

Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) Board Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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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. If a patient writes 'N/A' on a health history form, what does this indicate?**
 - A. Not applicable**
 - B. Not available**
 - C. Not aware**
 - D. Not advised**
- 2. During a pulpotomy procedure, which dental instrument is frequently used?**
 - A. Dental mirror**
 - B. Small surgical curette**
 - C. Scalpel**
 - D. Pliers**
- 3. To construct a mouth guard, what type of impression must the dental assistant take?**
 - A. A full arch impression**
 - B. An anteroposterior impression**
 - C. An anginate impression**
 - D. A bite registration impression**
- 4. What key role does a dental assistant play in an orthodontic office?**
 - A. Performing extractions**
 - B. Motivate and reinforce home oral care**
 - C. Making laboratory models**
 - D. Conducting patient exams**
- 5. In dental terminology, what does 'periodontal' refer to?**
 - A. Tissues surrounding the teeth**
 - B. Neurological conditions affecting teeth**
 - C. Enamel structures of teeth**
 - D. Cavity formation**

6. What does receiving a credit memo from the supplier indicate?

- A. The supplier is providing free products**
- B. The company is reducing the balance of the account**
- C. Products were returned for credit**
- D. The account has been settled**

7. How much higher is the assistant's eye level compared to the dentist when seated?

- A. Two to four inches**
- B. Four to six inches**
- C. Six to eight inches**
- D. Eight to ten inches**

8. Who is typically classified as a subscriber in a dental context?

- A. Employee**
- B. Provider**
- C. Patient**
- D. Insurance Holder**

9. What is the normal range of systolic blood pressure for an adult male?

- A. 100-120 mmHg**
- B. 110-130 mmHg**
- C. 120-140 mmHg**
- D. 130-150 mmHg**

10. What is one of the primary roles of riboflavin in the body?

- A. Carbohydrate synthesis**
- B. Cell membrane structure**
- C. Energy production**
- D. Hormone regulation**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If a patient writes 'N/A' on a health history form, what does this indicate?

A. Not applicable

B. Not available

C. Not aware

D. Not advised

When a patient writes 'N/A' on a health history form, it typically stands for "Not Applicable." This response is used by individuals to indicate that a particular question or section does not apply to their specific situation or circumstances. For example, if a patient has never had surgery, they might write 'N/A' next to the question regarding previous surgical history, signifying that the question is unrelated to their case. This helps healthcare providers understand which areas of the form are relevant to the patient and which can be disregarded. In contrast, the other interpretations of 'N/A' do not accurately represent the common usage in health documentation. "Not available" would imply that the information is unavailable rather than irrelevant to the patient's health history. "Not aware" suggests a lack of knowledge on the part of the patient about a specific issue, which is not what 'N/A' indicates. "Not advised" could imply some sort of guidance or recommendation, which is not related to the intent behind using 'N/A' in this context. Therefore, understanding that 'N/A' signifies "Not Applicable" is essential for interpreting health history forms accurately.

2. During a pulpotomy procedure, which dental instrument is frequently used?

A. Dental mirror

B. Small surgical curette

C. Scalpel

D. Pliers

In a pulpotomy procedure, the small surgical curette is frequently utilized to effectively remove the pulp tissue from the chamber of the tooth. This instrument is designed with a spoon-shaped end, enabling the clinician to scoop out the affected tissue with precision. The small surgical curette allows for controlled removal of the pulp while minimizing trauma to surrounding tooth structures, which is essential in maintaining the integrity of the tooth for future restorative work. The dental mirror serves a different purpose, mainly used for visualization and indirect illumination in the oral cavity but not for directly manipulating or removing tissue. A scalpel is typically reserved for incising soft tissues rather than for the act of excising pulp tissue in a pulpotomy. Pliers, while useful in various dental procedures for gripping or holding instruments, are not relevant in the context of pulp tissue removal during this specific procedure. Therefore, the use of the small surgical curette is integral to achieving the goals of a successful pulpotomy.

3. To construct a mouth guard, what type of impression must the dental assistant take?

- A. A full arch impression**
- B. An anteroposterior impression**
- C. An anginate impression**
- D. A bite registration impression**

The correct approach for constructing a mouth guard involves taking an impression that captures the entirety of the dental arch. A full arch impression provides a comprehensive representation of the upper or lower dental arch, including the teeth, gingival margins, and surrounding structures. This complete capture is crucial in ensuring that the mouth guard fits accurately and comfortably, providing the necessary protection during activities. While some of the other options may serve specific purposes in various dental procedures, they do not offer the level of detail or coverage needed for a mouth guard. An anteroposterior impression is limited and may not provide the full context of the arch needed for custom fitting. An anginate impression, on the other hand, refers more to a specific, less common technique and does not adequately cover the necessary area for a mouth guard. A bite registration impression captures the occlusal relationship of the teeth but does not sufficiently represent the entire arch required for fabricating a properly fitted mouth guard. This emphasis on a full arch impression is critical to achieving functional and comfortable dental appliances like mouth guards, which must accommodate the shape, size, and alignment of the entire dental arch for effective oral protection.

4. What key role does a dental assistant play in an orthodontic office?

- A. Performing extractions**
- B. Motivate and reinforce home oral care**
- C. Making laboratory models**
- D. Conducting patient exams**

In an orthodontic office, a dental assistant plays a crucial role in motivating and reinforcing home oral care among patients. This responsibility is essential as orthodontic treatment often requires consistent and diligent oral hygiene practices to prevent complications such as cavities and gum disease. By educating patients about effective home oral care techniques, the dental assistant helps ensure that patients maintain a clean and healthy mouth throughout their treatment. This support can significantly influence the success of the orthodontic care plan, promoting better outcomes and patient satisfaction. Fostering a strong rapport and encouraging adherence to proper dental hygiene practices empowers patients to take an active role in their oral health, which is particularly important during orthodontic treatment when oral care routines may need to adapt to accommodate braces or other appliances. Thus, the dental assistant's role in motivation and reinforcement serves as a vital component in supporting both the patient's health and their orthodontic treatment goals.

