

SURGICAL TECH 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 category of drug does Omnipaque belong to?**
 - A. Analgesics
 - B. Antibiotics
 - C. Contrast media
 - D. Anesthetics

- 2. What is the purpose of a closed chest drainage system?**
 - A. Fluid removal
 - B. Restore negative pressure for ventilation
 - C. Prevent infection
 - D. Provide oxygen

- 3. Which hemostasis method uses vibrations to coagulate tissue without producing significant heat?**
 - A. Electrocautery
 - B. Ultrasonic coagulation
 - C. Cold therapy
 - D. Clamping

- 4. What type of defect is being repaired when the surgeon addresses a weakness in the wall of the thoracic aorta?**
 - A. Aneurysm
 - B. Stenosis
 - C. Dissection
 - D. Rupture

- 5. Which term best describes the symptom of difficulty breathing prior to anesthesia?**
 - A. Apnea
 - B. Bradypnea
 - C. Dyspnea
 - D. Tachypnea

- 6. What piece of equipment does not require a patient return electrode?**
- A. Bipolar handpiece
 - B. Monopolar cautery
 - C. Electrosurgical pencil
 - D. Dermatome
- 7. What are the two main types of surgical sutures?**
- A. Absorbable and non-absorbable
 - B. Monofilament and multifilament
 - C. Natural and synthetic
 - D. Synthetic and biodegradable
- 8. What is the generally recommended duration for a surgical hand scrub with common antiseptic cleansers?**
- A. 1-3 minutes
 - B. 3-5 minutes
 - C. 5-7 minutes
 - D. 7-10 minutes
- 9. A cloth wrapper must have a double layer of _____ threads per square inch.**
- A. 100
 - B. 140
 - C. 200
 - D. 250
- 10. What type of sterilizer utilizes steam to effectively sterilize surgical instruments?**
- A. Dry heat sterilizer
 - B. Ultraviolet sterilizer
 - C. High vacuum sterilizer
 - D. Ethylene oxide sterilizer

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What category of drug does Omnipaque belong to?

- A. Analgesics
- B. Antibiotics
- C. Contrast media**
- D. Anesthetics

Omnipaque is classified as a contrast media, which is used in medical imaging procedures to enhance the contrast of structures or fluids within the body in imaging techniques such as X-rays and CT scans. This type of drug helps to highlight areas of interest and improve the visibility of specific tissues or organs, allowing for more accurate diagnosis and evaluation of various conditions. The use of contrast media is crucial in procedures where clear imaging is essential for effective treatment planning. The other categories listed serve different medical purposes: analgesics are used for pain relief, antibiotics are aimed at treating bacterial infections, and anesthetics are employed to induce loss of sensation or consciousness during surgical procedures. Each of these categories has distinct functions that do not overlap with the purpose of contrast media. This underscores the specialized role of Omnipaque in medical imaging diagnostics.

2. What is the purpose of a closed chest drainage system?

- A. Fluid removal**
- B. Restore negative pressure for ventilation
- C. Prevent infection
- D. Provide oxygen

The purpose of a closed chest drainage system is primarily associated with fluid removal from the pleural space, which allows for proper lung expansion and function. When pleural effusions or pneumothoraces occur, these conditions can hinder the lung's ability to expand fully due to the presence of excess fluid or air. The closed chest drainage system effectively evacuates this fluid or air, thereby restoring negative pressure within the pleural cavity and promoting better lung ventilation. While restoring negative pressure is beneficial for lung mechanics and overall respiratory function, the core aim of using a closed chest drainage system is to manage pleural effusions or pneumothoraces by enabling removal of fluid or air. This helps to allow the lungs to re-inflate, maximizing their efficiency during ventilation. The other options may relate to overall patient care but do not directly describe the mechanism or primary purpose of a closed chest drainage system. Therefore, understanding its role in fluid removal is crucial for comprehending its importance in surgical and respiratory management.

3. Which hemostasis method uses vibrations to coagulate tissue without producing significant heat?

- A. Electrocautery
- B. Ultrasonic coagulation**
- C. Cold therapy
- D. Clamping

The method of hemostasis that uses vibrations to coagulate tissue without generating significant heat is ultrasonic coagulation. This technique employs high-frequency sound waves to create rapid vibrations in the tissue. These vibrations lead to cavitation, a phenomenon where microscopic bubbles rapidly form and collapse, resulting in the coagulation of blood vessels and tissue while minimizing thermal damage. In contrast, electrocautery relies on the application of electrical current to generate heat, which can potentially lead to greater thermal injury to surrounding tissues. Cold therapy involves freezing tissues to induce necrosis and manage bleeding, but it does not utilize vibrations for coagulation. Clamping mechanically occludes blood vessels but does not achieve hemostasis through vibrational mechanisms. Consequently, ultrasonic coagulation stands out for its ability to manage bleeding effectively while preserving surrounding tissue integrity through its unique mechanism of energy transfer.

4. What type of defect is being repaired when the surgeon addresses a weakness in the wall of the thoracic aorta?

- A. Aneurysm**
- B. Stenosis
- C. Dissection
- D. Rupture

When a surgeon addresses a weakness in the wall of the thoracic aorta, they are dealing with an aneurysm. An aneurysm is characterized by an abnormal bulging or dilation of a blood vessel due to weakness in the vessel wall. In the case of the thoracic aorta, this can lead to serious complications if not repaired, including rupture or dissection. The context of aneurysm repair is crucial, as the condition can lead to life-threatening situations. Aneurysms may develop silently over time and often require surgical intervention to prevent potential rupture, which poses a significant risk to the patient's life. Other conditions like stenosis, which refers to the narrowing of a blood vessel, dissection, which is a tear in the aortic wall that can lead to separation of the layers, and rupture, which is the bursting of the vessel that can lead to severe hemorrhage, are distinct from an aneurysm and involve different surgical approaches and management strategies.

5. Which term best describes the symptom of difficulty breathing prior to anesthesia?

- A. Apnea
- B. Bradypnea
- C. Dyspnea**
- D. Tachypnea

The term that best describes the symptom of difficulty breathing prior to anesthesia is dyspnea. Dyspnea refers to the sensation of breathing discomfort or difficulty, which can manifest as shortness of breath or a feeling of not getting enough air. This symptom can arise from various underlying conditions such as asthma, heart failure, or anxiety, and is particularly important to assess before administering anesthesia. The other terms describe different aspects of respiratory function: - Apnea refers to a temporary cessation of breathing. - Bradypnea indicates abnormally slow breathing. - Tachypnea refers to abnormally rapid breathing. Each of these conditions has its own implications for anesthesia management, but they do not convey the specific symptom of difficulty in breathing that dyspnea does.

6. What piece of equipment does not require a patient return electrode?

- A. Bipolar handpiece**
- B. Monopolar cautery
- C. Electrosurgical pencil
- D. Dermatome

The bipolar handpiece is the correct choice because it operates by using two electrodes that are integrated into the handpiece itself. This design allows the current to pass between the paired electrodes directly at the site of tissue being treated, eliminating the need for a patient return electrode. In contrast, monopolar cautery and electrosurgical pencils work by delivering current through a single active electrode that requires a patient return electrode to complete the electrical circuit back to the generator. The return electrode is essential for safely dispersing the electrical current away from the patient's body, reducing the risk of burns. The dermatome, used for harvesting skin grafts, may involve the use of monopolar technology and would also require a patient return electrode if it involves cauterization during the grafting process. Therefore, the bipolar handpiece stands out as the only option that functions independently of a patient return electrode.

7. What are the two main types of surgical sutures?

- A. Absorbable and non-absorbable**
- B. Monofilament and multifilament
- C. Natural and synthetic
- D. Synthetic and biodegradable

The two main types of surgical sutures are absorbable and non-absorbable. Absorbable sutures are designed to break down in the body over time, eliminating the need for removal after healing has taken place. They are composed of materials that are gradually hydrolyzed by the body's tissues, making them suitable for internal suturing where they will eventually dissolve and be absorbed. Non-absorbable sutures, on the other hand, are made from materials that do not degrade in the body and must be removed manually once healing is complete. They are commonly used in situations where long-term support is needed, such as in skin closures or in areas subject to significant tension. While other classifications, such as monofilament versus multifilament and natural versus synthetic, provide further detail about suture materials, they do not encompass the primary distinction in terms of how the sutures behave in the body after placement. Therefore, understanding the basic classification of absorbable and non-absorbable sutures is fundamental for surgical practice, as it directly influences the choice of suturing techniques based on the healing requirements of the tissues involved.

8. What is the generally recommended duration for a surgical hand scrub with common antiseptic cleansers?

- A. 1-3 minutes
- B. 3-5 minutes
- C. 5-7 minutes**
- D. 7-10 minutes

The generally recommended duration for a surgical hand scrub with common antiseptic cleansers is typically around 5-7 minutes. This duration ensures that the surgical scrub is effective in reducing the microbial count on the hands and forearms before a surgical procedure. During this time, the antiseptic solution penetrates the skin layers and provides adequate antimicrobial action, which is crucial for minimizing the risk of surgical site infections. The 5-7 minute duration allows for thorough scrubbing of all surfaces, including under the nails and between the fingers, which are often overlooked but can harbor bacteria if not properly cleaned. It's also important to note that shorter scrub times, such as 1-3 minutes, may not provide sufficient disinfection, while longer times, like 7-10 minutes, are generally unnecessary and can lead to skin irritation or damage due to overexposure to antiseptics. Therefore, the 5-7 minute guideline strikes a balance between effectiveness and skin safety.

9. A cloth wrapper must have a double layer of _____ threads per square inch.

- A. 100
- B. 140**
- C. 200
- D. 250

The requirement for a cloth wrapper to have a double layer of 140 threads per square inch is based on the need for both strength and protection in sterile environments. A fabric with this thread count achieves a balance between durability and breathability, ensuring that it can withstand the rigors of surgery while also effectively maintaining a sterile barrier during storage and transport of instruments. Using a cloth wrapper with 140 threads ensures that it can resist tearing or compromising the sterility of the wrapped surgical instruments, while also allowing for air movement, which is essential to prevent moisture accumulation. High-quality wraps contribute to effective sterilization processes, such as steam or ethylene oxide gas, which require certain fabric characteristics to ensure that the sterilant can penetrate and eliminate microorganisms. Choosing a fabric with a lower thread count may not provide adequate protection, as it could lead to weaknesses in the fabric that could result in contamination. In contrast, a higher thread count, while potentially stronger, may not be necessary and could lead to issues with breathability. Therefore, the standard of 140 threads per square inch is considered optimal in surgical contexts for ensuring both efficacy in sterilization and structural integrity.

10. What type of sterilizer utilizes steam to effectively sterilize surgical instruments?

- A. Dry heat sterilizer
- B. Ultraviolet sterilizer
- C. High vacuum sterilizer
- D. Ethylene oxide sterilizer

The type of sterilizer that utilizes steam to effectively sterilize surgical instruments is indeed a high vacuum sterilizer. This equipment uses steam under pressure, which is how it achieves deep penetration of heat into the instruments, leading to effective sterilization. The high vacuum feature is particularly important because it removes air from the sterilization chamber, ensuring that steam can contact the instruments directly and thoroughly, which is essential for effective sterilization. Other types of sterilizers listed work through different mechanisms. For instance, dry heat sterilizers use high temperatures without moisture, which can be effective but typically requires higher temperatures over longer periods. Ultraviolet sterilizers rely on UV light to eliminate microorganisms but do not provide the same level of thorough sterilization expected with steam. Ethylene oxide sterilizers use gas that requires a lengthy process and specific conditions to effectively sterilize instruments but is not based on steam.

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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://surgicaltech.examzify.com>

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

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