

Funeral National Board Pathology Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 enteric fever caused by?

- A. *Salmonella typhi***
- B. *Escherichia coli***
- C. *Vibrio cholerae***
- D. *Clostridium difficile***

2. What is the term for inflammation of the gall bladder?

- A. Cyst**
- B. Normalize**
- C. Cholecystitis**
- D. Ovarian Cyst**

3. Which condition is characterized by an excess of white blood cells?

- A. Leucopenia**
- B. Leukocytosis**
- C. Anemia**
- D. Primary Anemia**

4. What substance is described as a combination of cholesterol, cellular waste, calcium, and other elements that can clog arteries?

- A. Fibrin**
- B. Plaque**
- C. Thrombus**
- D. Fatty Acids**

5. What term describes a Streptococcal infection that occurs in the upper body and is often characterized by a red rash?

- A. Scarlet Fever**
- B. Rheumatic Fever**
- C. Strep Throat**
- D. Cellulitis**

6. What is the focus of Aplastic Anemia?

- A. Loss of red blood cells**
- B. Inhibited bone marrow function**
- C. Presence of sickle-shaped cells**
- D. Excessive red blood cell count**

7. What is referred to as a critical point in which no amount of medical help can revive the body's functionality?

- A. Terminal Stage**
- B. Reversible Stage**
- C. Irreversible Stage**
- D. Progressive Stage**

8. What is the term for the body's process of secreting substances out of the cell?

- A. Endocytosis**
- B. Exocytosis**
- C. Transcytosis**
- D. Phagocytosis**

9. Which condition arises when a heart valve is stretched out of shape, preventing proper closure?

- A. Pulmonary Embolism**
- B. Prolapse**
- C. Endocarditis**
- D. Cardiac Tamponade**

10. What condition is indicated by the buildup of fatty deposits in arterial linings?

- A. Aneurysm**
- B. Atherosclerosis**
- C. Hypertensive Heart Disease**
- D. Myelitis**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is enteric fever caused by?

- A. Salmonella typhi**
- B. Escherichia coli**
- C. Vibrio cholerae**
- D. Clostridium difficile**

Enteric fever, often associated with typhoid fever, is caused specifically by *Salmonella typhi*. This bacterium is responsible for systemic infections and has a distinct pathophysiology that leads to the clinical manifestations of enteric fever. The illness is characterized by prolonged fever, abdominal pain, and can result in serious complications if not treated properly. *Salmonella typhi* is transmitted through contaminated food and water and has a particularly invasive nature, allowing it to breach the intestinal barrier and enter the bloodstream, which is a key aspect of enteric fever. This systemic infection can result in bacteremia and potentially affect multiple organ systems. Its ability to survive in the human body and evade the immune response contributes to the severity and persistence of the illness. In contrast, the other bacteria listed—*Escherichia coli*, *Vibrio cholerae*, and *Clostridium difficile*—are associated with different types of gastrointestinal illnesses. *Escherichia coli* can cause a variety of infections, including gastroenteritis, but is not the causative agent of enteric fever. *Vibrio cholerae* is responsible for cholera, characterized by severe diarrhea and dehydration, while *Clostridium difficile* is primarily associated with antibiotic-related colitis. Each of these organisms has

2. What is the term for inflammation of the gall bladder?

- A. Cyst**
- B. Normalize**
- C. Cholecystitis**
- D. Ovarian Cyst**

The term for inflammation of the gallbladder is **cholecystitis**. This condition can arise due to a variety of factors, including gallstones, infections, or other obstructions. When the gallbladder becomes inflamed, it can lead to symptoms such as abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and sometimes fever. Understanding the pathophysiology behind cholecystitis is important in the context of funeral service, as this condition can carry implications for medical history and potential cause of death in cases where gallbladder disease may be involved. Recognizing cholecystitis as a distinct medical condition enables professionals to provide accurate information concerning health issues and how they may impact various aspects of end-of-life care and decision-making.

3. Which condition is characterized by an excess of white blood cells?

- A. Leucopenia**
- B. Leukocytosis**
- C. Anemia**
- D. Primary Anemia**

Leukocytosis is the condition characterized by an excess of white blood cells in the bloodstream. This increase can occur in response to various stimuli, such as infections, inflammation, stress, or more serious conditions like leukemia. White blood cells, or leukocytes, play a crucial role in the immune response, and their elevation indicates that the body is reacting to a stimulus, potentially signaling an underlying health issue. Leukopenia, on the other hand, refers to a deficiency of white blood cells, which can leave an individual more susceptible to infections. Anemia generally involves a shortage of red blood cells or hemoglobin, affecting the body's ability to transport oxygen but is not related to white blood cell levels. Primary anemia is a specific type of anemia, and while it also does not pertain to white blood cell counts, it specifically refers to blood disorders that cause low red blood cell counts. Thus, the correct choice reflects the direct relationship between leukocytosis and elevated white blood cell counts, emphasizing its role in diagnosing and monitoring various medical conditions.

4. What substance is described as a combination of cholesterol, cellular waste, calcium, and other elements that can clog arteries?

- A. Fibrin**
- B. Plaque**
- C. Thrombus**
- D. Fatty Acids**

The substance that is a combination of cholesterol, cellular waste, calcium, and other elements that can clog arteries is plaque. Plaque develops when these substances accumulate on the walls of arteries, leading to a narrowing of the blood vessels and ultimately hindering blood flow. This build-up, referred to as atherosclerosis, is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular diseases such as heart attacks and strokes.

Plaque is specifically a complex mixture that forms due to chronic inflammation and the accumulation of lipids, including cholesterol. Over time, as plaque continues to grow, it can harden and become calcified, which further contributes to the obstruction of arterial pathways. In contrast, fibrin is a protein involved in blood clotting, while a thrombus relates to a blood clot that can form within a blood vessel and impede blood flow. Fatty acids, though related to lipids and metabolism, do not specifically refer to the build-up within arteries. Thus, plaque is the most accurate descriptor of the given substance.

5. What term describes a Streptococcal infection that occurs in the upper body and is often characterized by a red rash?

- A. Scarlet Fever**
- B. Rheumatic Fever**
- C. Strep Throat**
- D. Cellulitis**

The term that describes a Streptococcal infection occurring in the upper body and characterized by a distinctive red rash is Scarlet Fever. This condition is caused by the toxin produced by certain strains of *Streptococcus pyogenes*, which is also responsible for strep throat. The most notable symptom of Scarlet Fever is a bright red rash that feels like sandpaper, often accompanied by a high fever and a sore throat. The rash typically begins on the neck and spreads to the chest, arms, and legs, making it a clear identifier of the condition. In contrast, Rheumatic Fever is a complication of untreated strep throat that can cause inflammation in the heart, joints, or nervous system, but it does not present with a rash specific to the upper body. Strep Throat primarily presents with a sore throat and may lead to fever, swollen lymph nodes, and other symptoms, but it lacks the characteristic rash seen in Scarlet Fever. Cellulitis refers to a bacterial skin infection that typically results in swelling, redness, and pain in the affected area, but it is not specific to Streptococcal infections or associated with a red rash as seen in Scarlet Fever. Therefore, Scarlet Fever is the correct term for this particular Streptococcal infection.

6. What is the focus of Aplastic Anemia?

- A. Loss of red blood cells**
- B. Inhibited bone marrow function**
- C. Presence of sickle-shaped cells**
- D. Excessive red blood cell count**

Aplastic anemia is primarily characterized by the inability of the bone marrow to produce sufficient blood cells, leading to a significant reduction in the number of red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. The focus of this condition is the inhibited functioning of the bone marrow, which can be due to various factors, including autoimmune diseases, exposure to certain chemicals or medications, or viral infections. While the loss of red blood cells is a consequence of the bone marrow's impaired function, and could be a characteristic seen in patients with aplastic anemia, it does not capture the fundamental issue at hand. The presence of sickle-shaped cells is associated with sickle cell anemia, not aplastic anemia, making it irrelevant to this condition. Similarly, excessive red blood cell count is opposite to what happens in aplastic anemia, which involves a decrease in red blood cells. Therefore, emphasizing the inhibited function of the bone marrow provides a clearer and more accurate understanding of what defines aplastic anemia and its pathological focus.

7. What is referred to as a critical point in which no amount of medical help can revive the body's functionality?

- A. Terminal Stage**
- B. Reversible Stage**
- C. Irreversible Stage**
- D. Progressive Stage**

The correct answer is indicative of a state where the body's biological functions have deteriorated to a point beyond recovery, meaning that no medical intervention can restore life or functionality. This condition is commonly defined as the irreversible stage of a medical condition, where vital processes cease permanently, and any attempts at resuscitation would be futile. In contrast, the terminal stage refers to the period where a patient is expected to die from their illness, but there may still be some possibility for comfort care or limited interventions. The reversible stage implies that the condition is still treatable and that recovery is achievable with appropriate medical measures. The progressive stage indicates that a disease is worsening over time; however, it does not inherently mean that the condition is beyond help. Thus, the irreversible stage clearly defines the point of no return in medical contexts, emphasizing the finality of the condition and the inability to revive the body's functions.

8. What is the term for the body's process of secreting substances out of the cell?

- A. Endocytosis**
- B. Exocytosis**
- C. Transcytosis**
- D. Phagocytosis**

The body's process of secreting substances out of the cell is known as exocytosis. This process involves the transport of materials contained in vesicles to the cell membrane, where the vesicle membrane fuses with the cell membrane, allowing the contents to be released into the extracellular space. Exocytosis is crucial for various physiological functions, such as the release of hormones, neurotransmitters, and digestive enzymes, and it serves an important role in maintaining the functional integrity of cells. On the other hand, endocytosis refers to the process by which cells internalize substances by engulfing them, which is essentially the opposite of exocytosis. Transcytosis is a specialized form of endocytosis that involves the transport of substances across a cell, rather than their secretion. Phagocytosis, often referred to as "cell eating," is a specific type of endocytosis that involves the engulfment of large particles or pathogens. Thus, exocytosis stands out as the correct term for the process of secretion from the cell.

9. Which condition arises when a heart valve is stretched out of shape, preventing proper closure?

- A. Pulmonary Embolism**
- B. Prolapse**
- C. Endocarditis**
- D. Cardiac Tamponade**

The condition that arises when a heart valve is stretched out of shape, preventing proper closure, is known as prolapse. In the context of the heart, valve prolapse typically refers to a situation where one or more of the leaflets of the heart valve become elongated and cannot close tightly. This defect may lead to blood flowing back into the heart chambers rather than moving efficiently forward, potentially causing symptoms like fatigue, palpitations, and shortness of breath. In contrast, other options such as pulmonary embolism involve a clot obstructing blood flow in the pulmonary arteries, endocarditis is an infection of the inner lining of the heart that can damage valves, and cardiac tamponade is a condition where fluid accumulates around the heart, restricting its ability to pump effectively. Each of these conditions has different underlying mechanisms and effects on heart function, highlighting the unique nature of prolapse as it specifically pertains to the structure and function of heart valves.

10. What condition is indicated by the buildup of fatty deposits in arterial linings?

- A. Aneurysm**
- B. Atherosclerosis**
- C. Hypertensive Heart Disease**
- D. Myelitis**

The buildup of fatty deposits in arterial linings is indicative of a condition known as atherosclerosis. This disease is characterized by the accumulation of cholesterol, fats, and other substances in and on the artery walls, forming plaques that can restrict blood flow. Over time, these plaques can calcify, harden, and lead to further complications, such as narrowing of the arteries, which can result in cardiovascular diseases, including heart attacks and strokes. Atherosclerosis is often associated with risk factors including high cholesterol levels, hypertension, smoking, and diabetes. Recognizing the role of fatty deposits in this condition is crucial in understanding how it develops and how it can affect overall cardiovascular health. Other options listed, while they are related to vascular and cardiac health, do not specifically refer to the process of fatty deposits accumulating in arterial walls.

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://funeralnatlboardpathology.examzify.com>

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

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