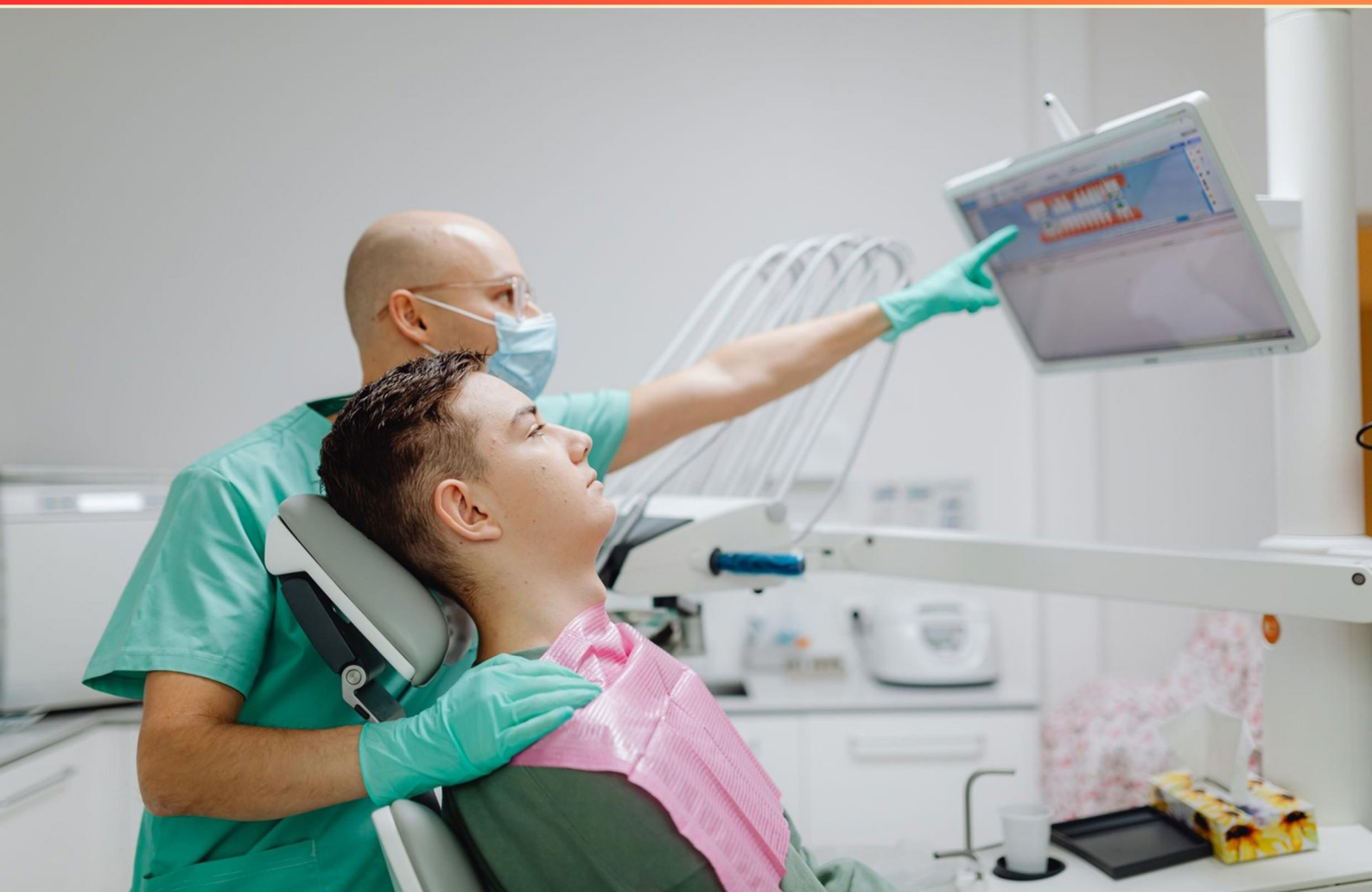


COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION (CODA) BOARD PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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. Which dental procedure requires precision in measuring and adjusting the occlusal plane?**
 - A. Root canal treatment
 - B. Dental crown placement
 - C. Radiographic exposure
 - D. Filling a cavity
- 2. What hygiene precaution must be followed when working with mercury?**
 - A. Store scrap amalgam under water
 - B. Dispose of it in hazardous waste
 - C. Store it in an open container
 - D. Use it immediately without storage
- 3. In an emergency, what is the first aid treatment priority?**
 - A. Control bleeding
 - B. Treat for shock
 - C. Restore breathing
 - D. Administer CPR
- 4. What is a fistula?**
 - A. An abnormal passageway
 - B. A type of dental abscess
 - C. An inflammation of the gums
 - D. A condition affecting tooth enamel
- 5. What is the purpose of using a periodontal probe?**
 - A. To clean tartar
 - B. To measure the depth of the pocket
 - C. To locate cavities
 - D. To assess tooth mobility
- 6. Which of the following is a preventive orthodontic measure?**
 - A. Placement of fixed bridges in the adult dentition
 - B. Sound restorative dentistry to retain primary teeth
 - C. Proper use of space maintainers in the primary dentition
 - D. Extraction of unerupted teeth

- 7. What should be done when a patient requests their X-rays upon leaving the practice?**
- A. Print them immediately
 - B. Offer to email the X-rays
 - C. Offer to mail the X-rays to the new dentist
 - D. Discard the X-rays
- 8. What should dental assistants do to prepare for a surgical procedure?**
- A. Ensure all instruments are sterilized
 - B. Leave instruments unorganized for efficiency
 - C. Use outdated materials for procedures
 - D. Ignore the patient's health history
- 9. For effective diagnosis and treatment planning in root canal therapy, what must be available?**
- A. Dental chart
 - B. X-ray film
 - C. Patient medical history
 - D. Clinical photographs
- 10. When administering CPR, how should the victim's head be positioned?**
- A. Higher than the chest
 - B. Lower than the chest
 - C. Turned to the side
 - D. Level with the chest

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which dental procedure requires precision in measuring and adjusting the occlusal plane?

- A. Root canal treatment
- B. Dental crown placement
- C. Radiographic exposure
- D. Filling a cavity

The most accurate option is dental crown placement, which necessitates precision in measuring and adjusting the occlusal plane. This is crucial because the occlusal plane directly affects how the upper and lower teeth come together during chewing and impacts the overall function and health of the dental arch. When placing a crown, dental professionals must ensure that the new restoration aligns properly with the surrounding teeth to maintain proper occlusion and prevent issues such as bite misalignment, which could lead to discomfort or jaw problems. The adjustment of the occlusal plane is also essential to avoid undue stress on the underlying tooth structure and restoration. In contrast, while root canal treatment, radiographic exposure, and filling a cavity are all important procedures in dentistry, they do not require the same level of precision in measuring and adjusting the occlusal plane. Root canal treatment focuses primarily on cleaning and sealing the pulp chamber and canals of a tooth. Radiographic exposure involves capturing images of the dental structures and does not involve physical adjustments to the teeth. Filling a cavity involves removing decay and restoring the tooth's shape but again does not necessitate the detailed measurement of the occlusal plane compared to crown placement.

2. What hygiene precaution must be followed when working with mercury?

- A. Store scrap amalgam under water
- B. Dispose of it in hazardous waste
- C. Store it in an open container
- D. Use it immediately without storage

The correct answer involves a crucial safety measure when handling mercury, particularly in the context of dental materials like amalgam. Storing scrap amalgam under water is a preventative measure to inhibit the release of mercury vapor into the air, thereby protecting dental professionals and patients from potential exposure to harmful levels of mercury. This method effectively contains the mercury, minimizing the risks associated with inhalation or contamination, especially in a dental practice where multiple procedures are performed. Storing scrap amalgam in an open container would pose significant risks, as mercury vapors could easily escape into the environment. Similarly, the option of using mercury immediately without storage disregards the need for proper handling and containment protocols that ensure safety. While disposing of it in hazardous waste is indeed essential and necessary regarding the management and final disposal of mercury, the storage method during daily operations plays a pivotal role in immediate workplace safety. Therefore, the recommended practice of keeping scrap amalgam under water aligns with established safety precautions in dental settings where mercury is handled.

