

Phlebotomy - Order of Draw 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. Which tubes are associated with chemistry tests?**
 - A. Light blue and gray tubes**
 - B. Green and gold/tiger top tubes**
 - C. Red and lavender tubes**
 - D. Only lavender tubes**

- 2. How should blood cultures be collected to ensure accuracy?**
 - A. One set from a single site**
 - B. Two sets from different sites**
 - C. Three sets from three different sites**
 - D. One set with the patient sitting**

- 3. What color tube is typically used for collecting a sample that will be tested for electrolytes?**
 - A. Gray**
 - B. Green**
 - C. Light blue**
 - D. Purple**

- 4. Which mineral is represented by the symbol K in blood tests?**
 - A. Potassium**
 - B. Phosphorus**
 - C. Calcium**
 - D. Sodium**

- 5. What term is used to describe the layer that contains white blood cells and platelets in a blood sample?**
 - A. buffy coat**
 - B. plasma**
 - C. serum**
 - D. formed elements**

- 6. How long should a blood sample in a gold tube sit before centrifugation?**
- A. 15 minutes**
 - B. 30 minutes**
 - C. 45 minutes**
 - D. 60 minutes**
- 7. Which test is commonly done with a green top tube?**
- A. Complete blood count**
 - B. Ammonia levels and electrolytes**
 - C. Glucose tolerance tests**
 - D. Thyroid function tests**
- 8. What is the role of additives in blood collection tubes?**
- A. To help separate the blood cells from serum**
 - B. To change the pH of the blood sample**
 - C. To ensure blood clotting**
 - D. To preserve cellular components for analysis**
- 9. What is the correct action if a tube has a cracked or broken stopper?**
- A. Use it if the blood sample is small**
 - B. Seal it with tape**
 - C. Discard the tube and use a new one**
 - D. Fill it only partially**
- 10. Which of the following is NOT a commonly used antiseptic for blood draws?**
- A. Alcohol**
 - B. Chlorhexidine**
 - C. Iodine**
 - D. Hydrogen peroxide**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which tubes are associated with chemistry tests?

- A. Light blue and gray tubes
- B. Green and gold/tiger top tubes**
- C. Red and lavender tubes
- D. Only lavender tubes

The association of specific tubes with chemistry tests primarily relates to the additives found in those tubes and how they interact with the blood sample. The green and gold/tiger top tubes are the correct choice because they contain additives specifically designed for chemistry tests. Green tubes commonly have heparin as an anticoagulant, making them suitable for many chemistry tests, especially those requiring plasma. Gold and tiger top tubes typically have a gel separator and a clot activator, which allow for the collection of serum after centrifugation. These tubes are widely used for tests that analyze various biochemical components, such as electrolytes, enzymes, and hormones, because they allow for accurate measurement of these substances. In contrast, the light blue and gray tubes are more often associated with coagulation studies and glucose testing, respectively, while red tubes are used for serology tests and may not contain additives for chemistry testing. Lavender tubes are primarily used for hematology tests. Thus, the specific composition of the green and gold/tiger top tubes aligns them closely with the requirements of chemistry tests.

2. How should blood cultures be collected to ensure accuracy?

- A. One set from a single site
- B. Two sets from different sites**
- C. Three sets from three different sites
- D. One set with the patient sitting

Collecting blood cultures in two sets from different sites is the standard practice to ensure accuracy and reliability in detecting pathogens. This method helps to prevent contamination from skin flora and increases the chances of isolating the organism responsible for an infection if present in the bloodstream. By drawing from different sites, it allows for the identification of whether the infection is truly systemic (present in the bloodstream) or simply due to contamination from the skin during collection. When two separate sites are used, it minimizes the risk that bacteria from the skin at one site could skew the results. This is crucial for effective diagnosis and treatment since false positives can lead to unnecessary interventions and stress for the patient. It is essential for healthcare providers to follow this protocol to maintain the integrity of the cultures and ensure accurate testing results.

3. What color tube is typically used for collecting a sample that will be tested for electrolytes?

- A. Gray
- B. Green**
- C. Light blue
- D. Purple

The green tube is typically used for collecting samples that are tested for electrolytes, primarily due to its additive, which is usually heparin. Heparin is an anticoagulant that prevents the blood from clotting, allowing for accurate analysis of serum components, including electrolytes like sodium, potassium, and chloride. The green tube is suitable for this type of testing because it can provide plasma samples without the interference caused by other additives found in tubes of different colors. When evaluating electrolyte levels, it is crucial to ensure that the sample is free from clot formation to maintain the integrity of the results. In contrast, other colored tubes have specific uses related to different tests; for instance, the gray tube often contains additives for glucose testing, the light blue tube is typically used for coagulation studies, and the purple tube is intended for complete blood counts or blood banking. These differences in additives and intended purposes highlight why the green tube stands out for electrolyte testing.

4. Which mineral is represented by the symbol K in blood tests?

- A. Potassium**
- B. Phosphorus
- C. Calcium
- D. Sodium

The symbol "K" in blood tests represents potassium. This designation comes from the Latin word "kalium," which is the source of the chemical symbol. Potassium is an essential electrolyte in the body, playing a critical role in maintaining proper fluid balance, muscle contractions, and nerve signaling. It is particularly important for heart function, as it helps regulate heartbeats. In blood tests, measuring potassium levels is vital for assessing a patient's overall health, especially for those with conditions that can affect kidney function or electrolyte balance. Since potassium levels can significantly influence muscle and nerve function, it is crucial to monitor them during various medical treatments. The presence of potassium in the blood is often part of a standard metabolic panel, which helps healthcare providers readjust treatments and monitor patients' cardiovascular health.

