# Maryland Psychology Jurisprudence Practice Test (Sample)

**Study Guide** 



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## **Questions**



- 1. What is the penalty for committing an act of unprofessional conduct in the practice of psychology?
  - A. Up to \$1,000
  - B. Up to \$5,000
  - C. Up to \$10,000
  - D. Up to \$15,000
- 2. Is it permissible to have legal counsel present during a hearing?
  - A. No, you must attend alone
  - B. Yes, you can choose to be with or without counsel
  - C. Only if the Board permits it
  - D. Yes, but only for guidance
- 3. What is exploitation of a vulnerable adult?
  - A. Providing assistance without consent
  - B. Misuse of funds, property, or personal resources
  - C. Threatening a vulnerable adult verbally
  - D. Isolating them from family and friends
- 4. How long must records be kept for minors after they reach the age of 18?
  - A. 3 years
  - B. 5 years
  - C. Until the minor is 21
  - D. 7 years
- 5. What is the primary mission of the Board?
  - A. Enhance psychological theories
  - B. Ensure a minimum level of training is met
  - C. Maintain consumer trust
  - D. Reduce operational costs

- 6. Which of the following is NOT one of the three key components to include in a syllabus?
  - A. Subject matter
  - **B.** Nature of course experiences
  - C. Teaching staff biographies
  - D. Basis for evaluating performance
- 7. When can an expert report be excluded?
  - A. If it contains too much technical jargon
  - B. If it lacks specificity or does not comply when evaluated
  - C. If it is submitted after the hearing begins
  - D. If it is deemed irrelevant by the Board
- 8. What must therapists disclose to ensure client welfare?
  - A. Personal beliefs about treatment efficacy
  - B. Conflicts of interest, considering confidentiality
  - C. The therapist's personal therapy history
  - D. Availability of alternative therapies
- 9. What is the penalty for failure to cooperate with the Board?
  - A. Up to \$1,500
  - B. Up to \$5,000
  - C. Up to \$7,500
  - D. Up to \$10,000
- 10. When taking credit for work, professionals must do so only for what?
  - A. Work performed collaboratively
  - B. Work performed independently
  - C. Work performed or supervised
  - D. All work that is recognized as valuable

### **Answers**



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



## **Explanations**



- 1. What is the penalty for committing an act of unprofessional conduct in the practice of psychology?
  - A. Up to \$1,000
  - B. Up to \$5,000
  - C. Up to \$10,000
  - D. Up to \$15,000

The penalty for committing an act of unprofessional conduct in the practice of psychology can reach up to \$10,000. This amount reflects the seriousness with which regulatory bodies treat violations within the profession. The higher penalty is intended to deter misconduct and to emphasize the importance of adhering to ethical standards and professional guidelines within the field of psychology. In many professions, including psychology, unprofessional conduct can encompass a variety of behaviors that compromise the integrity of the profession, such as breaches of confidentiality, exploitation of clients, or practicing outside of one's scope of competence. Therefore, the fine is structured to be significant enough to instill a strong sense of accountability among practitioners. The other monetary penalties are lower and do not align with the established consequences for unprofessional conduct in psychology practice, highlighting the importance placed on maintaining high standards in the profession.

- 2. Is it permissible to have legal counsel present during a hearing?
  - A. No, you must attend alone
  - B. Yes, you can choose to be with or without counsel
  - C. Only if the Board permits it
  - D. Yes, but only for guidance

The correct answer is that it is permissible to have legal counsel present during a hearing, and individuals have the option to choose whether to attend with or without counsel. In legal proceedings, having an attorney accompany an individual can provide valuable guidance, help navigate the complexities of the law, and ensure that one's rights are protected. This option recognizes individuals' rights to seek assistance and ensures they feel supported during the hearing process. It's important to note that while having counsel is a right, it is also up to the individual's discretion as to whether they feel the need for legal representation. This flexibility allows for various circumstances where a person might feel confident enough to proceed without legal counsel, or conversely, may feel that they would benefit from legal expertise. In contrast, other choices imply restrictions on this right, either mandating that one must attend alone or suggesting that presence is conditional upon permission from a board. These notions do not reflect the general legal principle that individuals have the right to legal representation during formal hearings.

#### 3. What is exploitation of a vulnerable adult?

- A. Providing assistance without consent
- B. Misuse of funds, property, or personal resources
- C. Threatening a vulnerable adult verbally
- D. Isolating them from family and friends

Exploitation of a vulnerable adult refers specifically to the misuse of funds, property, or personal resources, which encompasses financial abuse or manipulation. This can involve taking advantage of the adult's inability to protect themselves or manage their financial affairs, leading to significant harm or loss. Exploiters may use various deceptive tactics to gain access to the adult's resources, emphasizing the trust that the vulnerable individual has in them. The focus on financial exploitation underscores the broader definition of exploitation in legal and ethical contexts, especially concerning vulnerable populations who may lack the capacity or support to safeguard their own interests. Identifying and addressing such exploitation is crucial for the protection of vulnerable adults, making this concept essential in psychology and law. Other options, while they may involve inappropriate behavior towards vulnerable adults, do not specifically define exploitation in the context of financial or resource misuse. Providing assistance without consent, threatening, or isolating someone, while serious issues, represent forms of coercion or abuse rather than direct exploitation in the financial sense.

## 4. How long must records be kept for minors after they reach the age of 18?

- A. 3 years
- B. 5 years
- C. Until the minor is 21
- D. 7 years

In Maryland, the records for minors must be retained until the individual reaches the age of 21. This is designed to ensure that young adults have access to their mental health records during a critical period of their development, facilitating continuity of care and the ability to address any ongoing psychological or medical needs they may have after transitioning to adulthood. Keeping records until age 21 provides a sufficient buffer for any issues that may arise following their transition, while also aligning with the legal rights and responsibilities that come with adulthood. This duration reflects a commitment to safeguarding the rights of minors and ensuring that important health information stays accessible during their formative years. Other timeframes suggested in the question, such as 3 years, 5 years, or 7 years, are not consistent with Maryland regulations, which specify this particular age threshold for retention.

#### 5. What is the primary mission of the Board?

- A. Enhance psychological theories
- B. Ensure a minimum level of training is met
- C. Maintain consumer trust
- D. Reduce operational costs

The primary mission of the Board is to maintain consumer trust in the field of psychology. This is vital because the practice of psychology involves significant responsibilities, including the welfare of clients and the ethical application of psychological principles. By prioritizing consumer trust, the Board aims to foster a professional environment where clients feel secure and supported in their treatment. This mission is rooted in the belief that public confidence is essential for the effectiveness of psychological services. While ensuring a minimum level of training is important to qualify practitioners and enhance competence, and while operational costs can be a concern for any organization, these elements are secondary to the overarching goal of protecting the public and maintaining credible practices within the profession. Enhancing psychological theories, although academically valuable, does not directly relate to the immediate needs and protections required by consumers of psychological services.

# 6. Which of the following is NOT one of the three key components to include in a syllabus?

- A. Subject matter
- B. Nature of course experiences
- C. Teaching staff biographies
- D. Basis for evaluating performance

The inclusion of teaching staff biographies in a syllabus is not considered one of the essential key components. A syllabus typically focuses on providing clear information about the subject matter, outlining the nature of course experiences (such as lectures, discussions, and assignments), and establishing a basis for evaluating performance, which includes grading criteria and assessment methods. While details about teaching staff can be informative and may enhance the syllabus, they are not necessary for understanding the course structure or requirements. Emphasizing the core elements helps students grasp what they can expect from the course and how they will be assessed on their performance and engagement in the learning process.

#### 7. When can an expert report be excluded?

- A. If it contains too much technical jargon
- B. If it lacks specificity or does not comply when evaluated
- C. If it is submitted after the hearing begins
- D. If it is deemed irrelevant by the Board

The correct answer is grounded in the principles of legal standards for expert testimony. An expert report can be excluded when it lacks specificity or does not comply with established standards. This means that if the report does not provide clear, precise, and relevant information that adheres to the required criteria for expert testimony, it may not adequately support the claims being made or may mislead the decision-makers. Legal proceedings rely on expert testimony being credible and presenting information that can be substantiated. Therefore, if a report is vague or general and fails to meet the expected standards in its evaluation, it can be justifiably excluded from consideration. In contrast, the other options highlight reasons that do not necessarily warrant exclusion based on a lack of compliance with rigorous standards. For example, while excessive technical jargon may obscure meaning, the mere presence of such language does not, in itself, automatically disqualify a report if the key points are understandable to the court or relevant board. Timeliness is also important, and submission after the hearing begins may pose practical issues, but it is not inherently a reason for exclusion unless it conflicts with procedural rules outlined for expert reports. Lastly, relevance is essential, but determining relevance is often context-dependent, and a nuanced process rather than a straightforward dis

#### 8. What must therapists disclose to ensure client welfare?

- A. Personal beliefs about treatment efficacy
- **B.** Conflicts of interest, considering confidentiality
- C. The therapist's personal therapy history
- D. Availability of alternative therapies

The necessity for therapists to disclose conflicts of interest is paramount for ensuring client welfare. This requirement is rooted in ethical principles that guide therapeutic practice, focusing on transparency, trust, and the protection of the client's best interests. When therapists have conflicts of interest—such as financial interests in certain treatment methods or relationships that might affect their professional judgment—it is critical to disclose these to clients. This allows clients to make informed choices about their treatment, understanding how these conflicts might influence the therapist's recommendations or actions. The importance of this disclosure lies in promoting integrity in the therapeutic process. Clients need to trust that their therapist is acting solely in their best interests, and awareness of any potential conflicts fosters that trust. Additionally, while confidentiality is crucial, it does not negate the necessity for such disclosures. Therapists have a responsibility to balance confidentiality concerns with the client's right to know about factors that could compromise their therapy. In comparison, the other options, while they may hold relevance in certain contexts, do not directly address the immediate and direct influence on client welfare in the same way. Personal beliefs about treatment efficacy, a therapist's history, and the availability of alternative therapies are important, but they fall short of the essential nature of conflict disclosure in upholding the ethical standards of practice

#### 9. What is the penalty for failure to cooperate with the Board?

- A. Up to \$1,500
- B. Up to \$5,000
- C. Up to \$7,500
- **D.** Up to \$10,000

The penalty for failure to cooperate with the Board in Maryland is set at up to \$7,500. This reflects the seriousness of the responsibility that licensed psychologists have in adhering to the regulations and standards set forth by the Board. Cooperation is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the profession, as it enables the Board to ensure that practitioners meet the necessary requirements and ethical standards. Failing to cooperate can hinder investigations and oversight, potentially endangering public safety and trust in the profession. Therefore, a higher penalty serves as a deterrent against non-compliance, emphasizing the importance of accountability in the field of psychology. Understanding the implications of this penalty reinforces the need for practicing psychologists to remain compliant with Board requests and to uphold their professional obligations.

# 10. When taking credit for work, professionals must do so only for what?

- A. Work performed collaboratively
- B. Work performed independently
- C. Work performed or supervised
- D. All work that is recognized as valuable

In the context of professional practice, taking credit for work requires a clear ethical understanding of contributions and accountability. The emphasis on work that is performed or supervised highlights the importance of recognizing the roles that professionals play in their contributions. When a professional takes credit for work that they have directly performed or overseen, it ensures that they are acknowledging not only their own efforts but also the collaborative nature of many professional environments. This aligns with ethical guidelines that emphasize integrity and fair acknowledgment of work done, promoting a responsible professional culture. While work performed independently might seem to justify credit-taking, it overlooks the possibility of collaborative efforts or supervision that contribute to outcomes. Recognizing only independent work may foster an environment where teamwork and mentorship are undervalued. Similarly, just taking credit for any work that is deemed valuable could lead to ethical dilemmas regarding who actually contributed to the project. Thus, the focus on work that was performed or supervised is essential in maintaining ethical standards within the profession.