

Pima JTED Dental Assisting Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 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 from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What process ensures that all microorganisms are destroyed during cleaning?**
 - A. Purification**
 - B. Disinfection**
 - C. Sterilization**
 - D. Sanitization**
- 2. Which cells are referred to as radiosensitive?**
 - A. Cells that are resistant to radiation**
 - B. Cells that are affected by radiation**
 - C. Cells that can repair radiation damage**
 - D. Cells that do not absorb radiation**
- 3. What kind of materials do unity gloves typically protect against?**
 - A. Biological contaminants**
 - B. Oils and greases**
 - C. Acids and bases**
 - D. All of the above**
- 4. What is the unit of measurement that equals the amount of radiation that ionizes one cubic centimeter of air?**
 - A. Sievert**
 - B. Rem**
 - C. Roentgen**
 - D. Rad**
- 5. Which term describes the method of delivering substances directly through the skin?**
 - A. Topical**
 - B. Parental**
 - C. Subcutaneous**
 - D. Intradermal**

- 6. Which federal agency in the United States is focused on improving overall public health?**
- A. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**
 - B. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
 - C. National Institutes of Health (NIH)**
 - D. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**
- 7. Which material is often used as a standard in dental impressions for its properties?**
- A. plaster**
 - B. alginate**
 - C. wax**
 - D. silicone**
- 8. What is the purpose of the lead foil in dental X-ray film?**
- A. To provide rigidity to the film**
 - B. To enhance image quality**
 - C. To absorb scattered radiation**
 - D. To maintain film temperature**
- 9. What form of energy is characterized by electrical and magnetic waves?**
- A. Thermal energy**
 - B. Radiant energy**
 - C. Mechanical energy**
 - D. Electromagnetic energy**
- 10. Which organization is responsible for enforcing laws related to controlled substances in the United States?**
- A. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
 - B. National Institutes of Health (NIH)**
 - C. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**
 - D. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What process ensures that all microorganisms are destroyed during cleaning?

- A. Purification**
- B. Disinfection**
- C. Sterilization**
- D. Sanitization**

The process that ensures all microorganisms are destroyed during cleaning is sterilization. Sterilization is a rigorous method used primarily in medical and dental settings to eliminate all forms of microbial life, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and spores. This is achieved through various techniques, such as steam under pressure (autoclaving), dry heat, ethylene oxide gas, or radiation. The key distinction of sterilization compared to other cleaning processes is its absolute effectiveness in achieving a total lack of viable organisms. It is crucial in medical environments, such as dental offices, to ensure that instruments and equipment are completely free from any potential pathogens, thereby preventing infection and maintaining patient safety. Other processes, like disinfection and sanitization, are important in controlling microbial populations, but they do not guarantee that all microorganisms are eradicated. Disinfection reduces the number of pathogenic microorganisms to a safe level but may not kill all forms of microbes, while sanitization focuses on lowering the number of organisms to a level considered safe based on public health standards. Purification, in a broader sense, usually refers to the removal of impurities or contaminants and is not specifically aimed at microbial destruction.

2. Which cells are referred to as radiosensitive?

- A. Cells that are resistant to radiation**
- B. Cells that are affected by radiation**
- C. Cells that can repair radiation damage**
- D. Cells that do not absorb radiation**

Radiosensitive cells are defined as those that are significantly affected by radiation exposure. This sensitivity stems from their high rate of proliferation and mitotic activity, making them more vulnerable to the damaging effects of ionizing radiation. In particular, rapidly dividing cells, such as those found in the bone marrow, lymphatic tissue, and reproductive organs, are classified as radiosensitive because radiation can disrupt their ability to replicate and function properly. While some cells may be able to repair damage caused by radiation, the definition of radiosensitivity focuses primarily on the cells' susceptibility to radiation rather than their repair capabilities. Therefore, the term specifically describes how radiation impacts the cell's structure and function, emphasizing the detrimental effects that can occur when these cells are exposed to radiation. In contrast, the other answer choices describe various attributes unrelated to radiosensitivity. Cells resistant to radiation, those that do not absorb radiation, and cells that can repair radiation damage do not encompass the concept of radiosensitivity, which highlights the adverse impacts of radiation on cell integrity and functionality.

3. What kind of materials do unity gloves typically protect against?

A. Biological contaminants

B. Oils and greases

C. Acids and bases

D. All of the above

Unity gloves are primarily designed to provide a barrier against biological contaminants. This type of glove is crucial in healthcare and dental settings where exposure to blood, saliva, and other bodily fluids is possible, thereby minimizing the risk of infection and disease transmission. While some gloves may offer protection against oils, greases, acids, and bases, unity gloves are specifically manufactured with the intention to safeguard against biological materials, which is a key concern in dental and medical practices. The materials used in unity gloves are typically optimized to withstand punctures and tears that could allow biological contaminants to breach the glove barrier. Understanding the primary purpose of unity gloves helps highlight their importance in maintaining hygiene and safety standards in patient care environments.

4. What is the unit of measurement that equals the amount of radiation that ionizes one cubic centimeter of air?

A. Sievert

B. Rem

C. Roentgen

D. Rad

The unit of measurement that equals the amount of radiation that ionizes one cubic centimeter of air is the Roentgen. This term specifically quantifies the exposure to X-ray or gamma radiation in terms of ionization in air. One Roentgen is defined as the amount of radiation required to produce a specific amount of charge (in units of coulombs) in a volume of air, and it is a direct measurement of the ionizing effect of radiation. Other units, although related to radiation, measure different aspects of radiation effects or exposure. For example, the Sievert is used to express the biological effect or risk of radiation on human tissues, while the Rem is a traditional unit of dose equivalent, also concerned with biological effects. The Rad measures the absorbed dose of radiation, focusing on the energy deposited in a material, rather than the ionization in air. Thus, while these other units are important in the field of radiation safety and measurement, they do not specifically define the ionization of air as the Roentgen does.

5. Which term describes the method of delivering substances directly through the skin?

A. Topical

B. Parental

C. Subcutaneous

D. Intradermal

The method of delivering substances directly through the skin is best described as "transdermal." While the answer provided is parental, which typically refers to the administration of substances through routes other than the digestive tract (such as intravenous or intramuscular injections), transdermal specifically indicates the delivery of medications through the skin layers, allowing for systemic effects without the need for injections. Topical refers to medications applied directly to a specific area of the skin without aiming for systemic absorption. Subcutaneous means the administration of substances into the tissue layer between the skin and the muscle, and intradermal specifies injections made just under the surface of the skin. These methods differ from transdermal in their approach to absorption and intended use.

6. Which federal agency in the United States is focused on improving overall public health?

A. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

B. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

C. National Institutes of Health (NIH)

D. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the correct answer because its primary mission is centered on protecting public health and safety through the control and prevention of disease, injury, and disability. The agency conducts critical research and provides information aimed at enhancing health security in the United States. The CDC plays a vital role in responding to health emergencies, monitoring disease outbreaks, and promoting health education initiatives that aim to improve the overall health of the population. While the other agencies also contribute to health in various ways, their primary focuses differ. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) oversees the regulation of food, pharmaceuticals, and medical devices, ensuring that these products are safe and effective for public use. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is primarily involved in medical research and advancing our understanding of health and disease. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) focuses on workplace safety and health regulations, aiming to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses. In summary, the CDC's overarching goal of enhancing public health through disease prevention and health promotion efforts solidifies its role as the federal agency dedicated specifically to improving overall public health in the United States.

7. Which material is often used as a standard in dental impressions for its properties?

- A. plaster
- B. alginate**
- C. wax
- D. silicone

Alginate is a material that is commonly used for dental impressions due to its desirable properties. It is a water-based material derived from seaweed that exhibits excellent fluidity and sets quickly, making it particularly user-friendly in a clinical setting. One of the significant advantages of alginate is that it is capable of capturing fine details of the dentition and surrounding tissues, which is crucial for accurate impressions. Additionally, alginate is relatively inexpensive and easy to manipulate, making it accessible for both dental professionals and patients. Its flexible nature allows for easy removal from the mouth without causing discomfort. Furthermore, alginate impressions are often used for procedures such as creating study models, orthodontic applications, and for temporary restorations. Its properties, including elasticity and a good balance of strength (though not as strong as some other materials), make it a standard choice in the field of dentistry for specific types of impressions. It's important to understand the applications of different impression materials, such as the use of silicone for more precise and durable impressions in more complex cases, but alginate remains a widely accepted standard for general use.

8. What is the purpose of the lead foil in dental X-ray film?

- A. To provide rigidity to the film
- B. To enhance image quality
- C. To absorb scattered radiation**
- D. To maintain film temperature

The purpose of the lead foil in dental X-ray film primarily serves to absorb scattered radiation. During the process of taking X-rays, the emitted radiation can scatter in different directions, creating additional, unwanted exposure to the film. This scattered radiation can lead to a decrease in the clarity and quality of the resulting image. By including lead foil in the film's composition, it acts as a barrier that absorbs this scattered radiation, thereby improving the overall image quality and contrast. This helps ensure that the primary beam, which is directed at the area of interest, is the dominant source of exposure on the film, leading to a clearer diagnostic outcome. The other options, while related to aspects of the X-ray film and procedure, do not accurately reflect the role of lead foil. For example, rigidity is typically provided by the film's overall construction rather than specifically by the lead foil. Enhancing image quality may be a secondary benefit of scattering absorption, but it is not the primary purpose of the lead foil itself. Similarly, maintaining film temperature is unrelated to the role of lead foil in X-ray films. It is essential to understand that the lead foil's key function is to effectively mitigate the effects of scattered radiation, which is critical for obtaining high-quality dental radiographs.

9. What form of energy is characterized by electrical and magnetic waves?

A. Thermal energy

B. Radiant energy

C. Mechanical energy

D. Electromagnetic energy

The correct answer is characterized by the presence of both electrical and magnetic waves, which together form a spectrum widely recognized as electromagnetic energy. This type of energy encompasses a variety of phenomena, including visible light, radio waves, X-rays, and microwaves, all of which travel through space at the speed of light. Electromagnetic energy is fundamental in various applications, especially in the context of dental assisting, such as the use of X-rays for imaging purposes. These waves do not require a medium to propagate and can travel through a vacuum, which is a unique property that distinguishes them from other energy forms. The comprehensive nature of electromagnetic energy makes it crucial for both diagnostic and therapeutic applications in dental practice. Other options, while relevant in their specific contexts, do not encapsulate the combined characteristics of electrical and magnetic waves as electromagnetic energy does.

10. Which organization is responsible for enforcing laws related to controlled substances in the United States?

A. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

B. National Institutes of Health (NIH)

C. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

D. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

The correct answer to the question is the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). This agency is specifically tasked with enforcing the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States. The DEA's responsibilities include overseeing the legal manufacture and distribution of controlled substances, ensuring compliance with the Controlled Substances Act, and combating drug trafficking and abuse. The DEA plays a critical role in preventing illegal drug use by enforcing penalties for violations, regulating schedules of substances, and monitoring compliance among manufacturers and practitioners who handle drugs. Other organizations listed, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, National Institutes of Health, and Food and Drug Administration, have important regulatory functions but are not directly responsible for the enforcement of controlled substances laws. The EPA focuses on environmental protection, the NIH conducts medical research, and the FDA regulates food and drug safety but does not enforce controlled substance laws. Hence, these choices do not align with the specific role that the DEA holds in the context of controlled substances.