

Pennsylvania Psychology Law Examination (PPL) 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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 can be included in the public advertisements of psychologists?
 - A. Professional affiliations
 - B. Fee information
 - C. Relevant information not precluded by the Code of Ethics
 - D. Restrictions to print media only
2. What is a common reason for ineligibility for the psychology licensing exam?
 - A. Lack of support from an accredited institution
 - B. Graduating from a non-accredited program
 - C. Failure to meet continuing education requirements
 - D. Non-completion of a required thesis
3. In assessing John Smith's actions as an ERT professional, which of the following will the Board review?
 - A. Engagement in activities generally accepted as within the scope of practice of ERT professionals
 - B. Behavior consistent with the training of ERT professionals
 - C. Behavior consistent with the code of ethics of ERT professionals
 - D. All the above
4. What is a key consideration when completing postdoctoral requirements before licensure?
 - A. Having direct patient interaction
 - B. Receiving mentorship from a licensed psychologist
 - C. Documenting hours worked
 - D. All of the above
5. How many contact hours can psychologists carry in excess of 30 from the preceding biennium?
 - A. 5
 - B. 10
 - C. 15
 - D. 20

6. What does the Code of Ethics specify about sexual relationships between psychologists and their clients?

- A. Prohibits sexual relationships between clients and psychologists
- B. Discourages sexual relationships between psychologists and clients
- C. Explicitly permits sexual relationships between former clients and psychologists
- D. Does not address sexual relationships between clients and psychologists

7. If a client reveals a plan to euthanize a terminally ill brother, what should the therapist do?

- A. Report the plan to the authorities
- B. Tell the client to weigh the risks versus benefits of the plan
- C. Remain silent due to therapist-client confidentiality
- D. Tell a colleague and ask him to make a report to the police

8. Which individuals can be considered immediate family members of a patient?

- A. Parents/guardians
- B. Siblings
- C. Spouses
- D. All the above

9. Can a mental health group list itself under "Psychological Services" in a directory?

- A. No, only individual psychologists can list themselves
- B. Yes, provided licensed psychologists are responsible for services
- C. Yes, if they have a physical office
- D. No, they must register as a separate entity

10. What program exists in Pennsylvania to help manage psychologists with substance abuse issues?

- A. A. Impaired professional program
- B. B. Substance abuse revocation program
- C. C. Counseling accessibility program
- D. D. Psychological support initiative

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What can be included in the public advertisements of psychologists?

- A. Professional affiliations
- B. Fee information
- C. Relevant information not precluded by the Code of Ethics**
- D. Restrictions to print media only

The correct choice reflects a holistic understanding of public advertisements for psychologists. Psychologists must adhere to the ethical standards outlined in the Code of Ethics, which provides guidelines on how they can promote their services. This choice emphasizes the inclusion of relevant information that is not restricted by the Code, allowing psychologists to communicate essential details about their practice, expertise, and services. Public advertisements must maintain professionalism and avoid misleading claims, adhering to the ethical responsibilities aimed at protecting the dignity and respect of the profession. Thus, the inclusion of relevant information ensures that advertisements are informative and aligned with ethical practices, without breaching confidentiality or making unwarranted guarantees regarding outcomes. The focus on relevant, permissible information not only guides the ethical conduct of practice but also ensures that potential clients can make informed decisions based on accurate portrayals of what the psychologist offers. This maintains public trust in the profession and upholds the standards of practice that psychologists are expected to follow.

2. What is a common reason for ineligibility for the psychology licensing exam?

- A. Lack of support from an accredited institution
- B. Graduating from a non-accredited program**
- C. Failure to meet continuing education requirements
- D. Non-completion of a required thesis

Graduating from a non-accredited program is a significant reason for ineligibility for the psychology licensing exam. Accreditation ensures that the program meets specific educational standards and provides the necessary training and knowledge to prepare graduates for professional practice in psychology. Regulatory bodies often require candidates to have completed their education at an accredited institution to ensure that they possess the competencies essential for effective practice. Those who graduate from non-accredited programs typically do not meet the academic or professional criteria set by licensing boards, which can lead to disqualification from taking the licensing exam. Accreditation also serves as a quality assurance mechanism for the educational experiences that future psychologists receive, thus its importance in licensing eligibility. Regarding the other options, lack of support from an accredited institution can be a concern but is not the primary reason for ineligibility, while failure to meet continuing education requirements pertains to maintaining licensure rather than eligibility for the initial exam. Non-completion of a required thesis may be an issue in certain programs, but not all psychology programs mandate a thesis, so its impact on eligibility could vary significantly.

3. In assessing John Smith's actions as an ERT professional, which of the following will the Board review?

- A. Engagement in activities generally accepted as within the scope of practice of ERT professionals
- B. Behavior consistent with the training of ERT professionals
- C. Behavior consistent with the code of ethics of ERT professionals
- D. All the above**

The correct choice encompasses a comprehensive evaluation of John Smith's actions by considering multiple critical factors that define the performance and conduct expected of Emergency Response Team (ERT) professionals. The Board will review whether his actions align with activities that are generally accepted as part of the ERT scope of practice. This ensures that he is operating within the parameters of his designated role and performs tasks that are recognized and authorized for ERT professionals. Additionally, assessing whether his behavior is consistent with the specific training he has received is essential. This criterion ensures that he applies the skills and knowledge acquired through training effectively and appropriately in real-world scenarios. Finally, evaluating adherence to the code of ethics for ERT professionals is crucial for maintaining professionalism and integrity in this field. Ethics in practice guide ERT professionals in making sound decisions that prioritize the welfare of individuals and communities they serve. By considering all these aspects—scope of practice, training consistency, and ethical guidelines—the Board can arrive at a well-rounded assessment of John Smith's actions, ensuring both accountability and professionalism in the field.

4. What is a key consideration when completing postdoctoral requirements before licensure?

- A. Having direct patient interaction
- B. Receiving mentorship from a licensed psychologist
- C. Documenting hours worked
- D. All of the above**

Postdoctoral requirements before licensure in psychology are crucial and encompass multiple key components to ensure that candidates are well-prepared for professional practice. Completing direct patient interaction is important as it provides hands-on experience, allowing the individual to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings while developing essential clinical skills. Receiving mentorship from a licensed psychologist serves as a critical aspect of postdoctoral training. Mentorship contributes to professional development, guidance through ethical practices, and enhances clinical competence through supervision and feedback from someone well-versed in the field. Documenting hours worked is another vital requirement as it provides a formal record of the experience gained during the postdoctoral training period. Accurate documentation is necessary for fulfilling licensure requirements, demonstrating compliance with the regulations set forth by the licensing board, and ensuring that the candidate has met the stipulated criteria for the number of supervised hours. Given these considerations, it's clear that all the mentioned elements—direct patient interaction, receiving mentorship from a licensed psychologist, and documenting hours worked—are integral to completing postdoctoral requirements effectively. This comprehensive approach is essential for fostering the development of a competent and ethical psychologist ready for licensure.

5. How many contact hours can psychologists carry in excess of 30 from the preceding biennium?

- A. 5
- B. 10**
- C. 15
- D. 20

Psychologists in Pennsylvania can carry over a maximum of 10 contact hours in excess of the required 30 hours from the preceding biennium. This provision allows professionals to account for any continuing education activities they may have completed in excess of the required amount, ensuring that they are encouraged to engage in lifelong learning and professional development. By allowing a carryover of these hours, the regulatory framework recognizes that not all professional development occurs evenly over the two-year period and provides flexibility for psychologists to maintain their competency in the field. Understanding this carryover rule can be crucial for professionals to effectively manage their continuing education commitments and stay compliant with licensing requirements.

6. What does the Code of Ethics specify about sexual relationships between psychologists and their clients?

- A. Prohibits sexual relationships between clients and psychologists**
- B. Discourages sexual relationships between psychologists and clients
- C. Explicitly permits sexual relationships between former clients and psychologists
- D. Does not address sexual relationships between clients and psychologists

The Code of Ethics establishes a clear prohibition against sexual relationships between psychologists and their clients. This guideline is in place to protect the integrity of the therapeutic relationship and to ensure client welfare. Engaging in a sexual relationship creates a significant potential for exploitation and harm, as it can compromise objectivity, affect the client's ability to seek help, and create conflicts of interest. The ethical standard is rooted in the understanding that the power differential inherent in the psychologist-client dynamic can lead to abuses of that power if personal relationships are allowed to develop. By explicitly prohibiting these relationships, the Code of Ethics aims to maintain a professional environment that prioritizes the needs and rights of clients above all else. This measure not only fosters trust but also upholds the profession's standards of conduct, ensuring that psychologists remain committed to their professional duties and responsibilities.

7. If a client reveals a plan to euthanize a terminally ill brother, what should the therapist do?

- A. Report the plan to the authorities**
- B. Tell the client to weigh the risks versus benefits of the plan
- C. Remain silent due to therapist-client confidentiality
- D. Tell a colleague and ask him to make a report to the police

When a client reveals a plan to euthanize a terminally ill brother, the therapist has a duty to protect both the client and others who may be affected by the client's actions. Reporting the plan to the authorities aligns with the legal and ethical obligations of the therapist to prevent harm. In situations where there is a potential for imminent danger to another individual, confidentiality may be breached in order to prevent harm and ensure safety. This action is justified because therapists are mandated reporters when there is a risk of harm to oneself or others. Euthanasia, while potentially seen in some contexts as a compassionate act, remains a serious legal and ethical issue that needs to be addressed with appropriate channels, especially given the potential legal consequences of the act. Reporting helps to ensure that the necessary legal and therapeutic measures can be taken to address the situation properly and responsibly. In contrast, encouraging the client to weigh risks versus benefits could downplay the seriousness of the situation and might not lead to any intervention that protects the brother. Remaining silent undermines the therapist's responsibility to protect and intervene in potential harm to another individual. Lastly, simply informing a colleague without taking direct action to report the plan may not fulfill the therapist's obligations and could delay critical intervention that might be necessary for the

8. Which individuals can be considered immediate family members of a patient?

- A. Parents/guardians
- B. Siblings
- C. Spouses
- D. All the above**

The correct response is that all of the listed individuals—parents/guardians, siblings, and spouses—can be considered immediate family members of a patient. In the context of healthcare and patient rights, "immediate family" typically encompasses those closely related to the patient, which includes direct relatives such as parents and guardians (who are responsible for the care and decision-making for minors or individuals unable to represent themselves), siblings (who share a familial bond and may also be involved in the patient's care), and spouses (who often are partners in both healthcare and personal matters). Recognizing the full scope of immediate family ties acknowledges the significant role each of these relationships can play in the support system available to a patient. This context is crucial for healthcare providers, as involving immediate family members in care decisions and communications can greatly enhance the support available to a patient throughout treatment processes.

9. Can a mental health group list itself under "Psychological Services" in a directory?

- A. No, only individual psychologists can list themselves
- B. Yes, provided licensed psychologists are responsible for services**
- C. Yes, if they have a physical office
- D. No, they must register as a separate entity

A mental health group can list itself under "Psychological Services" in a directory, provided that licensed psychologists are responsible for the services offered by that group. This is an important aspect of psychological practice because it emphasizes accountability and adherence to ethical standards in mental health care. When groups or organizations offer psychological services, they must ensure that these services are delivered under the supervision of appropriately licensed professionals. This protects clients by ensuring that they receive care from qualified individuals. It also aligns with the regulations that govern the practice of psychology, which typically require that any services presented to the public must be overseen by licensed practitioners to ensure adherence to standards of practice and ethical guidelines. The other options do not accurately reflect the regulations surrounding the listing of psychological services by mental health groups. The requirement for licensed professionals to oversee services is crucial for maintaining the integrity and legality of the practice, thus validating why having licensed psychologists responsible is a key factor in allowing such a listing.

10. What program exists in Pennsylvania to help manage psychologists with substance abuse issues?

- A. A. Impaired professional program**
- B. B. Substance abuse revocation program
- C. C. Counseling accessibility program
- D. D. Psychological support initiative

In Pennsylvania, the program designed to assist psychologists dealing with substance abuse issues is the Impaired Professional Program. This program is specifically tailored to support licensed professionals, including psychologists, who may be struggling with substance abuse or mental health disorders. It provides a framework for early intervention, treatment, and recovery support, allowing professionals to seek help while ensuring public safety and professional accountability. The Impaired Professional Program is essential in that it encourages psychologists to come forward and address their issues without the immediate threat of disciplinary action. This approach is critical as it fosters an environment where professionals can focus on recovery rather than fear of repercussions, ultimately benefiting both the individual and the clients they serve. Other options like the Substance Abuse Revocation Program, Counseling Accessibility Program, and Psychological Support Initiative do not specifically target the unique needs of psychologists facing substance abuse challenges in the same comprehensive way that the Impaired Professional Program does.

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://pennsylvaniapple.examzify.com>

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

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