

COA Ophthalmic Tech Practice Exam (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. Jaeger notations, Snellen M units, and distance equivalents are used to measure what aspect of vision?**
 - A. Peripheral vision**
 - B. Binocular vision**
 - C. Near visual acuity**
 - D. Color perception**

- 2. What kind of light do topical anesthetics help manage during an eye examination?**
 - A. UV light**
 - B. Infrared light**
 - C. Visible light**
 - D. Fluorescent light**

- 3. What is the name of the test used for detecting a relative afferent pupillary defect?**
 - A. Visual acuity test**
 - B. Swinging flashlight test**
 - C. Pupillary response test**
 - D. Optokinetic nystagmus test**

- 4. Primary open-angle glaucoma primarily damages which part of the eye?**
 - A. The cornea**
 - B. The pupil**
 - C. The optic nerve**
 - D. The retina**

- 5. What is the process called where the lens changes shape to allow focusing on a near target?**
 - A. Refraction**
 - B. Accommodation**
 - C. Convergence**
 - D. Diversion**

- 6. Which of the following methods can be used to measure visual acuity potential?**
- A. Potential acuity meter**
 - B. Visual field test**
 - C. Confrontation test**
 - D. Fundus examination**
- 7. Which part of the eye is surgically addressed for congenital strabismus?**
- A. The lens**
 - B. The cornea**
 - C. The eye muscles**
 - D. The optic nerve**
- 8. In which condition might you observe inflammation indicated by the suffix "itis"?**
- A. Cataracts**
 - B. Conjunctivitis**
 - C. Myopia**
 - D. Retinal detachment**
- 9. Dry eyes are commonly associated with which condition?**
- A. Asthma**
 - B. Rheumatoid arthritis**
 - C. Eczema**
 - D. Psoriasis**
- 10. What is the only acceptable rinsing solution for contact lenses?**
- A. Tap water**
 - B. Distilled water**
 - C. Sterile saline solution**
 - D. Multipurpose contact lens solution**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Jaeger notations, Snellen M units, and distance equivalents are used to measure what aspect of vision?

- A. Peripheral vision**
- B. Binocular vision**
- C. Near visual acuity**
- D. Color perception**

Jaeger notations, Snellen M units, and distance equivalents are specifically utilized to assess near visual acuity, which pertains to the clarity or sharpness of vision when focusing on objects at close range. Jaeger notations provide a scale to measure near vision performance, typically represented by different point sizes that correspond to various levels of near acuity. For instance, a Jaeger chart might include sizes ranging from J1 (smallest) to J10 (largest). Snellen M units, on the other hand, measure vision performance at a particular distance, often specified in meters for near vision tasks. This system allows for standardized measurements that practitioners can use clinically to gauge a patient's near visual ability. Distance equivalents convert near vision measurements into comparable values for distance vision, offering an understanding of how these performance levels correlate. These tools primarily focus on evaluating how well an individual can see objects that are close to them, which is essential for tasks such as reading and other close-up work. Hence, the correct answer emphasizes the role of these notations and units in measuring near visual acuity.

2. What kind of light do topical anesthetics help manage during an eye examination?

- A. UV light**
- B. Infrared light**
- C. Visible light**
- D. Fluorescent light**

Topical anesthetics are used in eye examinations primarily to manage discomfort and pain that might arise when using certain instruments or during procedures, such as tonometry or foreign body removal. While the type of light that might hit the eye during examinations typically falls in the visible spectrum, topical anesthetics allow for better patient cooperation and comfort, enabling a clearer view of the interior of the eye when illuminated by visible light. In a practical sense, during an examination, visible light is commonly used for inspections, and the anesthetic helps ensure that the eye can be examined without causing distress to the patient. This makes it easier to assess conditions and perform necessary tests. Other types of light, such as UV or infrared light, are not relevant for the comfort or pain management specifically during these procedures. They may have their own uses in ophthalmology but do not relate to the use of topical anesthetics in this context.

3. What is the name of the test used for detecting a relative afferent pupillary defect?

- A. Visual acuity test
- B. Swinging flashlight test**
- C. Pupillary response test
- D. Optokinetic nystagmus test

The swinging flashlight test is the method specifically designed to detect a relative afferent pupillary defect (RAPD). This test evaluates the function of the optic nerve and the relative sensitivity of both eyes to light. During the procedure, a flashlight is alternately moved from one eye to the other. If one eye has a defect, it will respond less to the light than the unaffected eye, leading to a constriction of the pupil in the unaffected eye when light is directed towards it, but a lesser constriction or even a dilatation when the light is directed at the affected eye. This change in pupillary response is indicative of a relative afferent pupillary defect, making the swinging flashlight test a key assessment in ophthalmology for diagnosing optic nerve issues or retinal conditions. In contrast, visual acuity tests assess sharpness of vision and are not designed to detect defects in the pupillary light reflex. The general term "pupillary response test" lacks specificity in this context, as it does not pinpoint the technique used to identify afferent defects. Lastly, the optokinetic nystagmus test evaluates the eye's movement in response to moving visual stimuli and doesn't assess pupillary reactions or defects in the afferent pathway

4. Primary open-angle glaucoma primarily damages which part of the eye?

- A. The cornea
- B. The pupil
- C. The optic nerve**
- D. The retina

Primary open-angle glaucoma primarily damages the optic nerve. This condition is characterized by an increase in intraocular pressure that gradually affects the optic nerve fibers. Damage to the optic nerve is significant because it leads to the progressive loss of peripheral vision, and if left untreated, it can eventually result in complete vision loss. In the context of this condition, the optic nerve can become compromised as the elevated pressure disrupts its function and can lead to atrophy of the nerve fibers. This is critical in understanding how glaucoma affects vision and the importance of regular eye examinations to monitor the health of the optic nerve, especially in individuals at risk for glaucoma. Preventative measures and treatments aim to lower intraocular pressure in order to preserve the health of the optic nerve and maintain visual function. Other anatomical structures, such as the cornea, pupil, and retina, do have their own associated disorders, but they are not primarily affected by primary open-angle glaucoma in the same way that the optic nerve is.

5. What is the process called where the lens changes shape to allow focusing on a near target?

A. Refraction

B. Accommodation

C. Convergence

D. Diversion

The process where the lens changes shape to allow focusing on a near target is called accommodation. This is a crucial function of the eye that enables individuals to see clearly at different distances. When focusing on a near object, the ciliary muscles contract, which allows the lens to become thicker and increase its curvature. This change in lens shape increases its optical power, allowing the eye to focus light correctly onto the retina. Accommodation is essential for near vision tasks, such as reading or viewing close objects. As one ages, the ability to accommodate often diminishes, leading to presbyopia, which is the difficulty in focusing on close objects due to the lens becoming less flexible over time. The other options do not describe this specific process related to focusing for near vision. For example, refraction refers to the bending of light rays as they enter the eye, convergence involves the inward movement of both eyes towards each other, and diversion is not a term typically used in the context of vision.

6. Which of the following methods can be used to measure visual acuity potential?

A. Potential acuity meter

B. Visual field test

C. Confrontation test

D. Fundus examination

The potential acuity meter is specifically designed to measure visual acuity potential, particularly in patients who may have cataracts or other conditions that obscure their visual acuity. This device allows for the assessment of how well a patient can see through the optical media by projecting a vision chart onto the retina, effectively circumventing any opacities. It helps determine the patient's highest level of vision that could be achieved if the opacities were removed or resolved. Other methods listed, such as visual field tests and confrontation tests, assess different aspects of vision, like peripheral vision and gross visual field, rather than the potential visual acuity directly. Fundus examination primarily allows an ophthalmologist to view the interior surface of the eye and diagnose conditions, but it does not measure visual acuity. Thus, the potential acuity meter is the instrument that directly evaluates visual acuity potential, making it the correct choice.

7. Which part of the eye is surgically addressed for congenital strabismus?

- A. The lens
- B. The cornea
- C. The eye muscles**
- D. The optic nerve

Congenital strabismus, which is the misalignment of the eyes present at birth, typically involves surgical intervention targeting the eye muscles. The rationale behind this is that strabismus arises when the eye muscles do not function in harmony, leading to the affected eye deviating from proper alignment and gaze. During surgery for congenital strabismus, an ophthalmologist may adjust the tension or location of the extraocular muscles that control eye movement. By strengthening or weakening these muscles, the surgeon aims to restore proper alignment and improve binocular vision, enhancing the patient's ability to use both eyes together effectively. The lens, cornea, and optic nerve are not the primary structures involved in treating strabismus. While they play crucial roles in overall vision, they do not directly contribute to the muscle coordination or alignment issues characteristic of strabismus. Thus, addressing the eye muscles is essential in the surgical correction of this condition.

8. In which condition might you observe inflammation indicated by the suffix "itis"?

- A. Cataracts
- B. Conjunctivitis**
- C. Myopia
- D. Retinal detachment

The suffix "itis" is commonly used in medical terminology to denote inflammation. In the context of the choices provided, "conjunctivitis" is the condition characterized by inflammation, specifically of the conjunctiva, which is the membrane covering the white part of the eyes and the inner eyelids. Conjunctivitis can present with symptoms such as redness, itching, and discharge, clearly indicating an inflammatory process. The other conditions mentioned do not primarily involve inflammation as a defining characteristic. Cataracts refer to the clouding of the eye's lens, myopia (nearsightedness) is a refractive error without an inflammatory component, and retinal detachment is a serious condition involving the separation of the retina, which may not involve inflammation in the same way that conjunctivitis does. Hence, conjunctivitis is the most accurate choice concerning inflammation as indicated by the suffix "itis."

9. Dry eyes are commonly associated with which condition?

- A. Asthma
- B. Rheumatoid arthritis**
- C. Eczema
- D. Psoriasis

Dry eyes are commonly associated with rheumatoid arthritis due to the nature of this autoimmune disorder. Rheumatoid arthritis is known to cause systemic inflammation that can affect various glands in the body, including the lacrimal glands responsible for tear production. When these glands are impacted, the production of tears can decrease, leading to sensations of dryness, irritation, and discomfort in the eyes. In addition, rheumatoid arthritis can be linked to Sjögren's syndrome, a condition that specifically targets moisture-producing glands and commonly results in dry eyes and dry mouth. The systemic involvement and autoimmune response in rheumatoid arthritis create a higher likelihood of developing dry eye symptoms compared to the other conditions listed, which do not have a direct association with tear production or lacrimal gland function.

10. What is the only acceptable rinsing solution for contact lenses?

- A. Tap water
- B. Distilled water
- C. Sterile saline solution**
- D. Multipurpose contact lens solution

The only acceptable rinsing solution for contact lenses is a sterile saline solution. Saline is specifically formulated to maintain the osmotic balance and pH that is compatible with the eye, making it safe for rinsing contact lenses. It helps to remove debris and contaminants without risking irritation or harm to the eye. Using tap water or distilled water can introduce bacteria or other contaminants, increasing the risk of infections or complications. Tap water, even if it seems clean, can contain microorganisms that pose a hazard to the integrity of the lens and eye health. Distilled water lacks the necessary components that match the natural tear film, which could also lead to discomfort or an adverse reaction when lenses come into contact with the eye. Multipurpose contact lens solutions are designed for cleaning, disinfecting, and storing lenses, but they are not intended strictly for rinsing. While they can provide some similar functionalities, they may not be the ideal choice for rinsing lenses immediately prior to insertion, as they contain preservatives that could cause irritation if the lenses are not adequately rinsed before application to the eye. Therefore, the sterile saline solution is the most appropriate choice for rinsing contact lenses, ensuring that users maintain proper eye care and lens hygiene.

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://coaophthalmictech.examzify.com>

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

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