

National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) Corrective Exercise Specialist (CES) Practice Exam (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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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	6
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	17

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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. In a client who has had a Cesarean section, which muscle group may be weak as a result of this surgical procedure?**
 - A. Obliques**
 - B. Abdominal complex**
 - C. Hip flexors**
 - D. Lower back muscles**

- 2. Which muscles are often inhibited due to excessive sitting?**
 - A. Rectus abdominis**
 - B. Biceps brachii**
 - C. Gluteus maximus**
 - D. Quadratus lumborum**

- 3. Excessive forward lean during the Overhead Squat assessment is typically linked to overactivity of which muscle?**
 - A. Soleus**
 - B. Hamstrings**
 - C. Gluteus maximus**
 - D. Quadriceps**

- 4. What is the purpose of a programming continuum in corrective exercise?**
 - A. To introduce variety into workout routines**
 - B. To progressively overload the client while ensuring safety and effectiveness**
 - C. To emphasize cardio over strength training**
 - D. To strictly limit the type of exercises performed**

- 5. What principle underlies the corrective exercises for postural alignment?**
 - A. Muscular endurance**
 - B. Neuromuscular control**
 - C. Cardiopulmonary fitness**
 - D. Metabolic adaptation**

6. Integration techniques are used to:

- A. Train individual muscle groups in isolation**
- B. Retrain the collective synergistic function of all muscles through functionally progressive movements**
- C. Reduce the risk of injury during high-intensity workouts**
- D. Improve flexibility and mobility**

7. Which factor can negatively influence the effectiveness of corrective exercises?

- A. Lack of variety in exercise selection**
- B. Inconsistent practice and adherence to the program**
- C. Overemphasis on strength training**
- D. Regular assessment of progress**

8. Which subsystem is primarily involved in pelvic stability?

- A. Global Muscular System**
- B. Local Musculature System**
- C. Movement Control System**
- D. Dynamic Stabilization System**

9. During the descent of the Overhead Squat test, what combination of muscles might be overactive when abnormal asymmetric shifting of the cervical spine occurs?

- A. Sternocleidomastoid, scalenes, levator scapulae, upper trapezius**
- B. Deltoids and pectoralis major**
- C. Rhomboids and serratus anterior**
- D. Upper and middle trapezius**

10. Which of the following is an example of an isolated strengthening exercise for the elbow and wrist?

- A. Elbow extension with shoulder flexed**
- B. Shoulder flexion with elbow extended**
- C. Triceps dip on bench**
- D. Palms-up wrist curls**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In a client who has had a Cesarean section, which muscle group may be weak as a result of this surgical procedure?

- A. Obliques**
- B. Abdominal complex**
- C. Hip flexors**
- D. Lower back muscles**

After a Cesarean section, the abdominal complex is often weakened due to the surgical procedure that involves an incision through the abdominal wall. The layers of abdominal muscles are cut during the surgery, which can lead to atrophy or decreased strength in this muscle group as it heals. This weakening can affect the overall stability and function of the core, impacting posture and movement patterns. While the obliques and other muscles of the abdominal region may also be affected, the term "abdominal complex" encompasses all layers of the abdominal musculature, including the rectus abdominis, obliques, and transversus abdominis. Therefore, focusing on the strength of the entire abdominal complex is crucial in a corrective exercise program for individuals recovering from a Cesarean section. It is important to note that hip flexors and lower back muscles may also experience changes due to compensation patterns or changes in movement; however, the primary focus for weakness directly resulting from the surgical procedure itself lies within the abdominal complex.

2. Which muscles are often inhibited due to excessive sitting?

- A. Rectus abdominis**
- B. Biceps brachii**
- C. Gluteus maximus**
- D. Quadratus lumborum**

Excessive sitting can lead to a condition known as muscle inhibition, where certain muscles become weakened or underactive due to prolonged periods of inactivity. Among the muscles often affected by this phenomenon, the gluteus maximus is particularly notable. When sitting for extended periods, the hip flexors become shortened, leading to a reciprocal inhibition of the gluteus maximus. This muscle plays a critical role in hip extension and stability, and when inhibited, it can negatively impact overall movement patterns and contribute to postural issues. The other muscles listed, while they may also experience some level of dysfunction due to a sedentary lifestyle, do not have the same direct relationship to prolonged sitting as the gluteus maximus. For instance, the rectus abdominis may also be impacted by postural changes, but it does not experience inhibition in the same manner as the glutes. Similarly, the biceps brachii and quadratus lumborum are less directly related to the effects of sitting, hence the gluteus maximus is the primary muscle to focus on in this context.

3. Excessive forward lean during the Overhead Squat assessment is typically linked to overactivity of which muscle?

- A. Soleus**
- B. Hamstrings**
- C. Gluteus maximus**
- D. Quadriceps**

Excessive forward lean during the Overhead Squat assessment often points to an overactivity of the soleus muscle. The soleus, which is located beneath the gastrocnemius in the calf, plays a significant role in controlling movement and stability during squat patterns. When a person demonstrates excessive forward lean, it may indicate that the soleus is compensating to help maintain balance and alignment, especially if there is tightness in the muscles or connective tissues of the lower body. This forward lean can suggest that the individual's lower limb mechanics are not functioning optimally, which could stem from overactive muscles attempting to assist in supporting the body. The role of the soleus in plantar flexion during the squat contributes to this compensation. Thus, addressing the overactivity and potential tightness in the soleus muscle is essential for correcting the movement pattern, encouraging proper form, and enhancing performance and safety during exercises.

4. What is the purpose of a programming continuum in corrective exercise?

- A. To introduce variety into workout routines**
- B. To progressively overload the client while ensuring safety and effectiveness**
- C. To emphasize cardio over strength training**
- D. To strictly limit the type of exercises performed**

The purpose of a programming continuum in corrective exercise is fundamentally about providing a structured framework that allows for progressive overload while ensuring both safety and effectiveness for the client. As clients work on correcting movement patterns or addressing imbalances, it is crucial to adapt the intensity and complexity of exercises appropriately. By employing a progressive approach, the corrective exercise specialist ensures that clients are gradually exposed to more challenging tasks, which can enhance their strength, stability, and overall performance without risking injury. This continuum takes into account the individual's current abilities and limitations, and it allows for modifications that cater to their specific needs throughout the rehabilitation process. This method also reinforces the principle of gradual progression, which is essential for facilitating long-term adaptations in the body and promoting better movement quality. Thus, the programming continuum helps to create an environment where clients can improve their physical capabilities effectively while minimizing the potential for setbacks or injuries.

5. What principle underlies the corrective exercises for postural alignment?

- A. Muscular endurance
- B. Neuromuscular control**
- C. Cardiopulmonary fitness
- D. Metabolic adaptation

The principle of neuromuscular control is integral to corrective exercises aimed at improving postural alignment. This principle involves the body's ability to coordinate and control movement through the nervous system, which is crucial for achieving and maintaining proper posture. When addressing postural imbalances, it's important to enhance the communication between the brain and the muscles, thereby improving the stability and functional performance of the musculoskeletal system. Corrective exercises are designed to activate underactive muscles while inhibiting overactive muscles, which helps to restore balance and proper alignment. By focusing on neuromuscular control, individuals can develop the necessary motor patterns required to adopt better posture, preventing further musculoskeletal issues. This principle underscores the importance of retraining the neuromuscular system to ensure that the muscles work in concert to support optimal alignment and function. While muscular endurance, cardiopulmonary fitness, and metabolic adaptation are important factors in overall fitness and health, they do not directly address the specific connection between muscle control, coordination, and posture that is emphasized in corrective exercise strategies.

6. Integration techniques are used to:

- A. Train individual muscle groups in isolation
- B. Retrain the collective synergistic function of all muscles through functionally progressive movements**
- C. Reduce the risk of injury during high-intensity workouts
- D. Improve flexibility and mobility

Integration techniques are designed to retrain the collective synergistic function of all muscles through functionally progressive movements. This approach emphasizes the importance of coordinating muscle groups to work together efficiently, reflecting the body's natural movement patterns. By focusing on integrated movements, trainers and corrective exercise specialists can help clients regain balance, stability, and strength across multiple joints and muscle systems, which is essential for optimal performance and injury prevention. The integration of movements takes into consideration the way the body functions as an interconnected system rather than as isolated parts. This means that improving the function of one muscle group can have a beneficial impact on others, fostering a more holistic approach to strength and rehabilitation. The emphasis on functional movement patterns and progressive challenges ensures that individuals are not only physically capable but also better equipped to handle everyday activities or athletic demands.

7. Which factor can negatively influence the effectiveness of corrective exercises?

- A. Lack of variety in exercise selection**
- B. Inconsistent practice and adherence to the program**
- C. Overemphasis on strength training**
- D. Regular assessment of progress**

Inconsistent practice and adherence to the program can significantly hinder the effectiveness of corrective exercises. Consistent execution of exercises is crucial in establishing new movement patterns, improving range of motion, and enhancing overall stability and strength. When clients do not adhere to the prescribed exercise regimen, they may not provide their body with the necessary repetitions and stimulus needed for long-term changes in movement quality or strength adaptations. Regular and diligent practice reinforces neuromuscular connections, allowing for better performance and corrections over time. Consequently, without adherence, the potential benefits of corrective exercise are undermined, making progress difficult to achieve. This factor is foundational to successful exercise interventions, as the primary aim is often to create lasting behavioral and physical changes.

8. Which subsystem is primarily involved in pelvic stability?

- A. Global Muscular System**
- B. Local Musculature System**
- C. Movement Control System**
- D. Dynamic Stabilization System**

The Local Musculature System is primarily involved in pelvic stability because it consists of muscles that are specifically designed to provide support and stabilization to the spine and pelvis. These muscles, such as the transverse abdominis, multifidus, pelvic floor muscles, and diaphragm, work together to create stability by increasing intra-abdominal pressure and maintaining proper alignment of the pelvis and lumbar spine. This subsystem's focus is on segmental stability, which means it ensures that individual vertebrae and pelvic structures are properly supported during movement. The Local Musculature System helps control movement and posture, preventing excessive motion that could lead to injury or discomfort. Thus, it is crucial for maintaining a stable base from which movement can be generated, making it essential for tasks such as dynamic activities, functional movements, and maintaining balance. In contrast, the other subsystems mentioned have different roles. The Global Muscular System includes larger muscle groups that are more involved in movement and force generation rather than stability alone. The Movement Control System refers to the integration of sensory feedback and neural inputs to control movement patterns but does not focus solely on pelvic stabilization. The Dynamic Stabilization System emphasizes the active control of joints during movement, but does so through a combination of several subsystems, rather than

9. During the descent of the Overhead Squat test, what combination of muscles might be overactive when abnormal asymmetric shifting of the cervical spine occurs?

- A. Sternocleidomastoid, scalenes, levator scapulae, upper trapezius**
- B. Deltoids and pectoralis major**
- C. Rhomboids and serratus anterior**
- D. Upper and middle trapezius**

The identified answer highlights a specific combination of muscles that can become overactive when there is abnormal asymmetric shifting of the cervical spine during the descent of the Overhead Squat test. This scenario often indicates an imbalance or compensatory pattern in the neck and upper body. The sternocleidomastoid and scalenes are key muscles involved in the lateral bending and rotation of the cervical spine. If there is an asymmetrical shift in the cervical spine during the squat, these muscles may become overactive as they attempt to stabilize or support the head and neck in an abnormal position. Additionally, the levator scapulae is responsible for elevating the scapula and can become overactive when there is tension or strain in the cervical region. The upper trapezius also plays a role in scapular elevation and cervical motion and may contribute to the shift by exerting more force on one side, leading to asymmetrical positioning. This combination of muscles is closely related to postural control and stability of the head and neck during functional movements like squatting. Recognizing this muscle pattern helps in designing corrective strategies that can help restore proper alignment and function to the cervical spine and surrounding musculature, ultimately improving overall movement patterns. The other choices represent different muscle groups that

10. Which of the following is an example of an isolated strengthening exercise for the elbow and wrist?

- A. Elbow extension with shoulder flexed**
- B. Shoulder flexion with elbow extended**
- C. Triceps dip on bench**
- D. Palms-up wrist curls**

The example of an isolated strengthening exercise for the elbow and wrist is the exercise involving palms-up wrist curls. This exercise specifically targets the forearm flexor muscles, which are responsible for wrist flexion, and isolates the movement at the wrist joint to improve strength without excessively involving other muscle groups or joints. Isolated strengthening exercises are designed to focus specifically on a particular muscle or muscle group, minimizing the involvement of surrounding muscles. In this case, palms-up wrist curls concentrate on the flexors of the wrist while allowing for the elbow to remain relatively stable, ensuring the targeted muscles are worked effectively. The other options, while they involve elbow and wrist movements, engage additional muscle groups or are more compound movements. For instance, triceps dips involve the triceps and shoulder muscles, making them a compound exercise rather than isolated. The other choices also incorporate movements that involve more than just the elbow and wrist, failing to solely isolate the targeted muscle group in question.

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://nasm-correctiveexercisespecialist.examzify.com>

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

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