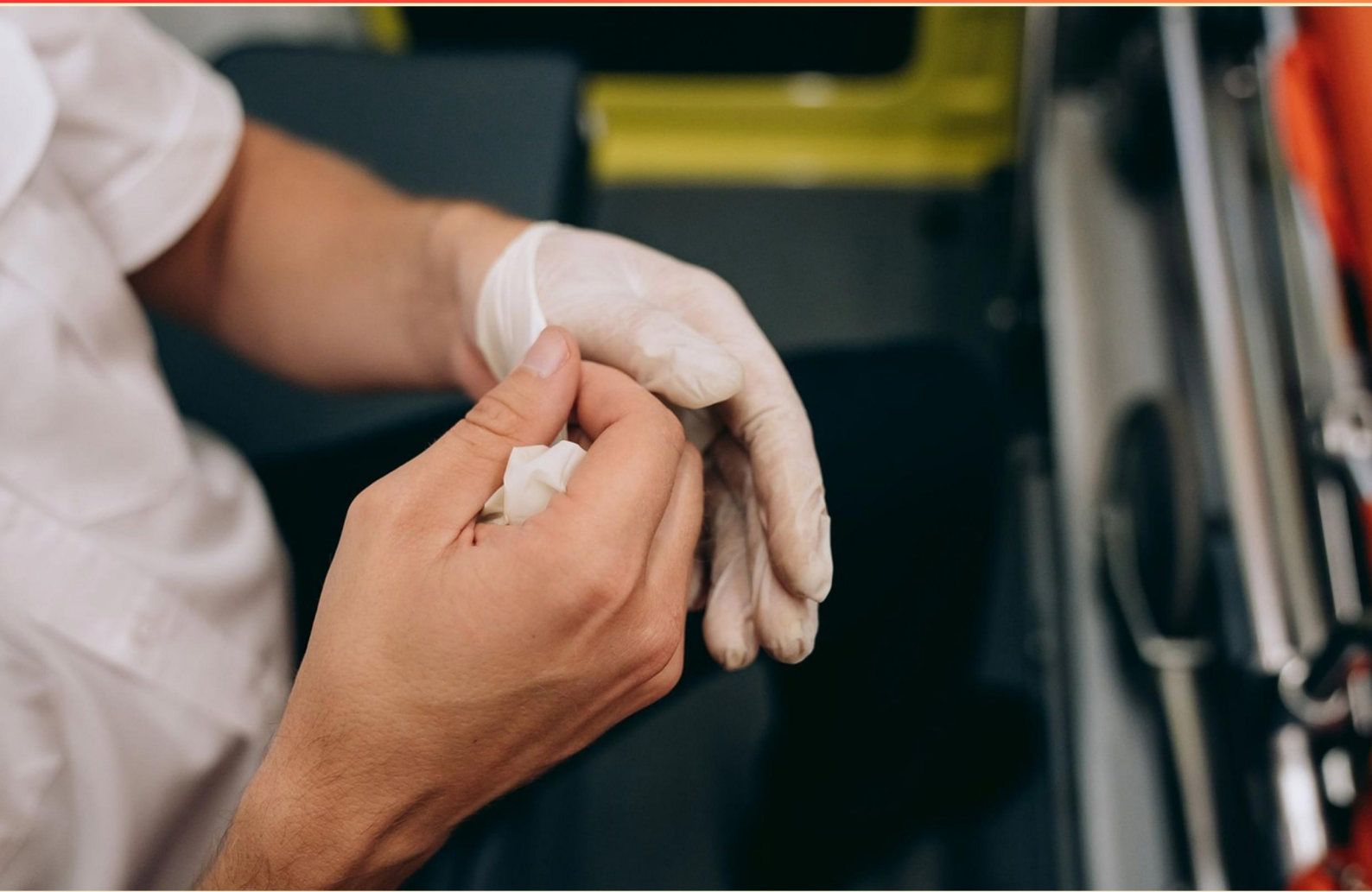


CPT (CERTIFIED PHLEBOTOMY TECHNICIAN) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://certifiedphlebotomytechnician.examzify.com>



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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 is the difference between plasma and serum?

- A. Serum contains more nutrients than plasma
- B. Plasma has clotting factors; serum is plasma without clotting factors
- C. There is no difference; they are interchangeable
- D. Plasma is thicker than serum

2. Sodium fluoride is found in which tube?

- A. Red
- B. Green
- C. Gray
- D. Blue

3. What does SST stand for?

- A. Sodium Separator Tube
- B. Separator Serum Test
- C. Separator for Sodium Testing
- D. Serum Separator Tube

4. When should blood culture bottles be collected?

- A. Before antibiotics are given
- B. After the patient has received antibiotics
- C. At any time during treatment
- D. Only if there is a visible infection

5. What is an example of a special sample test?

- A. Amniotic fluid
- B. Blood glucose
- C. CSF (Cerebral Spinal Fluid)
- D. Serum electrolytes

6. What is the function of a tourniquet during venipuncture?

- A. To reduce pain during needle insertion
- B. To locate veins more easily by engorging them with blood
- C. To keep the blood from clotting
- D. To prevent the patient from moving

7. What is the purpose of a blood bank collection?

- A. To gather blood for transfusions and storage
- B. To test for blood diseases
- C. To maintain a complete blood count
- D. To donate blood to research facilities

8. What is the purpose of the lavender top tube?

- A. For serum tests
- B. For hematology tests like a complete blood count (CBC)
- C. For glucose testing
- D. For blood cultures

9. What should be done if a patient develops a rash after blood collection?

- A. Immediately stop the procedure
- B. Monitor the patient and notify the healthcare provider
- C. Apply topical cream to the rash
- D. Document the incident in the patient's chart

10. What are the signs of an allergic reaction during venipuncture?

- A. Swelling and redness only
- B. Hives, itching, swelling, or difficulty breathing
- C. Dizziness and headache
- D. Fever and chills

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the difference between plasma and serum?

- A. Serum contains more nutrients than plasma
- B. Plasma has clotting factors; serum is plasma without clotting factors**
- C. There is no difference; they are interchangeable
- D. Plasma is thicker than serum

The correct answer highlights a fundamental distinction in the composition of plasma and serum. Plasma is the liquid component of blood that contains clotting factors, such as fibrinogen, along with other components like electrolytes, nutrients, hormones, and waste products. When blood clots, the clotting factors are consumed during the coagulation process, resulting in serum, which is essentially plasma devoid of these factors. This key difference is critical for understanding blood analysis and laboratory procedures, as serum is often used in various tests where the presence of clotting factors would interfere with the results. The other options present misconceptions. One states that serum contains more nutrients than plasma, which is not accurate, as plasma typically has a higher concentration of various nutrients, given its role in transporting them. Another option claims there is no difference between the two; however, their definitions and functions in laboratory practices are distinctly different. Lastly, describing plasma as being thicker than serum is misleading because thickness can depend on other factors, such as temperature and viscosity, and this is not a typical way to differentiate between the two components. Understanding this distinction between plasma and serum is essential for phlebotomy technicians, especially when preparing samples for testing.

2. Sodium fluoride is found in which tube?

- A. Red
- B. Green
- C. Gray**
- D. Blue

Sodium fluoride is a chemical additive commonly used in blood collection tubes to preserve glucose and inhibit glycolysis, making it essential for accurate glucose testing. The gray-top tube is specifically designed to contain sodium fluoride along with other preservatives, ensuring that blood samples for glucose analysis remain stable until testing can occur. This characteristic is crucial in laboratory settings where timely and accurate results are pivotal for patient care and diagnosis. In contrast, the other tube colors have different additives that serve various purposes. Red-top tubes typically contain no additives or may be used for serum testing. Green-top tubes usually contain heparin as an anticoagulant for plasma studies. Blue-top tubes contain sodium citrate and are primarily used for coagulation studies. Therefore, the presence of sodium fluoride specifically identifies the gray-top tube as the correct answer for this question.

3. What does SST stand for?

- A. Sodium Separator Tube
- B. Separator Serum Test
- C. Separator for Sodium Testing
- D. Serum Separator Tube**

The correct answer is "Serum Separator Tube," as SST is commonly used to refer to a type of tube used in laboratory settings designed for collecting blood samples. This tube contains a gel that separates the serum from the blood cells upon centrifugation, allowing for the serum to be easily harvested for various tests without contamination from cellular components. This ensures that the serum used for testing is clean and that the results are accurate, as it minimizes interference from the cellular elements. The other options do not accurately describe the purpose or composition of the SST. Using terminology associated with sodium or other specific tests does not reflect the standard name and function of this type of tube in phlebotomy practice.

4. When should blood culture bottles be collected?

- A. Before antibiotics are given
- B. After the patient has received antibiotics
- C. At any time during treatment
- D. Only if there is a visible infection

Blood culture bottles should be collected before antibiotics are given to ensure the most accurate results. When a patient is already undergoing antibiotic treatment, the medications can hinder the growth of bacteria that might be present in the blood. If antibiotics are administered prior to obtaining blood cultures, it can result in a false-negative result, meaning that the test may fail to detect an existing infection. Collecting samples before antibiotic therapy begins maximizes the likelihood of identifying the causative organism if an infection is present, thereby enabling proper diagnosis and treatment. This practice is crucial in managing infections effectively, especially in cases where blood-borne pathogens are suspected.

5. What is an example of a special sample test?

- A. Amniotic fluid
- B. Blood glucose
- C. CSF (Cerebral Spinal Fluid)
- D. Serum electrolytes

An example of a special sample test would be a CSF (Cerebral Spinal Fluid) test, as it requires the collection of cerebrospinal fluid from the spinal canal. This is different from the other options, which can usually be collected through simple blood or urine samples.

6. What is the function of a tourniquet during venipuncture?

- A. To reduce pain during needle insertion
- B. To locate veins more easily by engorging them with blood
- C. To keep the blood from clotting
- D. To prevent the patient from moving

The function of a tourniquet during venipuncture is to locate veins more easily by engorging them with blood. By applying a tourniquet above the site of venipuncture, venous blood flow is temporarily restricted, causing the veins to fill with blood. This engorgement makes the veins more prominent and easier to see and palpate. Consequently, it enhances the clinician's ability to select an appropriate site for venipuncture, which is crucial for the success of the procedure. This method does not directly reduce pain during needle insertion, prevent blood clotting, or keep the patient from moving, as those roles pertain to different aspects of phlebotomy practice. Reducing pain would typically involve techniques such as proper needle size and patient positioning, while clotting is managed through appropriate handling and storing of blood samples post-collection. Keeping the patient still relies more on effective communication and positioning than on the use of a tourniquet. Therefore, the primary and correct function of a tourniquet in this context is its role in assisting with the visibility and accessibility of veins.

7. What is the purpose of a blood bank collection?

A. To gather blood for transfusions and storage

B. To test for blood diseases

C. To maintain a complete blood count

D. To donate blood to research facilities

The purpose of a blood bank collection is primarily to gather blood for transfusions and storage. This process is crucial as it ensures that there is a sufficient supply of blood available for patients who need it during surgeries, medical emergencies, or for individuals with certain medical conditions that require blood transfusions. The collected blood is stored in various components, such as red blood cells, platelets, and plasma, each serving different medical needs. This careful collection and storage enable healthcare facilities to provide timely and safe blood transfusions to patients. The other options, while they involve important aspects of blood handling and testing, do not capture the primary function of a blood bank collection. Testing for blood diseases is an essential practice, but it is part of the overall management of blood safety and quality rather than the collection process itself. Similarly, maintaining a complete blood count is a laboratory process that requires testing samples, but it does not pertain directly to the collection of blood for a blood bank. Finally, donating blood to research facilities could be part of specific blood donation programs, but it is not the main purpose of a blood bank collection, which focuses on transfusion readiness and patient care.

8. What is the purpose of the lavender top tube?

A. For serum tests

B. For hematology tests like a complete blood count (CBC)

C. For glucose testing

D. For blood cultures

The lavender top tube is specifically used for hematology tests, most notably for a complete blood count (CBC). This type of tube contains an anticoagulant called EDTA, which is crucial for preventing blood from clotting. When performing a CBC, it's essential that the blood remains in a liquid state to allow accurate counting of various blood components, such as red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Hematology tests require whole blood rather than serum, making the vacuum-sealed environment of the lavender top tube ideal for preventing clotting and preserving the cellular components necessary for these evaluations. Consequently, the use of the lavender top tube is integral to obtaining reliable and valid test results in hematology. The other options pertain to different types of laboratory tests that use other colored top tubes which are not suited for hematology analysis.

9. What should be done if a patient develops a rash after blood collection?

- A. Immediately stop the procedure
- B. Monitor the patient and notify the healthcare provider**
- C. Apply topical cream to the rash
- D. Document the incident in the patient's chart

When a patient develops a rash after blood collection, the appropriate response is to monitor the patient and notify the healthcare provider. This approach ensures that the patient's condition is assessed continuously, and any potential complications can be addressed promptly by a qualified medical professional. Monitoring allows the phlebotomy technician to observe the patient's symptoms and vital signs, which is crucial in determining whether the rash is a minor reaction or a sign of a more serious allergic reaction or anaphylactic response. Notifying the healthcare provider is critical as they can evaluate the situation further, consider additional interventions, and provide appropriate medical care based on the patient's overall health status and history. In contrast, stopping the procedure immediately without assessment might not be necessary unless the rash is accompanied by more severe symptoms. Applying topical cream could lead to further complications if the rash signifies a serious allergic reaction, as it might mask symptoms that need medical evaluation. Finally, while documentation is important, it doesn't address the immediate healthcare needs of the patient in a potentially urgent situation, which is why ongoing assessment and communication with healthcare providers take precedence.

10. What are the signs of an allergic reaction during venipuncture?

- A. Swelling and redness only
- B. Hives, itching, swelling, or difficulty breathing**
- C. Dizziness and headache
- D. Fever and chills

An allergic reaction during venipuncture is characterized by symptoms that indicate the body's immune response to a substance it deems harmful. Hives, itching, swelling, and difficulty breathing are common signs of an allergic response. Hives (urticaria) can appear as raised, red welts on the skin, while itching often accompanies these welts. Swelling may occur in localized areas or more generalized regions of the body, depending on the severity of the reaction. Difficulty breathing is particularly concerning, as it can indicate a serious allergic response known as anaphylaxis, which requires immediate medical attention. In contrast, other options describe symptoms that do not specifically align with allergic reactions. Swelling and redness alone may occur due to localized irritation or injury unrelated to an allergic response. Dizziness and headache can result from factors such as anxiety, dehydration, or vasovagal responses but are not direct indicators of an allergy. Fever and chills typically signal infection or illness, rather than an allergic reaction. Thus, the comprehensive signs listed in the correct choice provide a clearer indication of what to observe for an allergic reaction during venipuncture.

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://certifiedphlebotomytechnician.examzify.com>

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

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