

Matlock Bioethics 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 policy prohibits discrimination based on genetic information?**
 - A. Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act**
 - B. Genetic Privacy Act**
 - C. Bioethics Non-Discrimination Policy**
 - D. Genetic Equality Statute**

- 2. Which statement correctly describes a double-blind study?**
 - A. Participants know treatment; researchers know**
 - B. Participants know; researchers don't know**
 - C. Neither participants nor researchers know**
 - D. Only the sponsor knows**

- 3. Which term describes the moment when a pregnant person first feels the fetus moving?**
 - A. Viability**
 - B. Embryo**
 - C. Quickening**
 - D. Fetus**

- 4. What is the primary aim of applied ethics?**
 - A. Search for moral standards**
 - B. Study of moral meaning**
 - C. Use of moral norms to resolve moral issues**
 - D. Development of legal rules**

- 5. Which statement correctly describes therapeutic studies?**
 - A. Therapeutic studies are usually justified by potential good to the subjects and to future patients or society.**
 - B. Non-therapeutic studies are justified by potential good to the subjects.**
 - C. Therapeutic studies are justified solely by the investigators' interests.**
 - D. Non-therapeutic studies are justified by potential good to the individual patient.**

- 6. Which ethical principle is summarized as 'Do no harm'?**
- A. Beneficence**
 - B. Autonomy**
 - C. Maximization of happiness**
 - D. Non-maleficence**
- 7. Which theory claims that moral rightness is determined by the standards of one's culture?**
- A. Subjective relativism**
 - B. Deontology**
 - C. Moral objectivism**
 - D. Cultural relativism**
- 8. In which era did the Belmont Report emerge?**
- A. The 1960s**
 - B. The 1980s**
 - C. The 1990s**
 - D. The 1970s**
- 9. What is paternalism?**
- A. Respecting a patient's autonomous decisions**
 - B. The decision to involve family in care**
 - C. The overriding of a person's actions or decisions making for his or her own good**
 - D. A policy that supports individual liberty**
- 10. Which term refers to a moral norm's requirement to override competing considerations in justification?**
- A. Universality**
 - B. Impartiality**
 - C. Normative dominance**
 - D. Reasonableness**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What policy prohibits discrimination based on genetic information?

- A. Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act**
- B. Genetic Privacy Act**
- C. Bioethics Non-Discrimination Policy**
- D. Genetic Equality Statute**

The main idea here is protecting people from discrimination based on genetic information. The law that does this is the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA). GINA prohibits health insurers from using genetic information in underwriting or coverage decisions and from requesting or requiring genetic tests. It also prevents employers from using genetic information in hiring, firing, or other employment decisions, and it forbids retaliation when someone seeks genetic services or discloses genetic information. Genetic information covers more than a single test result—it includes family medical history and the results of genetic counseling as well. This means that a person's predisposition to a condition, revealed through genetics, can't be used to deny coverage or influence job decisions. There are important limits to keep in mind: GINA does not extend to life insurance, disability, or long-term care insurance in the same way, and it doesn't protect against every possible use of health or personal information in every setting. Other labels in the choices aren't federal protections that specifically prohibit this kind of discrimination.

2. Which statement correctly describes a double-blind study?

- A. Participants know treatment; researchers know**
- B. Participants know; researchers don't know**
- C. Neither participants nor researchers know**
- D. Only the sponsor knows**

The main idea here is that a double-blind study keeps both participants and researchers in the dark about who gets the experimental treatment and who gets the comparator. This design reduces bias from expectations—patients' reports and clinicians' assessments are less likely to be influenced by knowing the treatment, which helps ensure the outcomes reflect the true effect of the intervention rather than placebo effects or observer bias. In practice, assignments are randomized and concealed, often with identical-looking treatments and a code kept by an independent party until analysis. For example, in a drug trial, neither the patient nor the clinician knows who receives the active drug versus a placebo. The other scenarios would leak information that could bias results: if participants know their treatment, their responses may change; if researchers know, their assessments or care could be biased; and if only the sponsor knows, blinding is lost and objectivity is compromised.

3. Which term describes the moment when a pregnant person first feels the fetus moving?

- A. Viability**
- B. Embryo**
- C. Quickening**
- D. Fetus**

Quickening describes the moment the pregnant person first perceives fetal movement. This fluttering or light kicking sensation typically appears in the second trimester, often around 18-20 weeks in a first pregnancy and a bit earlier in subsequent pregnancies. It marks a subjective sign of fetal life and helps date the pregnancy, though it isn't a precise measure of viability or health. The other terms refer to different concepts: viability is about the fetus's chance of surviving outside the womb with medical help, an embryo is the early developmental stage, and a fetus is the later developmental stage but does not denote the moment of feeling movement.

