

# SCRIBEAMERICA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ED PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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 are the three primary routes of drug administration?**
  - A. Oral, inhaled, injected
  - B. Topical, oral, subcutaneous
  - C. Nasal, sublingual, oral
  - D. Injected, oral, transdermal
- 2. What does a positive HCG test typically indicate?**
  - A. Pregnancy
  - B. Cancer
  - C. Thyroid disorder
  - D. Heart disease
- 3. Which test is NOT part of the Cardiac Order Set?**
  - A. Troponin
  - B. CBC
  - C. Creatinine
  - D. EKG
- 4. When a patient states they have "emphysema/chronic bronchitis," what is the correct diagnosis?**
  - A. Asthma
  - B. Pulmonary embolism (PE)
  - C. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
  - D. Congestive heart failure (CHF)
- 5. What is a common diagnostic indicator of a gastrointestinal (GI) bleed?**
  - A. Elevated liver enzymes
  - B. Positive heme test in stool
  - C. Abdominal pain
  - D. X-ray findings
- 6. What is the numerical code assigned to an easily palpable (normal) pulse?**
  - A. 1+
  - B. 2+
  - C. 3+
  - D. 4+

- 7. Which of the following tests are included in the Cardiac Order Set?**
- A. Complete blood count (CBC)
  - B. C-reactive protein (CRP)
  - C. Thyroid function tests
  - D. Magnesium levels
- 8. Which associated disease is related to periumbilical pain?**
- A. Small bowel obstruction
  - B. Appendicitis
  - C. Gallstones
  - D. Diverticulitis
- 9. Which condition does the term "atrial fibrillation" specifically refer to?**
- A. Coronary artery disease (CAD)
  - B. An abnormal heart rhythm
  - C. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
  - D. Pneumonia (PNA)
- 10. Which method is used for the clinical diagnosis of asthma?**
- A. Pulmonary function tests
  - B. Clinically
  - C. Imaging studies
  - D. Allergy testing

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What are the three primary routes of drug administration?

- A. Oral, inhaled, injected
- B. Topical, oral, subcutaneous
- C. Nasal, sublingual, oral
- D. Injected, oral, transdermal

The three primary routes of drug administration encompass oral, inhaled, and injected methods. Oral administration is the most common route due to its ease and ability to deliver medication directly to the gastrointestinal tract where it can be absorbed into the bloodstream. Inhaled medications, often used for respiratory conditions, enter the body through the lungs, allowing for rapid absorption and onset of action due to the large surface area and rich blood supply in the pulmonary system. Lastly, injected routes, which include intramuscular, subcutaneous, and intravenous, provide direct entry into the bloodstream or tissues, facilitating a quick therapeutic effect. These routes are fundamental because they cover a broad spectrum of patient needs and drug characteristics, allowing for flexibility in treatment approaches. Each of the other options includes certain valid routes but does not encapsulate the three most essential forms as comprehensively as the selected answer.

## 2. What does a positive HCG test typically indicate?

- A. Pregnancy
- B. Cancer
- C. Thyroid disorder
- D. Heart disease

A positive HCG (human chorionic gonadotropin) test is primarily an indicator of pregnancy. During pregnancy, this hormone is produced by the placenta shortly after the embryo attaches to the uterine lining. HCG is the hormone that is detected by urine or blood pregnancy tests and is a reliable marker used in clinical practices to confirm pregnancy. In addition to its role in confirming pregnancy, HCG can also be involved in other conditions, such as certain types of tumors (hence why cancer appears as an option), but its most common and important association is with pregnancy. Therefore, when an HCG test yields a positive result, it is interpreted in the context of pregnancy rather than with other disorders. While HCG can be elevated in certain malignancies and conditions, such as gestational trophoblastic disease or certain testicular cancers, these scenarios are less common and usually evaluated in a different context, often requiring further investigation if initial tests are positive. Thus, the most straightforward interpretation of a positive HCG test pertains to pregnancy, making this option the most accurate response to the question.

## 3. Which test is NOT part of the Cardiac Order Set?

- A. Troponin
- B. CBC
- C. Creatinine
- D. EKG

The test that is NOT part of the Cardiac Order Set is creatinine. The Cardiac Order Set typically focuses on tests that evaluate cardiac function and identify potential myocardial damage or other heart-related issues. Troponin is a key biomarker used to assess cardiac muscle injury, making it essential in diagnosing conditions like myocardial infarction. The CBC (Complete Blood Count) helps to evaluate the overall health and detect a range of disorders, including anemia and infection, which can be relevant in cardiovascular assessments. An EKG (electrocardiogram) is critical for monitoring the heart's electrical activity and detecting arrhythmias or ischemic changes. Creatinine, while an important test for assessing kidney function, does not provide direct information regarding the heart's condition. Thus, it is not included in the standard Cardiac Order Set, which centers specifically on cardiovascular diagnostics.

**4. When a patient states they have "emphysema/chronic bronchitis," what is the correct diagnosis?**

- A. Asthma
- B. Pulmonary embolism (PE)
- C. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**
- D. Congestive heart failure (CHF)

*When a patient refers to having "emphysema/chronic bronchitis," they are describing conditions that are part of a broader term known as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Both emphysema and chronic bronchitis are chronic inflammatory lung diseases that obstruct airflow from the lungs, leading to difficulty in breathing. Emphysema involves the destruction of the alveoli (air sacs) in the lungs, which impairs gas exchange. Chronic bronchitis is characterized by chronic coughing and production of sputum due to the inflammation of the bronchial tubes. Together, they represent the two main types of COPD, which is characterized by progressive respiratory symptoms and airflow limitation. This is directly aligned with the patient's statement, as referring to both emphysema and chronic bronchitis indicates an underlying diagnosis of COPD. Recognizing this allows for appropriate management strategies, including smoking cessation, bronchodilator therapy, and corticosteroids. Other conditions listed, such as asthma, pulmonary embolism, and congestive heart failure, do not accurately reflect the characteristics of both emphysema and chronic bronchitis, thus reinforcing why the designation of COPD is the correct diagnosis in this scenario.*

**5. What is a common diagnostic indicator of a gastrointestinal (GI) bleed?**

- A. Elevated liver enzymes
- B. Positive heme test in stool**
- C. Abdominal pain
- D. X-ray findings

*A positive heme test in stool, also known as a fecal occult blood test, is a well-established diagnostic indicator of a gastrointestinal bleed. This test detects the presence of hemoglobin, indicating that bleeding has occurred somewhere in the gastrointestinal tract. A positive result suggests the need for further evaluation to localize the source of the bleed, which could be due to conditions such as peptic ulcers, diverticulosis, or malignancies. While elevated liver enzymes can indicate liver pathology and abdominal pain can also be associated with a variety of GI conditions, neither specifically points to a GI bleed. X-ray findings may help visualize certain abnormalities in the gastrointestinal tract, but they are not as direct or definitive a test for bleeding compared to the heme test in stool, which specifically targets the presence of blood. Thus, the positive heme test in stool remains the most relevant indicator when assessing for a gastrointestinal bleed.*

## 6. What is the numerical code assigned to an easily palpable (normal) pulse?

- A. 1+
- B. 2+**
- C. 3+
- D. 4+

The numerical code assigned to an easily palpable (normal) pulse is 2+. This rating system is commonly used in medical practice to describe the strength and character of a pulse, as assessed during a physical examination. A pulse rated as 2+ indicates a normal, easily palpable pulse that is strong and has a normal rhythm. This level of responsiveness means that the pulse can be felt with moderate pressure, and it is consistent with standard physiological findings in a healthy individual. In the context of the grading scale for pulse strength: - A 1+ pulse is considered weak and thready, indicating diminished blood flow or a potentially concerning clinical situation. - A 3+ pulse is described as bounding, which may suggest increased blood volume or pressure, or other cardiovascular conditions requiring further diagnostic evaluation. - A 4+ pulse is categorized as a very strong or full pulse, often seen in scenarios that may suggest significant physiological changes, such as fever or hypervolemia. Thus, the designation of 2+ serves as the standard for a normal pulse, allowing clinicians to communicate effectively about a patient's circulatory status.

## 7. Which of the following tests are included in the Cardiac Order Set?

- A. Complete blood count (CBC)**
- B. C-reactive protein (CRP)
- C. Thyroid function tests
- D. Magnesium levels

In the context of a Cardiac Order Set, it is essential to include tests that are directly relevant to assessing cardiac conditions and identifying potential heart problems. The Complete Blood Count (CBC) is commonly included because it provides important information about the patient's overall health and can indicate conditions such as anemia or infection, which may have implications for cardiac function. For evaluating cardiac issues, the CBC can inform the clinician about the patient's white blood cell count and hemoglobin levels. Anemia can exacerbate cardiac problems by increasing the workload on the heart, and elevated white blood cell counts can indicate an inflammatory or infectious process that may also impact cardiac health. While the other tests listed may be useful in specific diagnoses or broader health assessments, they are not typically part of a standard Cardiac Order Set. C-reactive protein (CRP) is associated with inflammation and may be used in certain cardiac risk assessments, but it is not as universally performed in the acute evaluation of chest pain or cardiac issues as a CBC. Thyroid function tests are relevant in the context of metabolic disorders but not routinely ordered in an immediate cardiac workup. Magnesium levels are important in evaluating electrolyte imbalances that can affect heart rhythm but are not included as a standard part of every cardiac evaluation.

## 8. Which associated disease is related to periumbilical pain?

**A. Small bowel obstruction**

B. Appendicitis

C. Gallstones

D. Diverticulitis

*Periumbilical pain is often associated with small bowel obstruction due to the pathophysiology involved in this condition. In a small bowel obstruction, the blockage prevents normal transit of intestinal contents, leading to distension and irritation of the bowel. This irritation can manifest as pain that is typically felt around the umbilical region. The pain is often described as crampy and can start as intermittent but may become more constant as the obstruction progresses. In cases of appendicitis, the pain typically starts around the umbilical area but often migrates to the right lower quadrant as the inflammation progresses, making it less characteristic of strictly periumbilical pain. Gallstones primarily cause pain in the right upper quadrant, especially after meals, and diverticulitis generally presents with left lower quadrant pain due to inflammation of the diverticula in the colon. Thus, the association of periumbilical pain with small bowel obstruction is well-established, standing out among the choices provided.*

## 9. Which condition does the term "atrial fibrillation" specifically refer to?

A. Coronary artery disease (CAD)

**B. An abnormal heart rhythm**

C. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

D. Pneumonia (PNA)

*The term "atrial fibrillation" specifically refers to an abnormal heart rhythm characterized by rapid and irregular beating of the atria, the upper chambers of the heart. This condition occurs when the electrical signals in the heart become disorganized, leading to ineffective atrial contraction and an increased risk of complications such as stroke and heart failure. Atrial fibrillation can lead to symptoms such as palpitations, shortness of breath, and fatigue, and understanding it as an abnormal rhythm is crucial in the assessment and management of patients in the emergency department. A comprehensive approach often includes identifying the presence of this arrhythmia, evaluating its cause, risk factors, and determining appropriate treatment options. The other options, while relevant to various aspects of medical practice, do not specifically define atrial fibrillation. Coronary artery disease pertains to the narrowing of coronary arteries, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is a respiratory condition, and pneumonia involves an infection in the lungs, none of which capture the essence of atrial fibrillation as an abnormal heart rhythm.*

## 10. Which method is used for the clinical diagnosis of asthma?

- A. Pulmonary function tests
- B. Clinically**
- C. Imaging studies
- D. Allergy testing

*The clinical diagnosis of asthma is primarily based on a thorough evaluation of the patient's symptoms, medical history, and physical examination. This approach allows healthcare providers to assess the presence of key symptoms like wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and cough, particularly if these symptoms worsen at night or with exercise. The clinician also considers factors such as family history and exposure to allergens or irritants. While pulmonary function tests play a crucial role in assessing lung function and can confirm the diagnosis by measuring airflow obstruction, they are typically used as part of the overall evaluation rather than as the sole method for diagnosing asthma. Imaging studies can help rule out other conditions but do not establish a diagnosis of asthma. Allergy testing may help identify specific triggers in patients with asthma but is not necessary for the diagnosis itself. Thus, the clinical evaluation method, which includes gathering comprehensive information about the patient's clinical manifestations and history, is essential for diagnosing asthma.*

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://scribeamericaemergencydept.examzify.com>

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

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