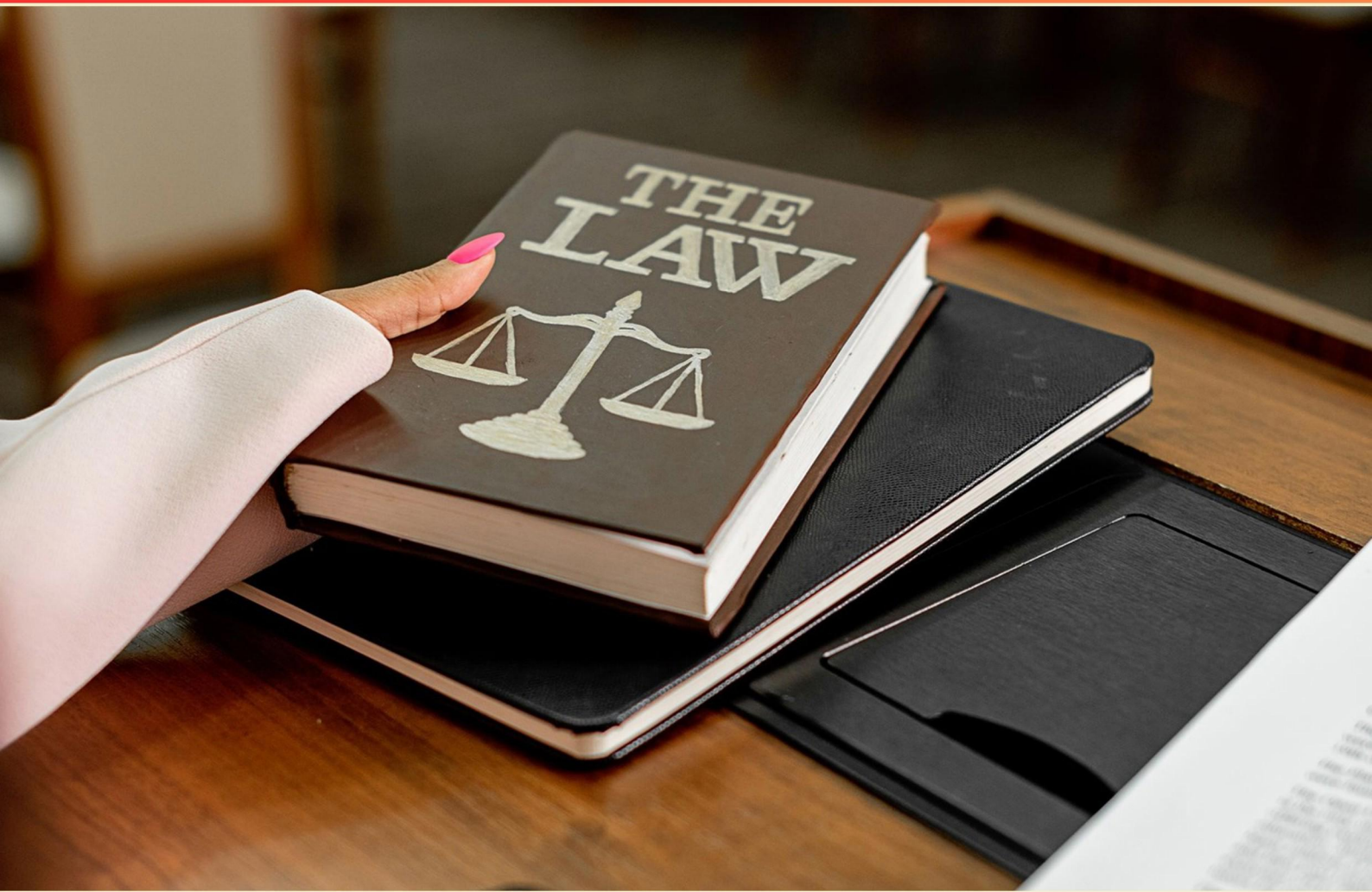


QUEENSLAND BAR ETHICS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://queenslandbarethics.examzify.com>



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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. Rule 45 prohibits which conduct?

- A. Giving commission to those who bring work
- B. Taking on a case without a brief
- C. Accepting a loan from a client
- D. Disclosing client confidences

2. Which statement about handling communications via a non-client intermediary is recommended?

- A. Treat them as confidential if they relate to the legal matter; do not disclose more than necessary; seek guidance from the client or solicitor as appropriate.
- B. Share them with the opposing party if they are relevant.
- C. Disclose to the court when convenient.
- D. Ignore the intermediary's input.

3. What are the consequences of professional misconduct?

- A. Automatic criminal conviction.
- B. Disciplinary action by the Bar, possible suspension or disbarment, and reputational damage; may include reporting to relevant authorities.
- C. Public acknowledgment with no penalties.
- D. Financial penalties to the client.

4. What is the principle behind maintaining professional independence from commercial interests?

- A. To maximize billable hours.
- B. To align with commercial sponsors regardless of case facts.
- C. To ensure advocacy is driven by truth and client interest, not by unrelated financial or commercial pressures.
- D. To prioritize the barrister's personal profits.

5. Which area is specifically addressed for costs in speculative personal injury claims?

- A. Costs in speculative personal injury claims
- B. General contract costs
- C. Interim billing costs
- D. Disbursement costs

- 6. If a client denies guilt but wants to plead guilty, which approach is correct?**
- A. Be sure to always urge the client to plead guilty to minimize risk
 - B. Generally advise a defendant not to plead guilty unless they committed the offence charged, and seek to ascertain the client's reasons if they insist
 - C. Inform the client that a guilty plea guarantees acquittal
 - D. Never advise a client on whether to plead guilty
- 7. Which duty requires a barrister to inform the client if they cannot comply with court timelines or complete work promptly?**
- A. The barrister must inform only if the client asks.
 - B. The barrister must inform the court but not the client.
 - C. The barrister must inform the client if unable to comply with court timelines or complete work promptly.
 - D. The barrister must ignore minor delays to avoid upsetting the client.
- 8. If ethics training or advisory opinions are provided, how should a barrister respond?**
- A. Ignore guidance if it seems too strict.
 - B. Review and apply the guidance to practice, and consult when faced with ambiguous situations.
 - C. Only consult when mandatory by law.
 - D. Apply guidance unless it contradicts client desires.
- 9. Which duty describes a prosecutor's disclosure obligation?**
- A. The prosecutor must disclose all relevant material to the defense, except if it threatens the administration of justice or safety.
 - B. The prosecutor may withhold material if the defense asks.
 - C. The prosecutor must disclose only if the defense can prove relevance.
 - D. The prosecutor must disclose all non-confidential material as a general rule.
- 10. If a barrister is briefed, to whom must sufficient information be disclosed to enable compliance with obligations to inform the client about the barrister's practice?**
- A. The client directly
 - B. The opposing party
 - C. The instructing solicitors
 - D. The regulatory authority

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Rule 45 prohibits which conduct?

A. Giving commission to those who bring work

B. Taking on a case without a brief

C. Accepting a loan from a client

D. Disclosing client confidences

Rule 45 targets financial inducements tied to obtaining work. It prohibits giving or receiving a commission just because someone refers or brings in a client. That kind of payment can distort judgment, create improper pressure to take cases, and undermine public confidence in the profession by making the decision to accept work seem bought rather than based on merit and the client's best interests. So, the act of giving a commission to those who bring work is precisely what Rule 45 forbids. Other scenarios involve different ethical concerns. Taking on a case without a proper brief raises issues about preparedness and professional responsibility, but it's not about inducements for obtaining work. Accepting a loan from a client creates potential conflicts of interest or influence concerns handled under separate rules about client finances. Disclosing client confidences breaches confidentiality and privilege, again a separate area of duty.

2. Which statement about handling communications via a non-client intermediary is recommended?

A. Treat them as confidential if they relate to the legal matter; do not disclose more than necessary; seek guidance from the client or solicitor as appropriate.

B. Share them with the opposing party if they are relevant.

C. Disclose to the court when convenient.

D. Ignore the intermediary's input.

Communications through a non-client intermediary should be treated as confidential just like direct communications with the client. The intermediary's role is to assist in delivering legal services, not to become a recipient of the information beyond what is necessary for them to do their job. Therefore, you should share only what is necessary for the intermediary to perform their function, and you should seek guidance from the client or solicitor about what can be disclosed and to whom. Sharing information with the opposing party or disclosing to the court absent a proper basis would undermine confidentiality and potentially prejudice the client. Ignoring the intermediary's input would miss an essential step in handling the matter efficiently and responsibly.

3. What are the consequences of professional misconduct?

A. Automatic criminal conviction.

B. Disciplinary action by the Bar, possible suspension or disbarment, and reputational damage; may include reporting to relevant authorities.

C. Public acknowledgment with no penalties.

D. Financial penalties to the client.

When a lawyer engages in professional misconduct, the response comes through the profession's own disciplinary framework rather than automatic criminal penalties. The primary consequence is disciplinary action by the Bar, which can include suspension or disbarment and reputational damage. In addition, the Bar may report the conduct to relevant authorities if it constitutes a crime or breaches regulatory rules, ensuring appropriate public accountability. This reflects the aim of upholding standards within the legal profession and protecting the public. Automatic criminal conviction is not guaranteed by misconduct within the profession, and public acknowledgment with no penalties misstates the seriousness of professional discipline. Financial penalties to the client are not a direct consequence of the Bar's misconduct sanctions; while a client might seek civil damages for negligence, that is a separate civil matter, not a Bar-imposed penalty.

4. What is the principle behind maintaining professional independence from commercial interests?

- A. To maximize billable hours.
- B. To align with commercial sponsors regardless of case facts.
- C. To ensure advocacy is driven by truth and client interest, not by unrelated financial or commercial pressures.**
- D. To prioritize the barrister's personal profits.

Maintaining professional independence from commercial interests means advocacy is driven by truth and the client's interests, free from unrelated financial or commercial pressures. This safeguards the integrity of the process and helps ensure arguments and decisions rest on facts and the law, not on sponsorship or profitability. It also supports public confidence in the legal system and upholds duties to the client and the court, including presenting matters honestly and without undue influence. The other ideas would undermine this independence: chasing higher billables, bowing to sponsors regardless of the facts, or prioritizing personal profits all compete with the obligation to serve the client's best interests and the pursuit of justice. Therefore, the principle is to keep advocacy anchored to truth and client interest, free from external financial influence.

5. Which area is specifically addressed for costs in speculative personal injury claims?

- A. Costs in speculative personal injury claims**
- B. General contract costs
- C. Interim billing costs
- D. Disbursement costs

The main idea is recognizing that speculative personal injury claims have their own, specific framework for costs. When a question asks which area is addressed for costs in speculative personal injury claims, the focus is on the area that bears the same name and directly covers how costs are handled in those particular claims. So the best answer is the area dedicated to costs in speculative personal injury claims, because it directly pertains to the rules and practice governing those cases. The other options refer to broader cost concepts that can apply across many kinds of work, not the specialized treatment of costs in speculative personal injury matters: general contract costs are not specific to PI work; interim billing costs relate to when you charge for work during a matter; disbursement costs are outlays paid to third parties but don't capture the unique cost framework for speculative PI claims.

6. If a client denies guilt but wants to plead guilty, which approach is correct?

- A. Be sure to always urge the client to plead guilty to minimize risk
- B. Generally advise a defendant not to plead guilty unless they committed the offence charged, and seek to ascertain the client's reasons if they insist**
- C. Inform the client that a guilty plea guarantees acquittal
- D. Never advise a client on whether to plead guilty

When a client denies guilt but wants to plead guilty, the priority is to ensure the decision is informed and voluntary. The best approach is to generally advise not to plead guilty unless the client actually committed the offence charged, and to seek to understand the client's reasons if they insist. This respects the client's position and avoids pressuring them into an admission of guilt. It also gives you a clear opportunity to lay out what a guilty plea would mean—admitting guilt, the potential sentence outcome, and how it might affect future options—so the client can weigh the real consequences. If the client continues to insist on pleading guilty, you should explore their reasons—for example whether they see a beneficial plea bargain, whether they believe there is a factual basis, or whether they prefer to resolve the matter quickly. Your role is to provide honest, thorough guidance and ensure the plea is voluntary and based on an informed understanding of the evidence and consequences. This approach aligns with acting in the client's best interests and maintaining the integrity of the process.

7. Which duty requires a barrister to inform the client if they cannot comply with court timelines or complete work promptly?

- A. The barrister must inform only if the client asks.
- B. The barrister must inform the court but not the client.
- C. The barrister must inform the client if unable to comply with court timelines or complete work promptly.**
- D. The barrister must ignore minor delays to avoid upsetting the client.

The important obligation here is for a barrister to keep the client informed when they cannot meet court timelines or complete work promptly. This reflects the duty to communicate openly with the client about developments affecting the matter, so the client can make informed decisions—such as requesting an extension, adjusting strategy, or reassigning tasks. The information is meant for the client, not primarily for the court, and the duty is triggered by the barrister recognizing the potential delay, not waiting for the client to ask. Proactively informing the client is required even for minor delays rather than ignoring them.

8. If ethics training or advisory opinions are provided, how should a barrister respond?

- A. Ignore guidance if it seems too strict.
- B. Review and apply the guidance to practice, and consult when faced with ambiguous situations.
- C. Only consult when mandatory by law.**
- D. Apply guidance unless it contradicts client desires.

Engage with ethics guidance actively. When ethics training or advisory opinions are provided, a barrister should review the material, apply the guidance to everyday practice, and seek clarification or consult when a situation is ambiguous or raises ethical questions. This approach keeps decisions aligned with professional standards and supports consistent, responsible conduct across cases. Ignoring guidance isn't appropriate because ethics resources exist to improve practice and prevent breaches. Limiting consultation to situations mandated by law is too narrow; complex or unclear ethical issues often benefit from proactive guidance, discussion, or advice, even if not legally required. Applying guidance only if it aligns with client desires is incorrect because ethical duties can constrain client requests; the barrister's obligations to integrity, independence, and the administration of justice take precedence.

9. Which duty describes a prosecutor's disclosure obligation?

- A. The prosecutor must disclose all relevant material to the defense, except if it threatens the administration of justice or safety.**
- B. The prosecutor may withhold material if the defense asks.
- C. The prosecutor must disclose only if the defense can prove relevance.
- D. The prosecutor must disclose all non-confidential material as a general rule.

The main idea is the prosecutor's duty to disclose all material that could be relevant to the defense and the fairness of the trial. In practice, that means sharing evidence that might undermine the prosecution's case or support the defense, not just what helps the state. The obligation is broad and ongoing, with a narrow carve out for situations where disclosure would threaten the administration of justice or safety. That's why the option that states the prosecutor must disclose all relevant material to the defense, except for those limited safety or justice concerns, best fits. The other statements misstate the duty by allowing withholding on request, tying disclosure to a proving of relevance, or limiting it to non-confidential material.

10. If a barrister is briefed, to whom must sufficient information be disclosed to enable compliance with obligations to inform the client about the barrister's practice?

- A. The client directly
- B. The opposing party
- C. The instructing solicitors**
- D. The regulatory authority

When a barrister is briefed, the information about the barrister's practice that the client needs to know is conveyed through the instructing solicitors. The barrister provides sufficient details to the solicitor—such as area of expertise, experience, any conflicts, and fee arrangements—and the solicitor then informs the client as part of the briefing process. The client typically interacts with the solicitor as the briefing intermediary, so the solicitor has the duty to ensure the client understands who will be acting and what the barrister's practice entails. The other parties listed aren't responsible for conveying these routine disclosures: the opposing party has no role in informing the client about the barrister's practice, and the regulatory authority would not handle ordinary informational disclosures in this briefing context. Direct access scenarios aside, the correct channel for enabling the client to be informed is the instructing solicitors.

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!

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