

LCSW LAW AND ETHICS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://lcswlawandethics.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. Which of the following is NOT an exception to privilege?**
 - A. Introducing emotional condition into proceedings
 - B. Theft of therapist's property
 - C. Client under 16 as a victim of crime
 - D. Threat to another person

- 2. What is the first step when a colleague is acting unethically or illegally?**
 - A. Report them to authorities
 - B. Confront the colleague and discuss the issue
 - C. Ignore the behavior
 - D. Consult with a supervisor

- 3. What does "self-determination" refer to in social work practice?**
 - A. Encouraging clients to rely on the social worker for all decisions
 - B. Respecting clients' rights to make decisions about their own lives and treatment
 - C. Imposing decisions made by the social worker for the client's best interest
 - D. Providing clients with care instructions without their input

- 4. Why is ongoing education critical for social workers in the context of ethics?**
 - A. It reduces the need for supervision
 - B. It ensures familiarity with evolving laws and ethical standards
 - C. It allows social workers to avoid difficult cases
 - D. It promotes obtaining higher salaries immediately

- 5. When can an advocate ethically push for payment from insurance?**
 - A. If the client has been non-compliant
 - B. If insurance denies payment despite medical necessity
 - C. If it is a service the therapist doesn't normally provide
 - D. If the client has requested financial help

- 6. What is the protocol for reporting elder or dependent abuse if the individual is living at home?**
- A. Contact the police immediately
 - B. Call Adult Protective Services and submit a written report within 48 hours
 - C. Notify the victim's family
 - D. Contact a lawyer
- 7. What action should social workers take to support clients facing discrimination?**
- A. Encourage clients to remain silent
 - B. Advocate for their rights and equality
 - C. Minimize the issue as unimportant
 - D. Avoid discussing the topic entirely
- 8. What can result from a breach of confidentiality in social work?**
- A. Stronger relationships with clients
 - B. Legal consequences and loss of trust
 - C. Improved client outcomes
 - D. Enhanced professional reputation
- 9. Which of the following best describes a dependent adult?**
- A. A person who is 18 years or older with no financial responsibilities
 - B. A person who is 18 to 64 years old unable to care for themselves due to certain conditions
 - C. A person over 65 years of age needing assistance with daily activities
 - D. A person under 18 years of age requiring guardianship
- 10. What should a therapist do if they plan to implement a fee increase?**
- A. Announce it only in the office
 - B. Give at least 3 months written notice
 - C. Inform the client after the increase takes effect
 - D. Only benefit new clients with this information

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which of the following is NOT an exception to privilege?

- A. Introducing emotional condition into proceedings
- B. Theft of therapist's property**
- C. Client under 16 as a victim of crime
- D. Threat to another person

In the context of privilege in social work and therapy, understanding what constitutes an exception is key to maintaining client confidentiality while also upholding legal and ethical responsibilities. The choice regarding theft of the therapist's property is not generally considered an exception to privilege. Privilege is designed to protect the confidentiality of the communication between a client and therapist. This protection is crucial for fostering a trusting therapeutic environment, allowing clients to express themselves without fear of their disclosures being used against them in legal contexts. While discussions involving criminal acts like theft may arise during therapy sessions, they do not create an automatic exception to privilege unless they directly relate to issues of victimization, threats, or broader public safety matters. In contrast, other scenarios listed are recognized exceptions to privilege because they involve significant ethical and legal obligations to report or intervene. For example, introducing an emotional condition into proceedings can compromise the integrity of the therapeutic relationship if the therapist is compelled to disclose information for legal purposes. Similarly, when a client under the age of 16 is a victim of a crime, therapists are required to report that information to protect the minor. A threat to another person also constitutes an exception because therapists have a duty to warn and protect potential victims based on the client's disclosures. Therefore, regarding the question

2. What is the first step when a colleague is acting unethically or illegally?

- A. Report them to authorities
- B. Confront the colleague and discuss the issue**
- C. Ignore the behavior
- D. Consult with a supervisor

When a colleague is acting unethically or illegally, the first step should generally involve confronting the colleague and discussing the issue. This approach is grounded in the principles of professional ethics, which emphasize the importance of direct communication and accountability among peers. Engaging the colleague in a conversation allows for the possibility of clarifying misunderstandings, addressing personal issues, or encouraging them to recognize the impact of their behavior on clients and the workplace. This method is often preferred because it respects the colleague's dignity and promotes a culture of honesty and directness. It can also provide the colleague with the opportunity to change their behavior in a supportive environment before escalating the situation to higher authorities or formal reporting channels. Additionally, addressing the matter directly can sometimes lead to resolution without further consequences, which might protect the colleague's career and integrity. Taking this initial step can also demonstrate a commitment to ethical standards and professionalism, reinforcing the importance of accountability within the profession. By discussing the issue one-on-one, professionals have the chance to model ethical behavior and demonstrate leadership in addressing conduct that may be harmful or illegal.

