

# Galen Medical Surgical Exam 2 Practice (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 the purpose of sertraline when treating dementia?**
  - A. It will allow her mother to live independently for several more years.**
  - B. It will not improve her dementia but can help control emotional responses.**
  - C. It is used to halt the advancement of Alzheimer disease but will not cure it.**
  - D. It is used to improve short-term memory but will not improve problem solving.**
  
- 2. After a lumbar puncture, which finding would require immediate MD contact due to potential complication?**
  - A. Fever**
  - B. Changes in LOC**
  - C. Decreased strength**
  - D. Leakage of CSF**
  
- 3. What term refers to the structure at the base of the brain where the anterior, middle, and posterior cerebral arteries meet?**
  - A. Circle of Willis**
  - B. Circle of Vieussens**
  - C. Circle of Sylvius**
  - D. Circle of Connex**
  
- 4. Which nursing intervention is appropriate for rhinosinusitis?**
  - A. Humidification**
  - B. Intravenous antibiotics**
  - C. Low-sodium diet**
  - D. High-intensity exercise**
  
- 5. If a seizure lasts more than 5 minutes or occurs back-to-back, what action should be taken?**
  - A. Provide oral fluids.**
  - B. Call the physician immediately.**
  - C. Wait to see if it stops.**
  - D. Activate the emergency response system.**

- 6. Which generalized seizure is typically seen in children and features brief loss of consciousness with staring episodes?**
- A. Absence epilepsy**
  - B. Generalized epilepsy**
  - C. Myoclonic**
  - D. Atonic**
- 7. Which class of medications is used to terminate a seizure?**
- A. Benzodiazepines**
  - B. Barbiturates**
  - C. Antidepressants**
  - D. Antipsychotics**
- 8. Which of the following is an abortive therapy for migraines?**
- A. Sumatriptan**
  - B. Amoxicillin**
  - C. Lisinopril**
  - D. Metoprolol**
- 9. Why should suction be readily available for a patient with Parkinson's disease?**
- A. To manage choking risk from impaired gag reflex**
  - B. To assist with coughing up blood**
  - C. To remove excess saliva only**
  - D. To suction secretions in the lungs**
- 10. Which drug opens the meshwork to improve drainage of aqueous humor in glaucoma?**
- A. Pilocarpine**
  - B. Timolol**
  - C. Mannitol**
  - D. Acetazolamide**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the purpose of sertraline when treating dementia?**

- A. It will allow her mother to live independently for several more years.
- B. It will not improve her dementia but can help control emotional responses.**
- C. It is used to halt the advancement of Alzheimer disease but will not cure it.
- D. It is used to improve short-term memory but will not improve problem solving.

Sertraline is used in dementia to manage mood and behavioral symptoms, not to treat the underlying cognitive decline. It's an SSRI antidepressant that can help with depression, anxiety, irritability, and emotional lability often seen in people with dementia. By improving these emotional responses, it can enhance overall function and quality of life, even though the dementia itself continues to progress. It does not slow or halt the disease, nor does it improve memory or problem-solving abilities. That's why the correct choice is that it will not improve dementia but can help control emotional responses.

**2. After a lumbar puncture, which finding would require immediate MD contact due to potential complication?**

- A. Fever
- B. Changes in LOC
- C. Decreased strength
- D. Leakage of CSF**

Leakage of CSF at the puncture site is a direct post-procedure complication that signals ongoing CSF loss. When CSF continues to escape, intracranial pressure can drop (intracranial hypotension), leading to severe headaches and, in some cases, serious outcomes like infection (meningitis) or subdural problems. Because this situation can worsen quickly, it requires immediate assessment and intervention by a clinician. The other findings—fever, changes in consciousness, or new weakness—are concerning and warrant prompt evaluation as well, but they do not indicate a CSF leak at the puncture site itself, which is the clearest red flag that needs urgent medical attention.

**3. What term refers to the structure at the base of the brain where the anterior, middle, and posterior cerebral arteries meet?**

- A. Circle of Willis**
- B. Circle of Vieussens**
- C. Circle of Sylvius**
- D. Circle of Connex**

The structure at the base of the brain that forms a ring where the anterior, middle, and posterior cerebral arteries meet is the Circle of Willis. This circular network connects the internal carotid systems with the basilar system, formed by the two anterior cerebral arteries joined by the anterior communicating artery, and the posterior circulation connected through the posterior communicating arteries to the posterior cerebral arteries. Its main significance is providing collateral blood flow—if one major artery narrows or blocks, other routes can help sustain cerebral perfusion. The other terms aren't the standard name for this arterial circle: some are historical or refer to different regions, and they don't describe this brain vascular ring.

**4. Which nursing intervention is appropriate for rhinosinusitis?**

- A. Humidification**
- B. Intravenous antibiotics**
- C. Low-sodium diet**
- D. High-intensity exercise**

Maintaining humidified air helps with rhinosinusitis by keeping the nasal and sinus mucosa moist, which thin the secretions and support mucociliary clearance. When secretions are less viscous, drainage from the sinuses improves, reducing obstruction and facial pain. Humidification can be delivered with a humidifier, steam inhalation, or warm mist, and can be paired with saline irrigation as appropriate. Other options are less aligned with symptom relief. Intravenous antibiotics are a pharmacologic treatment reserved for suspected or confirmed bacterial sinusitis or severe illness, not a routine nursing intervention for symptom relief. A low-sodium diet doesn't directly affect sinus inflammation or drainage, and high-intensity exercise can irritate the irritated mucosa and may worsen symptoms.

**5. If a seizure lasts more than 5 minutes or occurs back-to-back, what action should be taken?**

- A. Provide oral fluids.**
- B. Call the physician immediately.**
- C. Wait to see if it stops.**
- D. Activate the emergency response system.**

Prolonged seizures or repeated seizures without recovery are medical emergencies. When a seizure lasts more than five minutes or occurs back-to-back, activating the emergency response system is essential. Ongoing seizure activity can quickly compromise brain oxygenation and glucose supply, increase the risk of brain injury, and indicate a life-threatening situation that requires rapid advanced care (airway support, IV access, and anticonvulsant treatment) that trained responders can provide promptly. In the meantime, keep the person safe: do not put anything in the mouth, avoid restraining movements, cushion the head, and loosen tight clothing. When the convulsions stop, place the person on their side to aid breathing and monitor breathing until help arrives. Having the start time handy helps responders gauge urgency. This is why contacting emergency services is the best action in this scenario.

**6. Which generalized seizure is typically seen in children and features brief loss of consciousness with staring episodes?**

- A. Absence epilepsy**
- B. Generalized epilepsy**
- C. Myoclonic**
- D. Atonic**

Absence seizures are brief lapses of consciousness that commonly appear in children, presenting as staring spells with minimal or no movement and then a rapid return to normal activity. This pattern—sudden onset and offset, short duration, and intact postictal recovery—is characteristic of a generalized seizure type seen in kids. During the event, subtle signs like eye blinking or lip smacking may occur, and the child typically has no memory of the spell. An EEG during these episodes reveals a 3 Hz spike-and-wave pattern, a classic finding that helps distinguish absence seizures from other generalized or focal events. Hyperventilation can even provoke the typical EEG changes, underscoring the link between this seizure type and childhood-onset generalized epilepsy. Management usually features ethosuximide as a first-line treatment, with valproic acid option if other seizure types are present.

**7. Which class of medications is used to terminate a seizure?**

**A. Benzodiazepines**

**B. Barbiturates**

**C. Antidepressants**

**D. Antipsychotics**

The main idea is how seizures are stopped quickly. To terminate a seizure fast, you want a drug that rapidly enhances inhibitory signaling in the brain. Benzodiazepines do this by boosting the effect of GABA at the GABA-A receptor, which increases chloride flow into neurons and dampens neuronal firing. When given promptly—especially intravenously—they act quickly, making them the first-line option for stopping seizures and for managing status epilepticus. Barbiturates also enhance GABA, but they tend to cause deeper sedation and more breathing suppression, so they're usually reserved for later steps or refractory seizures rather than the initial termination. Antidepressants and antipsychotics aren't used to stop seizures acutely; they're for other conditions and can even affect seizure thresholds or have unwanted interactions during a seizure event. So, benzodiazepines are the best choice for terminating a seizure due to their rapid onset, strong GABAergic enhancement, and favorable safety profile in the acute setting.

**8. Which of the following is an abortive therapy for migraines?**

**A. Sumatriptan**

**B. Amoxicillin**

**C. Lisinopril**

**D. Metoprolol**

Abortive therapy is about treating a migraine during an attack to stop or reduce symptoms quickly. Sumatriptan fits this role because it's a triptan that activates 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptors on cranial blood vessels and trigeminal pathways. This causes vasoconstriction of dilated meningeal vessels and inhibits the release of inflammatory neuropeptides like CGRP, which together dampen pain signaling and abort the attack when taken at onset. The other drugs don't serve this purpose. Amoxicillin is an antibiotic with no role in acute migraine relief. Lisinopril and metoprolol are used mainly for preventive therapy to reduce migraine frequency and severity over time, not for immediate relief during an attack.

**9. Why should suction be readily available for a patient with Parkinson's disease?**

- A. To manage choking risk from impaired gag reflex**
- B. To assist with coughing up blood**
- C. To remove excess saliva only**
- D. To suction secretions in the lungs**

Airway protection is the key idea. Parkinson's disease often impairs swallowing and dulls the gag and cough reflex, so saliva and secretions can pool and potentially be aspirated into the lungs. Having suction readily available allows rapid clearance of saliva and small airway secretions from the mouth and pharynx, reducing the risk of choking and aspiration during meals or rest. It's not about coughing up blood or a general need to remove saliva only, and suctioning lung secretions is usually reserved for other clinical situations like respiratory failure or a tracheostomy. The focus here is preventing airway compromise due to impaired swallowing.

**10. Which drug opens the meshwork to improve drainage of aqueous humor in glaucoma?**

- A. Pilocarpine**
- B. Timolol**
- C. Mannitol**
- D. Acetazolamide**

Opening the drainage pathway in glaucoma relies on stimulating the ciliary muscle to widen the trabecular meshwork so aqueous humor can flow more freely into Schlemm's canal. Pilocarpine accomplishes this by directly activating muscarinic receptors on the ciliary muscle. This contraction pulls on structures around the angle and opens the trabecular meshwork, increasing outflow and lowering intraocular pressure. The other options mainly reduce production of aqueous humor or create osmotic shifts that lower pressure, rather than enhancing outflow through the meshwork. So the drug that opens the meshwork to improve drainage is pilocarpine.

## 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://galenmedsurg2.examzify.com>**

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

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