

Surgical Tech - Physical Environment and Safety Standards 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. What term refers to an infection of a surgical wound acquired during the course of a procedure?**
 - A. SSI**
 - B. SEPSIS**
 - C. UTI**
 - D. SIRS**

- 2. Which item is NOT a component of the Electrosurgical Unit (ESU)?**
 - A. Battery Charger**
 - B. Generator**
 - C. Active Electrode**
 - D. Patient Return Electrode**

- 3. Which item is considered a Chemical Hazard?**
 - A. Chemical hazard**
 - B. Biological hazard**
 - C. Physical hazard**
 - D. Ergonomic hazard**

- 4. Which acronym stands for Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation?**
 - A. LASER**
 - B. LASE**
 - C. LASR**
 - D. LAZER**

- 5. Which measurement indicates the pressure difference between the operating room and surrounding areas in surgical suite standards?**
 - A. Inch water gauge**
 - B. Pascal**
 - C. psi**
 - D. bar**

- 6. What is the primary purpose of maintaining a positive pressure differential in an operating room?**
- A. To prevent external contaminants from entering**
 - B. To keep humidity high**
 - C. To maintain temperature at all times**
 - D. To reduce filtration needs**
- 7. Frozen section specimens should be sent to pathology how?**
- A. In dry form**
 - B. In saline solution**
 - C. In formalin**
 - D. In ice slurry**
- 8. What visual cue is used to separate restricted from semi-restricted areas?**
- A. Signage**
 - B. Red line on the floor**
 - C. Signage or red line on the floor**
 - D. No cue**
- 9. What does EtO stand for and what are the hazards?**
- A. Ethylene Oxide; used for sterilization; mutagenic and carcinogenic**
 - B. Ethyl Trioxide; used for disinfection; harmless**
 - C. Ethylene Oxygen; used for ventilation; inert**
 - D. Ethanol; used for cleaning; flammable**
- 10. Which of the following statements is NOT a component of the fire triangle?**
- A. Water**
 - B. Fire**
 - C. Oxygen**
 - D. Source of Ignition**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What term refers to an infection of a surgical wound acquired during the course of a procedure?

- A. SSI**
- B. SEPSIS**
- C. UTI**
- D. SIRS**

The term describes an infection that is localized to the surgical wound or the tissues around the incision and arises as a result of the surgery. This is known as a surgical site infection (SSI). It's the precise label for a wound-related infection, distinguishing it from other infections or inflammatory responses. Sepsis refers to a systemic reaction to infection that can affect organs; a urinary tract infection is an infection of the urinary tract; and SIRS is a broad systemic inflammatory response that can be caused by infection but isn't specific to a wound site. Understanding this helps focus prevention and treatment on the surgical wound itself, including sterile technique, appropriate perioperative antibiotics, and wound care.

2. Which item is NOT a component of the Electrosurgical Unit (ESU)?

- A. Battery Charger**
- B. Generator**
- C. Active Electrode**
- D. Patient Return Electrode**

The essential function of an electrosurgical unit is to deliver high-frequency electrical energy from a generator through the active electrode into the tissue and then back from the patient through the patient return electrode to complete the circuit. This energy-delivery path—generator to active electrode to tissue to return electrode back to the generator—is what makes cutting and coagulation possible. A battery charger, while it supports powering the device by recharging its internal battery, does not participate in the energy path during surgery and is not part of the ESU's operative components.

3. Which item is considered a Chemical Hazard?

- A. Chemical hazard**
- B. Biological hazard**
- C. Physical hazard**
- D. Ergonomic hazard**

Chemical hazard refers to any risk from exposure to chemicals that can injure people, such as sterilants, cleaning agents, and solvents used in the OR. The question asks which item is considered a Chemical Hazard; the term itself identifies hazards caused by chemicals, making it the correct choice. In contrast, biological hazards involve living organisms or their products; physical hazards are environmental factors like noise, heat, or radiation; ergonomic hazards involve strain from posture or repetitive motion.

4. Which acronym stands for Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation?

- A. LASER**
- B. LASE**
- C. LASR**
- D. LAZER**

The acronym LASER stands for Light Amplification by the Stimulated Emission of Radiation. This breaks down into four parts: Light is the electromagnetic energy produced; Amplification means the device increases the light's intensity; Stimulated Emission is the quantum process where an incident photon triggers another photon to be emitted with the same wavelength, phase, and direction, so the photons add up coherently; Radiation is the energy carried by those photons. The result is a highly directional, intense, coherent beam of light that can cut or coagulate tissue with precision. Other spellings either drop the final word Radiation or use an incorrect spelling, so they do not match the established term.

5. Which measurement indicates the pressure difference between the operating room and surrounding areas in surgical suite standards?

- A. Inch water gauge**
- B. Pascal**
- C. psi**
- D. bar**

Measuring the pressure difference between spaces in a surgical suite is done with an inches of water gauge because the differential is very small and back-and-forth air movement needs to be read precisely in a familiar, practical unit. Inches of water (in. w.c.) expresses how high a column of water would need to push to balance that small pressure difference, which matches the scale of-room-to-room HVAC differentials in hospital settings. This makes it easy for staff to monitor whether the operating room is maintaining the intended positive or negative pressure relative to surrounding areas, helping ensure airflow direction and sterility. Other units like Pascal, psi, or bar measure pressure too, but they are less convenient for the tiny, stable differentials used in building HVAC. They'd require constant conversion to interpret typical readings, increasing the risk of misreadings in routine checks.

6. What is the primary purpose of maintaining a positive pressure differential in an operating room?

- A. To prevent external contaminants from entering**
- B. To keep humidity high**
- C. To maintain temperature at all times**
- D. To reduce filtration needs**

Maintaining a positive pressure difference in the operating room is about protecting the sterile field from outside contamination. By keeping the room at a higher pressure than adjacent spaces, air tends to flow outward when doors or openings are present, which helps prevent microbes from entering the room. This is supported by the use of proper filtration (like HEPA) and controlled air changes to keep the air clean. Humidity or temperature are important for patient comfort and equipment, but they aren't the primary reason for the pressure setup. Likewise, positive pressure doesn't reduce filtration needs; filtration remains essential to maintain air quality.

7. Frozen section specimens should be sent to pathology how?

- A. In dry form**
- B. In saline solution**
- C. In formalin**
- D. In ice slurry**

Frozen section processing hinges on keeping the tissue unfixed and frozen until it's examined. Any liquid medium can cause partial thawing, dilution, and ice-crystal artifacts that blur cellular detail and distort architecture. Formalin fixes tissue and would prevent freezing, so it's inappropriate. Saline or water-based solutions similarly thaw the specimen, degrading its histologic quality. An ice slurry would thaw the tissue as well. By sending the specimen in dry form, you preserve its frozen state and the integrity of the tissue morphology for rapid, accurate evaluation.

8. What visual cue is used to separate restricted from semi-restricted areas?

- A. Signage**
- B. Red line on the floor**
- C. Signage or red line on the floor**
- D. No cue**

Clear visual boundaries separate restricted from semi-restricted areas to prevent contamination and ensure proper attire and behavior. Signage at entrances communicates that the space requires specific PPE and access controls, while a red line on the floor provides a continuous, easily seen boundary that guides movement and enforces the division even when doors or lighting change. Because facilities may use either cue (or both) to mark the boundary, recognizing signage or a floor line as the visual cue is the correct idea. A lack of any cue would not adequately protect sterile areas.

9. What does EtO stand for and what are the hazards?

- A. Ethylene Oxide; used for sterilization; mutagenic and carcinogenic**
- B. Ethyl Trioxide; used for disinfection; harmless**
- C. Ethylene Oxygen; used for ventilation; inert**
- D. Ethanol; used for cleaning; flammable**

EtO stands for Ethylene Oxide, a low-temperature gas used to sterilize heat-sensitive medical devices that can't be steam sterilized. The hazards come from its toxic, mutagenic, and carcinogenic nature, meaning exposure can cause genetic damage and increase cancer risk. It is also highly flammable and can form explosive mixtures in air, so sterilization systems require tight sealing, strong ventilation, and continuous gas monitoring, along with aeration to remove residual EtO before handling. Proper training, procedures, and personal protective equipment are essential to keep exposure within safe limits. The other options misname the chemical or its use and hazards—Ethyl Trioxide and Ethylene Oxygen aren't correct terms for this context, and Ethanol is a different chemical used mainly as a cleaner and is not the sterilant described here.

10. Which of the following statements is NOT a component of the fire triangle?

- A. Water**
- B. Fire**
- C. Oxygen**
- D. Source of Ignition**

The fire triangle shows three elements that must be present for a fire to occur: heat to raise fuel to its ignition temperature, fuel to feed the flames, and oxygen to sustain the chemical reaction. Water is not one of these elements. Instead, it acts to cool the fire, absorbing heat and lowering the temperature so the reaction can no longer continue. That's why water is used to extinguish fires—but it's not a basic component of what keeps a fire burning. The other concepts listed (the fire itself and a source of ignition) describe what starts or results from the process, not the three sustaining elements.

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://surgttechphysicalenvisafetystandards.examzify.com>

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

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