

San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD) Practice Exam (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. What defines the age for a legally self-sufficient minor in the context of medical decision-making?**
 - A. 15 years and living with parents**
 - B. 15 years and living apart from parents**
 - C. 16 years and financially dependent**
 - D. 18 years and independent**

- 2. What kind of environment does the Sobering Center provide?**
 - A. Clinical and Sterile**
 - B. Safe and Supportive**
 - C. Private and Isolated**
 - D. Open and Public**

- 3. What is meant by AMA in a medical context?**
 - A. Against Medical Assistance**
 - B. Against Medical Advice**
 - C. Authorized Medical Act**
 - D. Advanced Medical Assessment**

- 4. Which station is assigned to adult CPR training in the SFFD?**
 - A. Station 1**
 - B. Station 7**
 - C. Station 39**
 - D. Station 15**

- 5. In addition to firefighting, what is a primary function of SFFD?**
 - A. Community fundraising**
 - B. Fire prevention education**
 - C. Building construction**
 - D. Traffic control**

- 6. At what age is an individual legally defined as an adult?**
- A. 16 years**
 - B. 17 years**
 - C. 18 years**
 - D. 21 years**
- 7. What critical skill is imparted through water rescue training?**
- A. Navigation of water currents**
 - B. Creation of fire breaks**
 - C. Advanced vehicle operation techniques**
 - D. Construction of temporary shelters**
- 8. What is a critical factor in determining when to cease resuscitation efforts according to SFFD guidelines?**
- A. Age of the individual**
 - B. Time since last known heartbeat**
 - C. Duration of submersion**
 - D. Witnessed cardiac arrest**
- 9. Which of the following is NOT considered a stroke center in San Francisco?**
- A. Mission Bernal**
 - B. UCSF Medical Center**
 - C. SF General Hospital**
 - D. Kaiser Foundation Hospital**
- 10. What is the purpose of the SFFD's Fire Investigation Unit?**
- A. To train new firefighters**
 - B. To investigate and determine the cause of fires**
 - C. To conduct fire drills in schools**
 - D. To manage fire station operations**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What defines the age for a legally self-sufficient minor in the context of medical decision-making?

- A. 15 years and living with parents
- B. 15 years and living apart from parents**
- C. 16 years and financially dependent
- D. 18 years and independent

The age for a legally self-sufficient minor in the context of medical decision-making is defined as an individual who is 15 years old and living apart from their parents. This status recognizes that a minor can make their own medical decisions when they are sufficiently independent and not reliant on parental care or support. Living apart from parents indicates a level of maturity and autonomy, allowing minor individuals to navigate health care decisions without needing parental consent. This is particularly relevant in medical contexts where prompt decisions are critical, and minors exhibit the capacity to understand treatment options and outcomes. The other options do not align with this legal definition. A 15-year-old living with parents does not demonstrate the necessary independence needed for self-sufficiency in decision-making. Being 16 years old but still financially dependent does not grant independence either, as financial support typically correlates with parental authority in medical matters. Lastly, while an 18-year-old is recognized as an adult, the focus here is on minors, making this option irrelevant. Therefore, being a 15-year-old living apart from parents is the key stipulation for being considered legally self-sufficient in making medical decisions.

2. What kind of environment does the Sobering Center provide?

- A. Clinical and Sterile
- B. Safe and Supportive**
- C. Private and Isolated
- D. Open and Public

The Sobering Center is designed to offer a safe and supportive environment for individuals who are under the influence of substances. This type of setting is crucial for ensuring the well-being of individuals who may be experiencing acute intoxication or withdrawal symptoms. The emphasis on safety means that the center provides a space where individuals can recover without the risks associated with being in public or unsupervised environments. Supportive environments are staffed with trained professionals who can provide assistance and reassurance, facilitating a calming atmosphere. This approach not only aids in the immediate health and safety of those being served but also fosters a sense of dignity and respect, encouraging individuals to seek further help if needed. Furthermore, a safe and supportive setting helps reduce the stigma often associated with substance use issues. This environment not only prioritizes the immediate physical safety of the individuals but also promotes their emotional and psychological well-being, making it conducive for potential further interventions and recovery processes.

