# CITI Training CUNY Researcher Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide


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# Questions

**1. Which of the following best explains a conflict of interest?**

- **A. It is when a researcher has equal benefits in all outcomes**
- **B. It is any situation where personal interests could potentially influence professional decisions**
- **C. It specifically relates to political affiliations**
- **D. It involves personal relationships only**

**2. Which scenario does NOT represent research misconduct?**

- **A. Recording results from an experiment accurately**
- **B. Publishing research without proper attribution**
- **C. Intentionally omitting data to mislead**
- **D. Claiming credit for work not done**

**3. What is the purpose of a data safety monitoring plan?**

- **A. To ensure that data is kept secure after the research concludes**
- **B. To ensure participant safety and data integrity during a study**
- **C. To provide insurance for research participants**
- **D. To monitor financial transactions in research funding**

**4. What is a responsibility of reviewers when evaluating manuscripts?**

- **A. Reviewers must write a summary of their personal opinions**
- **B. Reviewers should identify positive and negative aspects and suggest improvements**
- **C. Reviewers are only required to point out statistical errors**
- **D. Reviewers should only look for major flaws**

**5. What is the intended outcome of having conflict-of-interest policies in grant proposal reviews?**

- **A. To speed up the review process**
- **B. To eliminate all personal opinions**
- **C. To minimize the risk of unfair advantages**
- **D. To promote networking among researchers**

**6. What should a reviewer do if they have a non-financial conflict of interest?**

- **A. Inform the editor and proceed as usual**
- **B. Not disclose it**
- **C. Take no action**
- **D. Withdraw from the review process**

**7. What does ethical writing ensure regarding information presented?**

- **A. It can be modified without citations**
- **B. It is perceived by readers as previously shared**
- **C. Readers assume it is accurate and original**
- **D. It permits unlimited use of prior work**

**8. In research, what is meant by "active consent"?**

- **A. Participants must verbally agree to all terms**
- **B. Participants must provide explicit agreement through a signed consent form**
- **C. Participants can consent through implied actions**
- **D. Participants agree through a third-party endorsement**

**9. Which of the following is a fundamental ethical responsibility of researchers?**

- **A. To maximize the number of participants in a study**
- **B. To avoid harming human subjects during the research process**
- **C. To publish results regardless of outcomes**
- **D. To share participant data publicly**

**10. What is a Research Protocol?**

- **A. A summary of preliminary findings**
- **B. A description of the research tools used**
- **C. A detailed plan outlining the research objectives, methodology, and ethical considerations for a study**
- **D. A report on research compliance with funding agencies**

# Answers

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

# Explanations

## 1. Which of the following best explains a conflict of interest?

**A. It is when a researcher has equal benefits in all outcomes**

**B. It is any situation where personal interests could potentially influence professional decisions**

**C. It specifically relates to political affiliations**

**D. It involves personal relationships only**

**A conflict of interest occurs when an individual's personal interests—such as financial, familial, or other affiliations—might compromise their professional judgment or decision-making. Essentially, it highlights circumstances where an individual's private interests could interfere with their ability to act impartially in their professional role. Understanding this definition is crucial for researchers and professionals, as it emphasizes the importance of maintaining integrity and transparency in their work. It helps to ensure decisions are made based on objective criteria rather than personal gain or bias, which is fundamental to ethical research practices and professional conduct. The other choices do not encompass the broad and nuanced nature of conflicts of interest as effectively. While political affiliations or personal relationships could be aspects of a conflict of interest, they do not fully represent the wide array of situations where personal interests might interfere with professional responsibilities. Therefore, recognizing the comprehensive definition offered in the correct choice is essential for understanding how to manage and disclose any potential conflicts in research and other professional contexts.**

## 2. Which scenario does NOT represent research misconduct?

**A. Recording results from an experiment accurately**

**B. Publishing research without proper attribution**

**C. Intentionally omitting data to mislead**

**D. Claiming credit for work not done**

**Recording results from an experiment accurately is a fundamental practice in research and upholds the integrity of the scientific process. This activity reflects honesty and diligence, which are essential principles in conducting and reporting research findings. Accurate recording ensures that results can be validated and reproduced by other researchers, thereby contributing to the reliability and advancement of knowledge in a given field. In contrast, publishing research without proper attribution, intentionally omitting data to mislead, and claiming credit for work not done all represent serious violations of ethical standards in research. These actions undermine trust in the scientific community, mislead other researchers and the public, and can distort the body of knowledge in significant ways.**

## 3. What is the purpose of a data safety monitoring plan?

**A. To ensure that data is kept secure after the research concludes**

**B. To ensure participant safety and data integrity during a study**

**C. To provide insurance for research participants**

**D. To monitor financial transactions in research funding**

**A data safety monitoring plan is critical for safeguarding both participant safety and the integrity of the data collected during a study. This plan outlines the procedures for monitoring the progress of the research, assessing the safety risks to participants, and evaluating the effectiveness of the interventions being tested. By implementing such a plan, researchers actively track any adverse events, ensure compliance with ethical standards, and can make modifications to the study if significant risks are identified. This proactive approach is essential to protect participants and ensure that the findings from the research are valid and reliable. In contrast, the other options do not accurately reflect the primary role of a data safety monitoring plan. While maintaining data security is important, it is not the focus of this specific plan. Providing insurance for research participants is not part of monitoring data safety or integrity. Lastly, monitoring financial transactions relates to budgeting and funding aspects of research, rather than the health and safety of participants or the validity of data. Thus, the correct choice emphasizes the plan's primary objective: to uphold participant safety and ensure valid data throughout the research process.**

## 4. What is a responsibility of reviewers when evaluating manuscripts?

**A. Reviewers must write a summary of their personal opinions**

**B. Reviewers should identify positive and negative aspects and suggest improvements**

**C. Reviewers are only required to point out statistical errors**

**D. Reviewers should only look for major flaws**

**Reviewers play a critical role in the manuscript evaluation process by providing thoughtful and constructive feedback that enhances the quality of the research being presented. One of their key responsibilities is to identify both the positive and negative aspects of a manuscript. This balanced assessment allows authors to recognize the strengths of their work as well as areas that require improvement. By suggesting enhancements, reviewers contribute to the overall scientific discourse and help ensure that the research meets the necessary standards before publication. This comprehensive approach not only aids authors in refining their manuscripts but also benefits the academic community by promoting robust and credible research findings. In contrast, the other options do not cover the full scope of a reviewer's responsibilities. Writing a summary of personal opinions may not provide the objective insight needed for improvement, focusing solely on statistical errors limits the review to a narrow aspect of the research, and looking only for major flaws overlooks the importance of nuanced feedback that can help elevate the overall quality of the work.**

## 5. What is the intended outcome of having conflict-of-interest policies in grant proposal reviews?

**A. To speed up the review process**

**B. To eliminate all personal opinions**

**C. To minimize the risk of unfair advantages**

**D. To promote networking among researchers**

**The intended outcome of having conflict-of-interest policies in grant proposal reviews is specifically to minimize the risk of unfair advantages. These policies are established to ensure that the review process is fair and impartial, allowing for an equitable evaluation of all proposals, regardless of the personal relationships or biases of the reviewers. By addressing potential conflicts of interest, the integrity of the evaluation process is upheld, which helps maintain public trust in the distribution of funding and resources. This is essential for ensuring that grants are awarded based on merit and the potential impact of the research, rather than on personal connections or conflicts that may influence a reviewer's judgment.**

## 6. What should a reviewer do if they have a non-financial conflict of interest?

**A. Inform the editor and proceed as usual**

**B. Not disclose it**

**C. Take no action**

**D. Withdraw from the review process**

**When a reviewer encounters a non-financial conflict of interest, the most responsible course of action is to inform the editor and continue with the review process. By disclosing the conflict, the reviewer demonstrates transparency and integrity, which are crucial in maintaining the credibility of the peer review system. This not only allows the editor to assess the situation but also ensures that the integrity of the review process is upheld. Adhering to this protocol helps in managing potential biases that may arise from the conflict, thereby contributing to a more objective evaluation of the manuscript. The transparency also reassures authors and readers that the evaluation of their work has been conducted fairly and without undue influence. The other options do not uphold the standards of ethical conduct expected in scholarly publishing. Not disclosing a conflict undermines the integrity of the review process, while taking no action also fails to address the ethical implications of a conflict. Withdrawing from the review process might be appropriate in some scenarios, but informing the editor first allows for a more nuanced resolution that could still permit the continuation of the review, if deemed appropriate by the editor.**

## 7. What does ethical writing ensure regarding information presented?

**A. It can be modified without citations**

**B. It is perceived by readers as previously shared**

**C. Readers assume it is accurate and original**

**D. It permits unlimited use of prior work**

**Ethical writing ensures that readers assume the information presented is accurate and original. When researchers and writers uphold ethical standards, they are required to provide credible, reliable information that has been properly vetted and sourced. This fosters trust between the writer and readers, as ethical practices in writing not only involve presenting data faithfully but also giving appropriate credit to original sources and maintaining the integrity of the material. Through accurate representation and appropriate citation, ethical writing safeguards against misinformation and plagiarism, ensuring that readers can confidently regard the work as both reliable and original.**

## 8. In research, what is meant by "active consent"?

**A. Participants must verbally agree to all terms**

**B. Participants must provide explicit agreement through a signed consent form**

**C. Participants can consent through implied actions**

**D. Participants agree through a third-party endorsement**

**Active consent refers to the requirement that participants provide explicit agreement to participate in a study, typically through a signed consent form. This process ensures that participants are fully informed about the nature of the research, any potential risks, and their right to withdraw at any time without penalty. By obtaining written consent, researchers can confirm that participants understand their involvement and the study's requirements, thus reinforcing ethical standards in research. This method is essential for safeguarding the autonomy of participants and ensuring that they are not only aware of what they are agreeing to, but that they have actively chosen to participate. Written consent captures this clearly, making it a robust form of documentation that can help protect both the participants and the researchers if any questions about the consent process arise later on.**

## 9. Which of the following is a fundamental ethical responsibility of researchers?

**A. To maximize the number of participants in a study**

**B. To avoid harming human subjects during the research process**

**C. To publish results regardless of outcomes**

**D. To share participant data publicly**

**The fundamental ethical responsibility of researchers revolves around the principle of ensuring the safety and well-being of human subjects involved in their studies. Avoiding harm to participants is central to research ethics, as highlighted by ethical guidelines such as the Belmont Report, which emphasizes the importance of beneficence. This principle mandates that researchers actively work to minimize risks and prevent any potential physical or psychological harm to participants. By prioritizing the well-being of subjects, researchers uphold important ethical standards that protect individuals from exploitation or distress during the research process. This focus on preventing harm not only strengthens the integrity of the research but also fosters public trust in scientific inquiry. While maximizing the number of participants, publishing results regardless of outcomes, and sharing participant data may have their respective merits in research, they do not address the immediate ethical concern of participant safety, which is paramount. Hence, avoiding harm to human subjects stands out as the correct answer regarding fundamental ethical responsibilities in research.**

## 10. What is a Research Protocol?

**A. A summary of preliminary findings**

**B. A description of the research tools used**

**C. A detailed plan outlining the research objectives, methodology, and ethical considerations for a study**

**D. A report on research compliance with funding agencies**

**A research protocol serves as a comprehensive framework that outlines the objectives, methodology, and ethical considerations for a study. It is crucial for guiding researchers through the process of conducting their research effectively and ethically. The protocol typically includes a clear statement of the research question or hypothesis, detailed descriptions of the study design, participant selection criteria, data collection and analysis methods, and plans for managing potential risks. It also emphasizes ethical considerations, such as informed consent and safeguarding participant confidentiality, ensuring that research adheres to ethical standards. This structured approach not only helps in maintaining the integrity of the research process but is also essential for obtaining approval from ethical review boards or funding agencies. It provides a clear roadmap for researchers, detailing how they intend to conduct their study while upholding the highest standards of scientific practice.**