3. What does “self-determination” refer to in social work practice?

- A. Encouraging clients to rely on the social worker for all decisions
- B. Respecting clients' rights to make decisions about their own lives and treatment**
- C. Imposing decisions made by the social worker for the client's best interest
- D. Providing clients with care instructions without their input

"Self-determination" in social work practice fundamentally emphasizes the respect for and support of clients' rights to make their own choices regarding their lives and treatment. This principle reflects the core value of empowerment, where clients are encouraged to actively participate in decision-making processes that affect them. By honoring individuals' autonomy, social workers foster an environment where clients can express their preferences, goals, and needs, allowing for more personalized and effective interventions. This approach recognizes that clients are experts in their own experiences and circumstances. It also aligns with ethical standards in social work, which advocate for the dignity and worth of the person. Supporting self-determination helps build trust in the therapeutic relationship and encourages clients to take an active role in their recovery or support processes, ultimately leading to better outcomes and satisfaction with services received.

4. Why is ongoing education critical for social workers in the context of ethics?

- A. It reduces the need for supervision
- B. It ensures familiarity with evolving laws and ethical standards**
- C. It allows social workers to avoid difficult cases
- D. It promotes obtaining higher salaries immediately

Ongoing education is critical for social workers primarily because it ensures familiarity with evolving laws and ethical standards. In the field of social work, laws and ethical guidelines are not static; they continually change in response to new research, societal shifts, and the needs of diverse populations. To practice effectively and responsibly, social workers must stay informed about these changes to advocate effectively for their clients and uphold professional integrity. As social workers encounter various situations that demand ethical decision-making, having a deep understanding of current laws and ethical standards enables them to navigate complexities with confidence. This ongoing education empowers social workers to provide the best possible care, align with regulatory requirements, and engage in lifelong learning essential for maintaining competence in their practice.

5. When can an advocate ethically push for payment from insurance?

- A. If the client has been non-compliant
- B. If insurance denies payment despite medical necessity**
- C. If it is a service the therapist doesn't normally provide
- D. If the client has requested financial help

The correct choice highlights a crucial aspect of ethical practice regarding insurance claims in the context of mental health services. When an insurance provider denies payment even though the service rendered was deemed medically necessary, an advocate is ethically justified in pushing for payment. This approach is rooted in the principle that the client deserves access to care that aligns with their treatment needs. If the clinical documentation supports the medical necessity of the services provided, the advocate can argue for reimbursement. Pursuing payment under these circumstances also reflects an ethical commitment to ensuring the client receives the benefits they are entitled to, as denying necessary services may result in further harm or disruption in the client's care. It is vital that advocates adhere to ethical guidelines while standing up for clients' rights, ensuring they receive the support necessary for their mental health. Other options do not align as closely with ethical standards. Non-compliance refers more to the client's failures to engage with treatment than to the legitimacy of the service itself. A lack of compliance does not warrant pushing for payment, as the services rendered were still provided based on the client's initial agreement and perceived needs. Similarly, if a service is not one that the therapist typically provides, it may not be appropriate to seek payment without proper customary practices and documentation. Lastly, while

6. What is the protocol for reporting elder or dependent abuse if the individual is living at home?

- A. Contact the police immediately
- B. Call Adult Protective Services and submit a written report within 48 hours**
- C. Notify the victim's family
- D. Contact a lawyer

The correct approach for reporting elder or dependent abuse when the individual is living at home involves calling Adult Protective Services (APS) and submitting a written report within 48 hours. This protocol is established by law to ensure that abuse is addressed promptly and by the appropriate authorities who specialize in handling such sensitive cases. Contacting APS is crucial because they are specifically equipped to evaluate allegations of abuse and provide necessary interventions or resources to protect vulnerable individuals. APS handles investigations, which may involve assessing the safety and well-being of the elder or dependent person and coordinating with law enforcement and other services if needed. In terms of timing, the requirement to submit a written report within 48 hours emphasizes the urgency of addressing potential abuse, ensuring that the individual is safeguarded as soon as possible. Addressing the other options helps clarify their inappropriateness in this situation: contacting the police immediately might be necessary in certain circumstances, especially if there is immediate danger, but is not the initial protocol specifically designated for elder abuse reporting. Notifying the victim's family could potentially exacerbate the situation if the family is involved in the abuse or if the victim fears retaliation. Contacting a lawyer, while relevant for legal advice, does not directly lead to the protective action necessary for the victim and

7. What action should social workers take to support clients facing discrimination?

- A. Encourage clients to remain silent
- B. Advocate for their rights and equality**
- C. Minimize the issue as unimportant
- D. Avoid discussing the topic entirely

Advocating for clients' rights and equality is a fundamental responsibility of social workers, particularly when clients are facing discrimination. This action aligns with the core values and ethical principles of the social work profession, which include social justice, dignity, and worth of the individual. Social workers are trained to recognize the impacts of systemic discrimination and to empower clients by supporting their rights in various contexts, including legal, social, and community settings. By advocating for clients, social workers can help to elevate their voices, promote equality, and create a more inclusive environment. This can involve actively supporting clients in accessing resources, navigating discrimination-related challenges, and connecting them with relevant advocacy organizations. Furthermore, this approach not only benefits the individual client but also contributes to broader societal change by challenging discriminatory practices and policies. The other responses do not align with the ethical obligations of social work. Remaining silent, minimizing the issue, or avoiding the topic entirely undermines the clients' experiences and fails to address the harmful effects of discrimination. These actions can contribute to further marginalization and harm, opposed to empowering clients to be advocates for their own rights and well-being.

8. What can result from a breach of confidentiality in social work?

- A. Stronger relationships with clients
- B. Legal consequences and loss of trust**
- C. Improved client outcomes
- D. Enhanced professional reputation

A breach of confidentiality in social work can lead to serious legal consequences and significantly undermine the trust between a social worker and their clients. Confidentiality is a foundational element of the therapeutic relationship, emphasizing that clients need to feel safe sharing sensitive information. When confidentiality is compromised, clients may feel betrayed, leading to a breakdown in the therapeutic relationship. This can result in clients being less willing to engage or share information in the future, ultimately hindering their progress in therapy. Additionally, legal consequences can arise from breaches of confidentiality, including potential lawsuits or disciplinary actions from regulatory boards. These outcomes highlight the legal and ethical standards that social workers must uphold to protect their clients and maintain the integrity of their practice. The repercussions of a confidentiality breach extend beyond immediate effects, potentially impacting a social worker's career and ability to practice in the future, due to reputational damage and ethical violations. Thus, safeguarding confidentiality is crucial not only for building relationships with clients but also for maintaining a professional standing in the field.

9. Which of the following best describes a dependent adult?

- A. A person who is 18 years or older with no financial responsibilities
- B. A person who is 18 to 64 years old unable to care for themselves due to certain conditions**
- C. A person over 65 years of age needing assistance with daily activities
- D. A person under 18 years of age requiring guardianship

The definition of a dependent adult is best represented by the description of a person who is aged 18 to 64 and unable to care for themselves due to certain conditions. This categorization acknowledges that dependency can arise from various physical or mental impairments, as well as developmental disabilities that may inhibit an individual's ability to perform daily self-care tasks. While individuals over 65 needing assistance and minors requiring guardianship reflect different types of dependency, they do not capture the broader range of dependent adults who fall into the 18 to 64 age group. Thus, it is critical to distinguish that dependency is not solely about age but also about the individual's capacity to care for themselves, which is highlighted in the correct specification.

10. What should a therapist do if they plan to implement a fee increase?

- A. Announce it only in the office
- B. Give at least 3 months written notice**
- C. Inform the client after the increase takes effect
- D. Only benefit new clients with this information

Providing at least three months' written notice before implementing a fee increase is a best practice that aligns with ethical guidelines for therapists. This approach demonstrates respect for the client's financial situation and allows them ample time to adjust or make alternative arrangements if necessary. By giving written notice, the therapist ensures transparency and maintains the therapeutic relationship, which can be impacted by financial changes. This notice period gives clients the opportunity to discuss the changes and express any concerns during their sessions, contributing to an environment of open communication. Additionally, written communication serves as formal documentation that both parties can reference, helping to prevent misunderstandings. This period is also valuable for clients to review their financial situations and decide on the best course of action regarding their therapy without feeling pressured by abrupt changes.

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://lcswwlawandethics.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE