

# Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science Comprehensive 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

- 1. In terms of placement, how is the baseball suture typically executed?**
  - A. Through subcutaneous tissue**
  - B. In a continuous line**
  - C. Using a single direction toggle**
  - D. Through multiple layers of tissue at once**
- 2. What is the term for the person receiving a bequest?**
  - A. Grantor**
  - B. Donor**
  - C. Donee**
  - D. Beneficiary**
- 3. What is the term for substances or organisms that cause disease?**
  - A. Germs**
  - B. Bacteria**
  - C. Pathogens**
  - D. Viruses**
- 4. What is a specialized language used within a subculture known as?**
  - A. Dialect**
  - B. Jargon**
  - C. Argot**
  - D. Ethnolect**
- 5. Which tissue type is described as being taller than it is wide?**
  - A. Cuboidal epithelium**
  - B. Simple columnar**
  - C. Stratified columnar**
  - D. Pseudostratified**

- 6. What type of account represents a written promise to pay a creditor a certain amount in the future?**
- A. Notes payable**
  - B. Bonds payable**
  - C. Accounts payable**
  - D. Accrued liabilities**
- 7. In chemical nomenclature, what does the 'H' in HCHO stand for?**
- A. Hydrogen**
  - B. Helium**
  - C. Hydroxide**
  - D. Heavy metal**
- 8. In color theory and cosmetology, how many hues are there?**
- A. 6**
  - B. 10**
  - C. 12**
  - D. 14**
- 9. What is the lateral boundary of Scarpa's femoral triangle?**
- A. Poupart's ligament**
  - B. Sartorius/tailor's muscle**
  - C. Axillary artery**
  - D. Common carotid artery**
- 10. What enables the establishment of an agency or board?**
- A. Foundational act**
  - B. Enabling act**
  - C. Authorizing statute**
  - D. Constitutional framework**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. In terms of placement, how is the baseball suture typically executed?**

- A. Through subcutaneous tissue**
- B. In a continuous line**
- C. Using a single direction toggle**
- D. Through multiple layers of tissue at once**

The baseball suture is characterized by its execution in a continuous line, which allows for even tension and a secure hold across a wound. This technique is particularly effective for closing long, straight incisions, as it effectively distributes the tension along the length of the wound, reducing the risk of tissue tearing or gaping. Using a continuous line of suturing is beneficial because it creates a series of interlocking loops that help hold the tissue together firmly while also providing a neat and aesthetically pleasing closure. This is crucial in mortuary practices, where appearance can hold significant importance. While the other options may describe methods or aspects related to suturing, they do not accurately reflect the distinctive nature of the baseball suture. For example, it does not typically involve toggling or a single direction; rather, it focuses on interlacing the suture through the tissue in a continuous manner. Additionally, it does not traverse multiple tissue layers at once in the traditional sense but is focused on providing a reliable closure along the surface.

**2. What is the term for the person receiving a bequest?**

- A. Grantor**
- B. Donor**
- C. Donee**
- D. Beneficiary**

The term for the person receiving a bequest is "donee." In the context of wills and trusts, a donee is an individual or entity that receives a gift or bequest from the grantor (the person who is making the will). This term specifically highlights the role of the recipient in the transaction of transferring wealth after the grantor's death. Understanding this terminology is crucial, especially in estate planning and administration, where clarity about roles and responsibilities can impact the execution of a will and the which assets go to specific heirs. The concept of a donee typically comes into play when discussing trusts, gifts, or bequests, emphasizing the legal relationship between the individual giving and the individual receiving. In contrast, the other terms do not accurately describe the recipient of a bequest: a grantor is someone who creates a trust or makes a will, a donor is usually a person who gives a gift in other contexts, and a beneficiary refers generally to someone entitled to receive benefits from a will or life insurance, which could be broader than just a bequest context. Therefore, "donee" is the precise term that correctly identifies the person receiving the bequest.

**3. What is the term for substances or organisms that cause disease?**

- A. Germs**
- B. Bacteria**
- C. Pathogens**
- D. Viruses**

The term for substances or organisms that cause disease is "pathogens." This term encompasses a wide variety of disease-causing entities, including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Pathogens are specifically recognized for their ability to invade a host, evade the immune response, and multiply, leading to disease processes. While the other choices refer to specific types of pathogens—bacteria and viruses are indeed pathogens, and "germs" is often used colloquially to include all pathogens—it is "pathogens" that serves as the umbrella term. It is more precise in a clinical and scientific context, covering all infectious agents, rather than limiting to just one type or group. Understanding this broader classification aids in recognizing the various threats to health posed by diverse microorganisms.

**4. What is a specialized language used within a subculture known as?**

- A. Dialect**
- B. Jargon**
- C. Argot**
- D. Ethnolect**

The correct answer is 'Argot.' Argot refers specifically to a specialized language used by a particular group or subculture, often to create a sense of identity or exclusivity within that group. It is characterized by unique terms and expressions that may not be understood by outsiders, serving as a form of communication that reinforces group solidarity and differentiates members from non-members. In contexts like the mortuary science field, professionals may use argot to discuss processes, tools, or practices that are not commonly known outside of the profession. This helps to facilitate clear communication among practitioners while also creating a boundary of understanding around the specialized knowledge they possess. The other terms, while related to language and communication within specific contexts, do not capture this concept with the same precision. Dialect focuses more on regional variations of a language. Jargon typically applies to the technical language specific to a profession but can be understood by outsiders familiar with the field. Ethnolect pertains to the unique speech patterns associated with ethnic groups, which may not necessarily reflect the exclusivity seen in argot.

**5. Which tissue type is described as being taller than it is wide?**

- A. Cuboidal epithelium**
- B. Simple columnar**
- C. Stratified columnar**
- D. Pseudostratified**

The tissue type described as being taller than it is wide is indeed the simple columnar epithelium. This type of epithelial tissue is characterized by its elongated cells that resemble columns, making it clearly taller than it is wide. Simple columnar epithelium is typically found lining organs such as the intestines and stomach, where its structure aids in absorption and secretion. In addition to simple columnar, the term "columnar" can also apply to stratified columnar epithelium, which consists of multiple layers of cells and includes columnar cells at the surface. However, the defining trait of being taller than wide specifically aligns with simple columnar epithelium, especially considering its role in a single layer rather than a stratified formation. Stratified columnar epithelium would not be described as just "taller than it is wide," as the presence of multiple layers complicates the pure description based on cell height relative to width. It is essential to differentiate these types of epithelium by their structure and function to determine their roles in the body's tissues.

**6. What type of account represents a written promise to pay a creditor a certain amount in the future?**

- A. Notes payable**
- B. Bonds payable**
- C. Accounts payable**
- D. Accrued liabilities**

A notes payable account is a written promise to pay a creditor a specific amount at a future date. This account typically arises when a business borrows money or takes out a loan with formal documentation involved, which includes terms regarding the payment schedule and interest rate. Notes payable can also be used in various business transactions, such as the purchase of assets or in situations where a business engages in financing arrangements. The defining characteristic of notes payable is the formal nature of the promise to pay, which distinguishes it from other types of obligations, such as accounts payable, which typically do not involve a formal written agreement and result from regular operational purchases. Bonds payable refers to a formalized debt security issued by a company, representing a larger borrowing that is usually paid back over a longer term with periodic interest payments, which doesn't fit the description of a simple written promise as required by the question. Accounts payable represents amounts owed to suppliers for goods and services received and is usually settled within a short period, while accrued liabilities capture expenses that have been incurred but not yet paid, lacking the formal promise aspect.

**7. In chemical nomenclature, what does the 'H' in HCHO stand for?**

- A. Hydrogen**
- B. Helium**
- C. Hydroxide**
- D. Heavy metal**

The 'H' in HCHO stands for Hydrogen. In chemical formulas, elements are often represented by their symbols from the periodic table, where 'H' is the abbreviation used for hydrogen. In this particular case, HCHO refers to formaldehyde, a compound consisting of one carbon atom (C), two hydrogen atoms (H), and one oxygen atom (O). Understanding the significance of 'H' is crucial in recognizing the composition of various chemical compounds. Each part of the formula conveys the number of atom types present in that molecule. For instance, if you were to break down HCHO, you would see that it consists of one hydrogen atom for each 'H' present. This foundational knowledge is key in chemistry for both nomenclature and the interpretation of chemical structures.

**8. In color theory and cosmetology, how many hues are there?**

- A. 6**
- B. 10**
- C. 12**
- D. 14**

In color theory, particularly as it relates to cosmetology, there are typically 12 distinct hues recognized. These hues serve as the foundation for color mixing and understanding the color wheel. The primary colors—red, yellow, and blue—combine to create secondary colors—green, orange, and purple. Furthermore, the combination of primary and secondary colors leads to the creation of tertiary colors, which are also counted among the total hues. This system of 12 hues allows for a broad spectrum of colors that can be utilized in cosmetology for various applications, including hair coloring, makeup, and other beauty treatments. Understanding these hues is essential for creating complementary or contrasting looks and for achieving the desired results in cosmetic applications. Other options like 6, 10, or 14 do not typically represent the standard classification used in both art and cosmetology, thereby supporting the understanding that 12 is the recognized total of hues.

## 9. What is the lateral boundary of Scarpa's femoral triangle?

- A. Poupart's ligament
- B. Sartorius/tailor's muscle**
- C. Axillary artery
- D. Common carotid artery

The lateral boundary of Scarpa's femoral triangle is the sartorius muscle, commonly referred to as the tailor's muscle due to its historical association with the act of tailoring. This muscle runs obliquely across the thigh from the anterior superior iliac spine to the medial side of the knee, effectively forming a lateral border for the femoral triangle. Scarpa's triangle outlines an important anatomical space that contains the femoral nerve, artery, and vein, which are vital for the blood supply and innervation of the lower limb. The sartorius muscle not only serves as a physical boundary but also plays a role in movements of the hip and knee. In contrast, Poupart's ligament (also known as the inguinal ligament) is regarded as the superior boundary of the triangle, while significance in surgical and clinical context helps differentiate structures in this region. The axillary artery is associated with the upper limb and does not have a role in defining the femoral triangle, while the common carotid artery is related to the neck and head, far removed from the boundaries of the femoral triangle. Understanding these anatomical relationships is crucial for both clinical practice and anatomical studies in mortuary science and the respective educational framework.

## 10. What enables the establishment of an agency or board?

- A. Foundational act
- B. Enabling act**
- C. Authorizing statute
- D. Constitutional framework

The enabling act is the correct choice because it specifically refers to a piece of legislation that grants the authority and framework necessary for an agency or board to be created and function. This act lays out the powers, responsibilities, and limitations of the newly formed body, allowing it to operate within the guidelines established by law. In the context of regulatory agencies, enabling acts also define the scope of the agency's jurisdiction and the processes it must follow in carrying out its duties. This legislative action is crucial for providing clarity on the purpose and operations of the agency, ensuring that it operates within the legal framework set out by the governing entity. Other choices such as foundational act, authorizing statute, and constitutional framework, while related to the establishment of organizations or governmental bodies, do not specifically denote the legal mechanism by which a particular agency is empowered to function.



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

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