

PSI California Dental Law and Ethics Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. In a situation where a new patient reports dissatisfaction with their crowns, what is the appropriate action?**
 - A. Ignore the previous dentist's treatment**
 - B. Contact the previous dentist to discuss the findings**
 - C. Advise the patient they should resolve it directly with the previous dentist**
 - D. Replace the crowns without further consultation**
- 2. Under general supervision, which task is NOT allowed for a dental assistant?**
 - A. Examine orthodontic appliances**
 - B. Expose dental radiographs**
 - C. Expose intraoral photos**
 - D. Intraoral retraction and suctioning**
- 3. Which statement reflects the ethical guideline of avoiding personal relationships with patients?**
 - A. Building close connections is encouraged**
 - B. Maintaining professional boundaries is essential**
 - C. Personal engagement can enhance trust**
 - D. Trust is built through friendship**
- 4. What are the three mandatory courses for licensed dental professionals for license renewal every two years?**
 - A. Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, Infection Control**
 - B. Basic Life Support, First Aid, Infection Control**
 - C. California Dental Practice Act, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Infection Control**
 - D. Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, CPR Techniques**
- 5. How many continuing education units (CE) are required for a dentist to renew their conscious sedation permit?**
 - A. 10 CE**
 - B. 15 CE**
 - C. 20 CE**
 - D. 25 CE**

- 6. True or False: Needles can be bent or broken for the purpose of disposal.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only if they are capped**
 - D. Depending on the type of needle**
- 7. Which schedule of drugs has a low potential for abuse and may lead to limited dependence?**
- A. Schedule I**
 - B. Schedule II**
 - C. Schedule III**
 - D. Schedule IV**
- 8. Which description fits a schedule II drug?**
- A. No potential for abuse**
 - B. High potential for abuse with accepted medical use under severe restrictions**
 - C. Moderate potential for abuse with limited medical use**
 - D. Low potential for abuse and accepted medical use**
- 9. A new patient presents with the belief that they require a crown. After examination, you find no treatment is necessary. What is your next step?**
- A. Perform a crown just to keep the patient satisfied**
 - B. Inform the patient of your findings and recommendations for routine prophylaxis**
 - C. Refer the patient to another dentist immediately**
 - D. Ignore the patient's previous dentist's recommendation**
- 10. What must informed consent include?**
- A. Only the nature of the recommended treatment**
 - B. Risks, benefits, alternatives and treatment plan explanation**
 - C. Just the benefits of the treatment**
 - D. Written consent for financial obligations**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In a situation where a new patient reports dissatisfaction with their crowns, what is the appropriate action?

- A. Ignore the previous dentist's treatment**
- B. Contact the previous dentist to discuss the findings**
- C. Advise the patient they should resolve it directly with the previous dentist**
- D. Replace the crowns without further consultation**

Contacting the previous dentist to discuss the findings is the appropriate action in this scenario. This approach demonstrates professionalism and a commitment to patient care. By reaching out to the previous dentist, you can gather insights regarding the treatment, the materials used, and any existing complications. This collaboration can help ensure that the patient's concerns are addressed comprehensively and accurately. Additionally, involving the previous dentist allows for a more informed decision about how to proceed with the patient's treatment. It emphasizes the importance of communication in dentistry and respects the work of the previous practitioner, fostering an atmosphere of cooperation rather than confrontation. It may also provide an opportunity for the previous dentist to rectify any potential issues or to clarify misunderstandings regarding the crowns. Consulting with the prior provider not only upholds ethical standards but also protects the patient's best interests, ensuring that any subsequent treatment takes into account all relevant information regarding their dental history.

2. Under general supervision, which task is NOT allowed for a dental assistant?

- A. Examine orthodontic appliances**
- B. Expose dental radiographs**
- C. Expose intraoral photos**
- D. Intraoral retraction and suctioning**

Under general supervision, dental assistants have a defined scope of practice that dictates which tasks they can perform without the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. General supervision allows the dental assistant to perform certain procedures as long as they are in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the California Dental Board. Examining orthodontic appliances requires clinical judgment and assessment of the patient's needs, which falls outside the permissible tasks for a dental assistant under general supervision. This particular task typically requires the expertise of a licensed orthodontist or dentist who can make diagnostic decisions based on clinical findings. On the other hand, the other tasks listed—exposing dental radiographs, exposing intraoral photos, and performing intraoral retraction and suctioning—are within the allowed scope of practice for dental assistants under general supervision. These activities are more technical and procedural in nature, focusing on supporting the treatment process rather than diagnosing or evaluating orthodontic conditions. Thus, the answer correctly identifies that examining orthodontic appliances is not an allowed task under general supervision for a dental assistant, as it requires clinical judgment not designated to them in California law.

3. Which statement reflects the ethical guideline of avoiding personal relationships with patients?

- A. Building close connections is encouraged**
- B. Maintaining professional boundaries is essential**
- C. Personal engagement can enhance trust**
- D. Trust is built through friendship**

The statement that emphasizes the importance of maintaining professional boundaries is aligned with the ethical guideline of avoiding personal relationships with patients. In the field of dentistry, establishing and upholding professional boundaries is critical for ensuring that the practitioner-patient relationship remains focused on the patient's health and well-being rather than personal dynamics. It helps to prevent conflicts of interest, bias in treatment, and the potential for exploitation of the patient. Maintaining these boundaries allows for a clear and objective framework where professional judgment can prevail. This guideline is rooted in the principle of patient autonomy and protection, which prioritizes the patient's needs without the complications that arise from personal relationships. By keeping interactions within the professional realm, dental professionals can deliver care that is ethical, unbiased, and in the best interest of the patient, ultimately fostering a trustworthy and respectful environment.

4. What are the three mandatory courses for licensed dental professionals for license renewal every two years?

- A. Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, Infection Control**
- B. Basic Life Support, First Aid, Infection Control**
- C. California Dental Practice Act, Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Infection Control**
- D. Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, CPR Techniques**

The correct answer includes the three mandatory courses required for licensed dental professionals in California to renew their licenses every two years: Basic Life Support, California Dental Practice Act, and Infection Control. Basic Life Support training ensures that dental professionals are equipped with the essential skills to respond to medical emergencies and provide life-saving techniques until advanced medical help may arrive. This is critical within the dental setting, where emergencies can occur. Studying the California Dental Practice Act is vital as it informs practitioners of the laws and regulations governing dental practice in California, helping ensure compliance and the provision of safe and effective care. Infection Control training is necessary to maintain hygiene and safety standards in dental practices. This includes understanding protocols for sterilization, preventing cross-contamination, and protecting both patient and provider health. These courses not only enhance the knowledge and skills of dental professionals but also underscore the commitment to patient safety and legal compliance in the practice of dentistry. The other options either contain incorrect course titles or combinations that do not align with the mandatory requirements set forth by California dental regulations.

5. How many continuing education units (CE) are required for a dentist to renew their conscious sedation permit?

- A. 10 CE
- B. 15 CE**
- C. 20 CE
- D. 25 CE

To renew a conscious sedation permit, a dentist is required to complete 15 continuing education units (CE). This requirement is in place to ensure that dental practitioners stay updated on the advancements and best practices in conscious sedation, enhancing patient safety and care. The 15 CE hours are specifically geared towards relevant topics such as pharmacology, techniques, and management of sedation-related emergencies, ensuring that dentists maintain a competency level that is crucial for administering sedation safely. This focus on continuing education underscores the importance of lifelong learning in the dental profession, particularly in areas that directly impact patient health and safety. Other options present different CE requirements that do not align with the established regulations in California, reflecting a misunderstanding of the necessary educational standards for the renewal of such permits.

6. True or False: Needles can be bent or broken for the purpose of disposal.

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Only if they are capped
- D. Depending on the type of needle

The statement is false because the proper disposal of needles is governed by strict safety protocols designed to prevent injuries and contamination. Needles should never be bent or broken before disposal as this can create sharp edges that pose a risk of injury to those handling the waste. Instead, used needles should be placed directly into a puncture-resistant sharps container without altering their original form. This practice minimizes the chances of accidental needle-stick injuries to healthcare workers, waste management personnel, and anyone else who may come into contact with the discarded materials. Ensuring that needles remain intact until they reach proper disposal facilities is a fundamental component of safe handling and disposal practices. This approach aligns with the guidelines established by health authorities and regulatory agencies, which emphasize the importance of safe practices in managing hazardous waste materials in healthcare settings.

