

Psychology of Death and Dying 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 statement accurately describes one feature of near-death experiences described by Kelly and colleagues?**
 - A. They involve only physical sensations**
 - B. Out-of-body experiences are not part of near-death experiences**
 - C. The experience of being out of the body and viewing events from above**
 - D. They always include a life review**

- 2. Death certificates are necessary for which of the following purposes?**
 - A. Collecting life insurance**
 - B. Investigation of crime**
 - C. Disposition of property rights**
 - D. Receiving death benefits**

- 3. In Blos's view, late adolescence is the period when adolescents typically _____.**
 - A. Period of Rapid Independence**
 - B. None of These**
 - C. Period of Identity Exploration**
 - D. Period of Career Planning**

- 4. Which sociologist is associated with the concept of egoistic suicide?**
 - A. Karl Marx**
 - B. Max Weber**
 - C. Emile Durkheim**
 - D. Sigmund Freud**

- 5. Having a period of calmness following agitation is described as a sign of which suicidal behavior?**
 - A. Escalating agitation continues**
 - B. Sleepiness and fatigue**
 - C. Increased agitation**
 - D. Having a period of calmness following agitation**

- 6. According to Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, near-death experiences ____.**
- A. Are experiences that occur only in non-terminal patients**
 - B. Do not provide conclusive evidence of the existence of an afterlife**
 - C. Provide conclusive evidence of the existence of an afterlife**
 - D. Are purely physiological phenomena**
- 7. Imagine a 28-year-old married woman with two children who is brain dead from a car accident. Without her written consent, authorization to donate her kidneys will be sought from:**
- A. The oldest child**
 - B. Her husband**
 - C. The hospital ethics committee**
 - D. Her parents**
- 8. If a person believes that death is a 'wall,' _____.**
- A. None of these**
 - B. A doorway to new existence**
 - C. A threshold with opportunity**
 - D. An illusion of finality**
- 9. In adolescent bereavement, adolescents with high self-concept scores are likely to experience which outcome?**
- A. More depression, fear, loneliness, and confusion**
 - B. No effect on mood**
 - C. Less depression, fear, loneliness, and confusion**
 - D. Increased anger and aggression**
- 10. Which term best describes prejudice or discrimination based on age?**
- A. Age Discrimination**
 - B. Gerontophobia**
 - C. Ageism**
 - D. Senior Bias**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement accurately describes one feature of near-death experiences described by Kelly and colleagues?

- A. They involve only physical sensations**
- B. Out-of-body experiences are not part of near-death experiences**
- C. The experience of being out of the body and viewing events from above**
- D. They always include a life review**

A defining feature is the out-of-body aspect: people often feel detached from their physical body and perceive themselves and the surrounding environment from a viewpoint that is above or external to the body. Kelly and colleagues describe this experience as viewing events from outside the body, a perspective reported by many who undergo near-death experiences. This helps explain why that statement best fits what's been described. Other options don't fit as well because NDEs are not limited to physical sensations, the out-of-body experience is indeed a described component, and a life review is reported by many but not universal, so saying it always occurs would be inaccurate.

2. Death certificates are necessary for which of the following purposes?

- A. Collecting life insurance**
- B. Investigation of crime**
- C. Disposition of property rights**
- D. Receiving death benefits**

A death certificate serves as official proof of death, and that proof is what unlocks posthumous payments and benefits. When survivors or estates seek death benefits, the agency or insurer must verify that the death occurred to determine eligibility, timing, and payout. This verification is the primary reason the document is needed, making receiving death benefits the best-fit purpose. While a death certificate may be used in other processes like closing accounts or handling probate or in some cases filing life-insurance claims, the direct, defining use tied to the certificate is to authorize and validate the payout of benefits after death.

3. In Blos's view, late adolescence is the period when adolescents typically _____.

- A. Period of Rapid Independence**
- B. None of These**
- C. Period of Identity Exploration**
- D. Period of Career Planning**

Blos views adolescence as a time of psychosocial reorganization centered on the second individuation, where the adolescent moves toward a more autonomous self while integrating this self within social roles. In late adolescence, the task is about consolidating identity and preparing to assume adult responsibilities by balancing independence with ongoing ties to the social world, rather than simply rushing toward independence, engaging in ongoing identity exploration, or focusing mainly on career planning. Because none of the listed descriptions precisely captures Blos's emphasis on this consolidation and integration within social roles, the best answer is None of These.

4. Which sociologist is associated with the concept of egoistic suicide?

- A. Karl Marx**
- B. Max Weber**
- C. Emile Durkheim**
- D. Sigmund Freud**

Egoistic suicide arises when social integration is too weak, and a person feels deeply detached from the social world. Durkheim argued that strong bonds to family, community, and institutions help individuals find meaning and regulate their behavior; when those ties are lacking, individuals can experience isolation and meaninglessness that raise the risk of suicide. This idea sits within Durkheim's broader framework of how social structure shapes individual actions, alongside other forms he described like altruistic, anomic, and fatalistic suicide, which show what happens when integration or regulation is too high or too disrupted. Because Durkheim laid out this typology and tied it to social connectedness, the concept of egoistic suicide is linked to him. The other thinkers mentioned—Marx, Weber, and Freud—developed influential theories in sociology and psychology, but they did not formulate this specific classification.