4. What is the primary aim of applied ethics?

- A. Search for moral standards**
- B. Study of moral meaning**
- C. Use of moral norms to resolve moral issues**
- D. Development of legal rules**

Applied ethics is about taking moral norms and turning them into guidance for real-world situations. The main aim is to apply normative ethical theories to concrete issues, evaluate options against established moral standards, and justify what ought to be done in practice. This makes it possible to address dilemmas in medicine, business, technology, and public policy with reasoned, action-oriented conclusions. By contrast, searching for moral standards or studying moral meaning refer to normative or metaethical questions about what morality is or what it requires in general, not how to decide in specific cases. Developing legal rules belongs to law, even though ethical reasoning can inform policy. So, using moral norms to resolve moral issues best captures the focus of applied ethics.

5. Which statement correctly describes therapeutic studies?

- A. Therapeutic studies are usually justified by potential good to the subjects and to future patients or society.**
- B. Non-therapeutic studies are justified by potential good to the subjects.**
- C. Therapeutic studies are justified solely by the investigators' interests.**
- D. Non-therapeutic studies are justified by potential good to the individual patient.**

Therapeutic studies are justified by the possibility of direct health benefits to participants and by the knowledge gained that can help future patients or society. In ethics, a study that offers a potential direct benefit to those enrolled, while also contributing to medical knowledge, fits the idea of therapeutic research. Even when the individual benefit isn't certain, the prospect of improving care for the subjects or for others in the future provides a legitimate justification, as long as the risk-benefit balance and informed consent are appropriate. That's why the statement that therapeutic studies are usually justified by potential good to the subjects and to future patients or society is the best description. The other options misstate the basis for justification. Non-therapeutic studies are not justified by direct benefit to the subjects; they are justified by social or scientific value, not by individual benefit. Saying therapeutic studies are justified solely by investigators' interests ignores patient welfare and societal value. And non-therapeutic studies are not justified by potential good to the individual patient, since they don't aim for direct benefit to the participant.

6. Which ethical principle is summarized as 'Do no harm'?

- A. Beneficence**
- B. Autonomy**
- C. Maximization of happiness**
- D. Non-maleficence**

The main idea here is non-maleficence—the duty to avoid causing harm. It means clinicians should refrain from actions that could injure patients and should minimize risks from any intervention, weighing potential harms against benefits. Beneficence is about actively doing good and promoting well-being, autonomy is about respecting a patient's right to decide, and maximization of happiness is a utilitarian aim rather than a standard ethical principle in medical ethics. So the phrase "Do no harm" best fits non-maleficence.

7. Which theory claims that moral rightness is determined by the standards of one's culture?

- A. Subjective relativism**
- B. Deontology**
- C. Moral objectivism**
- D. Cultural relativism**

The main idea here is cultural relativism. This view holds that what counts as morally right depends on the norms and values of a given culture. There isn't a single universal standard—rightness and wrongness are judged within the framework of a culture's beliefs, and practices seen as right in one culture may be seen as wrong in another, without one side imposing an external standard. This differs from subjective relativism, which ties morality to an individual's own beliefs; from deontology, which holds that there are universal duties or rules; and from moral objectivism, which claims universal moral truths independent of culture. Cultural relativism specifically anchors moral evaluation in the standards of the culture in question.

8. In which era did the Belmont Report emerge?

- A. The 1960s**
- B. The 1980s**
- C. The 1990s**
- D. The 1970s**

The question tests your knowledge of when the Belmont Report was produced. It emerged in the late 1970s, after a period of heightened concern about protecting people in research—sparked by unethical studies like the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. The National Research Act of 1974 created the National Commission to study these issues, and the Belmont Report was published in 1979, outlining the key ethical principles that later shaped U.S. federal research regulations. Because the report appeared in 1979, the correct era is the 1970s. The other decades don't fit because the report wasn't produced in the 1960s, 1980s, or 1990s.

9. What is paternalism?

- A. Respecting a patient's autonomous decisions**
- B. The decision to involve family in care**
- C. The overriding of a person's actions or decisions making for his or her own good**
- D. A policy that supports individual liberty**

Paternalism is the overriding of a person's actions or decisions for his or her own good. In healthcare, this means someone in authority makes a medical choice for a patient or withholds information because they believe it's best, even if the patient would choose differently. This concept sits in tension with respecting patient autonomy, which is about honoring the patient's own preferences and right to decide. The other options describe different ideas—involving family in care and policies that protect individual liberty—without capturing the act of forcefully guiding or restricting someone's choices for their supposed beneficence. Paternalism raises ethical questions because it values beneficence over self-determination, though it can be justified in certain urgent or vulnerable situations.

10. Which term refers to a moral norm's requirement to override competing considerations in justification?

A. Universality

B. Impartiality

C. Normative dominance

D. Reasonableness

Normative dominance is about some moral norms having priority in justification, meaning they trump competing considerations. When we justify an action, the dominant norm should override other factors like personal interests or nonmoral reasons. That's why this term fits best: it captures the requirement that a moral norm override competing considerations in justification. For example, the obligation not to harm others should take precedence over self-interest when deciding what to do, and the justification rests on that morally dominant norm. Other concepts—universality, impartiality, and reasonableness—describe related ideas (applying rules to all, treating interests equally, and rational justification) but don't specify that a norm must override competing considerations in justification.

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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://matlockbioethics.examzify.com>

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

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