

Ophthalmic Dispensing Practice Test (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

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- 1. What is indicated if a frame is designed with a retroscopic tilt?**
 - A. The top of the frame extends forward**
 - B. The bottom of the eyewires are in closer than the top**
 - C. The bridge of the frame is tilted back**
 - D. The bridge of the frame is tilted forward**

- 2. What is a characteristic of the basic construction of a progressive addition lens?**
 - A. And near portion only**
 - B. Portion above and below a centralized near portion**
 - C. Portion in the upper area of the lens, a near portion in the lower central area, and a corridor between the distance and near portions that gradually increases**
 - D. Portion that gradually decreases in power**

- 3. When choosing a frame for a wearer of PAL's, what is the most important factor to consider?**
 - A. Have a narrow "B" measurement**
 - B. Provide sufficient vertical depth**
 - C. Have a wide bridge measurement**
 - D. Provide sufficient horizontal depth**

- 4. When designing a corrected curve lens, which type of aberration should be avoided?**
 - A. Coma**
 - B. Chromatism**
 - C. Spherical aberration**
 - D. Marginal astigmatism**

- 5. Dissimilar segments are rarely used to compensate for which issue?**
 - A. Vertex distance**
 - B. Over refraction**
 - C. Vertical imbalance**
 - D. Progressive addition lenses**

- 6. The difference between measuring the distance and near P.D.'s using a ruler is:**
- A. The dispenser moves his/her head**
 - B. The dispenser does not change eyes when sighting the wearer's eyes**
 - C. It is not possible to use the limbus to limbus measurement**
 - D. The wearer of the glasses should look at the wall behind the dispenser for the near reading**
- 7. What is the purpose of an anti-reflective coating on eyeglasses?**
- A. To reduce glare**
 - B. To enhance color perception**
 - C. To improve scratch resistance**
 - D. To darken the lenses**
- 8. A material used to create thin, strong, very lightweight frames, but that results in a material that is not adjustable and is therefore used mainly for frame fronts is:**
- A. Cellulose acetate**
 - B. Carbon fiber**
 - C. Optyl**
 - D. Nylon**
- 9. What adjustment will occur if the right temple is angled out?**
- A. Bring the right side of the front toward the right eye**
 - B. Push the right side of the front away from the right eye**
 - C. Raise the right side of the front**
 - D. Lower the right side of the front**
- 10. What does DBL refer to in optical dispensing?**
- A. Distance below line**
 - B. Decentration between lenses**
 - C. Closest distance between lenses**
 - D. Double D**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is indicated if a frame is designed with a retroscopic tilt?

- A. The top of the frame extends forward**
- B. The bottom of the eyewires are in closer than the top**
- C. The bridge of the frame is tilted back**
- D. The bridge of the frame is tilted forward**

The correct indication of a frame designed with a retroscopic tilt is that the bridge of the frame is tilted back. This design feature enhances the fit and appearance of the eyewear, ensuring that the lenses are optimally positioned in relation to the eyes. In practice, when a frame has a retroscopic tilt, it allows for better alignment of the optical center of the lenses with the wearer's line of sight, a critical factor for visual comfort and effective vision correction. By having the bridge tilted back, the entire frame typically leans slightly, bringing the top portion forward; however, this top extension is a feature of how the tilt functions rather than a direct consequence of the "retroscopic" terminology itself. This understanding is crucial for optical professionals as they assist customers in choosing frames that not only suit their style but also align well with their visual needs and anatomical requirements.

2. What is a characteristic of the basic construction of a progressive addition lens?

- A. And near portion only**
- B. Portion above and below a centralized near portion**
- C. Portion in the upper area of the lens, a near portion in the lower central area, and a corridor between the distance and near portions that gradually increases**
- D. Portion that gradually decreases in power**

The characteristic of a progressive addition lens is that it incorporates a gradual change in optical power from the top of the lens, which is primarily designed for distance vision, to a lower central area where the near vision for close tasks is optimized. This gradual transition, often referred to as a "corridor," allows the wearer to seamlessly shift their focus from distance to intermediate and then to near vision without the visible lines found in traditional bifocal or trifocal lenses. This design is particularly beneficial for presbyopic patients who require multiple vision corrections and prefer a lens that offers smooth visual transition without abrupt changes. The corridor enables the wearer to adjust their gaze at varying distances easily, accommodating everyday activities like reading or using a computer. In contrast, the other options describe lens characteristics that do not represent progressive addition lenses accurately. For example, a near portion only or a thick portion above and below a centralized area does not encompass the progressive nature of the lens. Therefore, option C provides a comprehensive description of how these lenses function and their structure, making it the correct answer.

3. When choosing a frame for a wearer of PAL's, what is the most important factor to consider?

- A. Have a narrow "B" measurement
- B. Provide sufficient vertical depth**
- C. Have a wide bridge measurement
- D. Provide sufficient horizontal depth

When selecting a frame for a wearer of progressive addition lenses (PALs), the most important factor to consider is providing sufficient vertical depth. This is crucial because PALs have different zones for near, intermediate, and distance vision that are arranged vertically in the lens. The vertical depth of the frame affects how well these zones align with the user's eyes when they look through the lenses. If the frame does not have enough vertical depth, it can limit access to the progressive areas of the lens, potentially leading to blurred vision or a narrow field of view in the various zones needed for everyday tasks. A frame with adequate vertical depth ensures that the wearer can utilize the full functionality of the PALs, allowing seamless transitions between different vision zones. The narrow "B" measurement or insufficient horizontal depth may accommodate certain aesthetic preferences or specific face shapes, but these factors do not significantly affect the overall effectiveness of PAL performance as much as vertical depth does. A frame with a wide bridge measurement primarily addresses fit comfort and stability rather than functionality related to lens performance. Therefore, prioritizing vertical depth is key for maximizing the visual experience in progressive lenses.

4. When designing a corrected curve lens, which type of aberration should be avoided?

- A. Coma
- B. Chromatism
- C. Spherical aberration
- D. Marginal astigmatism**

In the context of designing a corrected curve lens, avoiding marginal astigmatism is particularly important because it directly impacts the quality of vision at the edges of the lens. Marginal astigmatism occurs due to the variation in curvature across the lens, causing different focal points for different meridians, which can result in blurriness or distortion in peripheral vision. Corrected curve lenses are designed to minimize these variations and provide a more uniform optical performance, ensuring that vision is clear across the entire lens surface. Choosing to focus on mitigating marginal astigmatism often leads to better overall lens performance, particularly in applications where visual clarity and comfort are paramount. This ensures that users can experience better visual acuity and less visual strain when looking through the lens, especially when they are engaged in tasks that require wide fields of view. While other aberrations like coma, chromatism, and spherical aberration also influence lens performance, marginal astigmatism is often prioritized in corrected curve designs as it pertains specifically to the limitations of lens shape and positioning relative to the eye's line of sight.

5. Dissimilar segments are rarely used to compensate for which issue?

- A. Vertex distance**
- B. Over refraction**
- C. Vertical imbalance**
- D. Progressive addition lenses**

Dissimilar segments are primarily used to address issues occurring in bifocal or multifocal lenses. Vertical imbalance can occur when there's a significant difference in the lens powers of the two eyes, potentially leading to discomfort or visual confusion. However, when it comes to addressing vertical imbalance, dissimilar segments are not typically employed as a solution. Instead, corrective measures for vertical imbalance usually involve adjusting the design of the lenses, selecting different types of prescriptive segments, or using prism to balance the visual field. Dissimilar segments are more appropriate for other situations, such as accommodating different visual needs for each eye. In contrast, vertex distance issues relate to how far the lenses are positioned from the eyes, which can be adjusted with proper fitting techniques. Over-refraction focuses on refining existing prescriptions based on the patient's unique vision requirements through further testing. Progressive addition lenses are designed to provide a smooth transition for different viewing distances but do not relate to the concept of using dissimilar segments to solve vertical imbalance. Thus, the use of dissimilar segments is not a typical approach when trying to correct vertical imbalance, making this the most accurate answer regarding the question posed.

6. The difference between measuring the distance and near P.D.'s using a ruler is:

- A. The dispenser moves his/her head**
- B. The dispenser does not change eyes when sighting the wearer's eyes**
- C. It is not possible to use the limbus to limbus measurement**
- D. The wearer of the glasses should look at the wall behind the dispenser for the near reading**

The distinction in measuring distance and near pupillary distance (P.D.) primarily involves the method in which the measurements are taken, particularly how the dispenser aligns with the wearer's eyes during the process. When measuring for distance P.D., the dispenser can generally maintain a direct line of sight with both eyes aligned to the wearer's pupils. This usually involves no change in focus or position, as distance vision typically requires the wearer to look straight ahead. In contrast, when measuring near P.D., the wearer's gaze is often directed at a closer target, which can involve looking slightly downward or forward. While the dispenser aims to keep the measurement accurate, it may require adjusting their viewpoint or relation to the wearer's eyes, especially if the wearer is instructed to look at a specific point or object. Thus, the correct answer highlights that during the near measurement, the dispenser remains focused on the same eye alignment rather than shifting focus or direction, maintaining sight on the wearer's eyes without changing eyes. The other options relate to aspects of the measurement process that do not accurately capture this key distinction. For example, moving the head during the measurement can introduce inaccuracies, while the limbus to limbus technique is a concept of refracting rather than a measurement approach in this context

7. What is the purpose of an anti-reflective coating on eyeglasses?

- A. To reduce glare**
- B. To enhance color perception**
- C. To improve scratch resistance**
- D. To darken the lenses**

The purpose of an anti-reflective coating on eyeglasses is primarily to reduce glare. This coating helps to eliminate reflections that occur on both the front and back surfaces of the lenses, which can be particularly distracting in bright lighting conditions or when using digital screens. By minimizing glare, the anti-reflective coating allows more light to pass through the lenses, resulting in clearer vision and reducing eye strain. This is especially beneficial for individuals who spend significant time working on computers or in environments with harsh lighting. While other coatings serve different purposes—such as enhancing scratch resistance or modifying tint levels—the anti-reflective coating specifically targets glare and improves visual clarity for the wearer, making it a popular choice for those looking for optimal lens performance.

8. A material used to create thin, strong, very lightweight frames, but that results in a material that is not adjustable and is therefore used mainly for frame fronts is:

- A. Cellulose acetate**
- B. Carbon fiber**
- C. Optyl**
- D. Nylon**

Carbon fiber is a material known for its high strength-to-weight ratio, making it an excellent choice for creating thin and lightweight frames. Its characteristic properties stem from the way carbon atoms are bonded together, resulting in a structure that is incredibly rigid and strong while still being very light. This rigidity means that once carbon fiber frames are shaped, they do not allow for adjustments; they maintain their formed shape without any flexibility. Because of this lack of adjustability, carbon fiber is primarily used for frame fronts where rigidity and a sleek appearance are desired. In contrast, other materials like cellulose acetate and nylon often allow for adjustability, as they can be softened with heat and reshaped. Optyl, while also lightweight and strong, allows for some degree of adjustability due to its thermoplastic nature. Thus, the unique combination of strength, lightweight characteristics, and the absence of adjustability firmly places carbon fiber as the correct answer for this specific context in ophthalmic frame design.

9. What adjustment will occur if the right temple is angled out?

- A. Bring the right side of the front toward the right eye**
- B. Push the right side of the front away from the right eye**
- C. Raise the right side of the front**
- D. Lower the right side of the front**

When the right temple of a pair of glasses is angled out, the most effective adjustment is to bring the right side of the front frame toward the right eye. This adjustment is crucial as it enhances the alignment of the optical centers of the lenses with the wearer's eyes, promoting better vision and comfort. If the right temple is too far from the head, the eyewear may not sit properly on the face, leading to optical misalignment. By adjusting the right side of the front toward the eye, you effectively bring the lenses closer to the visual axis, allowing for improved visual clarity and reducing any potential distortion that might occur if the frames are misaligned. This adjustment ensures that the lenses are positioned correctly for optimal performance.

10. What does DBL refer to in optical dispensing?

- A. Distance below line**
- B. Decentration between lenses**
- C. Closest distance between lenses**
- D. Double D**

DBL in optical dispensing stands for "distance between lenses." This term is used to describe the measurement taken from the center of one lens to the center of another in a pair of spectacles. This measurement is crucial for ensuring the correct optical alignment of the lenses in relation to the wearer's eyes, allowing for optimal vision correction and comfort. Accurate DBL measurements help in preventing issues like prismatic effects and can impact the overall appearance of eyewear. The understanding of DBL is essential for opticians and dispensers when fitting lenses into frames, as it helps to ensure that the lenses are positioned correctly for the wearer's pupillary alignment. This ensures effective lens performance and overall satisfaction with the eyewear.

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://ophthalmicdispensing.examzify.com>

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

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