

# Surgical Skin Preparation and Draping Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

SAMPLE

# 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. Which item is NOT listed as a supply used to surgically prep the hand?**
  - A. Nail cleaner**
  - B. Foam scrub sponges**
  - C. Impervious sheet**
  - D. Nonsterile comb and water-soluble hair gel**
  
- 2. Duraprep is categorized as which form?**
  - A. Paint**
  - B. Spread**
  - C. Gel**
  - D. Powder**
  
- 3. Which product is described as a paint?**
  - A. Duraprep**
  - B. Chloraprep**
  - C. Prep**
  - D. Catheter**
  
- 4. Which item is NOT listed as a supply used to surgically prep the eye?**
  - A. Adhesive barrier drape**
  - B. Otic shield**
  - C. Eye sponges**
  - D. Small basins with saline solution and prep solution**
  
- 5. What is the action of Hibiclens and Exidine on Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria; Residual activity?**
  - A. Excellent; Good; Excellent**
  - B. Excellent; Excellent; Good**
  - C. Good; Excellent; Excellent**
  - D. Excellent; Poor; Excellent**

- 6. Which should never be used during prep of the eye, ear or face and is not recommended for large open wounds, burns, or infants younger than 2 months of age?**
- A. Hexachlorophene**
  - B. Iodophors**
  - C. Alcohol**
  - D. Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG)**
- 7. The patient is ready for skin prep and draping only after:**
- A. Induction of general anesthesia and intubation**
  - B. The pause**
  - C. The circulator has finished the required surgical paperwork**
  - D. The surgeon inspects the patient's surgical site skin**
- 8. During catheterization, which statement describes gloving technique and sterility?**
- A. Both hands and arms sterile**
  - B. Both hands unsterile, because this is not a sterile procedure**
  - C. One hand sterile for insertion of the catheter and using the other gloved hand for exposure of the meatus**
  - D. Both hands sterile**
- 9. Which drape is specific to Craniotomy?**
- A. Fenestrated craniotomy drape**
  - B. Two U-drapes**
  - C. Split drape**
  - D. Incise drape**
- 10. Which item is NOT listed as a supply used to surgically prep male genitalia?**
- A. Sponge forceps**
  - B. Cotton balls**
  - C. Sponges impregnated with prep solution or plain sponges**
  - D. Nail cleaner**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which item is NOT listed as a supply used to surgically prep the hand?**

- A. Nail cleaner**
- B. Foam scrub sponges**
- C. Impervious sheet**
- D. Nonsterile comb and water-soluble hair gel**

Hand surgical prep aims to clean the skin and nails and reduce microbial load while establishing a sterile field around the hands. This uses items that actually clean and prepare the skin: nail cleaner to remove debris from under the nails, and foam scrub sponges or brushes to scrub the skin evenly with antiseptic solution. An impervious sheet is part of the barrier system used in draping to maintain sterility, not a skin-cleaning agent. In contrast, a nonsterile comb and water-soluble hair gel belong to hair grooming and could introduce oils, residues, or microbes into the sterile setup, so they are not part of the hand-prep supplies.

**2. Duraprep is categorized as which form?**

- A. Paint**
- B. Spread**
- C. Gel**
- D. Powder**

The question tests how a skin prep product is delivered. Duraprep is an alcohol-based antiseptic that is applied as a thin, even coating onto the skin and allowed to dry, forming a dry film. That “paint-on” application is the defining characteristic of the paint form. It provides rapid coverage and a durable antiseptic film on the skin. It is not used as a spread (which would imply rubbing the liquid in with gauze), a gel (which is thicker and would not describe this product’s typical use), or a powder (which would leave particulates and isn’t how this prep is applied). So the correct form is paint.

**3. Which product is described as a paint?**

- A. Duraprep**
- B. Chloraprep**
- C. Prep**
- D. Catheter**

Duraprep is described as a paint because its antiseptic is applied to the skin as a film, using brush-like strokes to cover the area and then allowing it to dry. This film-forming application sticks to the skin and stays in place, providing a continuous antimicrobial barrier throughout the procedure. The term “paint” here highlights the way you apply it—coating the skin like painting a surface—rather than simply wiping on a liquid or applying a wipe. The other items listed are not described this way: they are typically used as liquids or wipes for skin prep, and a catheter is a device, not a skin-prepping product.

**4. Which item is NOT listed as a supply used to surgically prep the eye?**

**A. Adhesive barrier drape**

**B. Otic shield**

**C. Eye sponges**

**D. Small basins with saline solution and prep solution**

The key idea is identifying which supplies are used to create and maintain a sterile field around the eye during surgical prep. Adhesive barrier drapes are used to isolate the eye area from surrounding skin, helping keep the operative field clean. Eye sponges play a role in applying antiseptic around the eyelids and lashes and in blotting away excess solution while protecting the eye itself from direct contact with prep solutions. Small basins with saline and prep solution provide a controlled way to rinse, dilute, and apply the prep agents as you work around the eye. The item that does not belong to eye prep supplies is the shield designed for the ear. An otic/ear shield is used to protect the ear or area around the ear during procedures, not for preparing the eye, so it wouldn't be listed among supplies for ocular sterile prep. So, the ear shield is the one that isn't part of the eye prepping kit.

**5. What is the action of Hibiclens and Exidine on Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria; Residual activity?**

**A. Excellent; Good; Excellent**

**B. Excellent; Excellent; Good**

**C. Good; Excellent; Excellent**

**D. Excellent; Poor; Excellent**

The key idea is how these antiseptics interact with different bacteria and how long they keep working after application. Hibiclens (chlorhexidine) is known for its strong, membrane-disrupting action and for binding to skin, which gives a lasting antimicrobial effect (substantivity). Gram-positive bacteria have cell membranes that chlorhexidine can easily disrupt, and they are generally more susceptible, so the activity is described as excellent. Gram-negative bacteria have an outer membrane that can limit penetration, so the activity is good rather than excellent. Because of the skin binding and slow release, the residual antimicrobial effect of chlorhexidine is excellent. Exidine's immediate broad-spectrum bactericidal action aligns with rapid kill of both Gram-positive and Gram-negative organisms, but its residual effect is not as prolonged as chlorhexidine's; the overall pattern in this context emphasizes the superior residual activity of Hibiclens.

**6. Which should never be used during prep of the eye, ear or face and is not recommended for large open wounds, burns, or infants younger than 2 months of age?**

**A. Hexachlorophene**

**B. Iodophors**

**C. Alcohol**

**D. Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG)**

Chlorhexidine gluconate is a powerful skin antiseptic with residual activity, but it has safety limitations that make it unsuitable for certain areas and patient groups. Contact with the eye or other mucous membranes can cause chemical irritation or keratitis, so it should not be used for prepping the eye, ear, or facial regions where mucosal exposure is possible. It is also too harsh for large open wounds or burns, where its cytotoxic effects can damage viable tissue and hinder healing or increase absorption. In infants younger than about 2 months, the skin barrier is immature, increasing the risk of significant absorption and potential toxicity, so CHG is not recommended in that age group. These safety concerns explain why this antiseptic is avoided in those contexts, while other agents may be preferred depending on the situation.

**7. The patient is ready for skin prep and draping only after:**

**A. Induction of general anesthesia and intubation**

**B. The pause**

**C. The circulator has finished the required surgical paperwork**

**D. The surgeon inspects the patient's surgical site skin**

Skin prep and draping are done after anesthesia is established and the airway is secured. Induction of general anesthesia with endotracheal intubation immobilizes the patient, prevents discomfort, and protects the airway during the prep and positioning of the surgical field. This timing ensures a thorough antiseptic cleansing without movement and reduces the risk of aspiration or airway complications during airway management and positioning. The pause (time-out) is a separate safety check performed before incision, not the trigger for prepping, and while paperwork or a surgeon's skin inspection may occur earlier, they do not provide the same safety and stability required for effective skin prep. So, readiness for skin prep and draping follows successful induction and intubation.

**8. During catheterization, which statement describes gloving technique and sterility?**

- A. Both hands and arms sterile**
- B. Both hands unsterile, because this is not a sterile procedure**
- C. One hand sterile for insertion of the catheter and using the other gloved hand for exposure of the meatus**
- D. Both hands sterile**

Maintaining a sterile field during catheterization requires both hands to remain sterile. After putting on sterile gloves, all actions involved in inserting the catheter—retracting the meatus, guiding the catheter, and handling the sterile instruments—are performed with sterile hands. If either hand were unsterile, bacteria could be transferred to the catheter or insertion site, increasing the risk of infection. The entire process relies on a sterile barrier between the equipment and the patient, so both hands stay within that sterile field throughout. The other ways of framing this approach aren't consistent with sterile technique. Sterility isn't defined for the arms in this context, and making one hand sterile while the other is not would compromise the field. The procedure is performed with both hands in sterile gloves to keep everything handling sterile.

**9. Which drape is specific to Craniotomy?**

- A. Fenestrated craniotomy drape**
- B. Two U-drapes**
- C. Split drape**
- D. Incise drape**

Craniotomy requires a sterile field that gives direct, reliable access to the skull while keeping surrounding tissue protected. The fenestrated craniotomy drape is designed for this purpose: its large, head-shaped opening aligns with the scalp incision and skull exposure, providing a focused window for the surgeon to work while maintaining a sterile barrier around the operative site. The other options don't offer a cranial-specific opening: two U-drapes are general-purpose with openings not tailored to the head; a split drape creates multiple fields but isn't optimized for a single cranial window; and an incise drape is used to cover the incision after skin prep, not to establish the cranial field needed for a craniotomy.

**10. Which item is NOT listed as a supply used to surgically prep male genitalia?**

- A. Sponge forceps**
- B. Cotton balls**
- C. Sponges impregnated with prep solution or plain sponges**
- D. Nail cleaner**

The task focuses on the elements used to apply an antiseptic to the skin in a controlled, sterile way. In this context, sponge forceps are used to handle sponges without touching them with sterile gloves, cotton balls are used for cleansing and dab-application, and sponges (either plain or impregnated with prep solution) provide even, thorough coverage of the area with antiseptic. Nail cleaner, by contrast, is a product designed for cleaning fingernails and not for preparing or disinfecting the genital skin; it may contain solvents or chemicals that are inappropriate or unsafe for use on mucosal or genital skin and does not contribute to establishing a sterile prep. Therefore, nail cleaner is not listed as a supply for surgically prepping male genitalia.

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

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

**<https://surgicalskinprepdraping.examzify.com>**

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

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