

# Consolidated Political Compass Test (CPCT) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## 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.**

## 7. Use Other Tools

**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!**

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## **Questions**

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- 1. Which action is a critical step in infection control when dealing with bodily fluids?**
  - A. Wearing regular gloves**
  - B. Replacing gloves after each patient**
  - C. Washing hands after removing gloves**
  - D. Both B and C**
  
- 2. Which finding should a PCT recognize as a risk for elder abuse?**
  - A. Patient has increased strength and mobility**
  - B. Patient has decreased strength and mobility**
  - C. Patient displays disregard for personal hygiene**
  - D. Patient has excellent communication skills**
  
- 3. What is the standard paper speed for an EKG machine?**
  - A. 50 mm/second**
  - B. 25 mm/second**
  - C. 100 mm/second**
  - D. 10 mm/second**
  
- 4. What is the purpose of inverting anticoagulant tubes?**
  - A. To mix the contents**
  - B. To prevent coagulation**
  - C. To eliminate air bubbles**
  - D. To stabilize temperature**
  
- 5. What impact do ideological movements have on political priorities?**
  - A. They divide individuals into opposing factions**
  - B. They mobilize individuals and influence political priorities**
  - C. They create apathy among voters**
  - D. They only focus on social issues**

**6. What should a PCT do after completing patient rounding to ensure patient safety?**

- A. Leave the door open**
- B. Turn off the light**
- C. Leave the call light within the patient's reach**
- D. Provide food and water**

**7. Where should the label be placed on a container for a chain of custody specimen?**

- A. On the bottom of the container**
- B. Overlaps the top and side of the container**
- C. On a separate piece of paper**
- D. On the lid only**

**8. When setting up a sterile field, what should a PCT keep in mind?**

- A. All areas are sterile as long as they are cleaned**
- B. Only the middle of the field is considered sterile**
- C. Consider a 1-inch border around the edge as non-sterile**
- D. Only instruments need to be kept sterile**

**9. What should be reported to the nurse after applying a sequential compression device?**

- A. Increased mobility of the patient**
- B. Discoloration in the extremity**
- C. Patient discomfort during application**
- D. Improvement in patient's blood pressure**

**10. If a patient on fall precautions is confused and trying to get out of bed, what should the PCT do?**

- A. Reassure the patient**
- B. Notify the charge nurse**
- C. Use physical restraint**
- D. Encourage the patient to stay in bed**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which action is a critical step in infection control when dealing with bodily fluids?**

- A. Wearing regular gloves**
- B. Replacing gloves after each patient**
- C. Washing hands after removing gloves**
- D. Both B and C**

The critical action in infection control when dealing with bodily fluids involves ensuring that proper hygiene and safety measures are consistently upheld. Replacing gloves after each patient is essential because it prevents cross-contamination of pathogens between patients. Gloves can carry infectious agents from one individual to another, so changing them is a fundamental practice in maintaining a sterile environment. Washing hands after removing gloves is equally important, as it further reduces the risk of transferring any contaminants that may have escaped the gloves or been on the skin during the glove removal process. Hand hygiene is a cornerstone of infection control, and washing hands helps eliminate any residual pathogens that could pose a risk. Both of these actions together ensure a comprehensive approach to infection control, making option D the best choice as it encompasses both critical steps in maintaining safety when dealing with bodily fluids.

**2. Which finding should a PCT recognize as a risk for elder abuse?**

- A. Patient has increased strength and mobility**
- B. Patient has decreased strength and mobility**
- C. Patient displays disregard for personal hygiene**
- D. Patient has excellent communication skills**

Recognizing a risk for elder abuse involves understanding the various indicators that may suggest vulnerability among elderly individuals. Decreased strength and mobility are important factors to consider because they can significantly impact an individual's ability to defend themselves or seek help, making them more susceptible to abuse. When an elderly person experiences decreased strength and mobility, they often have a higher dependence on caregivers or family members for daily activities, which may create an imbalance in power dynamics. This vulnerability can place them at greater risk for neglect or maltreatment, particularly if a caregiver is abusive or neglectful and the elderly person cannot easily reach out for support or escape the situation. In contrast, factors such as increased strength and mobility, excellent communication skills, or personal hygiene may indicate capabilities that empower an elderly person to advocate for themselves or resist abuse, thereby reducing overall risk. Thus, the identification of decreased strength and mobility is essential in assessing the risk of elder abuse.

### 3. What is the standard paper speed for an EKG machine?

- A. 50 mm/second
- B. 25 mm/second**
- C. 100 mm/second
- D. 10 mm/second

The standard paper speed for an electrocardiogram (EKG) machine is typically 25 mm/second. This standardization is important because it allows for consistent measurement and interpretation of the heart's electrical activity across different EKG recordings. At this speed, each small square on the graph paper represents 0.04 seconds, and each large square, which is made up of five small squares, represents 0.20 seconds. This uniformity enables healthcare professionals to accurately assess the intervals and durations of various components of the EKG waveform, such as PR intervals, QRS durations, and QT intervals. By adhering to this standard, practitioners can effectively compare results over time or between patients and ensure that any abnormalities can be reliably identified.

### 4. What is the purpose of inverting anticoagulant tubes?

- A. To mix the contents
- B. To prevent coagulation**
- C. To eliminate air bubbles
- D. To stabilize temperature

Inverting anticoagulant tubes serves the critical function of mixing the blood with the anticoagulant agent contained in the tube. When blood is collected into an anticoagulant tube, it is essential to ensure proper interaction between the blood and the anticoagulant to effectively prevent coagulation. By inverting the tube several times after blood collection, you facilitate an even distribution of the anticoagulant throughout the blood sample, which helps to maintain the sample in a liquid state for accurate testing and analysis. While preventing coagulation is a vital aspect of the function of anticoagulant tubes, the action of inverting directly contributes to this by ensuring that the anticoagulant works properly, making mixing the contents an equally important and more direct purpose of the inversion process. Therefore, the correct choice illustrates the significance of this mixing action rather than simply stating the outcome of preventing coagulation.

## 5. What impact do ideological movements have on political priorities?

- A. They divide individuals into opposing factions
- B. They mobilize individuals and influence political priorities**
- C. They create apathy among voters
- D. They only focus on social issues

Ideological movements significantly influence political priorities by mobilizing individuals around shared beliefs and values. These movements bring people together to advocate for specific goals, ranging from social justice and environmental concerns to economic reform. By rallying supporters, they can shift public discourse and pressure policymakers to prioritize their issues, thereby altering the political landscape. For instance, movements such as civil rights, women's rights, or climate activism have historically prompted governments to enact new laws and policies that align with the movement's aims. This mobilization creates a sense of urgency and collective action that can lead to tangible changes in political priorities, making it clear that the power of an ideological movement extends beyond mere discussion; it translates into significant political action and influence.

## 6. What should a PCT do after completing patient rounding to ensure patient safety?

- A. Leave the door open
- B. Turn off the light
- C. Leave the call light within the patient's reach**
- D. Provide food and water

Ensuring patient safety after completing patient rounding involves several critical steps, and leaving the call light within the patient's reach is particularly important. When the call light is accessible, patients can easily alert healthcare staff if they need assistance or if an emergency arises. This empowers patients to communicate their needs and enhances their ability to seek help, which is vital for their ongoing safety and well-being. In contrast, leaving the door open could compromise privacy and security, while turning off the light could leave the patient in darkness, potentially increasing the risk of falls or accidents. Providing food and water is important but falls within a broader category of care that might not directly relate to ensuring immediate safety after rounding. Therefore, prioritizing accessibility to the call light directly contributes to the patient's capacity to call for help, making it the most relevant choice for patient safety post-rounding.

**7. Where should the label be placed on a container for a chain of custody specimen?**

- A. On the bottom of the container**
- B. Overlaps the top and side of the container**
- C. On a separate piece of paper**
- D. On the lid only**

The label for a chain of custody specimen should overlap the top and side of the container to ensure that it remains secure and is not easily removed. This placement serves multiple important functions: it helps to identify the specimen at all times, links the specimen directly to the container, and maintains the integrity of the chain of custody. By extending onto the side, the label is less likely to be obscured or damaged, making it easily readable and ensuring that all pertinent information about the specimen is readily accessible. In contrast, placing the label on the bottom of the container would make it difficult to view without lifting the container, which could lead to confusion or mishandling. A label on a separate piece of paper may get lost or not adhere to the specimen in a way that firmly demonstrates its linkage to the chain of custody. In addition, putting the label on the lid only could also create issues if the lid is removed, potentially separating the label from the specimen it is intended to identify. Thus, the overlapping label placement is the most effective and practical method for maintaining proper chain of custody.

**8. When setting up a sterile field, what should a PCT keep in mind?**

- A. All areas are sterile as long as they are cleaned**
- B. Only the middle of the field is considered sterile**
- C. Consider a 1-inch border around the edge as non-sterile**
- D. Only instruments need to be kept sterile**

Maintaining a sterile field is crucial in medical settings to prevent infections and ensure patient safety. The rationale behind considering a 1-inch border around the edge as non-sterile relates to established guidelines for maintaining sterility. This border serves as a safety margin; it recognizes that even if the outer edges of a sterile field are handled, they can become contaminated through contact with non-sterile surfaces or hands. Therefore, anything that is placed within this 1-inch border can be assumed to be non-sterile, which helps prevent contamination of the sterile instruments and solutions located in the center of the field. By adhering to this guideline, a Patient Care Technician (PCT) can help ensure that the sterile field remains safe for use during procedures. The other options lack accuracy in the context of sterile field management. For instance, stating that all areas are sterile as long as they are cleaned ignores the fact that cleaning does not confer sterility. Similarly, the idea that only the middle of the field is sterile neglects the importance of the entire context of the field setup. Lastly, asserting that only instruments need to be sterile overlooks the necessity of maintaining a sterile environment, which includes drapes, gloves, and other surrounding items.

**9. What should be reported to the nurse after applying a sequential compression device?**

- A. Increased mobility of the patient**
- B. Discoloration in the extremity**
- C. Patient discomfort during application**
- D. Improvement in patient's blood pressure**

The decision to report discoloration in the extremity after applying a sequential compression device is based on the potential for serious complications. Discoloration can indicate impaired circulation, which may occur if the device is applied too tightly or if the patient's condition leads to vascular issues. It's crucial for healthcare providers to monitor for such signs, as they may require immediate intervention to prevent further complications. While increased mobility of the patient, discomfort during application, and improvement in blood pressure are noteworthy observations, they do not bear the same immediate concern for the patient's safety as discoloration. Increased mobility is generally a positive outcome but might not require urgent reporting. Patient discomfort, while needing attention, can often be managed and may not necessarily indicate a medical emergency. Improvement in blood pressure is an encouraging sign and is typically monitored, but it doesn't require prompt reporting relative to abnormalities in circulation, like discoloration.

**10. If a patient on fall precautions is confused and trying to get out of bed, what should the PCT do?**

- A. Reassure the patient**
- B. Notify the charge nurse**
- C. Use physical restraint**
- D. Encourage the patient to stay in bed**

Notifying the charge nurse is the appropriate action when a patient on fall precautions is confused and attempting to get out of bed. This is crucial for several reasons. First, the charge nurse can assess the situation and determine the best course of action to ensure the safety of the patient. This may involve additional staff support, ensuring the patient's immediate environment is safe, or implementing interventions to address the patient's confusion. In situations involving confusion, it's essential to have a higher level of oversight, as the patient's behavior may pose a risk of falling or injuring themselves. The charge nurse can also engage other healthcare team members as needed, ensuring that the patient receives appropriate care tailored to their condition. While reassuring the patient or encouraging them to stay in bed may seem compassionate, these actions alone may not adequately address the potential risk of injury. Physical restraints are generally considered a last resort due to ethical concerns and the potential for harm, making it vital to involve supervisory staff to decide on appropriate interventions based on a thorough assessment of the situation.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://cpct.examzify.com>**

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

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