5. In dental terminology, what does 'periodontal' refer to?

- A. Tissues surrounding the teeth**
- B. Neurological conditions affecting teeth**
- C. Enamel structures of teeth**
- D. Cavity formation**

The term 'periodontal' specifically relates to the structures that surround and support the teeth, which include the gums, periodontal ligament, and alveolar bone. This indicates a focus on the health, disease, and treatment of the tissues that are essential for maintaining the stability of the teeth in the oral cavity. Understanding the importance of these structures is crucial in dental practice, as periodontal disease can lead to tooth loss and other serious oral health issues. The other options address concepts that do not align with this definition. Neurological conditions involve the nervous system and are not specifically tied to the tissues surrounding the teeth. Enamel structures refer to the hard, outer layer of the teeth, which is separate from the supporting tissues. Cavity formation pertains to the decay process within the teeth themselves rather than the surrounding structures. Thus, the focus on 'periodontal' clearly identifies it with the supportive tissues, making that answer the most accurate in dental terminology.

6. What does receiving a credit memo from the supplier indicate?

- A. The supplier is providing free products**
- B. The company is reducing the balance of the account**
- C. Products were returned for credit**
- D. The account has been settled**

Receiving a credit memo from the supplier signals that the company is reducing the balance of the account. This reduction may occur for several reasons, including adjustments for returned merchandise, pricing errors, or promotions. A credit memo serves as documentation from the supplier indicating that the total amount owed by the company has been decreased, which is essential for maintaining accurate accounts payable records. While the option of receiving free products, returning products for credit, or settling an account may relate to situations involving a credit memo, these choices are more specific scenarios. The primary and broad interpretation is that a credit memo signifies an adjustment to the account balance, making it a fundamental transactional document in accounting practices.

7. How much higher is the assistant's eye level compared to the dentist when seated?

- A. Two to four inches**
- B. Four to six inches**
- C. Six to eight inches**
- D. Eight to ten inches**

When seated, the assistant's eye level is typically higher than that of the dentist due to the ergonomic arrangement of the dental operatory. This height difference often allows the assistant to have a clear line of sight to both the dentist's work and the patient's mouth, facilitating better communication and support during dental procedures. An eye level difference of four to six inches is commonly found in practice, as assistants generally sit on stools that are adjustable, allowing them to achieve optimal positioning relative to the dentist. This four to six inch range strikes a balance, ensuring the assistant can perform their duties effectively while still being low enough to avoid obstruction of the dentist's work field. Understanding this height difference is essential for maximizing efficiency in the dental practice, as it enables better teamwork and enhances the workflow during procedures.

8. Who is typically classified as a subscriber in a dental context?

- A. Employee**
- B. Provider**
- C. Patient**
- D. Insurance Holder**

In a dental context, a subscriber is typically classified as the individual who holds a dental insurance policy or who is responsible for payment for dental services covered under the insurance plan. This is usually the insurance holder, often referred to in the context of insurance policies as the person who subscribes to the insurance plan. While employees may receive benefits from an employer-provided dental plan, they are not necessarily the subscriber unless they themselves hold the policy. Providers are the dental professionals delivering care and services, while patients are the individuals receiving care. In this scenario, the insurance holder is more accurately referred to as the subscriber because they are the one associated with the insurance agreement and obligations, thereby directly connected to the coverage details and utilization of benefits.

9. What is the normal range of systolic blood pressure for an adult male?

- A. 100-120 mmHg**
- B. 110-130 mmHg**
- C. 120-140 mmHg**
- D. 130-150 mmHg**

The normal range of systolic blood pressure for an adult male is generally considered to be between 120 and 140 mmHg. This range indicates that the heart is effectively pumping blood into the arteries and maintaining adequate pressure for circulation without causing undue strain on the cardiovascular system. Systolic blood pressure is the top number in a blood pressure reading and measures the pressure in the arteries when the heart beats. Values consistently lower than 120 mmHg may indicate low blood pressure, which in some cases can lead to insufficient blood flow to vital organs. Conversely, readings above 140 mmHg may suggest the presence of hypertension, increasing the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Understanding these ranges is crucial for determining appropriate health management and interventions. Regular monitoring enables healthcare professionals to identify trends in blood pressure that may require lifestyle changes or medical treatment to ensure optimal health outcomes.

10. What is one of the primary roles of riboflavin in the body?

- A. Carbohydrate synthesis**
- B. Cell membrane structure**
- C. Energy production**
- D. Hormone regulation**

Riboflavin, also known as vitamin B2, plays a crucial role in energy production within the body. It is a key component of two important coenzymes: flavin mononucleotide (FMN) and flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD). These coenzymes are vital in various metabolic processes, particularly in the oxidation-reduction reactions that occur during the breakdown of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins for energy. The presence of riboflavin is essential for the function of the electron transport chain, which is the primary pathway for aerobic energy production in cells. The other roles mentioned, such as carbohydrate synthesis, cell membrane structure, and hormone regulation, do not directly relate to the primary functions of riboflavin. While a well-rounded diet with adequate riboflavin supports overall health, its critical function revolves around facilitating energy production through the aforementioned coenzymes.

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://codaboard.examzify.com>

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

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