Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) A Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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

1. **What is the role of technology in the NGN?**
    A. It is not considered relevant
    B. Technology is integrated as a tool for improving patient care
    C. It complicates the practice of nursing
    D. Technology is solely for administrative tasks

2. **What question should a nurse ask to assess the quality of a client's pain?**
    A. Is your pain sharp or dull?
    B. Do you feel the pain all over?
    C. How long have you been in pain?
    D. Where does it hurt the most?

3. **In caring for a client with a pressure injury, which findings should a nurse report to the provider?**
    A. Odor of the wound
    B. Skin color
    C. Current dressing status
    D. Type of nutrition received

4. **In the context of the NGN, what is meant by Patient Safety?**
    A. Focusing only on patient comfort
    B. Ensuring safe medication administration and procedures
    C. Evaluating hospital policies
    D. Discussing patient rights

5. **What is the primary goal when caring for a patient with increased risk of falls?**
    A. To provide mental stimulation
    B. To maintain an environment free of hazards
    C. To encourage independent mobility
    D. To enhance social interaction

6. **What distinguishes the NGN exam from earlier formats of the NCLEX?**

    A. The introduction of multiple-choice questions

    B. The emphasis on clinical judgment and real-world applications of nursing knowledge

    C. The elimination of pharmacology questions

    D. The removal of patient scenarios

7. **How are cultural competency issues addressed in the NGN?**

    A. By focusing exclusively on language barriers

    B. By evaluating knowledge and application of culturally relevant care

    C. By reducing the importance of cultural backgrounds

    D. By emphasizing a one-size-fits-all approach

8. **What is a common misconception regarding the NGN format?**

    A. That it primarily tests memorization rather than application of knowledge

    B. That it is easier than previous NCLEX formats

    C. That it includes no clinical scenarios

    D. That it focuses entirely on patient safety

9. **What format can NGN questions take besides multiple-choice?**

    A. Only fill-in-the-blank

    B. Drag-and-drop and extended multiple response questions

    C. True/false only

    D. Essay responses

10. **How can practicing NCLEX-style questions aid nursing students?**

    A. It helps develop pressure management techniques

    B. It increases familiarity with the exam format and enhances critical thinking skills

    C. It guarantees a passing score on the actual exam

    D. It eliminates the need for theoretical knowledge

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What is the role of technology in the NGN?

A. It is not considered relevant

B. Technology is integrated as a tool for improving patient care

C. It complicates the practice of nursing

D. Technology is solely for administrative tasks

The role of technology in the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) is fundamentally about its integration as a tool to enhance patient care. In the context of nursing education and practice, technology enables healthcare professionals to improve clinical reasoning, decision-making, and the overall quality of care delivered to patients.   Through the use of advanced simulation tools, electronic health records, and various health technologies, nursing students and professionals can gain critical skills that are aligned with current healthcare practices. This integration ensures that nurses are not only equipped with theoretical knowledge but also with practical experiences that reflect real-world scenarios they will encounter in their careers.   Moreover, technology in the NGN helps in assessing the competencies that nurses need to demonstrate in today's complex healthcare environment. This includes the ability to utilize technology effectively for patient assessments, care planning, and coordination of care, which ultimately contributes to better patient outcomes.   This viewpoint highlights a progressive understanding of the nursing role in the digital age, emphasizing that technology is a partner in delivering high-quality care rather than a complication or merely an administrative tool.

2. What question should a nurse ask to assess the quality of a client's pain?

A. Is your pain sharp or dull?

B. Do you feel the pain all over?

C. How long have you been in pain?

D. Where does it hurt the most?

To assess the quality of a client's pain effectively, asking whether it is sharp or dull provides valuable insight into the nature of the pain. This type of question allows the nurse to gather specific characteristics of the client's pain experience. The quality of pain can guide treatment decisions and help determine the underlying cause, as different types of pain may suggest different conditions. For example, sharp pain may indicate acute injury or irritation of nerves, while dull pain might be associated with chronic conditions or inflammation. The other options focus on different aspects of pain assessment. Asking about whether the pain is felt all over primarily addresses the distribution rather than the quality. Inquiring about the duration of the pain provides information about how long the client has been experiencing pain but does not describe its quality. Lastly, asking where it hurts the most relates to the location, which is essential but does not give specific insights into the quality of the pain itself. Thus, the question about whether the pain is sharp or dull is the most effective for assessing quality.

3. In caring for a client with a pressure injury, which findings should a nurse report to the provider?

A. Odor of the wound

B. Skin color

C. Current dressing status

D. Type of nutrition received

Reporting an odor of the wound to the provider is critical because it can indicate the presence of infection or necrotic tissue. An unusual or foul smell coming from a pressure injury suggests that the healing process may be compromised, and there could be underlying issues that need immediate attention, such as bacterial colonization or invasion. This can help determine the necessity for further intervention, such as a new wound care regimen or systemic antibiotic therapy. While skin color, current dressing status, and type of nutrition received are important elements of wound care and overall clinical assessment, they may not be as urgent as the presence of an odor. Changes in skin color can provide insights into perfusion and healing, the dressing status may inform about moisture and protection, and nutritional intake is essential for healing, but none of these findings signal an immediate risk that requires the provider's attention as promptly as a concerning odor does.

4. In the context of the NGN, what is meant by Patient Safety?

A. Focusing only on patient comfort

B. Ensuring safe medication administration and procedures

C. Evaluating hospital policies

D. Discussing patient rights

Patient safety is a critical component of healthcare that emphasizes the prevention of harm to patients during the provision of healthcare. Ensuring safe medication administration and procedures encompasses a broad range of practices and protocols aimed at minimizing risks and preventing errors that can lead to adverse events. This includes verifying medication dosages, understanding drug interactions, following proper protocols for surgical procedures, and adhering to infection control measures. When patient safety is prioritized, healthcare professionals provide care in a manner that protects patients from potential harm while promoting their overall well-being and health outcomes. Although patient comfort, hospital policies, and patient rights are important aspects of healthcare delivery, they do not directly address the crucial elements of risk management and safety practices that protect patients from harm. Thus, the focus on safe medication administration and procedures is foundational to fostering a safe healthcare environment.

5. What is the primary goal when caring for a patient with increased risk of falls?

    A. To provide mental stimulation

    B. To maintain an environment free of hazards

    C. To encourage independent mobility

    D. To enhance social interaction

The primary goal when caring for a patient with an increased risk of falls is to maintain an environment free of hazards. This involves ensuring that the patient's surroundings are safe and reducing the likelihood of trips, slips, and falls. A hazard-free environment includes removing obstacles, ensuring adequate lighting, securing loose rugs, and providing assistive devices (like grab bars) where necessary. This safety-focused approach helps minimize risks and protects the patient from potential injuries, ultimately promoting their well-being. While promoting mental stimulation, encouraging independent mobility, and enhancing social interaction are all important aspects of patient care, they do not directly address the immediate concern of fall risks. The priority in this context must be to create a safe environment before fostering other aspects of health, as even the best intentions in encouraging independence or socialization cannot outweigh the critical need for safety in those at risk of falls.

6. What distinguishes the NGN exam from earlier formats of the NCLEX?

    A. The introduction of multiple-choice questions

    B. The emphasis on clinical judgment and real-world applications of nursing knowledge

    C. The elimination of pharmacology questions

    D. The removal of patient scenarios

The NGN exam is distinguished by its emphasis on clinical judgment and real-world applications of nursing knowledge. This shift is significant because it aims to better prepare nurses for the complexities of modern healthcare environments. In the NGN format, scenarios are designed to assess not just the knowledge a nurse has, but also their ability to apply that knowledge in practical situations. This approach mirrors actual nursing practice, where clinical decisions are made based on multifaceted patient situations, requiring critical thinking and the integration of various skills and knowledge areas. The inclusion of real-world scenarios allows for a deeper assessment of a candidate's critical thinking capabilities and their readiness to ensure safe and effective patient care. The focus on clinical judgment aligns with the evolving roles of nurses in contexts that require thoughtful decision-making beyond rote factual knowledge. This is a departure from earlier formats that primarily relied on straightforward multiple-choice questions without as much emphasis on scenario-based reasoning.

7. How are cultural competency issues addressed in the NGN?

A. By focusing exclusively on language barriers

B. By evaluating knowledge and application of culturally relevant care

C. By reducing the importance of cultural backgrounds

D. By emphasizing a one-size-fits-all approach

The correct response underscores the importance of evaluating both knowledge and the application of culturally relevant care, reflecting the NGN's commitment to preparing nursing students for diverse populations. Cultural competency is fundamental in nursing as it ensures that care is tailored to the specific cultural contexts and needs of patients. This means understanding a patient's background, beliefs, and values, and using this information to inform care decisions. By assessing both knowledge and application, the NGN emphasizes that nurses not only need to know about different cultures but also must be able to integrate this understanding into their practice effectively. This approach aligns with the growing recognition that patient care is most effective when it respects and incorporates cultural differences, which can significantly influence health outcomes. In contrast, focusing only on language barriers overlooks other critical aspects of cultural competency, such as beliefs, customs, and health practices that could affect patient care. Reducing the importance of cultural backgrounds would negate the significance of individual patient experiences and the need for personalized care. A one-size-fits-all approach fails to recognize the diverse needs of patients, which can lead to misunderstandings and inadequate care. Therefore, the approach of evaluating cultural knowledge and its application is essential for fostering effective and inclusive nursing practice.

8. What is a common misconception regarding the NGN format?

A. That it primarily tests memorization rather than application of knowledge

B. That it is easier than previous NCLEX formats

C. That it includes no clinical scenarios

D. That it focuses entirely on patient safety

The common misconception regarding the NGN format is that it primarily tests memorization rather than the application of knowledge. This idea stems from traditional testing formats that often emphasized rote memorization of facts and details. However, the NGN is designed to assess a candidate's critical thinking and clinical judgment skills by presenting complex clinical scenarios. The format requires examinees to demonstrate their ability to apply knowledge in practical situations, analyze varying details, and make informed decisions based on patient needs. The transition to this format reflects the evolving nature of nursing practice, which prioritizes critical thinking and problem-solving over simple recall of information. By focusing on real-life clinical situations, the NGN evaluates how well a candidate can use their nursing knowledge in patient care situations, preparing them for the demands of contemporary healthcare environments. In contrast to this, other misconceptions might involve thoughts about the overall difficulty of the exam or misunderstandings regarding its content, but none directly challenge the core focus of assessing applied knowledge versus memorization as fundamentally as this misconception does.

9. What format can NGN questions take besides multiple-choice?

   A. Only fill-in-the-blank

   B. Drag-and-drop and extended multiple response questions

   C. True/false only

   D. Essay responses

The correct answer is B, as the Next Generation NCLEX (NGN) includes a variety of question formats to assess nursing knowledge and clinical reasoning. Alongside traditional multiple-choice questions, NGN includes drag-and-drop questions and extended multiple response questions.   Drag-and-drop questions require test-takers to arrange or categorize items in a logical order, reflecting real-world nursing scenarios where prioritization and organization are key. Extended multiple response questions allow candidates to select more than one answer from a list, further evaluating their ability to identify multiple correct aspects of a clinical issue. These formats are designed to enhance the assessment of critical thinking and clinical judgment, which are essential competencies for nursing practice, in ways that straightforward multiple-choice questions might not capture as effectively.

10. How can practicing NCLEX-style questions aid nursing students?

   A. It helps develop pressure management techniques

   B. It increases familiarity with the exam format and enhances critical thinking skills

   C. It guarantees a passing score on the actual exam

   D. It eliminates the need for theoretical knowledge

Practicing NCLEX-style questions is essential for nursing students, particularly because it increases familiarity with the exam format and enhances critical thinking skills. The NCLEX exam is designed to assess not only knowledge but also the ability to apply that knowledge in various clinical scenarios. By engaging with practice questions, students become accustomed to the structure, style, and types of questions they will encounter on the actual exam. This familiarity can reduce anxiety and improve confidence when taking the test. Moreover, NCLEX questions often require higher-order thinking skills, such as analysis and application, rather than just recall of facts. This means that as students practice, they don't just memorize information but also learn how to apply it in real-world situations, which is crucial for safe nursing practice. This focus on critical thinking supports their development as nurses who can make sound clinical judgments in diverse patient care scenarios.   Other options suggest helpful practices but do not encapsulate the primary benefits of frequent, formatted question practice.

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://nextgennclexa.examzify.com

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