

SkillsUSA Medical Terminology 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

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- 1. A rapid heart rhythm that begins in the ventricle and may lead to cardiac arrest.**
 - A. Ventricular fibrillation**
 - B. Atrial tachycardia**
 - C. Ventricular tachycardia**
 - D. Supraventricular tachycardia**

- 2. Which term describes rapid heart rate?**
 - A. Bradycardia**
 - B. Tachycardia**
 - C. Palpitations**
 - D. Hypertension**

- 3. What is the combining form for the nose?**
 - A. Rhin/o**
 - B. Nas/o**
 - C. Otol/o**
 - D. Cran/o**

- 4. Which term describes the outer layer of bone known as the cortical bone?**
 - A. Osteoid**
 - B. Periosteum**
 - C. Chondr/o**
 - D. Cortical Bone**

- 5. What is the combining form that means joint?**
 - A. Cardi/o**
 - B. Arthr/o**
 - C. Gastr/o**
 - D. Derm/o**

- 6. Which diagnostic procedure involves a catheter passed into a vein or artery and guided into the heart?**
- A. Emesis**
 - B. Dyspepsia**
 - C. Cardiac catheterization**
 - D. Cardiomyopathy**
- 7. Lack of B12.**
- A. Raynaud's disease**
 - B. Pernicious anemia**
 - C. Electrolyte**
 - D. Phlebitis**
- 8. Which term means inflammation of the small intestine?**
- A. Colitis**
 - B. Gastritis**
 - C. Enteritis**
 - D. Diurectic**
- 9. Which term refers to the lower limb?**
- A. Lower Limb**
 - B. Osteopenia**
 - C. Radius**
 - D. Rheumat/o**
- 10. Which term describes the skull bones forming the head?**
- A. Cranium**
 - B. Skull**
 - C. Mandible**
 - D. Maxilla**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A rapid heart rhythm that begins in the ventricle and may lead to cardiac arrest.

- A. Ventricular fibrillation**
- B. Atrial tachycardia**
- C. Ventricular tachycardia**
- D. Supraventricular tachycardia**

A rapid rhythm that begins in the ventricles is called ventricular tachycardia. The ventricle origin means the electrical impulse starts below the atrioventricular node, causing the ventricles to beat rapidly. This can severely reduce the heart's ability to pump effectively, leading to low blood flow to the brain and other organs. Because the rhythm is a dangerous, fast ventricular rhythm, it can deteriorate into ventricular fibrillation, a chaotic, uncoordinated contraction that results in sudden cardiac arrest if not treated promptly. Other tachycardias originate in the atria or above the ventricles, so they don't fit the description of starting in the ventricles, making ventricular tachycardia the correct term for this scenario.

2. Which term describes rapid heart rate?

- A. Bradycardia**
- B. Tachycardia**
- C. Palpitations**
- D. Hypertension**

Rapid heart rate is described by the term tachycardia. The prefix "tachy-" means fast, and "cardia" refers to the heart, so tachycardia literally means a fast heart. In adults, a resting heart rate above about 100 beats per minute is generally considered tachycardia. This distinguishes it from bradycardia, which is a slow heart rate (usually under 60 bpm). Palpitations describe the sensation of the heart racing or pounding, but not the rate itself. Hypertension is high blood pressure, a different measurement entirely. So when the question asks for the term for a rapid heart rate, tachycardia is the correct term.

3. What is the combining form for the nose?

- A. Rhin/o**
- B. Nas/o**
- C. Otol/o**
- D. Cran/o**

In medical terms, combining forms are the building blocks you attach to other word parts to name a body part or condition. For the nose, the form most directly used to name nose-related terms is rhin/o. That root appears in words like rhinitis (inflammation of the nose) and rhinoplasty (nose surgery), making it the straightforward and common choice for nose terminology. The other options point to different areas—ot/o is for the ear, and cran/o relates to the skull—so they wouldn't be used to denote the nose. While nas/o can also refer to the nose in some contexts, rhin/o is the standard nose-specific combining form in many medical terms, which is why it's the best answer.

4. Which term describes the outer layer of bone known as the cortical bone?

- A. Osteoid
- B. Periosteum
- C. Chondr/o
- D. Cortical Bone**

The outer, dense layer of bone is cortical bone, also called compact bone. It forms a hard shell around the bone, providing most of the strength and rigidity. Osteoid is the organic matrix produced by osteoblasts before mineralization, not the outer layer. The periosteum is the fibrous membrane covering the bone, again not the bone tissue itself. The combining form chondr/o means cartilage. So cortical bone is the term that describes the outer layer.

5. What is the combining form that means joint?

- A. Cardi/o
- B. Arthr/o**
- C. Gastr/o
- D. Derm/o

Joint-related terms use the combining form arthr/o, from the Greek arthron meaning joint. This form appears in words like arthrology (the study of joints) and arthritis (inflammation of a joint). The other roots point to different body parts: cardi/o is heart, gastr/o is stomach, and dermat/o is skin. So arthr/o is the one that means joint.

6. Which diagnostic procedure involves a catheter passed into a vein or artery and guided into the heart?

- A. Emesis
- B. Dyspepsia
- C. Cardiac catheterization**
- D. Cardiomyopathy

This question tests understanding of a procedure in which a thin catheter is inserted into a vein or artery and guided into the heart to assess its function and anatomy. That description matches cardiac catheterization. Through this approach, clinicians can measure intracardiac pressures, sample blood, and use contrast dye to image the coronary arteries via angiography, helping diagnose conditions like coronary artery disease, valve problems, or congenital heart defects. The other options are not procedures: vomiting and indigestion are symptoms, and a cardiomyopathy is a heart muscle disease, not a diagnostic technique.

7. Lack of B12.

- A. Raynaud's disease
- B. Pernicious anemia**
- C. Electrolyte
- D. Phlebitis

Lack of vitamin B12 is classically caused by pernicious anemia, where autoimmune destruction reduces intrinsic factor in the stomach. Intrinsic factor is essential for B12 absorption in the ileum, so without it, B12 cannot be absorbed properly. This leads to impaired red blood cell production and a type of anemia (megaloblastic) that characterizes B12 deficiency, and can also cause nerve-related symptoms if untreated. The other terms are not linked to B12 deficiency: Raynaud's disease is a vascular spasm condition, an electrolyte issue refers to mineral imbalances in body fluids, and phlebitis is inflammation of a vein.

8. Which term means inflammation of the small intestine?

- A. Colitis
- B. Gastritis
- C. Enteritis**
- D. Diuretic

Inflammation in medical terms is shown with the suffix -itis, and the organ involved is identified by a root. For the small intestine, the root is enter- (sometimes written enter/o). Put together, enteritis means inflammation of the small intestine. The other terms point to inflammation of different organs: colitis is inflammation of the colon (large intestine), and gastritis is inflammation of the stomach. A diuretic is a drug that increases urine production, not an inflammatory condition, so it doesn't describe inflammation of any part of the digestive tract.

9. Which term refers to the lower limb?

- A. Lower Limb**
- B. Osteopenia
- C. Radius
- D. Rheumat/o

In anatomy, the lower limb refers to the leg region from the hip down to the toes. The term that designates this area is simply the lower limb (also called the lower extremity), encompassing the thigh, leg, ankle, and foot. The other terms describe different things: osteopenia is reduced bone density, radius is a bone in the forearm, and rheumat/o is a combining form used in terms about joints and rheumatic diseases.

10. Which term describes the skull bones forming the head?

A. Cranium

B. Skull

C. Mandible

D. Maxilla

Cranium refers to the bones that enclose and protect the brain, forming the main part of the head. The skull as a whole includes facial bones like the maxilla and mandible, which are not part of the cranial bones themselves. So, when describing the skull bones that form the head, cranium is the best term. The mandible is the jaw bone, and the maxilla is an upper facial bone.

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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://skillsusamedterms.examzify.com>

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

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