

# Phlebotomy (PM) Class 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 colored tube is commonly associated with collecting serum samples?**
  - A. Lavender tube**
  - B. Gray tube**
  - C. Red tube (glass)**
  - D. Light blue tube**
  
- 2. Which of the following is a common use for a gray-top tube?**
  - A. Blood glucose testing**
  - B. CBC testing**
  - C. Lipid panels**
  - D. Coagulation studies**
  
- 3. What is the significance of checking with the attending nurse before drawing blood from an inpatient?**
  - A. To determine if the patient is available**
  - B. To ensure no procedure is ongoing**
  - C. To confirm the preferred draw site**
  - D. To verify the patient's identity**
  
- 4. What is the second stage of hemostasis?**
  - A. Vascular phase**
  - B. Fibrinolysis phase**
  - C. Platelet phase**
  - D. Coagulation phase**
  
- 5. What is the primary use of the light blue tube in phlebotomy?**
  - A. Blood culture tests**
  - B. Coagulation studies**
  - C. Serum tests**
  - D. Hematology tests**

- 6. What laboratory area utilizes samples collected in red plastic tubes?**
- A. Coagulation**
  - B. Chemistry**
  - C. Hematology**
  - D. Pathology**
- 7. What is the correct use for royal blue tubes with lavender stripes?**
- A. For routine hematology tests**
  - B. For urine analysis**
  - C. For heavy metal toxicology tests**
  - D. For blood gas analysis**
- 8. What is a vital reason for using a discard tube in the order of draw?**
- A. To ensure a higher volume of blood is collected**
  - B. To maintain consistent results in test samples**
  - C. To prevent cross-contamination in subsequent samples**
  - D. To enhance the appearance of the sample**
- 9. Which specimens require warm collection and transportation?**
- A. Cryoglobulin, cryofibrinogen, cold agglutinin**
  - B. Bilirubin, Vitamin B12, Urine Porphyrins**
  - C. Serum Folate, Vitamin B6, Red Cell**
  - D. Electrolytes, Comprehensive Metabolic Panel**
- 10. Which laboratory test would be most appropriate for a Light Green tube?**
- A. Blood type determination**
  - B. Ammonia level testing**
  - C. hCG quantitative**
  - D. Complete Blood Count**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which colored tube is commonly associated with collecting serum samples?**

- A. Lavender tube**
- B. Gray tube**
- C. Red tube (glass)**
- D. Light blue tube**

The red tube, particularly the glass variant, is commonly used for collecting serum samples because it contains no additives that would interfere with the clotting of the blood. When blood is drawn into a red tube, it naturally coagulates, allowing for the separation of serum from the other components of blood after centrifugation. Serum is the liquid portion that remains after the blood has clotted and is essential for various diagnostic tests. In contrast, lavender tubes typically contain EDTA, an anticoagulant that prevents clotting, making them unsuitable for serum collection. The gray tube often contains sodium fluoride or another additive that preserves glucose levels but also acts as an anticoagulant. The light blue tube contains citrate, which is used primarily for coagulation studies and does not yield serum. Thus, the red tube's properties make it ideal for collecting serum samples, making it the correct choice in this context.

**2. Which of the following is a common use for a gray-top tube?**

- A. Blood glucose testing**
- B. CBC testing**
- C. Lipid panels**
- D. Coagulation studies**

The gray-top tube is specifically designed to manage and preserve glucose levels in blood samples. It contains sodium fluoride, which acts as a glycolytic inhibitor, preventing the breakdown of glucose by red blood cells after collection. This attribute makes the gray-top tube particularly suitable for blood glucose testing, ensuring accurate measurements of glucose levels in the sample. When a sample is required for accurate glucose analysis, the use of the gray-top tube is essential, as it avoids false low results that could occur if glucose were to metabolize after collection. The other choices do not align with the intended use of a gray-top tube. For example, a CBC (Complete Blood Count) test typically requires a lavender or purple-top tube due to its EDTA anticoagulant, which is optimal for hematological studies. Lipid panels are commonly collected in a red-top or gold-top tube, as these tubes allow for serum separation without the interference from preservatives present in the gray-top tube. Coagulation studies usually utilize a light blue-top tube containing sodium citrate, which is essential for proper coagulation testing. Thus, the association of the gray-top tube with blood glucose testing reflects its unique properties designed for that specific purpose.

**3. What is the significance of checking with the attending nurse before drawing blood from an inpatient?**

- A. To determine if the patient is available**
- B. To ensure no procedure is ongoing**
- C. To confirm the preferred draw site**
- D. To verify the patient's identity**

Before drawing blood from an inpatient, it is essential to ensure that no procedures are ongoing. Confirming this with the attending nurse is crucial because it helps maintain patient safety and comfort. If a procedure is taking place, such as an assessment or treatment, interrupting it could cause discomfort, complications, or miscommunication regarding the patient's care. While determining if the patient is available, confirming the preferred draw site, and verifying the patient's identity are also important aspects of the blood draw process, the priority is to respect the current medical situation of the patient. This underscores the need to communicate effectively with other members of the healthcare team to provide safe and effective patient care.

**4. What is the second stage of hemostasis?**

- A. Vascular phase**
- B. Fibrinolysis phase**
- C. Platelet phase**
- D. Coagulation phase**

The second stage of hemostasis is characterized by the activation and aggregation of platelets, making the platelet phase the correct answer. During this stage, platelets adhere to the site of vascular injury and to each other, forming a temporary "platelet plug" to reduce blood loss. This is critical because it helps quickly stabilize the area until the next stage, where a more stable clot is formed through the coagulation cascade. Understanding this phase is essential, as it plays a pivotal role in the body's immediate response to vascular injury. The other stages of hemostasis—vascular phase and coagulation phase—are important, but they occur either before or after the platelet phase and do not specifically capture the unique actions and processes that take place during the second stage. The fibrinolysis phase also happens later when the clot is dissolved after healing has occurred, which further supports that it cannot be the second stage.

**5. What is the primary use of the light blue tube in phlebotomy?**

- A. Blood culture tests**
- B. Coagulation studies**
- C. Serum tests**
- D. Hematology tests**

The primary use of the light blue tube in phlebotomy is for coagulation studies. This tube contains sodium citrate, an anticoagulant that helps preserve the blood sample for accurate testing of various clotting factors. Coagulation tests, such as prothrombin time (PT) and activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT), require a precise ratio of blood to anticoagulant, which is why the light blue tube is specifically designed for these tests. It is important to use the light blue tube correctly because other tubes contain different additives that could interfere with coagulation testing. For example, the presence of gel or other anticoagulants in other tubes would not provide the necessary environment for accurate coagulation assessment. This specificity is crucial in medical testing and patient care, ensuring reliable results for conditions related to blood clotting.

**6. What laboratory area utilizes samples collected in red plastic tubes?**

- A. Coagulation**
- B. Chemistry**
- C. Hematology**
- D. Pathology**

The laboratory area that utilizes samples collected in red plastic tubes is chemistry. Red plastic tubes are typically serum tubes, which do not contain any additives to aid in clotting. After blood collection, these tubes are allowed to clot, and the serum is then separated by centrifugation. This serum is crucial for various chemistry tests, such as assessing electrolyte levels, liver and kidney function tests, and lipid panels. In contrast, coagulation tests require additives like sodium citrate for the preservation of clotting factors, while hematology tests generally involve whole blood or samples collected in tubes with anticoagulants. Pathology primarily focuses on tissue samples, which are not collected in red plastic tubes. Therefore, the chemistry department is the correct context for the use of red plastic tubes.

**7. What is the correct use for royal blue tubes with lavender stripes?**

- A. For routine hematology tests**
- B. For urine analysis**
- C. For heavy metal toxicology tests**
- D. For blood gas analysis**

Royal blue tubes with lavender stripes are specifically designed for heavy metal toxicology tests. These tubes are manufactured to minimize contamination from trace elements that could interfere with testing results. They are often used when testing for metals such as lead, mercury, and arsenic, as accurate measurements are critical for effective diagnosis and treatment. The design of these tubes ensures that the samples collected remain free from metals that could be present in other tube types due to their production materials. This makes them particularly valuable in toxicology, where precision in measurement is essential. In contrast, other tube colors or types are better suited for different tests. For example, tubes used for routine hematology tests typically have different additives or colors that are tailored for such analyses, and tubes designed for blood gas analysis focus on maintaining the sample's pH and gas levels, which is not the focus for royal blue tubes. Thus, the selection of royal blue tubes with lavender stripes for heavy metal tests is critical to obtaining accurate and reliable results in toxicology.

**8. What is a vital reason for using a discard tube in the order of draw?**

- A. To ensure a higher volume of blood is collected**
- B. To maintain consistent results in test samples**
- C. To prevent cross-contamination in subsequent samples**
- D. To enhance the appearance of the sample**

Using a discard tube in the order of draw plays a significant role in preventing cross-contamination between different test tubes. When blood is collected, the first tube can be contaminated with additives from previously used tubes or with tissue factors from the initial puncture. By using a discard tube, you can safely remove this potential contaminant before collecting samples for specific tests. This is crucial, especially for coagulation studies that are sensitive to contamination from anticoagulant additives present in other tubes. Thus, using a discard tube helps ensure that the samples collected in the subsequent tubes are accurate and reliable for testing purposes.

**9. Which specimens require warm collection and transportation?**

- A. Cryoglobulin, cryofibrinogen, cold agglutinin**
- B. Bilirubin, Vitamin B12, Urine Porphyrins**
- C. Serum Folate, Vitamin B6, Red Cell**
- D. Electrolytes, Comprehensive Metabolic Panel**

Warm collection and transportation are necessary for certain specimens that are sensitive to temperature changes, particularly those that may precipitate or become unstable when exposed to cold conditions. In this context, cryoglobulin and cryofibrinogen testing are specifically affected by temperature, as they can form precipitates when the blood sample cools. Cold agglutinin testing is also temperature-sensitive, as it involves red blood cells that can agglutinate when exposed to cold. These specimens require careful handling to maintain their integrity; therefore, they should be collected and transported at body temperature or in a warmed environment to prevent any changes that could affect the results. Keeping them warm ensures that the proteins remain in solution and provides accurate testing outcomes. In contrast, the other options consist of tests that do not have similar strict temperature requirements. For example, bilirubin and Vitamin B12 testing have specific light sensitivity issues rather than temperature concerns.

**10. Which laboratory test would be most appropriate for a Light Green tube?**

- A. Blood type determination**
- B. Ammonia level testing**
- C. hCG quantitative**
- D. Complete Blood Count**

The Light Green tube is primarily used for specific tests that require plasma, as it contains sodium heparin as an anticoagulant. This tube is particularly suited for tests that measure substances in the plasma rather than whole blood. Among the options provided, the most appropriate test for a Light Green tube is hCG quantitative, which measures the concentration of human chorionic gonadotropin in the plasma. This test is essential in pregnancy testing and monitoring conditions related to pregnancy. The quantitative test requires a liquid sample for accurate measurement, making the Light Green tube an optimal choice. Blood type determination generally requires specific tubes that preserve cellular components or may utilize serum, which are incompatible with the anticoagulant properties of the Light Green tube. Ammonia level testing typically requires a different vacuum tube, usually a sterile tube, due to the sample's sensitivity to ammonia levels and the necessity for prompt analysis. A Complete Blood Count (CBC) is performed using lavender or purple-top tubes that contain EDTA, which is specifically designed for such tests to assess blood cell components accurately.

## 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://pmclass.examzify.com>**

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

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