

Medical Terminology Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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- 1. What is the medical term root for blood?**
 - A. hem/o
 - B. tox/o
 - C. isos
 - D. megaly

- 2. Which suffix would you use to describe a condition related to speech?**
 - A. -phasia
 - B. -scope
 - C. -pathy
 - D. -stomy

- 3. Which condition causes skeletal muscle degeneration in children, leading to progressive weakness?**
 - A. Bursolith
 - B. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
 - C. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy
 - D. Fibromyalgia

- 4. What disease, caused by HIV, disables the immune response by destroying important white blood cells?**
 - A. Autoimmune Deficiency Syndrome
 - B. AIDS
 - C. Cancer
 - D. Multiple Sclerosis

- 5. What condition is characterized by the abnormal loss of bone density?**
 - A. Osteosarcoma
 - B. Osteomalacia
 - C. Osteoporosis
 - D. Myositis

6. What does dermatitis refer to?

- A. Inflammation of the nerves**
- B. Inflammation of the skin**
- C. Inflammation of the fallopian tubes**
- D. Growth of skin cells**

7. What type of break is often caused by weight or pressure applied during a fall?

- A. Compression**
- B. Dislocation**
- C. Epiphyseal**
- D. Greenstick**

8. Which of the following describes a hernia of the meninges of the brain or spinal column?

- A. Atresia**
- B. Cele**
- C. Meningocele**
- D. Dynia**

9. What is the abbreviation for red blood cell count?

- A. RBC**
- B. WBC**
- C. PLT**
- D. HCT**

10. What term describes the process of maintaining internal stability despite changes in the environment?

- A. Stasis**
- B. Homeostasis**
- C. Syndrome**
- D. Biopsy**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the medical term root for blood?

- A. hem/o**
- B. tox/o**
- C. isos**
- D. megaly**

The medical term root for blood is "hem/o." This prefix originates from the Greek word "haima," meaning blood, and is commonly used in various medical terms related to blood. For instance, "hemoglobin" refers to the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen, while "hemorrhage" indicates excessive bleeding. The root "hem/o" helps to convey information related to blood in a variety of medical contexts, making it a fundamental component in medical terminology. The other roots, such as "tox/o," relate to toxins or poisons, while "isos" pertains to equal or same. "Megaly" signifies enlargement of an organ or body part. Thus, these roots do not connect to the fundamental concept of blood, clarifying why "hem/o" is the correct choice.

2. Which suffix would you use to describe a condition related to speech?

- A. -phasia**
- B. -scope**
- C. -pathy**
- D. -stomy**

The suffix that accurately describes a condition related to speech is -phasia. This suffix derives from the Greek word "phasia," meaning "speech" or "to speak." In medical terminology, it is often used in terms related to speaking disorders, such as "aphasia," which refers to a loss of ability to understand or express speech, typically due to brain damage. The other suffixes provided each have distinct meanings unrelated to speech. For instance, -scope refers to an instrument used for viewing or examining, -pathy denotes a disease or disorder, and -stomy refers to the creation of an opening or mouth, typically related to surgical procedures. Therefore, -phasia is the most appropriate choice for describing conditions specifically associated with speech.

3. Which condition causes skeletal muscle degeneration in children, leading to progressive weakness?

- A. Bursolith**
- B. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome**
- C. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy**
- D. Fibromyalgia**

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a genetic disorder characterized by progressive muscular degeneration and weakness in children. It specifically affects the skeletal muscles, which are responsible for movement, and is caused by mutations in the dystrophin gene. This gene is crucial for maintaining the structural integrity of muscle fibers, and without functional dystrophin, muscles become damaged and degenerate over time. The condition typically manifests in early childhood, predominantly affecting boys, and leads to challenges such as difficulty in walking, frequent falls, and progressive loss of muscle function. Children with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy may also experience associated complications, such as respiratory issues and cardiomyopathy, with the muscle degeneration often leading to a significant loss of mobility by their teenage years. Other mentioned conditions do not encompass the same characteristics of skeletal muscle degeneration. Bursolith refers to a mineral deposit in a bursa, carpal tunnel syndrome involves compression of a nerve in the wrist, and fibromyalgia is a chronic pain condition characterized by widespread pain, fatigue, and tender points, but does not involve muscle degeneration.

4. What disease, caused by HIV, disables the immune response by destroying important white blood cells?

- A. Autoimmune Deficiency Syndrome**
- B. AIDS**
- C. Cancer**
- D. Multiple Sclerosis**

The disease caused by HIV that disables the immune response by destroying important white blood cells is AIDS, which stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. HIV attacks the body's immune system, specifically targeting CD4 cells, which are crucial for the immune response. As the number of these cells decreases due to the ongoing infection, the body becomes increasingly vulnerable to opportunistic infections and certain cancers. This progressive immune system deterioration is what characterizes AIDS. In contrast, other options do not align with the mechanism or causative agent of the disease at hand. Autoimmune Deficiency Syndrome is not a recognized medical term; cancer encompasses a broad range of diseases characterized by uncontrolled cell growth, not linked to HIV specifically; and Multiple Sclerosis is a neurological condition that affects the central nervous system rather than the immune system's response to infections. Thus, AIDS is clearly the correct answer based on its direct relationship with HIV and its significant impact on the immune system.

5. What condition is characterized by the abnormal loss of bone density?

- A. Osteosarcoma
- B. Osteomalacia
- C. Osteoporosis**
- D. Myositis

The condition characterized by the abnormal loss of bone density is osteoporosis. This disorder involves the gradual weakening of bones, making them more porous and susceptible to fractures. Osteoporosis often develops silently over many years, with no symptoms until a fracture occurs, often from a fall or even a minor bump. This condition typically results from an imbalance between bone resorption and bone formation, leading to lower bone mass and deterioration of bone tissue. Factors contributing to osteoporosis can include aging, hormonal changes (especially post-menopause in women), inadequate intake of calcium and vitamin D, and lack of physical activity. Other options, while they relate to the musculoskeletal system, describe different conditions. For example, osteosarcoma is a type of bone cancer, osteomalacia refers to the softening of bones due to vitamin D deficiency (which is different from a density loss), and myositis involves inflammation of the muscles rather than bone density.

6. What does dermatitis refer to?

- A. Inflammation of the nerves
- B. Inflammation of the skin**
- C. Inflammation of the fallopian tubes
- D. Growth of skin cells

Dermatitis specifically refers to inflammation of the skin, which is a common condition that manifests in various forms such as eczema, contact dermatitis, and seborrheic dermatitis. The term "dermatitis" is derived from the Greek word "derma," meaning skin, and the suffix "-itis," indicating inflammation. In this context, the inflammation can present with symptoms such as redness, swelling, itching, and possible blistering or peeling of the skin. The skin acts as a barrier to the outside environment, so when it becomes inflamed, it can lead to noticeable changes in appearance and sensation. Recognizing dermatitis is essential because it can stem from various causes, including allergic reactions, irritants, and underlying health conditions, thereby requiring appropriate treatment and care. In contrast, inflammation of the nerves, fallopian tubes, or the growth of skin cells do not pertain to dermatitis and involve different medical conditions with distinct terminologies and implications for diagnosis and treatment. Understanding these differences is crucial in the field of medical terminology and helps in appropriately addressing skin-related health issues.

7. What type of break is often caused by weight or pressure applied during a fall?

A. Compression

B. Dislocation

C. Epiphyseal

D. Greenstick

A compression fracture is often caused by weight or pressure being applied to a bone during a fall, particularly to the vertebrae in the spine. In situations where a person falls and lands forcefully, the impact can lead to the bone collapsing under the weight, resulting in a compression fracture. This type of fracture occurs most commonly in the spongy bone of the vertebrae, leading to a decrease in height in those bones and possible back pain. Examining the other choices, a dislocation refers to the displacement of a bone from its joint, which is not primarily due to weight or pressure applied to a single bone. An epiphyseal fracture involves the growth plate of a bone and is common in children, often related to trauma, but it does not specifically result from a compressive force. A greenstick fracture is an incomplete fracture typically seen in children, where the bone bends but does not break all the way through, which is distinct from the crushing nature of a compression fracture.

8. Which of the following describes a hernia of the meninges of the brain or spinal column?

A. Atresia

B. Cele

C. Meningocele

D. Dynia

A hernia of the meninges of the brain or spinal column is specifically referred to as a meningocele. The term "meningocele" comes from the root "meningo," which pertains to the meninges—the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord—combined with the suffix "-cele," which means hernia or protrusion. In this condition, the meninges protrude through a defect in the surrounding bony structures, typically due to congenital malformations. This can lead to various neurological issues depending on the size of the hernia and its location. The other terms do not relate directly to this condition. For example, atresia refers to the absence or closure of a normal body opening, which doesn't apply to the herniation of meninges. The suffix "-dynia" refers to pain, and would not describe a herniation. The term "cele" can refer to any type of hernia but does not specify that it is related specifically to the meninges. Therefore, the specificity of "meningocele" makes it the correct choice for this condition.

9. What is the abbreviation for red blood cell count?

- A. RBC**
- B. WBC**
- C. PLT**
- D. HCT**

The abbreviation for red blood cell count is RBC, which stands for "Red Blood Cells." This term refers specifically to the number of red blood cells present in a microliter of blood, a crucial measurement in assessing an individual's overall health and diagnosing various medical conditions. A normal RBC count can indicate proper body function, whereas deviations from the norm may suggest issues such as anemia, dehydration, or other hematological disorders. The other options represent different components or measurements in blood analysis: WBC stands for white blood cell count, which measures the number of white blood cells and is essential for evaluating immune function; PLT denotes platelet count, which is vital for understanding clotting factors in the blood; and HCT refers to hematocrit, which measures the percentage of blood volume made up by red blood cells. Each of these abbreviations serves a distinct purpose in medical diagnostics, reinforcing the specificity inherent in medical terminology.

10. What term describes the process of maintaining internal stability despite changes in the environment?

- A. Stasis**
- B. Homeostasis**
- C. Syndrome**
- D. Biopsy**

The term that accurately describes the process of maintaining internal stability despite changes in the environment is homeostasis. This concept is fundamental in biology and medicine, referring to the mechanisms and processes through which organisms regulate their internal environment to ensure optimal functioning. Homeostasis encompasses various physiological responses that help maintain variables such as temperature, pH, hydration, and electrolyte balance within narrow ranges, even when external conditions fluctuate. For example, if the body temperature rises due to external heat, mechanisms such as sweating and increased blood flow to the skin are activated to cool the body down, illustrating how the body strives to maintain a stable internal condition. In contrast, the other choices do not specifically refer to this regulatory process. Stasis refers generally to a state of equilibrium or inactivity but does not capture the active nature of maintaining stability against external changes. Syndrome describes a collection of signs and symptoms that occur together but does not relate to internal stability. A biopsy is a medical procedure to sample tissue for diagnostic purposes and is unrelated to the concept of maintaining internal balance.

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://medicalterms.examzify.com>

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

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