

# OSCE Diagnostic Skills 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

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

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. For which type of patient are precision attachments not advisable?**
  - A. With poor ridge adaptation**
  - B. With flabby tissue**
  - C. With low dexterity**
  - D. With high esthetic demand**
- 2. Which of the following is not a characteristic of major aphthous ulcers?**
  - A. Heals with a scar**
  - B. Can be painful**
  - C. Multiple occurrences**
  - D. Over 1 cm in size**
- 3. A mandibular incisor with a large pulp chamber and a PA radiolucency is likely due to what?**
  - A. Decay**
  - B. Trauma after eruption**
  - C. Congenital anomaly**
  - D. Restorative failure**
- 4. For a patient experiencing dry mouth, what is a common recommendation?**
  - A. Increased sugar intake**
  - B. Use of tobacco**
  - C. Hydration and salivary substitutes**
  - D. Frequent snacking on dry foods**
- 5. What is the recommended treatment for a mild allergic reaction to barbiturates?**
  - A. Intervention by surgery**
  - B. Administration of epinephrine**
  - C. Use of diphenhydramine (Benadryl)**
  - D. Immediate hospitalization**

**6. True or False: Acid etching creates a chemical bond.**

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Not applicable**
- D. Depends on the material**

**7. What should a pregnant patient who is afraid of needles be positioned in before treatment?**

- A. Sitting upright**
- B. Supine position**
- C. Trendenlenburg position**
- D. Fowlers position**

**8. What is a common oral manifestation associated with multiple odontomas?**

- A. Cysts**
- B. Papilloma**
- C. Gardner Syndrome**
- D. Fibromas**

**9. What is the initial treatment for a patient with a lateral periodontal abscess?**

- A. Irrigate**
- B. Incision and drainage**
- C. Obturate**
- D. Debridement**

**10. Which medication is commonly used as an alternative to Fluconazole for Candida infections?**

- A. Amphotericin B**
- B. Nystatin**
- C. Acyclovir**
- D. Clindamycin**

## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

**1. For which type of patient are precision attachments not advisable?**

- A. With poor ridge adaptation**
- B. With flabby tissue**
- C. With low dexterity**
- D. With high esthetic demand**

Precision attachments are not advisable for patients with low dexterity due to the complexity and level of skill required in manipulating and maintaining these attachments. Precision attachments function through a mechanical connection that must be properly aligned for optimal performance and retention of dental prosthetics. Patients with low dexterity may struggle with the required manipulation when inserting or removing the prosthesis, leading to difficulties in using these types of attachments effectively. In contrast, patients with poor ridge adaptation, flabby tissue, or high esthetic demands can still potentially benefit from precision attachments with careful planning and proper management of their specific conditions. For instance, those with poor ridge adaptation may require additional support mechanisms, while those with flabby tissue might need adjustments or specialized techniques to accommodate the attachment. Patients with high esthetic demands may find precision attachments advantageous as they offer an improved aesthetic outcome when restoring their dentition.

**2. Which of the following is not a characteristic of major aphthous ulcers?**

- A. Heals with a scar**
- B. Can be painful**
- C. Multiple occurrences**
- D. Over 1 cm in size**

Major aphthous ulcers, also known as major canker sores, have specific characteristics that help differentiate them from other types of oral ulcers. One of the defining features of these ulcers is that they often heal without leaving a scar. This is a crucial aspect of their nature, as it distinguishes them from other types of ulcers or lesions that may indeed leave scarring after healing. The pain associated with major aphthous ulcers can be quite significant, which makes them particularly distressing for individuals affected by them. This pain is one of the main reasons why these ulcers are often sought for treatment. Additionally, major aphthous ulcers are characterized by their size, typically being larger than 1 cm in diameter. They can also occur multiple times, indicating a recurrent nature which can be a hallmark of the condition. By understanding these attributes, it's clear why not healing with a scar is a defining characteristic of major aphthous ulcers. Thus, when evaluating options regarding their features, knowing that scarring is not a typical outcome reinforces the correctness of identifying that aspect as not characteristic of major aphthous ulcers.

**3. A mandibular incisor with a large pulp chamber and a PA radiolucency is likely due to what?**

- A. Decay**
- B. Trauma after eruption**
- C. Congenital anomaly**
- D. Restorative failure**

The presence of a large pulp chamber in a mandibular incisor, along with a periapical (PA) radiolucency, typically indicates a loss of vitality of the tooth, which is often due to trauma. When a tooth experiences trauma after eruption, it can lead to pulpal necrosis or other pulp diseases, resulting in an enlarged pulp chamber and the formation of a PA radiolucency as the body tries to respond to the pulp's inflammation or infection. This scenario is particularly plausible in the context of mandibular incisors, which are more susceptible to trauma due to their position in the dental arch. The trauma can be a result of various factors, such as sports injuries, accidents, or dental procedures, and can disrupt the vascular and neural supply to the pulp, leading to the observed changes. The other causes, such as decay, congenital anomalies, or restorative failures, do not specifically correlate with both the findings of a large pulp chamber and a PA radiolucency in the same manner as trauma does. While decay can cause similar issues, the description emphasizes trauma as the most direct and likely cause of these specific radiographic findings.

**4. For a patient experiencing dry mouth, what is a common recommendation?**

- A. Increased sugar intake**
- B. Use of tobacco**
- C. Hydration and salivary substitutes**
- D. Frequent snacking on dry foods**

Hydration and salivary substitutes are commonly recommended for patients experiencing dry mouth, also known as xerostomia. This condition can lead to discomfort, difficulty swallowing, and an increased risk of dental issues due to lack of saliva, which plays a crucial role in oral health by neutralizing acids, remineralizing teeth, and aiding digestion. Increasing hydration helps stimulate saliva production and alleviates symptoms associated with dry mouth. Drinking water frequently throughout the day can help keep the mouth moist. Salivary substitutes, which can come in the form of artificial saliva or mouth rinses specifically designed for this purpose, provide moisture and a protective barrier for the oral tissues, further aiding in comfort and oral health. Other options, such as increased sugar intake and tobacco use, can exacerbate dry mouth symptoms or lead to additional oral health problems. Frequent snacking on dry foods can also worsen dryness and discomfort, making hydration and salivary substitutes the most effective recommendations for managing this condition.

**5. What is the recommended treatment for a mild allergic reaction to barbiturates?**

- A. Intervention by surgery**
- B. Administration of epinephrine**
- C. Use of diphenhydramine (Benadryl)**
- D. Immediate hospitalization**

In the case of a mild allergic reaction to barbiturates, the recommended treatment is the use of diphenhydramine, commonly known as Benadryl. This medication is an antihistamine that works by blocking the action of histamine, a substance in the body that causes allergic symptoms. For mild allergic reactions, symptoms may include rashes, itching, or hives, and antihistamines like diphenhydramine are often sufficient to provide relief from these symptoms without the need for more aggressive treatments. Using diphenhydramine is appropriate because it helps alleviate the allergic symptoms caused by histamine release, providing a supportive measure for patients experiencing mild reactions. This treatment is generally safe and effective for managing such scenarios. The other options, while valid in different contexts, do not match the specific needs of a mild allergic reaction. Surgical intervention is unnecessary for mild allergic responses. The administration of epinephrine is reserved for severe allergic reactions, such as anaphylaxis, which involves more serious symptoms like difficulty breathing, swelling of the face or throat, and a rapid drop in blood pressure. Immediate hospitalization is typically reserved for more severe cases where monitoring and advanced care are required, which is not the case with mild reactions. Thus,

**6. True or False: Acid etching creates a chemical bond.**

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Not applicable**
- D. Depends on the material**

In this context, the statement that acid etching creates a chemical bond is false because acid etching primarily serves to produce a micro-rough surface that enhances mechanical retention rather than forming a direct chemical bond. When a substrate, such as enamel or dentin, is etched with acid, the process removes some of the mineral content and creates a more surface area with irregularities. This increased surface area allows for better mechanical interlocking when a bonding agent or adhesive is applied. The resulting mechanical bond is what strengthens the adherence of subsequent restorative materials, not a chemical bond created by the etching process itself. Therefore, the process improves the bonding capabilities but does not intrinsically create a chemical bond between the materials involved.

**7. What should a pregnant patient who is afraid of needles be positioned in before treatment?**

- A. Sitting upright**
- B. Supine position**
- C. Trendelenburg position**
- D. Fowlers position**

The most appropriate position for a pregnant patient who is afraid of needles is the Trendelenburg position. This position involves lying back with the legs elevated relative to the head, which can help to alleviate feelings of anxiety and fear that may accompany needle procedures. Elevating the legs can promote venous return to the heart, which might also help stabilize blood pressure and reduce the risk of fainting, a common response to fear or anxiety, especially in patients who are pregnant. Additionally, this positioning allows for improved access to the veins for venipuncture while also creating a calming effect for the patient. It is important to consider factors like comfort and safety, both of which are regarded in the Trendelenburg positioning. Thus, for a pregnant patient particularly apprehensive about needles, this position can provide both physical and psychological benefits during treatment.

**8. What is a common oral manifestation associated with multiple odontomas?**

- A. Cysts**
- B. Papilloma**
- C. Gardner Syndrome**
- D. Fibromas**

The presence of multiple odontomas is commonly associated with Gardner syndrome, a genetic disorder characterized by an array of benign and malignant tumors and a higher risk for colorectal cancer. Odontomas are tooth-related tumors that can disrupt normal dental development and may present with various complications, such as impaction of teeth and various oral manifestations. Patients with Gardner syndrome often exhibit multiple odontomas due to the condition's association with abnormal tooth development and dental anomalies. In addition to odontomas, Gardner syndrome features a variety of other manifestations, such as epidermoid cysts, fibromas, and osteomas. The link between multiple odontomas and Gardner syndrome is significant because it highlights the systemic nature of this condition, emphasizing the importance of recognizing such oral findings as potential indicators of a broader genetic disorder. On the other hand, while cysts, papillomas, and fibromas can present in the oral cavity, they are not specifically linked to multiple odontomas or indicate a syndrome as directly as Gardner syndrome does. Thus, the association of multiple odontomas with Gardner syndrome is distinctive and clinically relevant, making it the correct answer.

## 9. What is the initial treatment for a patient with a lateral periodontal abscess?

- A. Irrigate
- B. Incision and drainage**
- C. Obturate
- D. Debridement

The initial treatment for a patient with a lateral periodontal abscess typically involves incision and drainage. This approach is crucial because a lateral periodontal abscess indicates the presence of pus accumulation related to the periodontal tissues, usually resulting from infection. The main goal of this treatment is to relieve pressure, remove the purulent material, and promote healing. By performing incision and drainage, the healthcare provider can effectively alleviate pain and swelling, allowing for the drainage of the abscess. This step is essential to manage the acute situation and helps in stopping the progression of the infection. Once the abscess has been drained, further treatments such as debridement and appropriate antibiotics may be employed to address the underlying periodontal disease and promote healing. Other treatment options, while helpful in different contexts, do not address the immediate need to relieve the accumulation of pus. For example, irrigation may assist in cleaning an area but would not adequately address the abscess. Similarly, obturation typically pertains to filling a root canal and is not relevant in this acute scenario. Debridement, while important for periodontal therapy, follows the initial drainage and is part of a broader treatment strategy rather than the first step in managing an acute abscess.

## 10. Which medication is commonly used as an alternative to Fluconazole for Candida infections?

- A. Amphotericin B
- B. Nystatin**
- C. Acyclovir
- D. Clindamycin

Nystatin is commonly used as an alternative to Fluconazole for treating Candida infections due to its antifungal properties. It is particularly effective against Candida species, as it works by binding to ergosterol in the fungal cell membrane, leading to cell death. Nystatin is often utilized in cases where a patient may have resistance to Fluconazole or for milder infections, such as oral thrush or cutaneous Candida infections. In contrast, other options like Amphotericin B, while effective against fungal infections, are typically reserved for more severe or systemic infections due to their potential for significant side effects and toxicity. Acyclovir is an antiviral medication used primarily for viral infections, particularly herpes virus, and does not have efficacy against fungal infections. Clindamycin is an antibiotic effective against bacterial infections but does not target fungi, making it unsuitable for treating Candida infections. Therefore, Nystatin stands out as a suitable alternative to Fluconazole specifically for fungal infections caused by Candida.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://oscdiagnosticskills.examzify.com>**

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

**SAMPLE**