

Kettering American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) 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 the cumulative lifetime dose limit for a radiologic technologist who is two days past their 37th birthday?**
 - A. 150 mSv**
 - B. 370 mSv**
 - C. 500 mSv**
 - D. 1000 mSv**

- 2. What is the function of the collimator in radiographic imaging?**
 - A. To filter out low-energy photons**
 - B. To reduce radiation exposure to the area outside of the target**
 - C. To enhance image contrast**
 - D. To focus the x-ray beam**

- 3. What is the term for the blood pressure value when the heart is at rest?**
 - A. Systolic blood pressure**
 - B. Diastolic blood pressure**
 - C. Mean arterial pressure**
 - D. Pulse pressure**

- 4. What is the function of the flat panel thin film transistor detectors (FDP/TFT) when using the direct method to produce an image?**
 - A. Convert X-rays to light**
 - B. Convert light to X-rays**
 - C. Convert X-rays to electrons**
 - D. Convert analog signals to digital**

- 5. What radiation protection measure is essential for radiologic technologists?**
 - A. Wearing gloves**
 - B. Using lead aprons**
 - C. Limiting time near radiation sources**
 - D. Using protective eyewear**

- 6. To avoid absorption of the remnant X-ray beam by lead strips within a grid cassette, how should the central ray be angled?**
- A. Angulation perpendicular to the grid**
 - B. Angulation along the short axis of grid**
 - C. Angulation along the long axis of grid**
 - D. No angulation recommended**
- 7. With all other technical factors remaining constant, which of the following results from increasing amounts of filtration in the X-ray beam?**
- A. Decrease patient skin exposure**
 - B. Increase radiation dose**
 - C. Decrease penetration through objects**
 - D. Increase scatter radiation**
- 8. What happens to radiographic contrast when the radiation field size is changed from a 14"x17" to an 8"x10"?**
- A. Contrast will remain the same**
 - B. Contrast will decrease**
 - C. Contrast will increase**
 - D. Contrast will fluctuate**
- 9. What is the name of the radiographic exam that demonstrates the degree of patency of the fallopian tubes?**
- A. Hysterosalpingiogram**
 - B. Pelvic ultrasound**
 - C. Laparoscopy**
 - D. Sonohysterography**
- 10. Which factors are directly related to image brightness in fluoroscopy?**
- A. Photon quantity**
 - B. Beam intensity**
 - C. Exposure rate**
 - D. All of the above**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the cumulative lifetime dose limit for a radiologic technologist who is two days past their 37th birthday?

- A. 150 mSv
- B. 370 mSv**
- C. 500 mSv
- D. 1000 mSv

The cumulative lifetime dose limit for a radiologic technologist is calculated using the formula of age in years multiplied by 10 mSv per year. In this case, since the individual is two days past their 37th birthday, they would be considered to be 37 years old for the purpose of this calculation. Therefore, the cumulative lifetime dose limit would be 37 years \times 10 mSv/year, which equals 370 mSv. This limit is established to ensure that radiation exposure remains within safe levels, thereby minimizing the risk of long-term health effects, such as cancer, associated with radiation exposure over time. By adhering to this cumulative dose limit, radiologic technologists can ensure they are practicing safely and protecting their health while performing their professional duties.

2. What is the function of the collimator in radiographic imaging?

- A. To filter out low-energy photons
- B. To reduce radiation exposure to the area outside of the target**
- C. To enhance image contrast
- D. To focus the x-ray beam

The function of the collimator in radiographic imaging is primarily to reduce radiation exposure to the area outside of the target. This is achieved by narrowing the x-ray beam to the anatomical area being examined, thereby minimizing unnecessary exposure to surrounding tissues. This is not only a crucial aspect of patient safety but also enhances image quality by limiting scatter radiation, which could otherwise blur the image and compromise diagnostic accuracy. While collimators can influence image contrast by managing the scatter and ensuring that only the relevant area is irradiated, their primary role remains focused on reducing extraneous radiation exposure. Additionally, filtering low-energy photons or attempting to focus the x-ray beam are not the principal functions of the collimator.

3. What is the term for the blood pressure value when the heart is at rest?

- A. Systolic blood pressure**
- B. Diastolic blood pressure**
- C. Mean arterial pressure**
- D. Pulse pressure**

Diastolic blood pressure is the term used to describe the pressure in the arteries when the heart is at rest between beats. During this phase, the heart is refilling with blood and is not actively pumping, which allows for a decrease in arterial pressure. This value is typically the lower number in a blood pressure reading and is crucial for understanding overall cardiovascular health. It reflects the minimum pressure in the arteries and helps in assessing the heart's ability to relax and fill adequately. Systolic blood pressure, on the other hand, represents the pressure in the arteries when the heart beats and is actively pumping blood. Mean arterial pressure provides an average pressure that drives blood through the circulatory system, and pulse pressure is the difference between systolic and diastolic pressures. Each of these values serves a unique purpose in cardiovascular assessment, making it essential to differentiate between them.

4. What is the function of the flat panel thin film transistor detectors (FDP/TFT) when using the direct method to produce an image?

- A. Convert X-rays to light**
- B. Convert light to X-rays**
- C. Convert X-rays to electrons**
- D. Convert analog signals to digital**

The function of flat panel thin film transistor detectors (FDP/TFT) in the direct method of image production is to convert X-rays to electrons. This process occurs when X-rays penetrate the detector material, typically made of a photoconductive layer, such as amorphous selenium (a-Se). In this scenario, the energy from the incoming X-rays frees electrons in the photoconductive material, creating an electric signal. This conversion process is vital because it forms the basis for capturing the image data. The electrons generated are then collected by the TFT array, which plays a key role in reading out these signals, thus enabling the formation of a digital image. This direct conversion method allows for high-quality images with excellent spatial resolution and improved efficiency compared to indirect methods, which involve additional steps. Understanding this mechanism helps clarify how the FDP/TFT systems efficiently transform X-ray data into usable image form, emphasizing the role of direct conversion in modern radiographic technology.

5. What radiation protection measure is essential for radiologic technologists?

- A. Wearing gloves**
- B. Using lead aprons**
- C. Limiting time near radiation sources**
- D. Using protective eyewear**

Limiting time near radiation sources is indeed a fundamental radiation protection measure for radiologic technologists. The principle of time, distance, and shielding governs radiation safety practices, and reducing the amount of time spent near a radiation source decreases overall exposure to ionizing radiation. This is essential in maintaining safety standards and protecting both the technologist and the patient. When technologists minimize their time near sources of radiation, they reduce the likelihood of accumulating harmful doses. This is an especially pertinent strategy in environments where multiple procedures are conducted, as it helps maintain both personal safety and regulatory compliance. While wearing gloves, using lead aprons, and using protective eyewear are all important protective practices to mitigate radiation exposure and increase safety during procedures, the principle of limiting time is critical because it directly correlates with the risk associated with radiation. Each measure has its place in a comprehensive safety strategy, but time management is paramount in reducing exposure levels effectively.

6. To avoid absorption of the remnant X-ray beam by lead strips within a grid cassette, how should the central ray be angled?

- A. Angulation perpendicular to the grid**
- B. Angulation along the short axis of grid**
- C. Angulation along the long axis of grid**
- D. No angulation recommended**

Angling the central ray along the long axis of the grid is the optimal approach because it aligns the beam with the orientation of the lead strips within the grid. Grids are designed to absorb scatter to improve image contrast, and their lead strips typically run in a specific direction. When the central ray is angled along this direction, it minimizes the likelihood of the remnant X-ray beam being absorbed by the lead strips, ensuring that as much of the beam passes through as possible. This technique enhances the overall image quality by allowing more diagnostic information to reach the image receptor while reducing artifacts that could arise from improper angling. When the central ray is not aligned properly—such as angling it perpendicular or along the short axis of the grid—it can lead to significant absorption of X-rays by the grid, resulting in a reduction of the density of the image and possibly causing grid cutoff. Therefore, angling along the long axis is crucial for maintaining image quality and ensuring an adequate representation of the anatomical structures being examined.

7. With all other technical factors remaining constant, which of the following results from increasing amounts of filtration in the X-ray beam?

- A. Decrease patient skin exposure**
- B. Increase radiation dose**
- C. Decrease penetration through objects**
- D. Increase scatter radiation**

Increasing the amount of filtration in an X-ray beam has a direct effect on patient skin exposure. Filtration works by selectively absorbing lower energy X-rays from the primary beam that are more likely to be absorbed by the patient's skin. These lower energy photons contribute to patient dose but do not significantly contribute to the diagnostic quality of the image since they do not penetrate adequately through tissues. By removing these less penetrating, low-energy photons, increasing filtration effectively reduces the overall radiation exposure to the skin, as the patient's body is only exposed to the higher energy photons that have a greater likelihood of generating useful image data. This means that while the total intensity of the X-ray beam may decrease, the quality and energy of the remaining beam are enhanced, helping to minimize unnecessary radiation to the patient. In clinical practice, this reduction in skin exposure enhances patient safety and contributes to better radiation hygiene, while still allowing for an adequate quality of diagnostic information to be obtained from the imaging procedure.

8. What happens to radiographic contrast when the radiation field size is changed from a 14"x17" to an 8"x10"?

- A. Contrast will remain the same**
- B. Contrast will decrease**
- C. Contrast will increase**
- D. Contrast will fluctuate**

When the radiation field size is reduced from a larger area, such as 14"x17", to a smaller area like 8"x10", several factors influence radiographic contrast. The primary effect of decreasing the field size is that it reduces the amount of scatter radiation reaching the image receptor. Scatter radiation is generated when the x-ray beam interacts with matter, and it can reduce the overall contrast of an image by adding unwanted gray tones. By limiting the area being imaged, a smaller field size effectively minimizes scatter, which enhances the visibility of differences in tissue density and reduces the fogging of the image. This results in an image where the variations in contrast between different structures are more pronounced. As a result, the overall contrast of the radiographic image increases, leading to improved diagnostic quality. In this context, changing the field size to a smaller one serves to enhance the contrast by making the structural details more distinguishable, thus allowing for clearer assessments and interpretations of the radiographic images.

9. What is the name of the radiographic exam that demonstrates the degree of patency of the fallopian tubes?

- A. Hysterosalpingiogram**
- B. Pelvic ultrasound**
- C. Laparoscopy**
- D. Sonohysterography**

The correct answer is Hysterosalpingiogram, which specifically refers to a radiographic procedure used to assess the patency of the fallopian tubes. In this examination, a contrast medium is injected into the uterine cavity, and X-ray images are taken to visualize the flow of the contrast through the fallopian tubes. This allows clinicians to determine if the tubes are open (patent) or blocked, which is crucial in evaluating female infertility. Other options serve different purposes. A pelvic ultrasound is non-invasive and provides images of the organs in the pelvic region but does not specifically assess fallopian tube patency. Laparoscopy involves a surgical procedure where a camera is inserted into the abdomen, allowing direct visualization of the pelvic organs but is not a radiographic exam. Sonohysterography involves the use of saline solution to enhance ultrasound images of the uterine cavity, primarily used for assessing uterine abnormalities, rather than evaluating the fallopian tubes themselves.

10. Which factors are directly related to image brightness in fluoroscopy?

- A. Photon quantity**
- B. Beam intensity**
- C. Exposure rate**
- D. All of the above**

Image brightness in fluoroscopy is influenced by multiple interrelated factors, and all these elements play a crucial role in determining the clarity and visibility of the images produced. Photon quantity refers to the number of x-ray photons that reach the image receptor. A higher quantity of photons will generally result in a brighter image because there are more particles contributing to the formation of the image. This is essential in obtaining a clear and well-defined picture. Beam intensity refers to the strength of the x-ray beam itself as it passes through the subject. A more intense beam will deliver more energy to the image receptor, thereby enhancing brightness. The intensity of the beam can be adjusted during the procedure, affecting image quality dynamically based on patient size, anatomy, and the specific clinical scenario. Exposure rate pertains to the amount of radiation that is emitted per unit of time. A higher exposure rate means that the image receptor is receiving more radiation over a given time period, leading to an increase in the overall brightness of the image. Proper management of exposure rate is vital for achieving optimal image quality while also ensuring patient safety. Since each of these factors—photon quantity, beam intensity, and exposure rate—contributes to the overall brightness of images in fluoroscopy, selecting all of the above as

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://ketteringarrrt.examzify.com>

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

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