

PROFESSIONAL ISSUES EXAM 1 PRACTICE (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. When an ethical complaint is filed against a professional, which steps are appropriate?**
 - A. Ignore until more information is available.
 - B. Fire the client.
 - C. Follow agency procedures, document carefully, seek supervision, and protect clients during the process.
 - D. Immediately report to the media.
- 2. Which statement about HIPAA is accurate?**
 - A. Public health surveillance.
 - B. HIPAA is a federal law protecting patient health information from disclosure without the patient's consent or knowledge.
 - C. Insurance payment processing only.
 - D. Non-medical personal data.
- 3. Which statement about the Child Health Associate Program is true?**
 - A. It was the first to gain prescriptive authority nationwide.
 - B. It was established in Utah.
 - C. It was the first program to offer a master's degree for PAs.
 - D. It is the accrediting body for PA education.
- 4. Which term describes the process to verify that a PA is eligible to practice in a healthcare facility?**
 - A. Licensure
 - B. Credentialling
 - C. Certification
 - D. Accreditation
- 5. Which professional is primarily involved in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disorders of speech, language, and swallowing?**
 - A. Speech language pathologist
 - B. Registered dietitian
 - C. Physician
 - D. Psychologist

- 6. Under general supervision, what is required of the supervising physician?**
- A. They must be in the same room for every patient encounter.
 - B. They must be always available to the PA but not necessarily in person.
 - C. They must personally perform all procedures.
 - D. They must supervise only during certain hours.
- 7. In ethical decision-making, what is the first step when confronted with an ethical dilemma?**
- A. Choose the course of action that feels right.
 - B. Identify the ethical, legal, and policy issues involved.
 - C. Consult a lawyer to determine liability.
 - D. Ignore it if it seems minor.
- 8. Which statement best describes the focus of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)?**
- A. Certifying PAs
 - B. Regulating PA licensure
 - C. Representing PA programs and faculty and supporting professional development and networking among PAs
 - D. Administering PA examinations
- 9. What is system-level prevention for burnout?**
- A. Interventions and strategies include implementing burnout education and prevention strategies into PA education and the healthcare system.
 - B. Provide individual coaching only.
 - C. Ignore burnout and focus on productivity.
 - D. Limit training on burnout.
- 10. What does client autonomy mean in practice?**
- A. Clients must always comply with clinician recommendations.
 - B. Clinicians decide treatment without client input.
 - C. Respect clients' right to make informed choices about treatment and involvement.
 - D. Clients should not be informed about options.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When an ethical complaint is filed against a professional, which steps are appropriate?

- A. Ignore until more information is available.
- B. Fire the client.
- C. Follow agency procedures, document carefully, seek supervision, and protect clients during the process.**
- D. Immediately report to the media.

When facing an ethical complaint, the priority is to handle it through proper channels while safeguarding clients. Follow agency procedures: use the established intake, investigation, and resolution processes to ensure fairness, confidentiality, and compliance with professional standards. Document carefully: keep factual, objective records of all relevant communications, dates, actions, and witnesses so there is a clear, verifiable trail that supports the review. Seek supervision: involve a supervisor or ethics colleague to obtain experienced guidance, ensure decisions align with standards, and reduce personal bias. Protect clients during the process: maintain confidentiality, minimize disruption to their care, and ensure safety and clear boundaries so clients aren't harmed or unfairly exposed. Avoiding or bypassing these steps—ignoring the complaint, acting unilaterally to end a relationship without due process, or leaking information to the media—undermines ethical duties, can cause harm to clients, and can jeopardize professional accountability and legal protections.

2. Which statement about HIPAA is accurate?

- A. Public health surveillance.
- B. HIPAA is a federal law protecting patient health information from disclosure without the patient's consent or knowledge.**
- C. Insurance payment processing only.
- D. Non-medical personal data.

HIPAA establishes federal protections for patient health information, setting strict rules about how PHI can be used and disclosed. The Privacy Rule requires safeguards and gives patients rights over their information, while disclosures are generally limited and allowed only in specific, permitted situations (such as for treatment, payment, health care operations, or certain public health activities) without individual authorization. This focus on protecting PHI from unauthorized disclosure is what makes the statement accurate. The other options don't capture HIPAA's scope: public health surveillance is only one potential use of PHI and doesn't define HIPAA; the law covers more than insurance payment processing; and HIPAA concerns health information, not non-medical personal data.

3. Which statement about the Child Health Associate Program is true?

- A. It was the first to gain prescriptive authority nationwide.
- B. It was established in Utah.
- C. It was the first program to offer a master's degree for PAs.**
- D. It is the accrediting body for PA education.

This item focuses on a milestone in physician assistant education: which program first offered a master's degree for PAs. The statement about the Child Health Associate Program being the first to offer a master's degree captures a turning point in professional education, signaling a shift from bachelor-level training to graduate-level preparation for PAs. This move helped standardize education, elevate the profession's standing, and align PA training with broader healthcare education trends that emphasize advanced, graduate-level competencies. Prescriptive authority is determined by state laws and boards, not by a single program, so claiming nationwide prescriptive authority rights belongs to a different aspect of PA practice. The idea that the program was established in Utah is not accurate to the historical record. And the accrediting body for PA education is ARC-PA, not the Child Health Associate Program, which is a program, not an accrediting organization.

4. Which term describes the process to verify that a PA is eligible to practice in a healthcare facility?

- A. Licensure
- B. Credentialling**
- C. Certification
- D. Accreditation

Credentialing is the process by which a healthcare facility verifies a clinician's qualifications—education, training, licensure, board certification, and experience—to determine eligibility to practice and to grant privileges within that facility. This verification happens at the facility level and focuses on whether the clinician meets the standards required to provide care in that specific setting. It differs from licensure, which is the state issuing legal permission to practice; certification, which is a board-recognized level of expertise in a specialty; and accreditation, which is external recognition of a program or facility meeting predefined standards. In practice, credentialing is often followed by privileging, the step that authorizes the clinician to perform particular procedures or provide care within the approved scope at that facility.

5. Which professional is primarily involved in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disorders of speech, language, and swallowing?

- A. Speech language pathologist**
- B. Registered dietitian
- C. Physician
- D. Psychologist

The key idea is that the speech-language pathologist is the professional who focuses on preventing, assessing, diagnosing, and treating disorders of speech, language, and swallowing. They screen for issues, conduct thorough evaluations to identify specific communication or swallowing disorders, and then design and carry out therapy plans to improve articulation, language skills, voice, fluency, and safe swallowing. They also educate patients and families and coordinate care with physicians, teachers, and other clinicians in settings like hospitals, schools, and clinics. While a physician can diagnose and treat medical conditions, and a dietitian or psychologist has different primary focus areas (nutrition and mental processes, respectively), the specialized work of diagnosing and treating speech, language, and swallowing disorders is the realm of the speech-language pathologist.

6. Under general supervision, what is required of the supervising physician?

- A. They must be in the same room for every patient encounter.
- B. They must be always available to the PA but not necessarily in person.**
- C. They must personally perform all procedures.
- D. They must supervise only during certain hours.

General supervision means the supervising physician must be readily available to guide and support the PA, but does not have to be physically present for every patient encounter. The PA can manage patients and perform procedures within an approved scope, provided the physician can be reached for real-time consultation or for review and direction as needed. This availability can be through phone, video, or other approved communication methods, not just in person. The physician remains responsible for the quality of care and must supervise according to an agreed plan. This differs from requiring the physician to be in the same room for every encounter, which describes direct supervision, and from requiring the physician to personally perform all procedures, which is not a necessity under general supervision. The idea that supervision occurs only during certain hours is not the defining feature of general supervision; rather, it's about ongoing, readily available supervision as needed.

7. In ethical decision-making, what is the first step when confronted with an ethical dilemma?

- A. Choose the course of action that feels right.
- B. Identify the ethical, legal, and policy issues involved.**
- C. Consult a lawyer to determine liability.
- D. Ignore it if it seems minor.

Identifying the ethical, legal, and policy issues involved is the first step. This clarifies which duties apply, which standards govern the situation, and who is affected. By naming concerns such as confidentiality, safety, fairness, and relevant laws or organizational policies, you create a framework to evaluate possible actions against established requirements. This helps separate personal feelings from professional obligations and prevents rushing to a solution without understanding the scope of the dilemma. Ignoring the issue or choosing what feels right, or focusing on liability before identifying the actual concerns, can lead to biased or incomplete decisions. After the issues are clear, you can weigh duties, consequences, and options before deciding and acting.

8. Which statement best describes the focus of the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)?

- A. Certifying PAs
- B. Regulating PA licensure
- C. Representing PA programs and faculty and supporting professional development and networking among PAs**
- D. Administering PA examinations

The focus being tested is what the Physician Assistant Education Association does as an organization. PAEA is a national professional association that serves PA educators and PA education programs, not a certifying or licensing body. Its role centers on representing PA programs and the faculty who run them, and on supporting professional development and networking among PAs and those involved in PA education. This includes providing resources for program administration, curriculum development, accreditation preparation, and opportunities to connect with peers through conferences and continuing education. Certification, licensure, and administering PA examinations are handled by other organizations, such as NCCPA and state medical boards. So the description that emphasizes representing PA programs and faculty and promoting professional development and networking among PAs best captures PAEA's focus.

9. What is system-level prevention for burnout?

- A. Interventions and strategies include implementing burnout education and prevention strategies into PA education and the healthcare system.**
- B. Provide individual coaching only.
- C. Ignore burnout and focus on productivity.
- D. Limit training on burnout.

System-level prevention for burnout means building organizational practices and educational structures that reduce stress and support well-being across the whole workforce, not just addressing individuals in isolation. The best answer reflects this by embedding burnout education and prevention strategies into PA education and the healthcare system itself. When prevention is part of training and systemic policy, it normalizes recognizing early signs, reduces stigma, and aligns workflows, supervision, and resources with real needs—creating an environment where providers are better equipped and supported to manage workload, time pressure, and emotional strain. Choosing just individual coaching focuses only on one person at a time and doesn't change the broader factors that contribute to burnout. Ignoring burnout and prioritizing productivity over well-being ignores the fundamental causes and can worsen outcomes. Limiting training on burnout similarly hampers awareness and the system-wide capacity to prevent burnout before it escalates. So integrating education and preventive strategies into the healthcare system and PA training embodies a true system-level approach.

10. What does client autonomy mean in practice?

- A. Clients must always comply with clinician recommendations.
- B. Clinicians decide treatment without client input.
- C. Respect clients' right to make informed choices about treatment and involvement.**
- D. Clients should not be informed about options.

Autonomy in practice means honoring a client's right to determine their own treatment, based on clear, relevant information and without coercion. In clinical work, this shows up by presenting options, explaining risks and benefits, and ensuring the client can decide and give informed consent. It also means supporting the client's level of involvement in decisions, even if their choice differs from what the clinician would prefer. This stands in contrast to paternalistic approaches—where the clinician makes decisions for the client—or withholding information about options. Autonomy is respected as long as the client has capacity, understands the information, and agrees to the chosen path; in some cases, there are limits when safety concerns or legal factors require additional safeguards.

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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://professionalissues1.examzify.com>

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

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