

Queensland Bar Ethics Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 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 accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. How should a barrister maintain independence from instructing solicitors and clients?**
 - A. Follow solicitor's directions at all times**
 - B. Act solely in client's best interests, free from external control or pressure; maintain professional judgment and avoid improper influence.**
 - C. Prioritize external expectations**
 - D. Seek to align with client beliefs regardless of legality.**

- 2. Which of the following is NOT a key category of duties a barrister owes to the court?**
 - A. Duty of candour in the presentation of the facts**
 - B. Duty of candour in the presentation of the law**
 - C. Duty to the administration of justice and not to abuse court processes**
 - D. Duty to inform the client about alternatives to litigation**

- 3. Rule 12 prohibits which behavior?**
 - A. Dishonest or discreditable conduct**
 - B. Taking a holiday**
 - C. Representing both sides in a case**
 - D. Advertising services on social media**

- 4. Which statement best summarizes the rules for disclosure?**
 - A. Disclosures are never allowed.**
 - B. Disclosures are always allowed.**
 - C. Disclosures may be made to instructing solicitors, admin staff, or in the course of devilling work under Rule 107 without breaching Rule 108.**
 - D. Disclosures require a court order.**

- 5. When may a party make further submissions after a hearing in *VirginTel v Zabusky*?**
 - A. Always, with or without permission.**
 - B. Never; all submissions must be before the hearing.**
 - C. Only after written submissions.**
 - D. Only if the court requests or leave granted.**

- 6. If a costs agreement is set aside, who may make orders about payment of costs?**
- A. The court or tribunal may set aside the agreement and make any order it considers appropriate regarding payment of costs.**
 - B. The client may unilaterally rewrite the agreement.**
 - C. The regulator may decide on costs.**
 - D. The client must repay all costs regardless of the outcome.**
- 7. When a solicitor instructs a barrister, which approach best aligns with ethical practice?**
- A. Disclose conflicts only if the solicitor approves.**
 - B. Maintain independence; follow instructions consistent with ethical rules; communicate openly about conflicts and costs.**
 - C. Share confidential information with partner firms to gain advantage.**
 - D. Align fully with solicitor's desires, regardless of ethics.**
- 8. What must the mandatory notice to clients include?**
- A. A note about potential fee increases.**
 - B. A statement of the client's rights to assessment and to set aside the costs agreement, with time limits, included in the bill, except for sophisticated clients.**
 - C. A commitment to refund if the client is dissatisfied.**
 - D. A warning that the client cannot challenge the costs.**
- 9. If a barrister suspects a client intends to mislead the court, what should they do?**
- A. Advise against the course of action, emphasise truthfulness, and consider withdrawal or reporting as required.**
 - B. Encourage the client to proceed with misleading arguments.**
 - C. Keep silent about the risk and continue.**
 - D. Suggest fabricating evidence.**
- 10. What restrictions apply to barristers' advertising?**
- A. Advertising can mislead to attract clients**
 - B. Advertising must be truthful, not misleading, not guarantee outcomes, and must not bring the profession into disrepute**
 - C. Advertising can promise results**
 - D. Advertising is completely unrestricted**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. How should a barrister maintain independence from instructing solicitors and clients?

A. Follow solicitor's directions at all times

B. Act solely in client's best interests, free from external control or pressure; maintain professional judgment and avoid improper influence.

C. Prioritize external expectations

D. Seek to align with client beliefs regardless of legality.

Independence means a barrister must advocate and advise for the client while maintaining autonomous professional judgment and resisting improper pressure from solicitors or clients. The best approach captures that balance: act solely in the client's best interests, keep your professional judgment intact, and avoid any improper influence. This protects the integrity of the case and the justice system, ensuring arguments and strategies are guided by law and ethics rather than external pressure. If instructed to pursue a path that is unlawful or unethical, you should explain why and decline, offering lawful alternatives instead. Blind obedience to a solicitor, chasing external expectations, or aligning with client beliefs regardless of legality all undermine independence and the duty to the court.

2. Which of the following is NOT a key category of duties a barrister owes to the court?

A. Duty of candour in the presentation of the facts

B. Duty of candour in the presentation of the law

C. Duty to the administration of justice and not to abuse court processes

D. Duty to inform the client about alternatives to litigation

The central idea is what duties a barrister owes to the court. The duties to the court include being candid about the facts and about the law when presenting a case, and not abusing court processes in order to obstruct or manipulate the administration of justice. Candour about the facts means not withholding material information or presenting facts dishonestly. Candour about the law means not misrepresenting authorities or concealing adverse authorities. The obligation to uphold the administration of justice and refrain from abusing court processes underpins how advocacy should be conducted within the courtroom. Informing the client about alternatives to litigation, however, sits at the level of advice to the client rather than a direct obligation to the court. It concerns the barrister's duty to the client to provide honest, practical guidance on options for resolving the dispute, which may include settlement or alternative dispute resolution. While this is an important professional duty, it is not one of the barrister's duties to the court itself.

3. Rule 12 prohibits which behavior?

- A. Dishonest or discreditable conduct**
- B. Taking a holiday
- C. Representing both sides in a case
- D. Advertising services on social media

Rule 12 targets behaviours that undermine the integrity of the profession by prohibiting conduct that is dishonest or discreditable. This covers acts involving deceit, misrepresentation, fraud, or any behaviour that would reasonably bring the profession into disrepute or diminish public confidence in the legal system. Because the focus is on honesty and the profession's reputation, this rule is engaged whenever a practitioner behaves dishonestly or in a way that could damage trust in barristers generally. In contrast, the other behaviours fit under different areas of professional conduct. Taking a holiday is routine and not a matter of dishonesty or discreditable conduct. Representing both sides in a case raises conflicts of interest and is governed by conflict-of-interest rules rather than the dishonesty or discreditability standard. Advertising services on social media relates to advertising rules and professional marketing standards, not to dishonesty or discreditable conduct per se.

4. Which statement best summarizes the rules for disclosure?

- A. Disclosures are never allowed.
- B. Disclosures are always allowed.
- C. Disclosures may be made to instructing solicitors, admin staff, or in the course of devilling work under Rule 107 without breaching Rule 108.**
- D. Disclosures require a court order.

Disclosures are allowed when they are necessary for the proper performance of a barrister's duties and are limited to people who need to know, such as the instructing solicitor, administrative staff, or during devilling work, under Rule 107, without breaching Rule 108. This reflects a careful balance: client confidentiality remains the default, but the rules permit sharing with those directly involved in preparing and delivering the legal service to ensure the work is carried out effectively. The other statements are too absolute or restrictive—disclosures aren't never allowed, they aren't automatically permitted in all circumstances, and they don't require a court order to happen.

5. When may a party make further submissions after a hearing in *VirginTel v Zabusky*?

- A. Always, with or without permission.**
- B. Never; all submissions must be before the hearing.**
- C. Only after written submissions.**
- D. Only if the court requests or leave granted.**

After a hearing, the court controls whether any extra arguments are considered. In *VirginTel v Zabusky*, a party may make further submissions only if the court requests them or leave is granted. This keeps the process efficient and ensures the judge can decide based on the materials before them without open-ended filings. If no invitation or permission is given, additional submissions shouldn't be filed. The other options don't fit because they either assume an automatic right to submit more after the hearing, or deny any post-hearing submissions, or inaccurately tie permission to something like only written submissions. If you need to add more after a hearing, you must obtain the court's request or obtain leave.

6. If a costs agreement is set aside, who may make orders about payment of costs?

- A. The court or tribunal may set aside the agreement and make any order it considers appropriate regarding payment of costs.**
- B. The client may unilaterally rewrite the agreement.**
- C. The regulator may decide on costs.**
- D. The client must repay all costs regardless of the outcome.**

When a costs agreement is set aside, the decision about costs falls to the court or tribunal handling the dispute. They may set aside the agreement and make any order about payment of costs that they consider appropriate, taking into account the outcome, conduct, and fairness of the case. This broad, discretionary power allows the court to determine who pays and how, rather than sticking to terms of a contract that has been invalidated. A client cannot unilaterally rewrite the agreement, and regulators do not issue individual cost orders. It isn't correct to say the client must repay all costs regardless of the result, because the court can tailor orders based on the circumstances.

7. When a solicitor instructs a barrister, which approach best aligns with ethical practice?

- A. Disclose conflicts only if the solicitor approves.**
- B. Maintain independence; follow instructions consistent with ethical rules; communicate openly about conflicts and costs.**
- C. Share confidential information with partner firms to gain advantage.**
- D. Align fully with solicitor's desires, regardless of ethics.**

The key idea is that a barrister must keep independence and act within ethical rules when instructed by a solicitor, while being open with the client about conflicts and costs. This combination protects the client's interests and the integrity of the legal process. Maintaining independence means the barrister can advocate freely and without being directed to breach ethical duties, even if the solicitor's wishes differ. Following instructions that align with ethical rules ensures that the work stays within professional boundaries and avoids actions that could compromise the client, the court, or the profession. Open communication about conflicts and costs is essential so the client can make informed decisions and avoid hidden liabilities or surprises later. If a potential conflict arises, it should be disclosed promptly to the client and managed in line with ethical guidelines; likewise, matters about fees and costs should be discussed transparently. Disclosing conflicts only with the solicitor's approval undermines the client's right to know and can hide issues from those whom the work ultimately affects. Sharing confidential information with other firms breaches confidentiality. Aligning fully with the solicitor's desires regardless of ethics ignores the barrister's duty to the client and the court.

8. What must the mandatory notice to clients include?

- A. A note about potential fee increases.**
- B. A statement of the client's rights to assessment and to set aside the costs agreement, with time limits, included in the bill, except for sophisticated clients.**
- C. A commitment to refund if the client is dissatisfied.**
- D. A warning that the client cannot challenge the costs.**

The key idea here is that a costs disclosure is about informing the client of their rights regarding the costs they are being charged. The mandatory notice must clearly state that the client has rights to have the costs assessed and to set aside or challenge the costs agreement, and it must set out the time limits for taking those steps. Importantly, it should appear with the bill so the client sees it as costs are presented. There is an exception for sophisticated clients, who are considered capable of handling costs without this extra notice. This is why the correct option is best: it captures the essential rights-based information, the requirement to disclose them at the point of invoicing, and the time limits, plus the exception for sophisticated clients. The other options describe items that are not part of the mandatory notice—fee increase notes, refunds for dissatisfaction, or a blanket warning that challenges are not allowed—so they don't fit the purpose of the statutory notice.

9. If a barrister suspects a client intends to mislead the court, what should they do?

A. Advise against the course of action, emphasise truthfulness, and consider withdrawal or reporting as required.

B. Encourage the client to proceed with misleading arguments.

C. Keep silent about the risk and continue.

D. Suggest fabricating evidence.

When a barrister suspects a client intends to mislead the court, the key duty is to prevent falsehood and protect the integrity of the proceedings. The barrister should firmly explain that honesty is essential and that misleading the court is not permissible. They should encourage truthfulness and lawful conduct, outlining the consequences of perjury or misrepresentation. If the client persists in pursuing a misleading course, the barrister must consider withdrawing from the case to avoid facilitating the wrongdoing. Depending on the rules and the situation, there may also be a duty to report the risk or the misrepresentation to the court or relevant professional authorities. The other options undermine ethical obligations: encouraging misleading arguments would breach the duty to the court; remaining silent allows harm to proceed without addressing it; fabricating evidence is illegal and would violate fundamental professional standards.

10. What restrictions apply to barristers' advertising?

A. Advertising can mislead to attract clients

B. Advertising must be truthful, not misleading, not guarantee outcomes, and must not bring the profession into disrepute

C. Advertising can promise results

D. Advertising is completely unrestricted

Advertising by barristers must be truthful and not misleading, must not guarantee any outcomes, and must uphold the profession's reputation. This standard protects clients from false or inflated claims and preserves public confidence in the Bar. You can share accurate qualifications, areas of practice, and contact details, but you cannot promise success or imply you can achieve certain results. The other ideas would undermine trust in the profession: misleading advertising misleads potential clients, promising outcomes creates false expectations, and an unrestricted regime would fail to protect both the public and the Bar's integrity.

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://queenslandbarethics.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE