

North Carolina Notary Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 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 accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. Can notaries charge fees for their services in North Carolina?**
 - A. No, all services must be provided free of charge**
 - B. Yes, but only a maximum legal fee**
 - C. Yes, they can choose any fee they wish**
 - D. No, only if approved by the Secretary of State**

- 2. True or False: Notaries in North Carolina can receive benefits beyond the fees charged for their services.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only if approved by the state**
 - D. Only through official channels**

- 3. Which of the following is NOT a requirement for becoming a notary?**
 - A. Being a resident of the state**
 - B. Having a legal age requirement**
 - C. Possessing a college degree**
 - D. Passing a background check**

- 4. What type of identification is suitable for notarization and is intended for travel purposes?**
 - A. Valid Passport**
 - B. Social Security Card**
 - C. Credit Card**
 - D. Student ID**

- 5. Which of the following items can a notary notarize in North Carolina, as it's not explicitly stated in state law?**
 - A. Marriage certificates**
 - B. Absentee voter ballots**
 - C. Property deeds**
 - D. Divorce papers**

- 6. Which of the following statements is true regarding notarial acts?**
- A. They must always involve multiple witnesses**
 - B. They can only be performed in government offices**
 - C. They require the notary to verify the identity of individuals**
 - D. They do not need to be recorded for validity**
- 7. How often must a notary renew their commission in North Carolina?**
- A. Every year**
 - B. Every three years**
 - C. Every five years**
 - D. Only when requested by the state**
- 8. What is the current year of the edition of the Notary Law?**
- A. 2014**
 - B. 2015**
 - C. 2016**
 - D. 2017**
- 9. Is it possible to notarize a document without sufficient proof of identity from the signer?**
- A. Yes**
 - B. No**
- 10. What action is required if a document contains the phrase "sworn or affirmed"?**
- A. No action required**
 - B. An oath or affirmation must be read**
 - C. Only a signature is needed**
 - D. Witnesses must be present**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Can notaries charge fees for their services in North Carolina?

- A. No, all services must be provided free of charge**
- B. Yes, but only a maximum legal fee**
- C. Yes, they can choose any fee they wish**
- D. No, only if approved by the Secretary of State**

In North Carolina, notaries are permitted to charge fees for their services, but there are specific guidelines that dictate the maximum legal fee they can assess. The law outlines the prescribed fees that notaries may charge, ensuring that the costs remain reasonable and transparent for the public. This structured approach prevents notaries from charging arbitrary or excessive fees, promoting fairness and accessibility in the notarial process. By setting a maximum fee, the state offers consistent regulations that help maintain public trust in notarial services. The incorrect options reflect misunderstandings about the regulations. Some might think notaries are required to provide services for free or face restrictions that severely limit their ability to charge reasonable fees, which is not the case as they indeed can charge, within the established maximum limits.

2. True or False: Notaries in North Carolina can receive benefits beyond the fees charged for their services.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only if approved by the state**
- D. Only through official channels**

Notaries in North Carolina are limited to receiving only the fees that are prescribed by law for their notarial services. This means that any compensation or benefits beyond these established fees is not permitted. The purpose of this regulation is to ensure that notaries remain impartial and act without personal interest or influence when performing their duties. Accepting additional compensation could create a conflict of interest or an appearance of impropriety, which could undermine the integrity of the notarial process. Other choices suggest scenarios under which notaries might accept additional benefits, such as state approval or official channels, but these do not align with the existing guidelines for notarial conduct in North Carolina. The law is clear on this matter, emphasizing the need for notaries to adhere strictly to the fees set forth in the regulations.

3. Which of the following is NOT a requirement for becoming a notary?

- A. Being a resident of the state**
- B. Having a legal age requirement**
- C. Possessing a college degree**
- D. Passing a background check**

To become a notary in North Carolina, there are specific requirements that applicants must meet. One key requirement is that individuals must be residents of the state, ensuring they are familiar with local laws and regulations. Additionally, there is a legal age requirement—applicants must be at least 18 years old. It is also necessary to pass a background check to confirm that the applicant has not been convicted of certain types of crimes that would disqualify them from serving as a notary. Possessing a college degree is not a requirement for becoming a notary in North Carolina. This means that individuals without a college degree can still fulfill the other requirements and be eligible to serve as a notary. Therefore, the correct answer highlights that a college degree is not necessary for this role. The other choices reflect critical requirements that must be fulfilled to ensure the integrity and reliability of notaries in their duties.

4. What type of identification is suitable for notarization and is intended for travel purposes?

- A. Valid Passport**
- B. Social Security Card**
- C. Credit Card**
- D. Student ID**

A valid passport is suitable for notarization and intended for travel purposes because it is a government-issued identification document that verifies the identity and citizenship of an individual. It includes essential information such as the individual's name, photograph, and signature, which helps to establish their identity in a clear and recognizable manner. Passports are widely accepted by notaries because they contain advanced security features that make them difficult to forge, ensuring that the individual presenting the document is who they claim to be. This high level of authenticity is crucial in notarization, where the integrity of the identification is paramount for preventing fraud and ensuring legal validity. In contrast, the other options lack the same level of credibility and acceptance for notarization. A social security card does not have a photo and may not adequately verify identity in the context of a notarial act. Similarly, a credit card may include a person's name, but it is not a government-issued document and often lacks sufficient security features. A student ID, while it may serve to identify a person within a school context, typically does not meet the rigorous standards required for official notarial identification as it does not provide enough assurance of identity for legal transactions.

5. Which of the following items can a notary notarize in North Carolina, as it's not explicitly stated in state law?

- A. Marriage certificates**
- B. Absentee voter ballots**
- C. Property deeds**
- D. Divorce papers**

In North Carolina, the role of a notary public is defined by law, and certain documents are explicitly listed as permissible for notarization. However, not all items fall clearly into those categories. Absentee voter ballots typically involve the process of providing a signature or verifying the identity of a person who is voting remotely. This function can be seen as a form of verification of identity and intent, which aligns with the notarial duties around attending to signatures and identification. The law does not specify absentee voter ballots as a prohibited item for notarization, allowing for flexibility in that aspect. Marriage certificates, property deeds, and divorce papers, however, are more formally defined and regulated within the legal framework of North Carolina. These documents typically require specific procedures or endorsements that may not be suitable for notarization by a notary public alone. Hence, absentee voter ballots emerge as the correct selection because they represent a unique situation where notarization is feasible despite the lack of explicit mention in state law.

6. Which of the following statements is true regarding notarial acts?

- A. They must always involve multiple witnesses**
- B. They can only be performed in government offices**
- C. They require the notary to verify the identity of individuals**
- D. They do not need to be recorded for validity**

Notarial acts are fundamentally designed to ensure the authenticity of signatures, the identity of the individuals involved, and the proper execution of documents. One of the primary responsibilities of a notary is to verify the identity of individuals before they sign documents. This is a crucial step because it prevents fraud and misuse of the notarial process. By confirming the identity through appropriate means, such as government-issued identification, the notary provides an additional layer of trust and legality to the document being notarized. In contrast, the other statements suggest misconceptions about the notarial process. Notarial acts do not require multiple witnesses; they can often be performed with just the notary and the signer present. Notarial acts can be conducted in various locations, not limited to government offices, allowing flexibility for individuals seeking notarization. Lastly, while it's often good practice to keep a record of notarial acts, for many notarial actions, the act itself does not require recording to be considered valid. Thus, the verification of identity by the notary stands as a cornerstone of notarial practice.

7. How often must a notary renew their commission in North Carolina?

- A. Every year
- B. Every three years
- C. Every five years**
- D. Only when requested by the state

In North Carolina, a notary public must renew their commission every five years. This renewal process ensures that notaries stay informed about the laws and best practices related to notarial duties and responsibilities. It serves as a mechanism to maintain the integrity and trust in the notarial system, which is essential for verifying identities and ensuring the authenticity of documents. The five-year renewal requirement provides notaries an adequate timeframe to develop their skills and knowledge while also allowing for periodic assessments of their conduct in office. This practice reflects the state's commitment to maintaining high standards within the notary public system. Notaries are encouraged to stay updated on any changes in the laws pertaining to notary practices during this time, ensuring that they serve the public effectively and ethically.

8. What is the current year of the edition of the Notary Law?

- A. 2014
- B. 2015
- C. 2016**
- D. 2017

The correct answer reflects the most recent edition of North Carolina's Notary Law, which is essential for notaries to stay compliant with legal standards and requirements. The Notary Law is published periodically, and its editions include updates and revisions that incorporate changes in the law or clarify existing regulations. The edition from 2016 includes these updates which notaries must be familiar with to perform their duties accurately. Staying informed about the latest edition ensures that notaries can provide effective service and maintain the integrity of the notarization process in North Carolina.

9. Is it possible to notarize a document without sufficient proof of identity from the signer?

- A. Yes
- B. No**

Notarizing a document without sufficient proof of identity from the signer is not permissible. A notary public is required to verify the identity of individuals who are signing documents to ensure the integrity of the notarization process. This process serves multiple purposes, including preventing fraud and ensuring that the signer is who they claim to be. In North Carolina, the notary is obligated to obtain satisfactory evidence of the signer's identity, which can be accomplished through various means such as government-issued identification or credible witnesses. If a notary fails to obtain this information, they may be held liable for any issues arising from improper notarizations, and the notarization itself can be deemed invalid. Hence, sufficient proof of identity is critical for the proper execution of notarial acts.

10. What action is required if a document contains the phrase "sworn or affirmed"?

- A. No action required**
- B. An oath or affirmation must be read**
- C. Only a signature is needed**
- D. Witnesses must be present**

When a document includes the phrase "sworn or affirmed," it indicates that the signer is either taking an oath (a solemn promise regarding the truth of the contents) or making an affirmation (a formal declaration of truth). In such cases, the notary must read the oath or affirmation to the signer before they sign the document. This ensures that the signer understands the gravity of what they are affirming and is making a legally binding commitment to the truthfulness of the statements contained in the document. The requirement to read the oath or affirmation is integral to the notarial process, as it reinforces the legal obligations the signer is undertaking. This process upholds the integrity of the notarial act and provides a safeguard against false statements, as the signer is making a formal declaration under the penalties of perjury. Thus, taking action to read the oath or affirmation is essential when encountering the phrase "sworn or affirmed" in a document.

SAMPLE

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://northcarolina-notary.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE