

RUTGERS MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://rutgersmedterms.examzify.com>



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	15

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. What does the suffix -malacia imply in medical terminology?
 - A. Abnormal hardening
 - B. Abnormal softening
 - C. Normal growth
 - D. Abnormal swelling
2. What is the meaning of the prefix "crin/o"?
 - A. To secrete
 - B. To absorb
 - C. To divide
 - D. To filter
3. Which combining form represents the concept of shape?
 - A. muc/o
 - B. myc/o
 - C. morph/o
 - D. mort/o
4. The term "glossitis" relates specifically to which part of the body?
 - A. The lungs
 - B. The tongue
 - C. The stomach
 - D. The skin
5. What does the suffix "-itis" typically denote?
 - A. Pertaining to inflammation
 - B. Childbirth
 - C. Weakness
 - D. Ear condition
6. What is the meaning of the suffix "-rrhaphy"?
 - A. process of visually examining
 - B. to suture
 - C. discharge
 - D. involuntary muscle contraction

7. Which term is associated with the action "to cut"?

- A. Tom/o
- B. Phleb/o
- C. Cardi/o
- D. Stom/o

8. What does the root "cerumin/o" refer to?

- A. Earwax
- B. Nerve
- C. Blood
- D. Muscle

9. The suffix "-ism" refers to which of the following?

- A. Action
- B. Pertaining to
- C. State of
- D. Specialist

10. Which prefix means 'false'?

- A. Pro-
- B. Pseudo-
- C. Re-
- D. Sub-

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What does the suffix -malacia imply in medical terminology?

- A. Abnormal hardening
- B. Abnormal softening**
- C. Normal growth
- D. Abnormal swelling

The suffix -malacia in medical terminology refers specifically to abnormal softening of tissue or an organ. This term is often used in various medical conditions to describe the state where normal tissue has become unusually soft, which can indicate an underlying pathology or disease process. For example, osteomalacia refers to the softening of bones, usually due to vitamin D deficiency. In contrast, the other options indicate different conditions: abnormal hardening would be described using the suffix -sclerosis; normal growth is associated with terms using -plasia; and abnormal swelling is often denoted by -edema. These differences in suffixes highlight specific pathological changes, making it important to accurately choose terms that precisely describe the nature of the condition being discussed.

2. What is the meaning of the prefix "crin/o"?

- A. To secrete**
- B. To absorb
- C. To divide
- D. To filter

The prefix "crin/o" specifically denotes the action of secretion. This term originates from the Greek word "krinein," which means "to separate" or "to distinguish," and in the context of medical terminology, it refers to the process by which glands produce and release substances such as hormones or other fluids necessary for bodily functions. Understanding this prefix is crucial in various fields of medicine, particularly in endocrinology, where the focus is on glands and the hormones they secrete. The other choices represent different physiological processes that do not align with the definition of "crin/o." For example, to absorb relates to the uptake of substances, to divide pertains to splitting or partitioning, and to filter is concerned with the removal of impurities or unwanted substances. However, none of these terms encompass the specific action of secretion denoted by "crin/o."

3. Which combining form represents the concept of shape?

- A. muc/o
- B. myc/o
- C. morph/o**
- D. mort/o

The combining form that represents the concept of shape is morph/o. This term is derived from the Greek word "morphē," which means form or shape. In medical terminology, morph/o is often used in various contexts, such as in terms that describe the shape of cells or anatomical structures. For instance, "morphology" refers to the study of the form and structure of organisms or their specific parts. Understanding this combining form is crucial for recognizing and interpreting medical terms related to the structure and shape of biological entities. In contrast, the other combining forms have distinct meanings unrelated to shape. Muc/o pertains to mucus or mucous membranes, myc/o relates to fungi, and mort/o is associated with death. Each of these terms serves a specific function within medical vocabulary, but none conveys the concept of shape like morph/o does. This distinction reinforces the significance of mastering combining forms in medical terminology.

4. The term "glossitis" relates specifically to which part of the body?

- A. The lungs
- B. The tongue**
- C. The stomach
- D. The skin

The term "glossitis" specifically refers to inflammation of the tongue. This term is derived from the Greek word "glossa," which means tongue, combined with the suffix "-itis," indicating inflammation. Therefore, when a medical professional uses the term glossitis, they are specifically addressing a condition that affects the tongue, which can result in symptoms such as swelling, redness, pain, and changes in color or texture. This makes the term distinctly related to the tongue as opposed to other parts of the body, ensuring clarity in medical communication regarding oral health.

5. What does the suffix "-itis" typically denote?

- A. Pertaining to inflammation**
- B. Childbirth
- C. Weakness
- D. Ear condition

The suffix "-itis" is commonly used in medical terminology to denote inflammation. When it is attached to the name of an organ or tissue, it signifies that there is an inflammatory condition affecting that specific area. For example, "arthritis" refers to inflammation of the joints, and "gastritis" refers to inflammation of the stomach lining. The use of "-itis" indicates the presence of an inflammatory process, which can manifest through various symptoms such as pain, swelling, redness, and heat in the affected area. This distinction is essential for healthcare professionals in diagnosing and treating conditions associated with inflammation.

6. What is the meaning of the suffix "-rrhaphy"?

- A. process of visually examining
- B. to suture**
- C. discharge
- D. involuntary muscle contraction

The suffix "-rrhaphy" is commonly used in medical terminology to refer to the surgical procedure of suturing or stitching together tissues, particularly in reference to closing a wound or a surgical incision. This term is derived from the Greek word "rhapḗ," which means "suture." When this suffix is added to a root word, it indicates that a procedure involving suturing is taking place. For example, "herniorrhaphy" refers to the surgical repair of a hernia using sutures. This is important in various medical fields, particularly in surgeries where tissue integrity must be restored following an operation or injury. In contrast, the other options represent different processes in medicine: visual examination pertains to diagnostic procedures, discharge refers to the release of substances such as fluids, and involuntary muscle contraction involves the action of muscles that operate without conscious control. Thus, the focus on suturing in the correct answer distinctly aligns with the literal meaning of "-rrhaphy," making it the accurate choice.

7. Which term is associated with the action "to cut"?

- A. Tom/o**
- B. Phleb/o
- C. Cardi/o
- D. Stom/o

The term associated with the action "to cut" is derived from the root "tom/o," which comes from the Greek word "tome," meaning "to cut." In medical terminology, this root is commonly used in words related to surgical procedures or surgical instruments designed for incising tissue. For example, "anatomy," which refers to the study of the structure of organisms, literally means "to cut apart." This showcases the significance of "tom/o" in medical contexts, particularly in surgery and dissection. The other terms refer to different anatomical concepts: "phleb/o" relates to veins, specifically referring to the study or treatment of venous structures; "cardi/o" pertains to the heart; and "stom/o" typically references the mouth or mouth-like openings. Each of these roots has its own specific meaning and is not aligned with the action of cutting. In the context of surgical terminology, "tom/o" is the clear choice for describing the action "to cut."

8. What does the root "cerumin/o" refer to?

- A. Earwax**
- B. Nerve
- C. Blood
- D. Muscle

The root "cerumin/o" specifically refers to earwax. This term is derived from "cerumen," which is the medical term for the yellowish, waxy substance produced in the ear canal. Earwax plays an essential role in maintaining ear health by trapping dust and other foreign particles, as well as providing lubrication to prevent dryness and irritation within the ear canal. Understanding this root is important in the context of medical terminology because it relates to conditions and treatments associated with the ears, such as earwax buildup or impaction. The other terms provided in the options pertain to different parts of the body: nerve is often associated with terms like "neur/o," blood with "hem/o" or "sanguin/o," and muscle with "my/o."

9. The suffix "-ism" refers to which of the following?

- A. Action
- B. Pertaining to
- C. State of**
- D. Specialist

The suffix "-ism" denotes a state of being, condition, or theory. It is commonly used in medical terminology as well as in other fields to describe a particular philosophical or ideological doctrine, or a pathological condition. For example, "hypothyroidism" refers to a state of having an underactive thyroid, which exemplifies how the suffix indicates a condition related to the thyroid's function. This understanding of "-ism" as indicating a specific state or condition is what makes it the correct choice in the context of this question. Other suffixes mentioned in the options have distinct meanings: "action" is often represented by "-tion" or "-sion," "pertaining to" is typically conveyed by "-al" or "-ic," while "specialist" is marked by the suffix "-ist." These distinctions clarify why "-ism" specifically connects to a condition or state, reinforcing its specific use in medical terminology.

10. Which prefix means 'false'?

- A. Pro-
- B. Pseudo-**
- C. Re-
- D. Sub-

The prefix that means 'false' is "pseudo-." This prefix is derived from the Greek word "pseudes," which translates to 'lying' or 'false.' It is commonly used in medical terminology and other scientific fields to indicate a resemblance to something but not quite the same; for example, "pseudopregnancy" refers to a condition resembling pregnancy but without the actual presence of a fetus. In contrast, the other prefixes have different meanings: "pro-" typically means 'for' or 'in favor of,' "re-" indicates 'again' or 'back,' and "sub-" refers to 'under' or 'below.' Understanding these prefixes is essential for decoding complex medical terms accurately and provides foundational knowledge for further study in medical terminology.

SAMPLE

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://rutgersmedterms.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE