

Saunders Anxiety 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

- 1. What are common signs of a panic attack?**
 - A. Increased energy and happiness**
 - B. Heart palpitations and sweating**
 - C. Loss of motivation**
 - D. Heightened awareness of surroundings**
- 2. A client is anxious about a blood transfusion and the risk of infection. What action should the nurse recommend to minimize this risk?**
 - A. Ask a friend or family member to donate blood ahead of time**
 - B. Arrange an autologous blood donation before the planned surgery**
 - C. Take iron supplements before surgery to boost hemoglobin levels**
 - D. Request that any donated blood be screened twice by the blood bank**
- 3. Which of the following is a common physical response to extreme anxiety?**
 - A. Increased appetite**
 - B. Excessive sleeping**
 - C. Trembling or shaking**
 - D. Concentration improvement**
- 4. When dealing with anxiety in a client, what should the nurse assess for concurrent disorders?**
 - A. Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**
 - B. Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)**
 - C. Generalized anxiety disorder**
 - D. Sedative use disorder**
- 5. When caring for clients experiencing anxiety, what is one appropriate intervention?**
 - A. Encouraging high energy activities to distract them**
 - B. Reassuring clients to stay silent about their feelings**
 - C. Staying with the client for comfort**
 - D. Focusing solely on their physical complaints**

- 6. What effect does regular mindfulness practice have on anxiety levels?**
- A. It increases anxiety by focusing on negative thoughts**
 - B. It has no effect on anxiety levels**
 - C. It helps in developing a more balanced emotional perspective**
 - D. It eliminates the need for any other form of therapy**
- 7. What should a nurse prioritize when caring for anxious clients?**
- A. Providing detailed explanations of medical procedures.**
 - B. Creating a calm environment and offering support.**
 - C. Using strict medical terminology.**
 - D. Encouraging independence in decision-making.**
- 8. What are avoidance behaviors?**
- A. Actions taken to confront anxiety-provoking situations**
 - B. Actions taken to avoid encountering anxiety-provoking situations**
 - C. Strategies used to enhance relaxation**
 - D. Physical exercises aimed at reducing stress**
- 9. How do beta-blockers help manage anxiety?**
- A. They enhance cognitive behavior therapy**
 - B. They reduce the physical symptoms of anxiety, such as rapid heartbeat and shaking**
 - C. They increase energy levels**
 - D. They are a form of self-care practice**
- 10. When a client expresses anxiety about an upcoming surgery, which response by the nurse encourages further discussion?**
- A. "If it's any help, everyone is nervous before surgery."**
 - B. "I will be happy to explain the entire surgical procedure to you."**
 - C. "Can you share with me what you've been told about your surgery?"**
 - D. "Let me tell you about the care you'll receive after surgery."**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. What are common signs of a panic attack?

- A. Increased energy and happiness**
- B. Heart palpitations and sweating**
- C. Loss of motivation**
- D. Heightened awareness of surroundings**

The presence of heart palpitations and sweating is indeed indicative of a panic attack. During a panic attack, individuals often experience intense physical symptoms that can include a racing heart, palpitations, profuse sweating, and a sense of impending doom. These symptoms arise due to the body's fight-or-flight response, which is a physiological reaction to perceived danger or threat. This response triggers the autonomic nervous system, leading to heightened heart rate and increased perspiration as part of the body's preparation to respond to a stressful situation. Recognizing these physical manifestations is crucial for understanding panic attacks and responding appropriately to help those affected manage their symptoms.

2. A client is anxious about a blood transfusion and the risk of infection. What action should the nurse recommend to minimize this risk?

- A. Ask a friend or family member to donate blood ahead of time**
- B. Arrange an autologous blood donation before the planned surgery**
- C. Take iron supplements before surgery to boost hemoglobin levels**
- D. Request that any donated blood be screened twice by the blood bank**

The recommended action for minimizing the risk of infection during a blood transfusion is to arrange an autologous blood donation before the planned surgery. Autologous blood donation involves the patient donating their own blood prior to the procedure, which eliminates the risk of transmitting infections from donor blood, as the blood is their own. This method not only reduces the risk of infection but also addresses concerns over potential allergic reactions and blood type compatibility. In this scenario, while options like asking a friend or family member to donate (which can introduce risks associated with blood from others), taking iron supplements (which would help with anemia but does not directly reduce infection risk), and requesting additional screening for donated blood (which is a good practice but does not eliminate the underlying risk associated with using donor blood) may seem beneficial, they do not provide the same level of protection against infection as an autologous blood donation. Therefore, this approach is the most effective recommendation to alleviate the client's anxiety and concerns about the potential risks associated with blood transfusions.

3. Which of the following is a common physical response to extreme anxiety?

- A. Increased appetite**
- B. Excessive sleeping**
- C. Trembling or shaking**
- D. Concentration improvement**

Trembling or shaking is a well-documented physical manifestation of extreme anxiety. When an individual experiences high levels of anxiety, the body enters a heightened state of arousal due to the activation of the sympathetic nervous system, often referred to as the "fight or flight" response. This physiological response can lead to various symptoms, including tremors or shakes as muscles tense up and energy levels rise in preparation for a perceived threat. Understanding the nature of anxiety responses helps emphasize that they typically involve heightened physiological reactions rather than comforting behaviors such as increased appetite or excessive sleeping. In fact, many people may experience a decrease in appetite when they are anxious. Similarly, concentration improvement is not typically associated with anxiety; rather, anxiety often impairs concentration and cognitive function. Recognizing tremors or shaking as a common physical response allows individuals to better understand their symptoms and seek appropriate support or intervention when facing anxiety-related challenges.

4. When dealing with anxiety in a client, what should the nurse assess for concurrent disorders?

- A. Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**
- B. Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)**
- C. Generalized anxiety disorder**
- D. Sedative use disorder**

The correct choice highlights the importance of recognizing posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a concurrent disorder when assessing a client dealing with anxiety. PTSD is often interconnected with anxiety disorders, as individuals who experience traumatic events may develop heightened anxiety symptoms as a reaction to their trauma. Anxiety is a core feature of PTSD, and clients may present with symptoms such as hypervigilance, avoidance of reminders of the trauma, and intrusive thoughts, all of which overlap significantly with various anxiety disorders. In the context of anxiety assessment, considering PTSD is vital because it can influence the severity and management of anxiety symptoms. Understanding the client's full psychological profile, including any potential trauma history, allows for a more comprehensive and tailored approach to treatment. Other disorders listed, such as obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and generalized anxiety disorder, can certainly co-occur with anxiety and may present similar symptoms. However, PTSD is explicitly noted for its strong link to anxiety arising from traumatic experiences, underscoring the necessity for assessment in clients who may have faced significant trauma. Similarly, while sedative use disorder may relate to anxiety management, it does not have the same direct relationship with anxiety disorders as PTSD does, making the assessment of PTSD particularly crucial in this context.

5. When caring for clients experiencing anxiety, what is one appropriate intervention?

- A. Encouraging high energy activities to distract them**
- B. Reassuring clients to stay silent about their feelings**
- C. Staying with the client for comfort**
- D. Focusing solely on their physical complaints**

Staying with the client for comfort is an appropriate intervention when caring for individuals experiencing anxiety. This approach helps to establish a sense of security and safety, which can be crucial for someone who is feeling overwhelmed or distressed. The presence of a calm and supportive caregiver can provide reassurance, allowing the client to feel less isolated in their anxiety. By offering companionship and validating their feelings, healthcare professionals can contribute to a more supportive environment that may help mitigate the intensity of the client's anxiety. In contrast, encouraging high-energy activities might distract the client but could also potentially exacerbate anxiety or create further agitation. Reassuring clients to remain silent about their feelings can prevent them from expressing important emotions and inhibit their ability to process their anxiety. Focusing solely on their physical complaints may overlook the emotional and psychological aspects that are essential for comprehensive care in anxious patients. Overall, staying present with the client is a foundational intervention that can foster trust and facilitate better coping strategies.

6. What effect does regular mindfulness practice have on anxiety levels?

- A. It increases anxiety by focusing on negative thoughts**
- B. It has no effect on anxiety levels**
- C. It helps in developing a more balanced emotional perspective**
- D. It eliminates the need for any other form of therapy**

Regular mindfulness practice has been shown to significantly help in developing a more balanced emotional perspective. This is achieved by encouraging individuals to become more aware of their thoughts and feelings in the present moment, allowing them to observe anxiety without judgment. This process helps individuals detach from negative thought patterns that can lead to heightened anxiety levels. By promoting acceptance and reducing the tendency to ruminate on distressing thoughts, mindfulness can provide tools for managing anxiety more effectively. Furthermore, it enables individuals to respond to stressors with greater calmness and clarity, enhancing overall emotional regulation. This authentic engagement with the present reduces the reactivity often associated with anxiety, fostering a sense of inner peace and resilience. While mindfulness can greatly aid in managing anxiety, it is important to note that it is often most effective when used in conjunction with other therapeutic approaches, which is why it does not eliminate the need for other forms of therapy.

7. What should a nurse prioritize when caring for anxious clients?

- A. Providing detailed explanations of medical procedures.
- B. Creating a calm environment and offering support.**
- C. Using strict medical terminology.
- D. Encouraging independence in decision-making.

When caring for anxious clients, prioritizing the creation of a calm environment and offering support is essential. Anxiety often manifests with heightened stress levels and a feeling of being overwhelmed, so fostering a sense of safety and tranquility can significantly help ease the client's distress. A calm atmosphere can contribute to a patient's ability to process information more effectively and engage with the healthcare team. Offering support also involves being present and actively listening to the client's concerns, providing reassurance, and validating their feelings. This supportive approach can help build trust and facilitate open communication, which is crucial for clients experiencing anxiety. By ensuring they feel safe and supported, nurses enable clients to become more receptive to care and engage in their healing process. While detailed explanations of medical procedures can be beneficial, they can also overwhelm an anxious individual. Using strict medical terminology may confuse clients further, leading to increased anxiety instead of alleviating it. Encouraging independence in decision-making is important, but for those experiencing anxiety, it may be more beneficial to guide them gently rather than overwhelming them with too many choices at once. Thus, creating a calm and supportive environment stands out as the most effective approach when dealing with anxious clients.

8. What are avoidance behaviors?

- A. Actions taken to confront anxiety-provoking situations
- B. Actions taken to avoid encountering anxiety-provoking situations**
- C. Strategies used to enhance relaxation
- D. Physical exercises aimed at reducing stress

Avoidance behaviors refer specifically to actions taken to prevent exposure to situations or stimuli that elicit anxiety. Individuals who exhibit these behaviors often feel compelled to sidestep challenges or stressful encounters in an attempt to escape from their overwhelming feelings of fear or discomfort. This tendency can manifest in various forms, such as avoiding social gatherings, refusing to speak in public, or even staying away from certain places that trigger anxiety. By engaging in avoidance, individuals may find temporary relief from anxiety, but this behavior often reinforces the fear over time, making it harder to confront the anxiety-provoking situations in the future. This pattern can contribute to a cycle of heightened anxiety and avoidance, possibly leading to more significant issues like social anxiety disorder or agoraphobia. The other options refer to different strategies that do not align with the concept of avoidance. Confronting anxiety-provoking situations denotes exposure techniques used in therapy, strategies for relaxation enhance coping mechanisms rather than avoidance, and physical exercises target stress reduction without directly addressing avoidance behaviors.

9. How do beta-blockers help manage anxiety?

- A. They enhance cognitive behavior therapy
- B. They reduce the physical symptoms of anxiety, such as rapid heartbeat and shaking**
- C. They increase energy levels
- D. They are a form of self-care practice

Beta-blockers are specifically designed to block the effects of adrenaline, which is a hormone released during stressful situations. This action helps to mitigate the physical symptoms associated with anxiety, such as elevated heart rate, tremors, and sweating. By reducing these physiological responses, beta-blockers can help individuals feel more calm and manageable during anxiety-provoking situations, which makes option B the correct answer. The other options don't accurately represent the primary function of beta-blockers in the context of anxiety management. For instance, while cognitive behavior therapy can be enhanced through various strategies, it is not the primary effect of beta-blockers. Similarly, beta-blockers do not inherently increase energy levels or serve directly as a self-care practice in the traditional sense. Their main role is centered around alleviating the physical symptoms of anxiety to support overall comfort and composure.

10. When a client expresses anxiety about an upcoming surgery, which response by the nurse encourages further discussion?

- A. "If it's any help, everyone is nervous before surgery."
- B. "I will be happy to explain the entire surgical procedure to you."
- C. "Can you share with me what you've been told about your surgery?"**
- D. "Let me tell you about the care you'll receive after surgery."

The most effective response in encouraging further discussion is one that invites the client to share their thoughts and feelings. By asking the client to share what they have been told about their surgery, the nurse opens the door for a dialogue that can provide valuable insights into the client's understanding and emotional state. This approach helps to establish rapport, demonstrates active listening, and allows the nurse to address any misconceptions or anxiety related to the upcoming procedure. Engaging the client in this way not only validates their feelings but also empowers them to express specific concerns. This can lead to a more tailored conversation about their anxiety, ultimately helping to alleviate some of their worries and providing reassurance through the sharing of pertinent information.

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://saundersanxiety.examzify.com>

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