3. What is meant by AMA in a medical context?

- A. Against Medical Assistance
- B. Against Medical Advice**
- C. Authorized Medical Act
- D. Advanced Medical Assessment

In a medical context, AMA stands for "Against Medical Advice." This term is used when a patient decides to leave a medical facility or refuse treatment despite being advised by healthcare professionals to remain or to follow a specific treatment plan. This situation can occur for various reasons, including personal beliefs, financial constraints, or dissatisfaction with the care being received. When a patient chooses to leave against medical advice, it is crucial for healthcare providers to ensure that the patient fully understands the potential risks and consequences of their decision. Documentation of the patient's choice and the medical advice given is also important for legal and safety reasons. The other options reflect different phrases that do not accurately capture the meaning of AMA in this context. For instance, "Authorized Medical Act" may suggest a procedure or action officially permitted within a medical setting, while "Advanced Medical Assessment" refers to a detailed evaluation process, and "Against Medical Assistance" does not have a recognized relevance in medical parlance, making them incorrect interpretations of AMA.

4. Which station is assigned to adult CPR training in the SFFD?

- A. Station 1
- B. Station 7
- C. Station 39**
- D. Station 15

The assignment of adult CPR training to Station 39 within the San Francisco Fire Department highlights its role in community engagement and public safety education. Station 39 may be specifically equipped and staffed to facilitate CPR training sessions, ensuring that members of the community receive proper instruction from trained professionals. This station's unique focus on significant lifesaving skills contributes to the overall preparedness of the community, emphasizing the importance of being able to respond effectively in emergency situations. Furthermore, the strategic positioning of Station 39 allows for accessibility to various populations, maximizing outreach efforts for CPR education. Understanding the responsibilities and specialization of each station can help members of the community know where to go for training and resources, enhancing their ability to respond to emergencies with confidence and competence.

5. In addition to firefighting, what is a primary function of SFFD?

- A. Community fundraising**
- B. Fire prevention education**
- C. Building construction**
- D. Traffic control**

The primary function of the San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD), beyond firefighting, includes fire prevention education. This aspect involves educating the community about fire risks, safety practices, and preventative measures to mitigate the chances of fire incidents. By engaging with the public through educational programs, the SFFD aims to foster a safer environment, thereby reducing the occurrence and impact of fires. This proactive approach not only informs citizens about how to protect themselves and their property but also promotes a culture of safety. While community fundraising, building construction, and traffic control may play roles in supporting the overall operations of a fire department, they do not directly align with the core mission of the SFFD related to fire response and prevention. Fundraising efforts typically focus on financial support for equipment and outreach programs rather than serving as a primary function. Building construction is not a direct responsibility of the SFFD; that role falls more within the domain of urban planning and development. Traffic control may be part of incident response procedures, but it is not an overarching function of the department. Thus, fire prevention education stands out as a fundamental and essential component of the SFFD's mission.

6. At what age is an individual legally defined as an adult?

- A. 16 years**
- B. 17 years**
- C. 18 years**
- D. 21 years**

An individual is legally defined as an adult at the age of 18 years in most jurisdictions, including the United States. This age marks the transition from childhood to adulthood, granting individuals the full legal rights and responsibilities that come with being an adult. At this age, a person can enter into contracts, vote in elections, and be tried as an adult in the criminal justice system. The establishment of 18 years as the age of majority is also significant in various legal contexts, such as the ability to serve in the military, obtain a driver's license independently, and manage personal finances. While some activities may have different legal ages (for instance, 21 years for alcohol consumption), 18 is recognized as the standard age when individuals are considered fully responsible for their actions under the law. This understanding is crucial for various legal, social, and civic responsibilities that begin when a person reaches this age.

7. What critical skill is imparted through water rescue training?

- A. Navigation of water currents**
- B. Creation of fire breaks**
- C. Advanced vehicle operation techniques**
- D. Construction of temporary shelters**

The critical skill imparted through water rescue training is the navigation of water currents. This aspect of training is vital for first responders as it equips them with the knowledge and skills necessary to assess and understand the dynamics of water flow, which can pose significant hazards during rescue operations. Understanding how to navigate water currents allows rescuers to approach victims safely and effectively while minimizing the risks to both themselves and those they are trying to save. Training in this area includes learning about different types of currents, recognizing hazardous conditions, and determining the safest routes for maneuvering through water. This foundational skill is crucial because successful water rescues often depend on the ability to work with the current rather than against it, ensuring that rescue efforts are both efficient and safe. In contrast, the other options—creation of fire breaks, advanced vehicle operation techniques, and construction of temporary shelters—do not directly relate to the specific challenges and scenarios faced during water rescues. Each of these skills serves important functions in their respective areas, but they do not address the unique considerations that arise during water rescue situations.

8. What is a critical factor in determining when to cease resuscitation efforts according to SFFD guidelines?

- A. Age of the individual**
- B. Time since last known heartbeat**
- C. Duration of submersion**
- D. Witnessed cardiac arrest**

In determining when to cease resuscitation efforts according to SFFD guidelines, the duration of submersion is a critical factor. This is particularly relevant in cases of drowning or near-drowning incidents. The length of time an individual has been submerged can significantly influence their chances of survival and the potential for brain damage due to lack of oxygen. In cases of prolonged submersion, the likelihood of a successful resuscitation diminishes, as the body begins to suffer from hypoxia and other complications. Resuscitation efforts may be appropriately discontinued if the patient has been submerged for an extended period without a return of spontaneous circulation, reflecting current understanding of the viability of patients in such situations. The other factors, while they may play a role in decision-making, do not carry the same weight as the duration of submersion in the context of immediate life-saving measures. Age, time since the last known heartbeat, and whether the cardiac arrest was witnessed can all provide context for resuscitation efforts but are secondary to the critical timing associated with submersion events.

9. Which of the following is NOT considered a stroke center in San Francisco?

- A. Mission Bernal**
- B. UCSF Medical Center**
- C. SF General Hospital**
- D. Kaiser Foundation Hospital**

Mission Bernal is not considered a stroke center in San Francisco, while the other listed hospitals are designated as certified stroke centers. Stroke centers are specialized facilities equipped with the necessary resources and expertise to provide comprehensive care for stroke patients, including advanced diagnostic capabilities and immediate access to treatment options. UCSF Medical Center, SF General Hospital, and Kaiser Foundation Hospital have the necessary accreditations and facilities to handle stroke emergencies. They have trained personnel and established protocols for rapid assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of stroke patients, crucially affecting patient outcomes. Recognizing the distinction between certified stroke centers and other healthcare facilities is important, as timely and specialized medical intervention can significantly improve the prognosis for individuals experiencing strokes.

10. What is the purpose of the SFFD's Fire Investigation Unit?

- A. To train new firefighters**
- B. To investigate and determine the cause of fires**
- C. To conduct fire drills in schools**
- D. To manage fire station operations**

The purpose of the SFFD's Fire Investigation Unit is to investigate and determine the cause of fires. This unit plays a crucial role in understanding the circumstances surrounding fire incidents, which can include determining whether a fire was accidental, due to negligence, or purposely set. By thoroughly investigating fire scenes, the unit not only helps to prosecute any criminal acts related to arson but also contributes to overall fire safety by identifying trends or patterns that could inform prevention strategies. Through their work, they analyze the evidence collected and provide detailed reports that can assist in legal proceedings and enhance public safety measures. This function is vital for the community as it promotes accountability and prevents future fire incidents. Other choices do not align with the primary mission of the Fire Investigation Unit, as they relate to training or managing operations rather than focusing specifically on fire cause investigations.

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://sanfranciscofiredeptsffd.examzify.com>

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

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