

Paramedic Entrance 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. Which type of shock is characterized by a decrease in blood volume?**
 - A. Cardiogenic shock**
 - B. Neurogenic shock**
 - C. Hypovolemic shock**
 - D. Obstructive shock**

- 2. When should a paramedic consider using a nasopharyngeal airway?**
 - A. When the patient is breathing normally**
 - B. When the patient is conscious and cooperative**
 - C. When the patient is unconscious with a gag reflex**
 - D. When a tracheostomy is in place**

- 3. What does the right ventricle do?**
 - A. Sends oxygen-rich blood to the body**
 - B. Sends oxygen-poor blood to the lungs**
 - C. Receives blood from the lungs**
 - D. Pumps blood to the aorta**

- 4. Which condition typically requires immediate intervention with bronchodilators?**
 - A. Heart attack**
 - B. Asthma attack**
 - C. Pneumonia**
 - D. Stroke**

- 5. How should a paramedic manage a patient with a suspected tension pneumothorax?**
 - A. Continuous oxygen support**
 - B. Needle decompression followed by chest tube insertion**
 - C. Manual ventilation with a bag-mask**
 - D. Administration of steroids**

- 6. What does the acronym PENMAN stand for in scene size-up?**
- A. Personal protective equipment needed**
 - B. Patient examination method analysis**
 - C. Potential hazards identification**
 - D. Personal equipment and needs assessment**
- 7. What is the normal blood pressure range for adults?**
- A. 80/50 mmHg to 100/70 mmHg**
 - B. 90/60 mmHg to 120/80 mmHg**
 - C. 120/80 mmHg to 140/90 mmHg**
 - D. 70/40 mmHg to 90/60 mmHg**
- 8. What does the term "anaphylaxis" refer to?**
- A. A minor allergic reaction**
 - B. A severe, life-threatening allergic reaction**
 - C. A common cold**
 - D. A chronic condition**
- 9. Which type of shock involves fluid loss without hemorrhage?**
- A. Hypovolemic shock**
 - B. Hemorrhagic shock**
 - C. Anaphylactic shock**
 - D. Cardiogenic shock**
- 10. What intervention should a paramedic prioritize for a patient experiencing a cardiac dysrhythmia?**
- A. Administering oxygen**
 - B. Establishing IV access**
 - C. Defibrillation, if indicated**
 - D. Performing CPR**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which type of shock is characterized by a decrease in blood volume?

- A. Cardiogenic shock**
- B. Neurogenic shock**
- C. Hypovolemic shock**
- D. Obstructive shock**

Hypovolemic shock is characterized by a significant decrease in blood volume, which can result from severe fluid loss due to conditions such as hemorrhage, dehydration, or severe burns. In this type of shock, the body does not have enough blood to circulate, leading to inadequate perfusion of organs and tissues. As a result, the heart and vascular system struggle to maintain blood pressure, which can lead to organ failure if not addressed promptly. Understanding hypovolemic shock is essential for the management of patients who may experience rapid fluid loss, as recognizing the signs and initiating appropriate treatment can be lifesaving.

2. When should a paramedic consider using a nasopharyngeal airway?

- A. When the patient is breathing normally**
- B. When the patient is conscious and cooperative**
- C. When the patient is unconscious with a gag reflex**
- D. When a tracheostomy is in place**

A nasopharyngeal airway (NPA) is a flexible tube that is inserted into the nasal passage to secure an open airway. It is particularly useful in certain scenarios depending on the patient's level of consciousness and airway reflexes. In the case of a patient who is unconscious but retains a gag reflex, using an NPA is appropriate because the presence of the gag reflex indicates that the airway reflexes are somewhat intact, allowing for the use of this device without the immediate risk of causing aspiration. The NPA can help maintain an open airway, ensuring that air can pass freely to the lungs, which is critical in an unconscious patient who cannot protect their own airway. While using an NPA in patients who are breathing normally or are conscious and cooperative may not be indicated because their airways are already patent and can be managed without adjuncts, in those unconscious situations where the gag reflex is present, the NPA becomes a valuable tool. Using an NPA in a patient with a tracheostomy, however, would be inappropriate, as the airway is already bypassed and managed through the tracheostomy, making additional airway adjuncts unnecessary. This is why considering the specific conditions—unconscious state coupled with a functioning gag

3. What does the right ventricle do?

- A. Sends oxygen-rich blood to the body
- B. Sends oxygen-poor blood to the lungs**
- C. Receives blood from the lungs
- D. Pumps blood to the aorta

The right ventricle plays a crucial role in the circulatory system, specifically in the process of pulmonary circulation. Its primary function is to receive deoxygenated blood from the right atrium, which comes from the body, and then it pumps this blood to the lungs through the pulmonary arteries. In the lungs, the blood releases carbon dioxide and picks up oxygen, becoming oxygen-rich. This process is vital for maintaining the oxygen supply that the body needs to function properly. When the right ventricle contracts, it creates enough pressure to push the blood through the pulmonary artery into the lungs for reoxygenation. The other options refer to functions that are attributed to different parts of the heart or circulatory system. For instance, sending oxygen-rich blood to the body is the role of the left ventricle, which pumps oxygenated blood into the aorta. Receiving blood from the lungs is the function of the left atrium, and pumping blood to the aorta is also the responsibility of the left ventricle, not the right. Thus, the right ventricle's specific role in sending oxygen-poor blood to the lungs is essential to keeping the cycle of oxygenation and circulation intact.

4. Which condition typically requires immediate intervention with bronchodilators?

- A. Heart attack
- B. Asthma attack**
- C. Pneumonia
- D. Stroke

An asthma attack is characterized by the bronchial tubes becoming inflamed and narrowed, which restricts airflow and makes breathing difficult. During such an episode, the airways are often obstructed by mucus and spasms, leading to symptoms like wheezing, coughing, and shortness of breath. The use of bronchodilators—medications that relax and open the airways—can rapidly alleviate these symptoms by reducing bronchial constriction and improving airflow. In contrast, a heart attack is primarily a cardiovascular event that requires immediate treatment focused on restoring blood flow to the heart. Pneumonia, an infection of the lungs, may lead to breathing difficulties, but it is typically treated with antibiotics and supportive care rather than bronchodilators as an immediate response. A stroke involves the interruption of blood flow to the brain and necessitates interventions aimed at restoring cerebral circulation, rather than targeting the airways. Thus, the direct need for bronchodilators during an asthma attack makes it the condition that requires immediate intervention with this type of medication.

5. How should a paramedic manage a patient with a suspected tension pneumothorax?

- A. Continuous oxygen support**
- B. Needle decompression followed by chest tube insertion**
- C. Manual ventilation with a bag-mask**
- D. Administration of steroids**

In the management of a patient with a suspected tension pneumothorax, the priority is to relieve the pressure build-up in the thoracic cavity, which is critical for restoring normal respiratory function and preventing cardiovascular collapse. The correct approach is to perform needle decompression, which involves inserting a large-bore needle into the second intercostal space at the midclavicular line. This procedure allows trapped air in the pleural space to escape, alleviating the pressure exerted on the lung and mediastinum. Following needle decompression, the next step typically involves placing a chest tube, which provides continuous drainage of air or fluid through a catheter, thus allowing the affected lung to re-expand and maintaining intrathoracic pressure balance. This two-step process is essential for effectively managing a tension pneumothorax. In contrast, continuous oxygen support is necessary for various respiratory conditions but does not address the immediate critical situation of a tension pneumothorax. Likewise, manual ventilation with a bag-mask may worsen the situation by adding further pressure to the thorax, and administration of steroids is not indicated in this acute scenario. Thus, the focus on needle decompression followed by chest tube insertion is vital in this emergency management protocol.

6. What does the acronym PENMAN stand for in scene size-up?

- A. Personal protective equipment needed**
- B. Patient examination method analysis**
- C. Potential hazards identification**
- D. Personal equipment and needs assessment**

The correct interpretation of the acronym PENMAN in the context of scene size-up is that it stands for Personal protective equipment needed. This mnemonic is crucial for paramedics and emergency responders as it serves as a quick reminder to assess the scene for potential hazards that may pose risks to their safety. By identifying the necessary personal protective equipment, responders can ensure that they are properly equipped to handle the situation without compromising their safety. This focus on personal protective equipment is essential in emergency medical services, as different situations can present various dangers, such as chemical exposures, biohazards, or environmental risks. Ensuring that responders have the appropriate gear helps in maintaining a safe working environment and allows them to focus on providing care to the patient effectively. Other options may sound plausible, but they do not accurately represent the acronym PENMAN specifically. The emphasis is on ensuring safety through the identification of personal protective equipment necessary for the responders at the scene. This proactive approach supports the overall effectiveness and safety of the emergency response process.

7. What is the normal blood pressure range for adults?

- A. 80/50 mmHg to 100/70 mmHg
- B. 90/60 mmHg to 120/80 mmHg**
- C. 120/80 mmHg to 140/90 mmHg
- D. 70/40 mmHg to 90/60 mmHg

The normal blood pressure range for adults is indeed defined as being between 90/60 mmHg and 120/80 mmHg. This range indicates that both the systolic pressure (the top number) and diastolic pressure (the bottom number) fall within levels that are considered optimal for maintaining good health. Blood pressure readings below 90/60 mmHg can be indicative of hypotension, which may result in insufficient blood flow to vital organs, leading to symptoms such as dizziness or fainting. Conversely, readings higher than 120/80 mmHg can indicate hypertension, which is a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases. This range is recognized by various health organizations and is fundamental for evaluating cardiovascular health in adults. It serves as a standard to help healthcare professionals detect and manage potential health issues related to blood pressure. Understanding this range is crucial for both patients and caregivers in promoting overall health and well-being.

8. What does the term "anaphylaxis" refer to?

- A. A minor allergic reaction
- B. A severe, life-threatening allergic reaction**
- C. A common cold
- D. A chronic condition

The term "anaphylaxis" refers specifically to a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction that occurs rapidly after exposure to an allergen. This type of reaction can cause the body's immune system to overreact, leading to symptoms such as difficulty breathing, swelling of the throat, a significant drop in blood pressure, and potential loss of consciousness. Anaphylaxis requires immediate medical intervention, typically the administration of epinephrine, to reverse the severe symptoms and prevent a fatal outcome. In contrast, the other options reference conditions that do not accurately describe anaphylaxis. A minor allergic reaction typically involves milder symptoms, such as localized itching or rashes, which do not pose an immediate danger to life. A common cold is a viral infection that affects the upper respiratory tract and has no relation to allergic reactions. Lastly, a chronic condition refers to long-term health issues that persist over an extended period, which is distinct from the acute presentation and urgency associated with anaphylaxis.

9. Which type of shock involves fluid loss without hemorrhage?

- A. Hypovolemic shock**
- B. Hemorrhagic shock**
- C. Anaphylactic shock**
- D. Cardiogenic shock**

The correct answer is based on the definition of hypovolemic shock. This type of shock occurs when there is a significant loss of body fluids, which can happen without any loss of blood. For instance, severe dehydration due to conditions like vomiting, diarrhea, or extensive burns can result in hypovolemic shock. In this situation, the loss of plasma fluid leads to inadequate blood volume, compromising the body's ability to deliver oxygen to tissues. While hemorrhagic shock is characterized by blood loss specifically due to trauma or injury, anaphylactic shock stems from a severe allergic reaction causing vasodilation and fluid leakage from blood vessels rather than direct fluid loss. Cardiogenic shock involves the heart's inability to pump effectively, often due to heart disease, and is not primarily connected to fluid loss. Understanding these distinctions clarifies why hypovolemic shock is identified specifically by non-hemorrhagic fluid loss.

10. What intervention should a paramedic prioritize for a patient experiencing a cardiac dysrhythmia?

- A. Administering oxygen**
- B. Establishing IV access**
- C. Defibrillation, if indicated**
- D. Performing CPR**

In the context of a patient experiencing a cardiac dysrhythmia, prioritizing defibrillation, if indicated, is crucial because it directly addresses life-threatening conditions such as ventricular fibrillation (VF) or pulseless ventricular tachycardia (VT). Defibrillation is a critical intervention that can restore a normal heart rhythm and is often the most immediate and effective way to treat these specific cardiac dysrhythmias, which can lead to cardiac arrest if not promptly addressed. Timeliness is essential in such scenarios, as effective responses can significantly impact patient survival rates. While administering oxygen, establishing IV access, and performing CPR are all important components of the overall management of a patient with a cardiac emergency, they do not have the same immediate life-saving potential as defibrillation in cases of shockable rhythms. In the presence of VF or pulseless VT, for instance, defibrillation takes precedence over other interventions to quickly restore effective circulation.

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://paramedicentrance.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE