

SPCE 619 PROFESSIONAL ETHICS IN APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS SAFMEDS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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 is the ethical stance on fabricating or falsifying data to make results look favorable?**
 - A. It is unethical and a violation of integrity and accuracy
 - B. It is sometimes acceptable with supervisor approval
 - C. It is acceptable if it benefits the client
 - D. It has no impact on a professional reputation
- 2. Which principle means accepting and equal treatment of different individuals?**
 - A. Integrity
 - B. Inclusion
 - C. Informed Consent for Services
 - D. Limitations of Confidentiality
- 3. When collecting data, a BCBA should ensure**
 - A. Data should be collected as fast as possible, regardless of accuracy.
 - B. Data can be adjusted after review to fit outcomes.
 - C. Data should be kept private and never disclosed.
 - D. Data accuracy, reliability, and integrity; avoid fabrication or manipulation.
- 4. What is the recommended sequence when responding to threats of imminent harm?**
 - A. Assess risk, implement safety planning, inform supervisors, involve appropriate authorities if needed, and document decisions and actions.
 - B. Inform authorities first, then assess risk, and avoid documenting actions.
 - C. Implement safety planning before assessing risk, then inform supervisors.
 - D. Document decisions before taking any action.
- 5. Which practice supports ethical use of assessments by ensuring privacy and minimizing risk?**
 - A. Use coercive tactics to elicit information.
 - B. Share participants' data publicly for transparency.
 - C. Avoid consent and proceed with data collection anyway.
 - D. Use noncoercive assessment methods and minimize risks to participants, with consent and privacy protections.

- 6. Which practice involves continuously evaluating one's own or others' professional actions to improve performance?**
- A. Performance Monitoring
 - B. Research
 - C. Responsibilities to Clients
 - D. Maintaining Competence
- 7. How should confidential information stored electronically be protected?**
- A. Use secure platforms, encryption, access controls, regular audits, and policies compliant with laws and organizational standards.
 - B. Store on personal devices without password protection.
 - C. Share broadly with staff regardless of need.
 - D. Ignore updates to security policies.
- 8. Dual relationships in behavior analysis should be avoided when they could impair objectivity. Which option correctly reflects this guideline?**
- A. Dual relationships are never allowed
 - B. Dual relationships are allowed if they do not involve financial conflict
 - C. Dual relationships are an acceptable professional practice with client consent
 - D. Dual relationships should be avoided when they could impair objectivity
- 9. If a supervisor wants to discuss a client's case with another professional, which requirement applies?**
- A. Only verbal permission from the supervisor.
 - B. The client must sign a general release.
 - C. No consent needed if professional is licensed.
 - D. Proper authorization or informed consent.
- 10. What must be obtained before sharing client information for a multidisciplinary evaluation?**
- A. Court order.
 - B. Proper authorization or informed consent.
 - C. No consent needed for evaluation.
 - D. A verbal agreement from the treating clinician.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the ethical stance on fabricating or falsifying data to make results look favorable?

- A. It is unethical and a violation of integrity and accuracy**
- B. It is sometimes acceptable with supervisor approval
- C. It is acceptable if it benefits the client
- D. It has no impact on a professional reputation

Honesty in data reporting is essential to responsible practice. In applied behavior analysis, decisions about which treatment to continue or modify rely on accurate data collection and transparent reporting. Fabricating or altering results to look more favorable distorts the evidence, can lead to continuing ineffective or even harmful interventions, and violates fundamental professional responsibilities to clients and colleagues. Ethical standards require integrity and accuracy in all data and records; data fabrication breaches those standards regardless of any claimed benefit to the client because it misleads stakeholders and undermines trust in the field. It also exposes the practitioner to serious consequences, including loss of licensure and reputation. The correct approach is to report data honestly, acknowledge and document any errors, and address them openly so decisions remain truly evidence-based.

2. Which principle means accepting and equal treatment of different individuals?

- A. Integrity
- B. Inclusion**
- C. Informed Consent for Services
- D. Limitations of Confidentiality

Treating individuals with equal respect and access across diverse backgrounds is inclusion. In practice, this means creating environments and services that welcome people regardless of culture, language, ability, or other differences, so everyone has a fair opportunity to benefit from assessment and intervention. It involves using culturally responsive practices, fair assessments, and reasonable accommodations to ensure all clients can participate meaningfully and receive appropriate supports. This is the best answer because it centers on acceptance and equal treatment of diverse individuals, which is what inclusion is all about. Concepts like integrity focus on honesty and fidelity in reporting, informed consent is about obtaining permission to provide services, and the limits of confidentiality concern privacy boundaries; while important, they don't specifically address ensuring equal access and fair treatment for everyone.

3. When collecting data, a BCBA should ensure

- A. Data should be collected as fast as possible, regardless of accuracy.
- B. Data can be adjusted after review to fit outcomes.
- C. Data should be kept private and never disclosed.
- D. Data accuracy, reliability, and integrity; avoid fabrication or manipulation.**

The essential idea is that data collection must be trustworthy: measurements should truthfully reflect what happened, be consistent across observers and occasions, and remain unaltered by anyone. Accuracy ensures the numbers match real behavior; reliability means similar results when measurements are repeated or by different raters; integrity means data are not fabricated or manipulated and are kept intact for review. These standards are crucial because decisions about treatment rely on the data, and fabricating or tweaking data can lead to unsafe or ineffective interventions. While privacy and confidentiality are important in behavior analysis, they do not substitute for the need to keep data accurate and unmanipulated.

4. What is the recommended sequence when responding to threats of imminent harm?

- A. Assess risk, implement safety planning, inform supervisors, involve appropriate authorities if needed, and document decisions and actions.
- B. Inform authorities first, then assess risk, and avoid documenting actions.
- C. Implement safety planning before assessing risk, then inform supervisors.
- D. Document decisions before taking any action.

When threats of imminent harm occur, the priority is to manage risk in a way that keeps people safe, using a clear, action-oriented sequence. Start by assessing the level and immediacy of risk. This involves determining how imminent the harm is, who might be affected, and what factors could escalate or de-escalate the situation. A quick, focused risk appraisal guides what to do next and helps you choose the most appropriate safety actions. Next, implement safety planning. Put concrete steps in place to reduce risk in the moment and prevent harm. This might include increasing supervision, removing access to potential means of harm, creating space to de-escalate, and applying strategies that quell the situation while preserving dignity and safety. After safety actions are underway, inform supervisors or other relevant members of the team. Getting guidance and ensuring everyone with responsibility is aware helps maintain consistency, ethical compliance, and organizational support for the response. If the risk remains or escalates, involve appropriate authorities. This step is necessary when there is a clear danger to self or others and is required by policy or law to ensure additional protection and resources. Finally, document decisions and actions. Thorough records of the risk assessment, safety steps taken, parties notified, and outcomes provide accountability, support legal protections, and facilitate continuity of care and future planning. Rushing to notify authorities without first assessing risk, or implementing safety steps without evaluating the risk, can lead to ineffective or inappropriate responses. Similarly, documenting before taking action can delay critical safety measures. This sequence centers on making informed, timely decisions that prioritize safety while maintaining proper oversight and accountability.

5. Which practice supports ethical use of assessments by ensuring privacy and minimizing risk?

- A. Use coercive tactics to elicit information.
- B. Share participants' data publicly for transparency.
- C. Avoid consent and proceed with data collection anyway.
- D. Use noncoercive assessment methods and minimize risks to participants, with consent and privacy protections.

Protecting privacy and minimizing risk is essential when using assessments. The best approach is to use noncoercive assessment methods and minimize risks to participants, with consent and privacy protections in place. This means participation should be voluntary and free from pressure, the procedures should be as nonintrusive as possible while still obtaining useful information, and participants should understand what data will be collected, how it will be used, and who will have access to it. Privacy protections—such as de-identifying data, securely storing information, and restricting who can view or share it—reduce potential harms like breaches of confidentiality or stigma. When consent is obtained and privacy safeguards are in place, the assessment process respects individuals' rights and supports ethical practice. Coercive tactics undermine autonomy and can coerce participation, which is unethical. Publicly sharing participants' data violates confidentiality and privacy. Proceeding with data collection without consent breaches fundamental ethical obligations. Those elements run counter to professional standards, whereas the chosen approach upholds both informed consent and privacy protections.

6. Which practice involves continuously evaluating one's own or others' professional actions to improve performance?

- A. Performance Monitoring**
- B. Research
- C. Responsibilities to Clients
- D. Maintaining Competence

Performance monitoring involves continuously evaluating one's own or others' professional actions to improve performance. It encompasses regularly reviewing how interventions are implemented, checking fidelity to procedures, and using feedback and data to make improvements. The aim is ongoing quality enhancement, ensuring practices are applied correctly and outcomes are optimized. This differs from research, which is about generating new knowledge through formal investigations; from responsibilities to clients, which are ethical duties to clients; and from maintaining competence, which is about staying current with skills and knowledge through ongoing education and training. By continuously assessing how actions are carried out, practitioners can identify gaps, adjust approaches, and better support client progress.

7. How should confidential information stored electronically be protected?

- A. Use secure platforms, encryption, access controls, regular audits, and policies compliant with laws and organizational standards.**
- B. Store on personal devices without password protection.
- C. Share broadly with staff regardless of need.
- D. Ignore updates to security policies.

Protecting confidential information stored electronically relies on layered security that limits access, protects the data, and ensures accountability. Using secure platforms provides trusted infrastructure; encryption safeguards data both at rest and in transit, so even if data is accessed without authorization it remains unreadable; access controls enforce who can view or modify information and help apply the least-privilege principle; regular audits detect unusual activity, verify compliance, and drive improvements; and policies aligned with applicable laws and organizational standards ensure consistent, lawful handling of data. Together, these measures create defense in depth and reduce the risk of breaches while supporting accountability and compliance. Storing on personal devices without password protection, sharing information broadly with staff regardless of need, and ignoring updates to security policies all undermine these protections. Personal devices without protection are easy targets; broad, unnecessary sharing violates confidentiality and the need-to-know principle; and skipping policy updates leaves systems open to known vulnerabilities.

8. Dual relationships in behavior analysis should be avoided when they could impair objectivity. Which option correctly reflects this guideline?

- A. Dual relationships are never allowed
- B. Dual relationships are allowed if they do not involve financial conflict
- C. Dual relationships are an acceptable professional practice with client consent
- D. Dual relationships should be avoided when they could impair objectivity**

Maintaining objectivity is central to effective behavior-analytic practice, so relationships that mix professional duties with other roles must be avoided if they could bias judgments. Dual relationships happen when you take on another role with a client—like being a friend, family member, or business partner in addition to their clinician. Such overlaps can create conflicts of interest and power imbalances, which can skew data interpretation, treatment decisions, or how you evaluate progress. The best choice states that dual relationships should be avoided when they could impair objectivity because that captures the idea that the potential for bias or compromised judgment should guide our boundary decisions. It isn't about an absolute ban in every situation, but about protecting the evidence-based, objective stance needed to make sound clinical decisions. Why the other options don't fit as well: saying dual relationships are never allowed is too rigid and ignores the nuance that some situations may pose less risk than others; saying they're allowed if there's no financial conflict overlooks the fact that objectivity can be compromised by non-financial ties as well; and claiming they're acceptable with client consent ignores the power dynamic and the fact that client consent does not eliminate the risk to professional judgment.

9. If a supervisor wants to discuss a client's case with another professional, which requirement applies?

- A. Only verbal permission from the supervisor.
- B. The client must sign a general release.
- C. No consent needed if professional is licensed.
- D. Proper authorization or informed consent.**

Sharing a client's case with another professional must respect confidentiality, so you need proper authorization or informed consent before disclosing information. This means the client or their legally authorized representative is informed about what will be shared, with whom, for what purpose, and the potential risks, and they provide voluntary agreement. In many cases this is documented with a written release or consent form, though the exact form can vary by setting. Merely having verbal permission from the supervisor isn't sufficient, because it does not establish the client's authorization to disclose to another professional and may not be verifiable or comprehensive. Simply because a professional is licensed does not waive confidentiality, and a disclosure isn't justified by licensure. A general release can serve as proper authorization when it clearly specifies who will receive which information and for how long, but the essential requirement remains informed consent or proper authorization.

10. What must be obtained before sharing client information for a multidisciplinary evaluation?

- A. Court order.
- B. Proper authorization or informed consent.**
- C. No consent needed for evaluation.
- D. A verbal agreement from the treating clinician.

Sharing client information with other professionals for a multidisciplinary evaluation requires explicit authorization from the client or their legally authorized representative. This informed consent should be documented in writing and specify who will receive the information, what will be disclosed, the purpose of the disclosure, and the duration of the authorization. This protects confidentiality while enabling the team to coordinate the assessment and recommendations. A court order could compel disclosure, but it's a separate legal mechanism and not the usual prerequisite; without consent, disclosures would generally breach ethics and privacy rules. A verbal agreement from the treating clinician does not fulfill the client's authorization requirement, since permission to release information must come from the person whose data is being shared.

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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://spce619safmeds.examzify.com>

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

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