

North Carolina Pathology Funeral Service Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

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. A benign neoplasm composed of minute blood or lymph vessels is called what?**
 - A. Hemangioma**
 - B. Angioma**
 - C. Chondroma**
 - D. Neurofibroma**
- 2. What process involves the replacement of destroyed tissue by the same kind of cells?**
 - A. Regeneration**
 - B. Fibrosis**
 - C. Metaplasia**
 - D. Hyperplasia**
- 3. Where are thrombi (clots) primarily located?**
 - A. Brain and arteries**
 - B. Heart and veins**
 - C. Liver and lungs**
 - D. Kidneys and intestines**
- 4. What term describes an excessive volume of blood in the body?**
 - A. Plethora**
 - B. Thrombus**
 - C. Embolus**
 - D. Circulatory shock**
- 5. What describes the shrinkage of the uterus after menopause?**
 - A. Pathological atrophy**
 - B. Physiological atrophy**
 - C. Uterine involution**
 - D. Uterine regression**

- 6. What is the abnormal condition characterized by excess fluid in the kidney?**
- A. Hydrocephalus**
 - B. Hydronephrosis**
 - C. Nephropathy**
 - D. Urolithiasis**
- 7. Which term refers to a nosebleed?**
- A. Epiphora**
 - B. Epistaxis**
 - C. Epiphysis**
 - D. Epidermis**
- 8. Which term refers to a clot that has traveled through the bloodstream?**
- A. Thrombus**
 - B. Plethora**
 - C. Embolus**
 - D. Phlegmon**
- 9. What may an embolus consist of?**
- A. Only blood cells**
 - B. Fragments of thrombi, bacteria, tumor cells, and air**
 - C. Muscle tissue**
 - D. Only fibrin**
- 10. What term describes the hardening of tissue due to chronic inflammation and injury?**
- A. Fibrosis**
 - B. Necrosis**
 - C. Regeneration**
 - D. Hyperplasia**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A benign neoplasm composed of minute blood or lymph vessels is called what?

- A. Hemangioma**
- B. Angioma**
- C. Chondroma**
- D. Neurofibroma**

The appropriate term for a benign neoplasm composed of minute blood vessels is "hemangioma." A hemangioma is specifically characterized by an overgrowth of blood vessels and is often found in various parts of the body, including the skin and internal organs. It is generally benign and may appear as a red or purple mark on the skin. The term "angioma" is broader and encompasses any tumor-like growth of blood or lymph vessels, which is why it can lead to confusion. While angiomas include hemangiomas, it is not exclusive to just blood vessels and could refer to lymph vessels as well. Thus, hemangiomas, as a specific type of angioma, are concentrated on blood vessels, making this term more precise for the situation described. Other terms listed in the choices are relevant to different types of benign neoplasms. Chondromas are composed of cartilage, and neurofibromas consist of fibrous tissue and are associated with nerve sheaths. Understanding the specific characteristics of these different neoplasms is crucial for accurate terminology in pathology and funeral service practices.

2. What process involves the replacement of destroyed tissue by the same kind of cells?

- A. Regeneration**
- B. Fibrosis**
- C. Metaplasia**
- D. Hyperplasia**

Regeneration is the process that involves the replacement of destroyed tissue by the same kind of cells. This biological mechanism allows for the restoration of tissue architecture and function following injury or damage. In regeneration, cells that are lost or damaged are replaced by similar types of cells, leading to a return to normal tissue structure and function. This is typical in tissues that have high regenerative capacity, such as skin, liver, and certain types of epithelial tissues. The other processes, while related to tissue repair and adaptation, do not involve the direct replacement of the same type of cells. For instance, fibrosis refers to the formation of scar tissue when normal tissue is replaced by connective tissue, often resulting in a loss of function. Metaplasia is the change of one differentiated cell type to another, which is not tissue destruction replacement but rather a transformation in response to chronic irritation or inflammation. Hyperplasia refers to an increase in the number of cells in a tissue or organ, which may occur in response to stimuli but does not describe the restoration of damaged tissue to its original structure.

3. Where are thrombi (clots) primarily located?

- A. Brain and arteries
- B. Heart and veins**
- C. Liver and lungs
- D. Kidneys and intestines

Thrombi, or blood clots, primarily form in the heart and veins due to several physiological factors. In the heart, clots often develop in response to turbulent blood flow or damage to the heart valves, which can occur in conditions like atrial fibrillation or after myocardial infarctions. The heart's role as a central pump also means that clots can travelling to other areas of the body, leading to serious complications. In veins, particularly deep veins of the legs, clots can form due to factors such as prolonged immobility, which slows blood flow, or injury to the vein wall. This condition is known as deep vein thrombosis (DVT), and it shows how veins, with lower pressure and slower blood flow compared to arteries, are conducive environments for thrombus formation. This option uniquely encompasses the most common anatomical sites for thrombus formation, reflecting how both the cardiac and venous systems are critical in the pathology of thrombosis. Understanding the factors that contribute to clot formation in these areas is essential for preventing and treating thrombotic events.

4. What term describes an excessive volume of blood in the body?

- A. Plethora**
- B. Thrombus
- C. Embolus
- D. Circulatory shock

The term "plethora" specifically refers to an excessive volume of blood in the body. In a medical context, it can indicate a condition where there is an increase in blood volume or a heightened degree of vascular fullness. This could be due to various factors, such as certain medical conditions that affect blood production or fluid retention, leading to an overabundance of blood within the circulatory system. The other terms represent different medical concepts. A "thrombus" is a blood clot that forms within a blood vessel and remains attached to its place of origin. An "embolus" refers to a clot or other debris that travels through the bloodstream and lodges in a vessel, potentially causing blockage. "Circulatory shock" is a critical condition that occurs when the circulatory system fails to supply enough blood to the body's tissues, typically leading to inadequate organ perfusion and may result from several causes, including loss of blood volume. Understanding the definition and context of "plethora" helps clarify its significance in pathology and the implications of excessive blood volume in medical scenarios.

5. What describes the shrinkage of the uterus after menopause?

- A. Pathological atrophy**
- B. Physiological atrophy**
- C. Uterine involution**
- D. Uterine regression**

The process that describes the shrinkage of the uterus after menopause is characterized as physiological atrophy. This term refers to the natural decrease in size and function of an organ or tissue as a result of the aging process and hormonal changes that occur during menopause, such as the decline in estrogen levels. During this time, the uterine tissue experiences a reduction in the support and stimulation it previously received from estrogen, which leads to atrophy—meaning the cells decrease in size and number. This is a normal physiological process rather than a pathological one, as it is part of the body's adaptation to changing hormone levels. In contrast, pathological atrophy would imply a disease-related cause for tissue loss, which is not applicable in this context. Uterine involution and uterine regression are terms often used in different contexts, such as after childbirth, and do not accurately describe the changes related to menopause. Thus, physiological atrophy is the most appropriate term for the natural and healthy changes occurring in the uterus post-menopause.

6. What is the abnormal condition characterized by excess fluid in the kidney?

- A. Hydrocephalus**
- B. Hydronephrosis**
- C. Nephropathy**
- D. Urolithiasis**

The abnormal condition characterized by excess fluid in the kidney is hydronephrosis. This condition typically results from an obstruction that prevents urine from flowing out of the kidney, causing urine to accumulate and lead to swelling or dilation of the renal pelvis and calyces. Hydronephrosis can occur due to various factors, such as kidney stones, tumors, or structural abnormalities, which may block the ureters or urinary tract. The accumulation of fluid puts pressure on kidney tissue, potentially leading to kidney damage if not addressed. Understanding hydronephrosis is crucial in pathology and clinical settings, as it directly affects kidney function and can lead to serious complications if the underlying cause is not treated. Other conditions listed, like hydrocephalus, nephropathy, and urolithiasis, do not relate specifically to the excess fluid condition in the kidneys, making hydronephrosis the clear focus for this question.

7. Which term refers to a nosebleed?

- A. Epiphora**
- B. Epistaxis**
- C. Epiphysis**
- D. Epidermis**

The term that refers to a nosebleed is epistaxis. This medical term specifically describes the condition where bleeding occurs from the nasal cavity. It can result from various factors, including trauma, dry air, or health conditions affecting the blood vessels in the nose. Understanding medical terminology is essential, especially in a funeral service context, as it helps professionals communicate effectively about various conditions and their implications for care and handling of the deceased. Epiphora refers to excessive tearing, which is unrelated to nasal bleeding. Epiphysis is a term used in anatomy to describe the end part of a long bone, also not related to bleeding from the nose. Epidermis refers to the outermost layer of skin, which does not pertain to nasal conditions either. Thus, epistaxis is the correct term that is both specific to the condition of a nosebleed and crucial for proper identification in medical and funeral service contexts.

8. Which term refers to a clot that has traveled through the bloodstream?

- A. Thrombus**
- B. Plethora**
- C. Embolus**
- D. Phlegmon**

The term that refers to a clot that has traveled through the bloodstream is 'embolus.' An embolus originates from a thrombus, which is a clot that forms at the site of a damaged blood vessel. When part of this thrombus breaks off and circulates through the bloodstream, it is known as an embolus. This traveling clot can potentially lodge in smaller blood vessels, causing a blockage, which can lead to serious health issues, such as a stroke or pulmonary embolism. The other terms have distinct meanings and are not interchangeable with embolus. Plethora refers to an excess of blood or other fluids in the body, while phlegmon describes a type of inflammatory condition, often associated with infection, characterized by diffuse, soft tissue inflammation. Thus, 'embolus' is the precise term used to designate a clot that has moved away from its point of origin through the circulatory system.

9. What may an embolus consist of?

- A. Only blood cells
- B. Fragments of thrombi, bacteria, tumor cells, and air**
- C. Muscle tissue
- D. Only fibrin

An embolus can be described as any particle or substance that travels through the bloodstream and can potentially obstruct a blood vessel. The correct answer highlights the diverse nature of what can comprise an embolus, which includes fragments of thrombi, bacteria, tumor cells, and air. Fragments of thrombi are particularly significant as they can originate from a blood clot that has formed in one area of the body and dislodged, traveling to another site where it can cause a blockage. Bacteria can also serve as emboli, especially in cases of infectious endocarditis, where bacteria can adhere to heart valves and enter the circulatory system. Tumor cells may break off from a primary tumor and travel to distant sites in the body, leading to metastasis. Air is another important component; air emboli can occur in various medical scenarios, such as during certain surgical procedures or from trauma, which can lead to serious complications. The inclusion of these various components illustrates the broad definition of what may constitute an embolus and underscores the significance of recognizing the potential risks involved. The other options mention either insufficient components or overly specific materials that do not encompass the full range of what can result in an embolic event. Understanding this variety is crucial for medical professionals when diagnosing and

10. What term describes the hardening of tissue due to chronic inflammation and injury?

- A. Fibrosis**
- B. Necrosis
- C. Regeneration
- D. Hyperplasia

The term that describes the hardening of tissue due to chronic inflammation and injury is fibrosis. Fibrosis is a pathological process characterized by the excessive deposition of extracellular matrix components, especially collagen, which leads to scarring and stiffening of the affected tissues. This can occur in response to prolonged injury or inflammation, where the body's repair mechanisms go awry, resulting in a fibrous connective tissue that replaces normal tissue structure. This process can significantly affect the function of organs and tissues, contributing to various health conditions. In contrast, necrosis refers to the death of cells or tissues in a living organism, typically resulting from a lack of blood supply, infection, or toxins. Regeneration involves the regrowth of tissues to restore their normal structure and function, which is different from fibrosis, as it does not involve the formation of fibrous tissue. Hyperplasia is an increase in the number of cells in a tissue or organ, usually in response to a stimulus, and does not specifically relate to the hardening of tissues due to chronic conditions. Thus, fibrosis is the most accurate term for the hardening of tissue in the context of chronic inflammation and injury.

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://ncpathologyfuneralservice.examzify.com>

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