

CPCT MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

MEDICAL
RESEARCH

Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. What does SOB stand for?**
 - A. Shortness of Balance
 - B. Shortness of Blood
 - C. Shortness of Breath
 - D. Shortness of Pain
- 2. Which meaning does the prefix JUSTA- convey?**
 - A. Within
 - B. Between, among
 - C. Large
 - D. New
- 3. BX stands for which medical procedure?**
 - A. cancer
 - B. cerebrovascular accident
 - C. biopsy
 - D. body mass index
- 4. The term PLASTY denotes which definition?**
 - A. Surgical repair
 - B. Stopping, controlling
 - C. Forming
 - D. Removal
- 5. What does the element FORM indicate?**
 - A. Beyond, Excess
 - B. Shape
 - C. Related to
 - D. Three
- 6. CONTRA- conveys which meaning?**
 - A. Around
 - B. Down
 - C. Against
 - D. Walk

7. RETRO- conveys what direction or position?

- A. Behind
- B. In front of
- C. Across
- D. Inside

8. Which abbreviation stands for cerebrovascular accident?

- A. CA
- B. CVA
- C. BX
- D. BPM

9. Which root means 'Arm'?

- A. ARTHR
- B. CERVIC
- C. BRACH
- D. OSTE

10. Which abbreviation means "after"?

- A. PC
- B. PO
- C. P
- D. PE

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does SOB stand for?

- A. Shortness of Balance
- B. Shortness of Blood
- C. Shortness of Breath
- D. Shortness of Pain

Shortness of Breath is what SOB stands for. In medical language, SOB is a common shorthand for dyspnea, the sensation of breathing difficulty or not getting enough air. The other phrases don't fit as medical terms or standard abbreviations, so they aren't used in practice. Knowing that SOB means breathing trouble helps you interpret clinical notes quickly and recognize that the patient is describing breathlessness, which can arise from many different conditions and requires further assessment.

2. Which meaning does the prefix JUSTA- convey?

- A. Within
- B. Between, among
- C. Large
- D. New

In medical terms, prefixes guide where something sits in relation to a structure. The prefix JUSTA- is taught to convey an internal or within position. So when you encounter JUSTA-, it signals something located inside or contained within another part, making "within" the best interpretation. The other options describe different spatial relationships—between or among, which would be indicated by a different prefix; large would point to size, and new to novelty.

3. BX stands for which medical procedure?

- A. cancer
- B. cerebrovascular accident
- C. biopsy
- D. body mass index

BX is the common shorthand for biopsy, the procedure in which a sample of tissue is taken for microscopic examination to diagnose disease. A biopsy provides the actual tissue evidence doctors use to confirm conditions like cancer, infections, or inflammatory processes, and it helps determine the exact type and aggressiveness of a lesion. Although a biopsy is often performed when cancer is suspected, the term itself refers to the tissue-sampling procedure, not the disease outcome. This abbreviation isn't used for cancer as a disease name, for a stroke (cerebrovascular accident), or for body mass index; those concepts have different meanings and common terms or abbreviations.

4. The term PLASTY denotes which definition?

- A. Surgical repair
- B. Stopping, controlling
- C. Forming
- D. Removal

Plasty denotes a surgical repair or reconstruction of a body part. The root plast- comes from a idea of molding or forming, and the -y indicates a procedure. So terms like rhinoplasty or angioplasty describe reshaping or repairing tissue through surgery. Stopping or controlling is not described by plasty, and removal is a different suffix (ectomy).

5. What does the element FORM indicate?

- A. Beyond, Excess
- B. Shape
- C. Related to
- D. Three

The element form indicates shape. Form comes from Latin forma meaning shape or appearance, and in medical terminology it signals the external look or structure of something rather than its amount, position, or relation. So terms containing form describe how a structure appears—its shape. That's why shape is the best fit. The other options don't fit because form isn't used to mean beyond or excess, or to indicate relatedness, or to denote a number.

6. CONTRA- conveys which meaning?

- A. Around
- B. Down
- C. Against
- D. Walk

Contra- signals opposition or being against. In medical terms, it marks that something should not be used or done because it's inappropriate or harmful in a given situation. For example, contraindication means a treatment or drug should not be used because of a specific condition. That opposite sense is what links contra- to the meaning "against." The other options describe different directions or ideas (around, down, or walk) and don't fit the prefix's sense of opposition.

7. RETRO- conveys what direction or position?

A. Behind

B. In front of

C. Across

D. Inside

RETRO- signals backward in direction or position, meaning behind something or looking back in time. It comes from Latin retro meaning behind. That's why it describes being behind or toward the back, as in retroperitoneal (behind the peritoneum) or retrospective (looking back in time). The other directions are conveyed by different prefixes—front of would use a prefix like anterior or pro-, across uses trans-, and inside uses intra- or endo—so they don't fit retro-'s sense of behind.

8. Which abbreviation stands for cerebrovascular accident?

A. CA

B. CVA

C. BX

D. BPM

CVA stands for cerebrovascular accident, the medical term for a stroke caused by disrupted blood flow to the brain. This shorthand is used in medical records and notes to convey the exact event quickly and clearly, since a stroke can be either ischemic (blockage) or hemorrhagic (bleed) and requires urgent care. The other abbreviations listed do not refer to cerebrovascular accident—they align with different terms (for example, CA may indicate cancer or calcium, BX stands for biopsy, and BPM for beats per minute). Because CVA directly represents cerebrovascular accident, it is the appropriate choice.

9. Which root means 'Arm'?

A. ARTHR

B. CERVIC

C. BRACH

D. OSTE

The element that means arm is brach (brachi-). In medical terms, brachial refers to the arm, and the word for the upper limb is brachium. That's why this root fits the meaning "arm." The other roots point to entirely different body parts: arthr- means joint (as in arthrology or arthritis), cervic- refers to the neck (cervical), and oste- means bone (osteology or osteopathy).

10. Which abbreviation means "after"?

- A. PC
- B. PO
- C. P
- D. PE

The key idea here is the Latin root post meaning after. In medical shorthand, a simple P is used to denote "after" in general, so this single-letter abbreviation best fits the prompt asking for "after." The other forms are more specific or unrelated: PC stands for post cibum, meaning after meals, which narrows the meaning to a meal context; PO means by mouth (per os), describing how a drug is taken rather than when; and PE usually stands for physical examination (or in some contexts pulmonary embolism), not after. So the single-letter P is the appropriate general shorthand for after.

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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://cpctmedterms.examzify.com>

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

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