3. In an emergency, what is the first aid treatment priority?

- A. Control bleeding
- B. Treat for shock
- C. Restore breathing**
- D. Administer CPR

The priority in first aid treatment during an emergency is to restore breathing, as breathing is essential for life. When an individual is not breathing, they are at immediate risk of brain damage and death due to a lack of oxygen. Addressing the airway and ensuring that the person is able to breathe is crucial in stabilizing their condition. Once breathing is restored or secured, other treatments can follow, such as controlling bleeding or treating for shock. In emergencies where the victim is not breathing or showing signs of respiratory distress, performing rescue breaths or managing the airways takes precedence over other interventions. This foundational principle of emergency care places restoring normal respiratory function at the top of the hierarchy of needs. In contrast, other options, while important, address subsequent priorities that can come after ensuring that breathing is established. For instance, controlling bleeding can wait until breathing is secured, and shock management is pivotal but also secondary to establishing an open airway. CPR is vital if the heart has stopped, but the immediate concern when assessing a patient is to first address respiratory function.

4. What is a fistula?

- A. An abnormal passageway**
- B. A type of dental abscess
- C. An inflammation of the gums
- D. A condition affecting tooth enamel

A fistula is defined as an abnormal passageway that connects two cavities or organs within the body or leads to the exterior surface. In the context of dental health, fistulas often develop as a result of an infection, such as a dental abscess, where the infection creates a channel for pus to drain. This abnormal communication can manifest in various forms, but the fundamental characteristic is that it creates a passage where none should normally exist. Understanding this definition is crucial, as the presence of a fistula often indicates underlying pathological issues that require attention. In dental practice, recognizing a fistula can help in diagnosing conditions like chronic dental infections, guiding appropriate treatment plans. The other choices describe different conditions within dental and oral health. A dental abscess refers specifically to a localized collection of pus due to infection, inflammation of the gums is identified as gingivitis or periodontal disease, while the condition affecting tooth enamel might be related to issues like dental caries or enamel hypoplasia. While these terms are important in dental care, they do not encapsulate the unique definition of a fistula.

5. What is the purpose of using a periodontal probe?

- A. To clean tartar
- B. To measure the depth of the pocket**
- C. To locate cavities
- D. To assess tooth mobility

The purpose of using a periodontal probe is to measure the depth of the pocket. This tool is essential in the assessment of periodontal health, as it allows clinicians to determine the extent of periodontal disease by measuring the sulcus or pocket depth around the teeth. A healthy sulcus typically measures 1 to 3 millimeters, while deeper pockets may indicate the presence of periodontal disease or infection. By using the probe to gauge the depth, dental professionals can identify areas of concern, formulate a diagnosis, and create an appropriate treatment plan. This precise measurement is crucial for monitoring changes over time, allowing for effective management of periodontal conditions. Thus, the use of a periodontal probe stands as a fundamental practice in periodontology, directly impacting patient care and outcomes.

6. Which of the following is a preventive orthodontic measure?

- A. Placement of fixed bridges in the adult dentition
- B. Sound restorative dentistry to retain primary teeth
- C. Proper use of space maintainers in the primary dentition**
- D. Extraction of unerupted teeth

The selection of proper use of space maintainers in the primary dentition as a preventive orthodontic measure underscores the importance of maintaining space in the dental arch for the permanent teeth. Space maintainers are devices designed to hold the space left by a prematurely lost primary tooth until the permanent tooth is ready to erupt. The early loss of primary teeth can lead to neighboring teeth drifting into the empty space, which can result in misalignments and crowding when permanent teeth begin to erupt. By effectively using space maintainers, the likelihood of orthodontic issues in the future can be significantly reduced, promoting a more favorable alignment of the permanent dentition. In contrast, the other options do not primarily serve as preventive orthodontic measures. The placement of fixed bridges is more restorative and addresses function and aesthetics rather than preventing future orthodontic problems. Sound restorative dentistry to retain primary teeth is important but does not directly prevent orthodontic issues as space loss can still occur if primary teeth are lost before the proper time. Extraction of unerupted teeth typically addresses existing space problems or issues but does not prevent future orthodontic complications. Therefore, the focus on utilizing space maintainers effectively highlights its role in preventing potential alignment issues in forthcoming permanent dentition.

7. What should be done when a patient requests their X-rays upon leaving the practice?

- A. Print them immediately
- B. Offer to email the X-rays
- C. Offer to mail the X-rays to the new dentist**
- D. Discard the X-rays

When a patient requests their X-rays upon leaving the practice, it is essential to consider not just the request itself but also the protocols in place for transferring medical records. Offering to mail the X-rays to the new dentist is the correct approach because it maintains the integrity of patient records and ensures that the information is shared securely and appropriately. This process aligns with the legal and ethical obligations to protect patient confidentiality and to facilitate continuity of care. By sending the X-rays directly to the new dentist, the receiving party can ensure that they have all relevant information needed to provide ongoing treatment for the patient. Additionally, this method respects the patient's wishes while adhering to legal guidelines regarding the transfer of medical records. Other options may fail to meet these standards. For instance, printing and giving the X-rays immediately might compromise the record-keeping process and lead to issues with storing sensitive information securely. Emailing the X-rays could raise concerns about data privacy and security, as not all electronic communications are adequately protected. Discarding the X-rays would violate the principles of maintaining patient records and could lead to legal ramifications for the practice. Hence, mailing the X-rays to the new dentist is the most responsible and compliant choice.

8. What should dental assistants do to prepare for a surgical procedure?

- A. Ensure all instruments are sterilized**
- B. Leave instruments unorganized for efficiency
- C. Use outdated materials for procedures
- D. Ignore the patient's health history

Ensuring that all instruments are sterilized is a critical step in preparing for a surgical procedure. Sterilization is essential to prevent infections and safeguard both the patient's and dental team's health. A sterile environment minimizes the risk of complications, ensuring that all instruments used are free of any potentially harmful pathogens. This process supports best practices in infection control, which are vital in a dental surgical setting. In contrast, leaving instruments unorganized would likely lead to confusion and delays during the procedure, potentially increasing risks. Using outdated materials could compromise the success of the procedure as well as patient safety. Finally, ignoring the patient's health history is detrimental, as understanding this information is crucial for assessing any risks or contraindications related to the planned surgery. Overall, maintaining a focus on sterilization reflects the dedication to providing safe and effective care.

9. For effective diagnosis and treatment planning in root canal therapy, what must be available?

- A. Dental chart
- B. X-ray film**
- C. Patient medical history
- D. Clinical photographs

For effective diagnosis and treatment planning in root canal therapy, having X-ray film is crucial because it provides essential visualization of the tooth's internal structures, including the root canals and periapical areas. These images help the clinician identify the number and shape of the canals, the presence of any infections or abscesses, and the overall condition of the tooth. X-rays are a foundational tool in endodontics, enabling accurate assessment of the pathology and aiding in the development of a suitable treatment plan. While dental charts, patient medical history, and clinical photographs are all valuable components of a comprehensive approach to patient care, they do not offer the direct visual insights into the internal anatomy of the tooth that X-ray films do. Therefore, the use of radiographs is essential for the precise evaluation required in root canal therapy.

10. When administering CPR, how should the victim's head be positioned?

- A. Higher than the chest
- B. Lower than the chest
- C. Turned to the side
- D. Level with the chest**

When administering CPR, the victim's head should be positioned level with the chest to ensure the airway remains open and unobstructed. This position facilitates the best possible alignment for effective chest compressions and allows for optimal ventilation during rescue breaths if they are being administered. When the head is aligned level with the chest, it helps to avoid any restrictions in airflow that might occur if the head were tilted too far back or positioned incorrectly. This alignment is crucial for maintaining a clear airway, which is a primary goal during CPR to ensure oxygenation of the brain and vital organs until professional help arrives.

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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