7. Which schedule of drugs has a low potential for abuse and may lead to limited dependence?

- A. Schedule I**
- B. Schedule II**
- C. Schedule III**
- D. Schedule IV**

The category that has a low potential for abuse and may lead to limited dependence is Schedule IV. Drugs classified as Schedule IV are considered to have a lower risk of addiction compared to those in higher schedules. They can still be prescribed for medical purposes but are recognized for their relatively low potential for abuse and dependency. Examples of Schedule IV drugs include medications like alprazolam (Xanax) and diazepam (Valium), which can be effective for treating conditions such as anxiety but are still controlled because of their potential risks. In contrast, other schedules have higher abuse potential. Schedule I drugs, for instance, are deemed to have a high potential for abuse with no accepted medical use, making them illegal to possess. Schedule II drugs have a significant potential for abuse that may lead to severe dependence, while Schedule III drugs have a moderate potential for abuse but still more than that seen in Schedule IV. Thus, Schedule IV accurately describes substances that are medically useful with a reduced risk of addiction.

8. Which description fits a schedule II drug?

- A. No potential for abuse**
- B. High potential for abuse with accepted medical use under severe restrictions**
- C. Moderate potential for abuse with limited medical use**
- D. Low potential for abuse and accepted medical use**

A schedule II drug is defined as having a high potential for abuse that can lead to severe psychological or physical dependence, but it still maintains accepted medical uses under strict regulatory controls. This classification reflects the balancing act between the therapeutic benefits of certain medications and the risks associated with their potential for misuse. In practice, schedule II drugs include substances like opioids (e.g., oxycodone, morphine) and certain stimulants that are used for treating conditions such as severe pain and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. The notable characteristic of these drugs is that, despite their accepted uses in healthcare, they are tightly regulated due to the risks they pose. This ensures that they are prescribed responsibly and monitored closely to prevent abuse, thereby safeguarding public health. Understanding this classification is critical for dental professionals and other healthcare providers, as it informs them of their legal and ethical obligations when prescribing medications that fall into this category.

9. A new patient presents with the belief that they require a crown. After examination, you find no treatment is necessary. What is your next step?

A. Perform a crown just to keep the patient satisfied

B. Inform the patient of your findings and recommendations for routine prophylaxis

C. Refer the patient to another dentist immediately

D. Ignore the patient's previous dentist's recommendation

Informing the patient of your findings and recommendations for routine prophylaxis is the correct approach in this scenario. It is essential to maintain honesty and transparency in the dentist-patient relationship, especially when the patient arrives with a preconception that they require a crown. After conducting a thorough examination and determining that no crown is necessary, it is your professional duty to communicate this clearly to the patient. This conversation fosters trust and shows the patient that you prioritize their oral health, rather than simply catering to their expectations or demands. By discussing your findings, you can explain why a crown is not needed, potentially providing insight into their oral health status, preventive care options, and the value of routine hygiene visits. This can enhance the patient's understanding of their dental health and encourage them to engage in a proactive approach toward their dental care. In contrast, performing unnecessary treatments merely to satisfy the patient undermines the integrity of your practice and could contribute to ethical violations. Referring the patient to another dentist immediately does not address the situation appropriately or provide the patient with the clarity they need. Moreover, ignoring the previous dentist's recommendation could leave the patient feeling confused or misinformed about their dental needs, diminishing the quality of care you provide. Engaging the patient with empathy and

10. What must informed consent include?

A. Only the nature of the recommended treatment

B. Risks, benefits, alternatives and treatment plan explanation

C. Just the benefits of the treatment

D. Written consent for financial obligations

Informed consent is a critical component of patient care in the dental field. It ensures that patients are fully aware of their treatment options and the implications of those options before proceeding. The correct choice includes essential elements that must be communicated to a patient for consent to be truly informed. It is important that informed consent encompasses the risks associated with the treatment, the anticipated benefits, alternative treatments that might be available, and a clear explanation of the treatment plan itself. This comprehensive approach allows the patient to weigh the potential outcomes and make an educated decision regarding their care. Patients need to understand not just what the treatment involves but also the possible complications or side effects and what other alternative treatments they might consider. This complete picture is fundamental to the ethical practice of dentistry, as it respects the autonomy of the patient and fosters an environment of trust and understanding between patient and provider. The other choices fall short because they either provide an incomplete view of informed consent or focus on single aspects rather than the holistic approach required for true informed consent in medical practice.

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://psicaliforniadentallawethics.examzify.com>

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