

National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 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 from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the purpose of coronal polishing?**
 - A. To strengthen the tooth enamel**
 - B. To remove plaque and stains from coronal surfaces of the teeth**
 - C. To prepare teeth for whitening**
 - D. To treat cavities**
- 2. Which of the following is a brand name of varnishes?**
 - A. Vitrebond**
 - B. Cavitec**
 - C. Handiliner**
 - D. Dycal**
- 3. What anatomical term is used to describe the outermost layer of the oral cavity lining?**
 - A. Endoderm**
 - B. Ectoderm**
 - C. Mesoderm**
 - D. Stratified epithelium**
- 4. How is omission defined in a dental context?**
 - A. Failure to act or neglect of obligation**
 - B. Intentionally causing harm**
 - C. Providing insufficient care**
 - D. Misdiagnosing a condition**
- 5. What type of stains are classified as exogenous stains?**
 - A. Intrinsic stains**
 - B. Extrinsic stains**
 - C. Both intrinsic and extrinsic stains**
 - D. Neither; they are endogenous**

- 6. Which type of rotary cutting instrument shank has a groove for locking into a contra angle attachment?**
- A. Friction Grip**
 - B. Latch Type Shank**
 - C. Straight Shank**
 - D. Hex Shank**
- 7. What is the bony ridge over the facial portion of the canine called?**
- A. Canine Eminence**
 - B. Maxillary Ridge**
 - C. Mandibular Ridge**
 - D. Incisal Ridge**
- 8. Which dental condition involves difficulty with facial expressions due to nerve issues?**
- A. Bell's Palsy**
 - B. Hypotonia**
 - C. Bruxism**
 - D. Temporomandibular Disorder**
- 9. What does the term "luxate" indicate in a dental context?**
- A. To place the tooth back in its socket**
 - B. To extract the tooth completely**
 - C. To perform a root canal therapy**
 - D. To apply a filling material**
- 10. What is the role of a treated paper pad in dental practice?**
- A. To absorb excess moisture during procedures**
 - B. To mix dental materials like IRM**
 - C. To hold dental instruments**
 - D. To protect surfaces from chemicals**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the purpose of coronal polishing?

- A. To strengthen the tooth enamel
- B. To remove plaque and stains from coronal surfaces of the teeth**
- C. To prepare teeth for whitening
- D. To treat cavities

Coronal polishing serves the specific purpose of removing plaque, food particles, and stains from the coronal surfaces of the teeth. This procedure is particularly beneficial in maintaining oral hygiene by minimizing the accumulation of biofilm and extrinsic stains, which can lead to dental caries and other dental issues if left untreated. By effectively cleaning these surfaces, coronal polishing contributes to the overall health of the teeth and can also enhance the aesthetics of a patient's smile. Strengthening tooth enamel, preparing teeth for whitening, or treating cavities involve different dental procedures and techniques, each with its own specific goals and methods. These actions do not align with the primary goal of coronal polishing, which is focused on cleaning the visible surfaces of teeth rather than addressing underlying structural or health issues.

2. Which of the following is a brand name of varnishes?

- A. Vitrebond
- B. Cavitec
- C. Handiliner**
- D. Dycal

Cavitec, as a brand name of varnishes, is notable for its use in the dental field. Varnishes are typically applied as part of cavity preparation and restoration procedures to seal the dentin and provide a protective layer on the tooth surface. Known for their role in preventing sensitivity and decay, materials like Cavitec contain components that enhance their effectiveness as dental varnishes. While Vitrebond is a glass ionomer cement, Handiliner is primarily used as a liner or base for restorations, and Dycal is additionally categorized as a liner for cavity preparations rather than a varnish. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for recognizing the appropriate applications of each material in dental practices.

3. What anatomical term is used to describe the outermost layer of the oral cavity lining?

- A. Endoderm**
- B. Ectoderm**
- C. Mesoderm**
- D. Stratified epithelium**

The term that describes the outermost layer of the oral cavity lining is stratified epithelium. This type of epithelial tissue is composed of multiple layers of cells, which helps to protect the underlying tissues from mechanical stress, pathogens, and chemical irritation. Stratified epithelium is particularly important in areas subjected to abrasion, such as the lining of the mouth, because it provides a robust barrier. In the context of the oral cavity, stratified squamous epithelium is the specific subtype that is predominantly found in this area, efficiently protecting against the harsh conditions encountered during activities such as eating and speaking. The presence of multiple cell layers ensures that even if the outermost layer is damaged, there are still underlying layers that can assist in regrowth and maintenance of the tissue integrity. The other options refer to different types of embryonic layers or tissue classifications that are not applicable in this context. Endoderm and ectoderm are primary germ layers formed during embryonic development, involved in the formation of various tissues and organs, but they are not terms used to describe the specific lining of the oral cavity. Mesoderm, similarly, is another germ layer that contributes to various bodily structures but also does not characterize the oral cavity lining.

4. How is omission defined in a dental context?

- A. Failure to act or neglect of obligation**
- B. Intentionally causing harm**
- C. Providing insufficient care**
- D. Misdiagnosing a condition**

In the dental context, omission refers to the failure to act or neglect of an obligation related to patient care. This concept is crucial because it directly affects the quality of treatment and overall patient safety. For example, if a dental assistant fails to inform the dentist about a specific patient symptom or neglects to follow through with a prescribed treatment plan, it can lead to complications for the patient. Omission encompasses the areas where necessary actions are not taken, which can harm the patient's health as effectively as a wrongful action would. Recognizing this distinction helps dental professionals understand the importance of their responsibilities and the potential consequences of oversight in their duties.

5. What type of stains are classified as exogenous stains?

- A. Intrinsic stains
- B. Extrinsic stains**
- C. Both intrinsic and extrinsic stains
- D. Neither; they are endogenous

Exogenous stains are classified as extrinsic stains because they originate from sources outside the tooth structure. These stains can result from various external factors, including dietary choices (like coffee, tea, or wine), tobacco use, and certain medications. Extrinsic stains typically adhere to the surface of the enamel and can often be removed through professional dental cleaning or good oral hygiene practices, unlike intrinsic stains, which are formed within the tooth structure itself and are generally more difficult to treat. The distinction is important in dentistry, as recognizing these stains helps dental professionals determine appropriate treatment plans and preventive measures for their patients. Understanding that exogenous stains are due to external factors highlights the role that lifestyle choices can play in oral health and aesthetics.

6. Which type of rotary cutting instrument shank has a groove for locking into a contra angle attachment?

- A. Friction Grip
- B. Latch Type Shank**
- C. Straight Shank
- D. Hex Shank

The latch type shank is specifically designed to lock securely into a contra angle attachment used in dental handpieces. This shank features a small groove or notch that engages with a corresponding lever in the handpiece, ensuring that the rotary instrument is held firmly in place during procedures. This mechanism allows for efficient operation and reduces the risk of the bur becoming dislodged while in use. In dental practice, having a reliable and stable attachment is crucial because the precision required in procedures such as drilling or cutting can be compromised if the instrument shifts. The latch system also facilitates easy removal and exchange of instruments, which is essential in a busy clinical setting. Other types of shanks, while useful in their respective applications, do not provide this specific locking feature. Friction grip shanks rely on friction for retention within a handpiece, straight shanks are used primarily for manual drills without locking mechanisms, and hex shanks fit into handpieces designed for specific attachments without the locking feature found in latch type shanks. Hence, the latch type shank is the correct choice for securing instruments in a contra angle attachment.

7. What is the bony ridge over the facial portion of the canine called?

- A. Canine Eminence**
- B. Maxillary Ridge**
- C. Mandibular Ridge**
- D. Incisal Ridge**

The bony ridge over the facial portion of the canine is referred to as the canine eminence. This prominence is a significant anatomical feature found in the maxilla, which is the upper jaw where the canines are located. The canine eminence provides the necessary support and shape to the facial structure and is especially important for aesthetic considerations and the contour of the smile. Canine eminences are typically more pronounced in individuals, contributing to the overall fullness of the cheeks. This bony structure serves as an anchor point for the soft tissue surrounding the canines, including the lips and buccal mucosa, impacting both function and facial aesthetics. Other options, although related to dental anatomy, describe different structures. The maxillary ridge generally refers to the overall crests of the upper jawbone and is not specific to the canine area. The mandibular ridge pertains to the lower jaw's bony structures, while the incisal ridge is specifically the biting edge of anterior teeth, rather than a ridge associated with the canine's positioning.

8. Which dental condition involves difficulty with facial expressions due to nerve issues?

- A. Bell's Palsy**
- B. Hypotonia**
- C. Bruxism**
- D. Temporomandibular Disorder**

Bell's Palsy is a condition characterized by sudden, temporary weakness or paralysis of the muscles on one side of the face. It is often attributed to inflammation of the facial nerve (cranial nerve VII), which controls the muscles responsible for facial expressions. As a result, individuals with Bell's Palsy may struggle to close one eye, smile, or make other facial expressions on the affected side of their face. The exact cause of this nerve inflammation can vary, but it is commonly linked to viral infections. The other options present different issues that do not specifically relate to facial expression difficulties due to nerve problems. Hypotonia refers to decreased muscle tone, which can influence general muscle control but is not limited to facial muscles or expressions. Bruxism involves the involuntary grinding or clenching of teeth, typically during sleep or periods of stress, and does not directly affect facial expressions. Temporomandibular Disorder (TMD) relates to jaw joint and muscle issues, causing pain and dysfunction, but it does not primarily affect the facial nerve or the ability to express emotions through facial movements.

9. What does the term "luxate" indicate in a dental context?

A. To place the tooth back in its socket

B. To extract the tooth completely

C. To perform a root canal therapy

D. To apply a filling material

The term "luxate" in a dental context refers to the act of repositioning a tooth back into its original socket. This process is essential in the treatment of avulsed teeth, where a tooth is completely dislodged from its natural position. By immediately luxating the tooth back into its socket, dental professionals aim to preserve the vitality of the tooth and the surrounding structures, which can improve the chances of successful re-attachment and reduce long-term complications. In this context, understanding the terminology is crucial, especially when it comes to emergency dental procedures. The quick and appropriate action of luxating a tooth can often be the difference between saving and losing a tooth due to damage or infection. The other options pertain to different dental procedures, each addressing unique dental issues and not related to the concept of repositioning a tooth that has been displaced.

10. What is the role of a treated paper pad in dental practice?

A. To absorb excess moisture during procedures

B. To mix dental materials like IRM

C. To hold dental instruments

D. To protect surfaces from chemicals

The role of a treated paper pad in dental practice is primarily to absorb excess moisture during procedures. This type of pad is designed to maintain a dry working area by absorbing saliva and other liquids that may be present during dental procedures. Reliable moisture control is crucial for effective adhesive bonding and ensuring that materials used in dentistry set properly. While treated paper pads may sometimes be used in settings involving mixing dental materials, their primary function is related to moisture management. In contrast, mixing dental materials typically involves using mixing pads or bowls specifically designed for that purpose, which may not be made of treated paper. Holding dental instruments is usually managed with trays or cassettes designed for organization and accessibility. Protecting surfaces from chemicals is typically handled by using barrier films or specific protective covers rather than treated paper pads, which are not designed for that purpose.