5. Having a period of calmness following agitation is described as a sign of which suicidal behavior?

- A. Escalating agitation continues**
- B. Sleepiness and fatigue**
- C. Increased agitation**
- D. Having a period of calmness following agitation**

A sudden period of calm after a stretch of agitation is a warning sign of imminent suicidal behavior. When someone shifts from intense distress to calm, it can indicate that they have resolved their inner conflict and may have decided to act on their plans. That calm isn't a sign that the crisis is over; rather, it can reflect relief at having made a choice and a sense of readiness to follow through, which raises the risk of a suicide attempt in the near future. In contrast, ongoing or escalating agitation signals continued crisis and distress, while sleepiness or fatigue can accompany depression but doesn't specifically point to an imminent plan to harm oneself. If you observe this calming shift, take it seriously and seek immediate help for the person.

6. According to Elisabeth Kübler-Ross, near-death experiences ____.

A. Are experiences that occur only in non-terminal patients

B. Do not provide conclusive evidence of the existence of an afterlife

C. Provide conclusive evidence of the existence of an afterlife

D. Are purely physiological phenomena

Near-death experiences, for Kübler-Ross, are more than unusual brain events; they are vivid, meaningful experiences reported as people approach death that suggest continuity of consciousness beyond physical life. She viewed these experiences as evidence pointing toward the existence of an afterlife, and she emphasized their transformative impact on how people understand death. That perspective is why describing near-death experiences as providing conclusive evidence of an afterlife best captures her stance. The idea that they occur only in non-terminal patients isn't consistent with her view, since NDEs are reported in various contexts of dying or danger, not restricted to those who are not terminal. Saying they are purely physiological ignores the significant spiritual and existential dimensions she highlighted. And arguing they do not provide evidence at all contradicts her emphasis on their meaningful, life-altering implications regarding what death may mean.

7. Imagine a 28-year-old married woman with two children who is brain dead from a car accident. Without her written consent, authorization to donate her kidneys will be sought from:

A. The oldest child

B. Her husband

C. The hospital ethics committee

D. Her parents

When someone cannot consent and there's no living will or registered consent, the responsibility for surrogate medical decisions falls to the closest appropriate family member, with the spouse commonly being the default surrogates for an adult. In this scenario, the husband is the person most likely to have the authority to authorize organ donation because he is the legally recognized surrogate decision maker for an adult spouse who is incapacitated and lacks an advance directive. The oldest child or the parents are not the primary decision makers in this situation, especially when a spouse is still living, and the hospital ethics committee is there to guide and review decisions rather than to make the donation authorization itself. If there were a registered donor designation or a documented advance directive, that would guide the decision, but without those, the spouse is the one approached for consent.

8. If a person believes that death is a 'wall,' _____.

- A. None of these**
- B. A doorway to new existence**
- C. A threshold with opportunity**
- D. An illusion of finality**

Beliefs about death are often shown through images that reveal how a person views what comes after life. Calling death a wall signals a solid barrier that blocks progression, rather than inviting movement into something beyond or suggesting that death isn't truly final. The ideas of a doorway to a new existence or a threshold with opportunity both imply some form of ongoing transition, which doesn't fit a wall that stops movement. The notion of an illusion of finality would imply the opposite of finality being real, which also doesn't align with a barrier image. Because a wall conveys obstruction rather than transition or a misperception about finality, none of the listed options appropriately completes the sentence. The intended completion would be none of these.

9. In adolescent bereavement, adolescents with high self-concept scores are likely to experience which outcome?

- A. More depression, fear, loneliness, and confusion**
- B. No effect on mood**
- C. Less depression, fear, loneliness, and confusion**
- D. Increased anger and aggression**

Having a strong sense of self acts as a resilience factor during adolescent bereavement. When youths feel confident in themselves and their abilities, they're better at coping with loss, reaching out for support, and regulating their emotions. This helps reduce vulnerability to negative emotional outcomes, so those with higher self-concept scores tend to experience less depression, fear, loneliness, and confusion. While grief can bring up anger at times, the protective effect of a solid self-concept is best seen in calmer, less overwhelmed responses and more adaptive coping rather than worse mood or no change.

10. Which term best describes prejudice or discrimination based on age?

- A. Age Discrimination**
- B. Gerontophobia**
- C. Ageism**
- D. Senior Bias**

Ageism describes attitudes, beliefs, and practices that devalue or disadvantage people because of their age. It covers both prejudice (like stereotypes that older adults are less capable) and discrimination (such as biased policies or treatment in hiring, housing, or services) based on age, which is why it's the best fit for describing prejudice or discrimination rooted in age. Age discrimination refers more narrowly to actions or policies that treat someone unfavorably due to age, without necessarily naming the underlying attitudes. Gerontophobia is a fear or aversion to aging or older people, not a broad term for prejudice or discriminatory behavior. Senior bias isn't a standard, precise term in psychology. So the widely accepted term is ageism.

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://psychdeathdying.examzify.com>

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

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