5. What term is used to describe the layer that contains white blood cells and platelets in a blood sample?

A. buffy coat

B. plasma

C. serum

D. formed elements

The term used to describe the layer that contains white blood cells and platelets in a blood sample is referred to as the "buffy coat." When blood is centrifuged, it separates into three distinct layers; the bottom layer consists of red blood cells, the top layer is clear plasma, and the middle layer - which appears as a thin white or pale layer - is the buffy coat. This layer is crucial because it contains the leukocytes (white blood cells) and thrombocytes (platelets), which play significant roles in the body's immune response and clotting mechanisms, respectively. Identifying and understanding the buffy coat is vital for phlebotomists and lab technicians when analyzing blood components for diagnostic purposes.

6. How long should a blood sample in a gold tube sit before centrifugation?

A. 15 minutes

B. 30 minutes

C. 45 minutes

D. 60 minutes

The correct answer indicates that a blood sample in a gold tube should sit for 30 minutes before centrifugation. This is important because the gold tube, typically used for serum collection, contains a gel separator and is designed to allow the blood to clot before it is centrifuged. Allowing the sample to sit for the appropriate time facilitates the clotting process, ensuring that the serum can successfully separate from the cells during centrifugation. If the sample is centrifuged too soon, the clot may not form properly, leading to inaccurate results or potential contamination of the serum. This recommended sitting time is a standard practice in phlebotomy to achieve reliable laboratory results. Collecting blood and properly preparing it for analysis is crucial in diagnostic testing, and following the correct procedures, such as allowing sufficient clotting time, is essential for maintaining the integrity of the sample.

7. Which test is commonly done with a green top tube?

- A. Complete blood count**
- B. Ammonia levels and electrolytes**
- C. Glucose tolerance tests**
- D. Thyroid function tests**

The green top tube is primarily used for tests that require heparin as an anticoagulant. This tube is especially useful in the analysis of ammonia levels and electrolytes because heparin allows for the preservation of plasma without clotting, making it ideal for these specific tests. Ammonia levels, in particular, are sensitive to the metabolic processes of blood cells, and the use of a heparinized plasma specimen helps maintain the integrity of the sample by preventing cellular metabolism that could alter the results. Additionally, electrolytes are commonly measured in heparinized plasma, which retains the ionic composition without interference from clotting factors. The other tests listed are typically not conducted using a green top tube, as they require either different types of collection tubes or specific anticoagulants that serve other purposes.

8. What is the role of additives in blood collection tubes?

- A. To help separate the blood cells from serum**
- B. To change the pH of the blood sample**
- C. To ensure blood clotting**
- D. To preserve cellular components for analysis**

Additives in blood collection tubes serve several critical functions, and one of the primary roles is to facilitate the separation of blood components, particularly in tubes designed for serum collection. When blood is drawn into a tube with a gel separator or certain clot activators, these additives help to ensure that after centrifugation, the serum is effectively separated from the cells. This separation is essential for many types of tests that require serum to provide accurate results, allowing for the analysis of the soluble components in the serum without interference from cellular elements. While other options mention valuable functions like preserving cellular components and facilitating clotting, the key role highlighted here is directly linked to the separation process, which is fundamental in laboratory diagnostics.

9. What is the correct action if a tube has a cracked or broken stopper?

- A. Use it if the blood sample is small**
- B. Seal it with tape**
- C. Discard the tube and use a new one**
- D. Fill it only partially**

When dealing with a tube that has a cracked or broken stopper, the correct action is to discard it and use a new one. The integrity of the tube is vital for ensuring that the blood sample remains uncontaminated and that the vacuum necessary for proper blood draw is maintained. A compromised stopper can lead to various issues, including contamination of the sample, exposure to air, and inaccurate test results due to either loss of vacuum or contamination from the environment. In contrast, using a tube with a compromised stopper, sealing it with tape, or filling it only partially can introduce risks that jeopardize both the quality of the sample and the accuracy of subsequent laboratory results. Thus, using a new tube is the best practice to ensure that the sample collected is reliable and valid for testing.

10. Which of the following is NOT a commonly used antiseptic for blood draws?

A. Alcohol

B. Chlorhexidine

C. Iodine

D. Hydrogen peroxide

Hydrogen peroxide is not commonly used as an antiseptic for blood draws due to its potential to cause tissue irritation and its effervescent properties, which can create bubbles that complicate blood collection. The use of hydrogen peroxide can also result in the formation of free radicals, which may interfere with laboratory tests and affect the sample's integrity. In contrast, alcohol, chlorhexidine, and iodine are widely accepted as effective antiseptics for blood draws. Alcohol is commonly used due to its rapid action in reducing skin flora. Chlorhexidine is favored for its prolonged antimicrobial activity, particularly in surgical and invasive procedures. Iodine products, while used less frequently in routine venipuncture, are effective antiseptics, especially in certain clinical settings. Understanding the rationale behind selecting appropriate antiseptics is essential for maintaining sample integrity and ensuring patient safety during blood collection procedures.

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://phlebotomyorderofdraw.examzify.com>

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

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