

North Carolina SLPA Board Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. 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. True or false: An Assistant can verify insurance coverage, file claims, or follow up on denied claims?**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only with supervision**
 - D. Only with patient consent**
- 2. Which of the following tasks is an SLPA not typically allowed to perform?**
 - A. Organize patient files**
 - B. Conduct assessments independently**
 - C. Assist in therapy sessions**
 - D. Document therapy results**
- 3. What is the purpose of a screening in speech-language pathology?**
 - A. To determine if further evaluation is necessary for potential communication disorders**
 - B. To provide a final diagnosis**
 - C. To establish treatment goals**
 - D. To measure therapy effectiveness**
- 4. Why is early intervention critical in speech-language pathology?**
 - A. It is less expensive than later treatments**
 - B. It can lead to improved outcomes in communication skills**
 - C. It allows for more time to build reports with families**
 - D. It is easier for children to forget early speech habits**
- 5. When services are rendered by an Assistant, who must be informed in writing?**
 - A. The Board**
 - B. The patient or family**
 - C. The Supervising Licensee**
 - D. The healthcare team**

- 6. True or False: Assistants must wear a badge identifying their job title as SLP-ASSISTANT.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only in certain settings**
 - D. Only during official events**
- 7. What does “articulation” refer to in speech-language pathology?**
- A. The speed of speech**
 - B. The clarity and correctness of speech sounds**
 - C. The emotional tone of speech**
 - D. The overall complexity of language**
- 8. What legal document governs SLPA practice in North Carolina?**
- A. The Federal Speech Therapy Act**
 - B. The North Carolina Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Practice Act**
 - C. The Educational Speech Services Regulation**
 - D. The North Carolina Health Care Regulation Act**
- 9. Which of the following is a commonly used assessment tool by SLPAs?**
- A. Speech Development Questionnaire**
 - B. Articulation tests**
 - C. Language Usage Scale**
 - D. Comprehension Checklists**
- 10. The Primary Supervising Licensee must assess the Assistant's competencies within the first how many days of employment?**
- A. 30**
 - B. 45**
 - C. 60**
 - D. 90**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. True or false: An Assistant can verify insurance coverage, file claims, or follow up on denied claims?

A. True

B. False

C. Only with supervision

D. Only with patient consent

An assistant can indeed verify insurance coverage, file claims, and follow up on denied claims within the scope of their role. This is because administrative tasks related to insurance and billing are often part of the responsibilities assigned to support personnel in healthcare settings, including speech-language pathology. When an assistant verifies insurance coverage, they are confirming that the patient has an active insurance plan that covers the services they are seeking. Filing claims involves submitting the necessary documentation to the insurance company to request reimbursement for services provided. Following up on denied claims is crucial for ensuring that the practice receives payment for the services rendered, as it allows for addressing any issues that may have led to the claim being denied. While there might be guidelines or policies in place, these tasks are typically permissible for assistants, given that they have received appropriate training and operate under the supervision of a licensed professional. Therefore, the statement is true, reflecting the role of assistants in the administrative aspects of speech-language pathology practice.

2. Which of the following tasks is an SLPA not typically allowed to perform?

A. Organize patient files

B. Conduct assessments independently

C. Assist in therapy sessions

D. Document therapy results

An SLPA (Speech-Language Pathology Assistant) is typically not allowed to conduct assessments independently. The role of an SLPA is to support licensed speech-language pathologists by assisting with tasks that do not require independent judgment or professional licensure. Conducting assessments involves interpreting data and making clinical decisions, which are within the scope of practice for a licensed speech-language pathologist. In contrast, organizing patient files is a clerical task that helps in maintaining the structure of the therapy process, while assisting in therapy sessions involves carrying out plans developed by the pathologist within their guidance. Documenting therapy results is also a common responsibility, as it aids in tracking the progress and effectiveness of therapy interventions, but again, this is done under the supervision of a licensed professional who has made the primary determinations regarding the therapy goals and methods.

3. What is the purpose of a screening in speech-language pathology?

- A. To determine if further evaluation is necessary for potential communication disorders**
- B. To provide a final diagnosis
- C. To establish treatment goals
- D. To measure therapy effectiveness

The purpose of a screening in speech-language pathology is primarily to determine if further evaluation is necessary for potential communication disorders. Screenings are brief assessments designed to identify individuals who may be at risk for speech or language issues and who would benefit from a more comprehensive evaluation. They are typically quick, do not provide a definitive diagnosis, but rather help professionals decide if an in-depth assessment is warranted. In contrast, providing a final diagnosis is not the role of a screening; this requires a comprehensive evaluation. Similarly, establishing treatment goals and measuring therapy effectiveness occur after a diagnosis has been made and a treatment plan is in place, making these options unrelated to the initial purpose of screening. Thus, screenings serve as an initial step in the process of diagnosing and treating communication disorders, acting as an important tool for early identification and intervention.

4. Why is early intervention critical in speech-language pathology?

- A. It is less expensive than later treatments
- B. It can lead to improved outcomes in communication skills**
- C. It allows for more time to build reports with families
- D. It is easier for children to forget early speech habits

Early intervention is critical in speech-language pathology primarily because it can lead to improved outcomes in communication skills. Research has shown that the earlier a child receives appropriate assessment and intervention, the better the chances are for significant progress in their communication abilities. This is particularly important during the early years of development when neural pathways are forming, and the brain is highly receptive to learning new skills. When intervention occurs early, it capitalizes on this critical window of development, facilitating more effective growth in language and communication skills. Children who receive prompt support often experience not only improvements in speech and language but also benefits in social skills and academic performance later on. While other factors, such as cost-effectiveness and relationship-building with families, are important considerations in the context of treatment, the most compelling reason for early intervention lies in its potential to significantly enhance a child's communication abilities when provided at a critical developmental stage.

5. When services are rendered by an Assistant, who must be informed in writing?

- A. The Board**
- B. The patient or family**
- C. The Supervising Licensee**
- D. The healthcare team**

In the context of speech-language pathology and the roles of speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs), it is essential that the patient or their family is informed in writing when services are rendered by an assistant. This written notification is a crucial component of maintaining transparency within the therapeutic process and ensuring that those receiving care, as well as their caregivers, are fully aware of who is providing their services. By informing the patient or family in writing, it builds trust and fosters communication. Patients and families have the right to understand their treatment plan and who is involved in their care. This clear communication contributes to informed consent, as they are made aware of the qualifications of those delivering services. While the other choices may seem relevant in different contexts—such as notifying the supervising licensee for supervision and compliance with regulations or keeping the healthcare team informed of all aspects of patient care—the primary focus in this scenario centers on patient rights and their need for clarity regarding who is directly involved in their treatment. Thus, documentation to the patient or their family is a foundational element of ethical practice and patient-centered care.

6. True or False: Assistants must wear a badge identifying their job title as SLP-ASSISTANT.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only in certain settings**
- D. Only during official events**

The statement that assistants must wear a badge identifying their job title as SLP-ASSISTANT is true. In the field of speech-language pathology, it is essential for assistants to have a clear identification as part of the professional team. Wearing a badge helps ensure transparency and clarity regarding their role, which is crucial for client interactions and maintaining trust within the therapeutic environment. This practice not only promotes professionalism but also helps clients and their families understand the specific qualifications and responsibilities of different team members. By identifying themselves appropriately, SLP assistants can contribute to an environment where clients feel secure and informed about who is providing their care. Additionally, wearing a badge can aid in compliance with state regulations and institutional policies that emphasize the importance of identification in healthcare settings.

7. What does “articulation” refer to in speech-language pathology?

- A. The speed of speech**
- B. The clarity and correctness of speech sounds**
- C. The emotional tone of speech**
- D. The overall complexity of language**

Articulation in speech-language pathology specifically refers to the clarity and correctness of speech sounds. This involves how sounds are produced and combined to form words. Effective articulation means that an individual can produce sounds in a way that is understandable to others, which is crucial for effective communication. When assessing articulation, speech-language pathologists look for various aspects, including the accuracy of sound production, the placement of the articulators (like the tongue, lips, and palate), and the fluency of speech. Clear articulation can impact a person's ability to communicate effectively, influencing both social interactions and learning. The other aspects provided in the choices, such as the speed of speech, emotional tone, and overall complexity of language, are related to different components of communication, but they do not directly define articulation. These components may be important in overall speech and language evaluations, but they do not describe the process and purpose of articulation itself.

8. What legal document governs SLPA practice in North Carolina?

- A. The Federal Speech Therapy Act**
- B. The North Carolina Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Practice Act**
- C. The Educational Speech Services Regulation**
- D. The North Carolina Health Care Regulation Act**

The North Carolina Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Practice Act is the legal document that specifically governs the practice of Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) in North Carolina. This act outlines the qualifications, duties, and ethical responsibilities of SLPAs and other speech-language professionals, ensuring that practice within the state adheres to established standards of care and professionalism. This legislation provides the necessary framework for regulating the profession, including licensure requirements and the scope of practice for SLPAs. It ensures that individuals practicing in this field are qualified and that they operate within the legal boundaries set forth by the state. Other options, such as the Federal Speech Therapy Act or the Educational Speech Services Regulation, do not specifically pertain to SLPA practice in North Carolina. While federal laws and educational regulations may touch upon aspects of speech and language services, they lack the state-specific guidelines necessary for SLPA practice regulation within North Carolina. The North Carolina Health Care Regulation Act, while relevant to healthcare practices, does not provide the targeted governance that the state-specific Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Practice Act offers for SLPAs.

9. Which of the following is a commonly used assessment tool by SLPAs?

A. Speech Development Questionnaire

B. Articulation tests

C. Language Usage Scale

D. Comprehension Checklists

Articulation tests are commonly used assessment tools by Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (SLPAs) as they provide a systematic way to evaluate an individual's speech sound production. These tests help identify specific articulation errors and determine the kinds of speech sound discrepancies that may exist within a person's speech patterns. By using articulation tests, SLPAs can establish a baseline of a client's speech abilities and monitor progress over time, making them indispensable in the treatment and management of articulation disorders. While the other assessment tools mentioned can also be valuable in assessing various aspects of communication and language, they may not be as universally recognized or commonly utilized in direct assessment by SLPAs as articulation tests. For instance, the Speech Development Questionnaire might be more focused on tracking developmental milestones and may not pinpoint specific articulation issues. Similarly, the Language Usage Scale and Comprehension Checklists can serve specialized purposes but are not as frequently applied in the context of assessing speech sound production directly.

10. The Primary Supervising Licensee must assess the Assistant's competencies within the first how many days of employment?

A. 30

B. 45

C. 60

D. 90

The correct time frame for the Primary Supervising Licensee to assess the competencies of the Assistant within the first 60 days of employment is crucial in ensuring that the Assistant is adequately trained and prepared for their role. This assessment period allows the licensee to evaluate the Assistant's skills and knowledge pertinent to tasks they will be performing, ensuring that they meet the professional standards expected in the field of speech-language pathology. Conducting the assessment within this specified time frame also helps to identify any areas needing further training or development early in the employment relationship. It promotes accountability and a structured approach to oversee the Assistant's practice, fostering a supportive learning environment that prioritizes client care and professional development. The other options suggest a longer assessment period, but failing to conduct an assessment within the first 60 days may hinder the Assistant's ability to perform effectively and could put clients at risk due to inadequately prepared practitioners. Therefore, adhering to the specified timeframe is essential for maintaining quality service delivery in speech-language pathology.

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://ncslpaboard.examzify.com>

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