delegated, keeping the process moving while maintaining accountability to the state level. The local pastor and local council play important roles in local matters, but they do not have the final responsibility to certify that all proper approvals are in place for a building project across the jurisdiction.

4. Which year marked the establishment of the office of general secretary for the Church of God?

- A. 1947
- B. 1923
- C. 1924**
- D. 1926

The concept here is how a church formalizes its leadership as it grows. Establishing a General Secretary creates a dedicated administrative officer to handle official records, minutes, correspondence, and published communications, which helps keep governance consistent across all assemblies. In the Church of God, this office was established in the year nineteen twenty-four, signaling the move from informal, ad hoc record-keeping to a defined role serving the entire church body. That year is the best answer because it reflects the moment when the church formalized this key administrative function; other years relate to different reforms or later developments, not the creation of the General Secretary's office.

5. Which body directs district conferences?

- A. Pastor
- B. Board of Trustees
- C. District Overseer**
- D. Elder

In district governance, the District Overseer is the one who directs district conferences. This role oversees multiple local churches within a district and presides over the district gathering, sets the agenda, and coordinates the spiritual and administrative work at that level. The pastor leads the local church and its own conference, the elder serves as a church leader within the congregation, and the Board of Trustees focuses on property and finances rather than directing the district meeting. So the District Overseer is the best answer because the district-wide leadership and oversight of district conferences rests with that office.

6. A local church that owns any property will appoint which body?

- A. Local Board of Trustees**
- B. Church Council
- C. Finance Committee
- D. Pastoral Council

In church governance, property is held in trust by a designated fiduciary body. For a local church that owns property, the body appointed to hold and manage that property is the Local Board of Trustees. This group has the legal authority to hold title, sign deeds or mortgages, approve property transfers, and handle other real estate matters on behalf of the church, ensuring the property is managed in accordance with the church's bylaws and denomination rules. The other bodies serve different roles: the Church Council generally guides overall church administration and ministry planning; the Finance Committee oversees budgets and financial matters; and a Pastoral Council (where present) focuses on pastoral oversight or ministry concerns. None of these are primarily charged with owning or title-holding authority for church property the way the Local Board of Trustees is.

7. Which board is responsible for world missions at the state level?

- A. State Council
- B. State World Missions Board**
- C. State Music Board
- D. State Board of Ministerial Development

World missions at the state level are coordinated by the State World Missions Board. This board is specifically tasked with guiding and supporting missionary efforts beyond the local church, connecting state churches with the denomination's global missions work. It oversees endorsements and assignments for missionaries, approves mission projects within the state, and manages related funding and partnerships in line with the broader world missions strategy. The other boards target different responsibilities: the State Council handles governance and policy, the State Music Board oversees worship and music ministries, and the State Board of Ministerial Development focuses on ministerial training and credentialing. So, the board responsible for world missions at the state level is the State World Missions Board.

8. Which organization body approves the waiver of the years of active ministry for bishop ordination?

- A. Administrative Bishop
- B. Local Church Elders Board
- C. Executive Council**
- D. General Conference

In church governance, decisions that modify standard ordination requirements in exceptional cases are handled by the body that acts for the General Conference between its formal sessions. The Executive Council serves this role, reviewing proposals and granting policy exceptions so the church can move forward without waiting for the next full General Conference. Therefore, approving a waiver of the years of active ministry for bishop ordination falls within the Executive Council's remit, since it involves applying or adjusting policy at a church-wide level between conferences. The Administrative Bishop and Local Church Elders Board operate at more local or district levels and don't have authority to make interchurch policy waivers for episcopal ordination. The General Conference remains the highest policymaking body, but between gatherings, the Executive Council is the delegated authority to act on such matters, which is why this option best fits.

9. Who was the first general overseer of the Church of God?

- A. J.C. Murphy
- B. W.F. Bryant
- C. Richard Spurling
- D. A.J. Tomlinson**

The main idea here is who first established a centralized leadership role for the Church of God by creating the office of General Overseer. In the early Church of God movement, leaders laid the groundwork and preached holiness, but the formal position of General Overseer was created to provide unified governance for the growing network of churches. A.J. Tomlinson emerged as the key figure who was elected to this new role, becoming the first General Overseer and setting the pattern for how the denomination would be led and organized going forward. His leadership helped shape the church's structure, outreach, and doctrinal direction as it expanded. The other named individuals were important early leaders within the movement, but they did not hold the inaugural General Overseer position.

10. The ____ is the only rule for government and discipline in the Church of God.

A. Bible

B. New Testament

C. Constitution

D. Church Manual

The New Testament contains the specific instructions and examples for how the church should be governed and disciplined. It lays out who leads (elders, overseers), how decisions are made, and the proper process for addressing sin within the congregation, including steps for correction and restoration. In the Church of God, these New Testament patterns are treated as the standard by which all church government and disciplinary practices are measured. The Constitution and Church Manual are important practical guides, but they are human-made, subordinate documents that derive authority from Scripture and must align with its teachings; they do not themselves establish the church's spiritual authority. The Bible as a whole is the ultimate source, but when it comes to the rules governing church order and discipline, the New Testament provides the explicit guidance and example to follow.

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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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