

# Surgical Technology for the Surgical Technologist Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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

**Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

**No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.**

**Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.**

**SAMPLE**

# 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

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the role of the anesthesia provider during surgery?**
  - A. To sterilize all surgical instruments**
  - B. To administer anesthesia and monitor patient safety**
  - C. To suture incisions after the procedure**
  - D. To prepare patient records**
  
- 2. What test is specifically designed to check for air entrapment in a pre-vacuum steam sterilizer?**
  - A. Bowie-Dick test**
  - B. Spore test**
  - C. Time-temperature test**
  - D. Biological indicator test**
  
- 3. What are typical responsibilities of a surgical technologist during a procedure?**
  - A. Preparing the patient for anesthesia**
  - B. Preparing instruments and maintaining a sterile field**
  - C. Administering medication to patients**
  - D. Performing diagnostic tests**
  
- 4. Why is proper positioning of the patient important during surgery?**
  - A. To enhance patient comfort only**
  - B. To prevent pressure injuries and ensure access to surgical sites**
  - C. To showcase surgical techniques**
  - D. To allow for better anesthesia administration**
  
- 5. What precautions should be taken with electrical equipment in the operating room?**
  - A. Complete removal of all cords**
  - B. Ensuring proper grounding and regular inspection**
  - C. Using equipment only once**
  - D. Limiting the use of electrical devices**

- 6. What would be a potential consequence of not ensuring correct surgical counts?**
- A. Reduced recovery time for the patient**
  - B. Increased patient satisfaction**
  - C. Complications and legal issues**
  - D. Improved surgical efficiency**
- 7. What is the significance of the "surgical count"?**
- A. To ensure all staff are present**
  - B. To confirm that all surgical instruments are accounted for**
  - C. To record the time taken for the procedure**
  - D. To document the types of sutures used**
- 8. What does the acronym MDR stand for in a medical context?**
- A. Multi-drug resistance**
  - B. Minimal disease recovery**
  - C. Multiple daily routines**
  - D. Massive drug reactions**
- 9. What is the term for an infection acquired within a health care facility?**
- A. Endemic**
  - B. Sporadic**
  - C. Nosocomial**
  - D. Community-acquired**
- 10. What is the primary characteristic of viruses?**
- A. They can reproduce independently**
  - B. They do not contain RNA or DNA**
  - C. They are made of living cells**
  - D. They infect bacteria only**

## Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

## 1. What is the role of the anesthesia provider during surgery?

- A. To sterilize all surgical instruments
- B. To administer anesthesia and monitor patient safety**
- C. To suture incisions after the procedure
- D. To prepare patient records

The role of the anesthesia provider during surgery is primarily focused on administering anesthesia and monitoring patient safety. This responsibility involves ensuring that the patient is appropriately sedated or anesthetized for the procedure, allowing the surgical team to perform their work without causing the patient pain or distress. The anesthesia provider must also vigilantly monitor the patient's vital signs, such as heart rate, blood pressure, and oxygen levels, throughout the surgery. This continuous observation is crucial for promptly addressing any changes that may occur during the procedure, thereby enhancing the overall safety and effectiveness of the surgical intervention. In addition, the anesthesia provider may also be involved in making decisions regarding the type and dosage of anesthesia based on the patient's medical history and the nature of the surgery. Their training and expertise are essential for managing potential complications that may arise from anesthesia during the actual surgical procedure. Overall, their role is central to the successful and safe completion of surgical operations.

## 2. What test is specifically designed to check for air entrapment in a pre-vacuum steam sterilizer?

- A. Bowie-Dick test**
- B. Spore test
- C. Time-temperature test
- D. Biological indicator test

The Bowie-Dick test is specifically designed to evaluate the efficacy of steam sterilization in pre-vacuum sterilizers by checking for air entrapment within the chamber. This test uses a special indicator tape or sheet that changes color when exposed to the right conditions of temperature and steam. The test operates on the principle that any air present in the sterilization chamber can prevent steam from effectively penetrating the items being sterilized. If air is trapped in the sterilizer, it can create cold spots where sterilization conditions are not met, potentially leading to unsterilized instruments. The Bowie-Dick test helps to confirm that the pre-vacuum phase effectively removes air, ensuring that steam can saturate the load adequately. Routine use of this test is critical in validating the performance of sterilization processes in healthcare settings, ensuring patient safety and compliance with sterilization protocols. In contrast, while spore tests and biological indicators also assess sterilization efficacy, they focus on the ability to kill specific microorganisms after a sterilization cycle has completed rather than checking for air removal. The time-temperature test simply measures the relationship between time and temperature achieved in the cycle, but does not directly evaluate air entrapment.

### 3. What are typical responsibilities of a surgical technologist during a procedure?

- A. Preparing the patient for anesthesia
- B. Preparing instruments and maintaining a sterile field**
- C. Administering medication to patients
- D. Performing diagnostic tests

A surgical technologist plays a crucial role in supporting the surgical team and ensuring the operating room functions smoothly. One of the primary responsibilities during a procedure involves preparing instruments and maintaining a sterile field. This task is essential because the integrity of the surgical environment directly impacts patient safety and the success of the surgery. Maintaining a sterile field involves various activities, such as laying out surgical instruments, ensuring that all equipment is ready for use, and adhering to aseptic techniques to minimize the risk of infections. This is vital because even a tiny breach in sterility can lead to significant complications for the patient. Additionally, having instruments prepared and easily accessible allows the surgeon to perform the procedure efficiently and effectively, minimizing the time the patient spends under anesthesia. Other responsibilities in the surgical suite, while important, fall outside the typical scope of practice for surgical technologists. For example, preparing the patient for anesthesia is primarily handled by anesthesia providers, while administering medication and performing diagnostic tests are roles designated for other medical professionals such as nurses or physicians. By focusing on instrument preparation and sterile field management, surgical technologists ensure they are instrumental in facilitating a safe and successful surgical outcome.

### 4. Why is proper positioning of the patient important during surgery?

- A. To enhance patient comfort only
- B. To prevent pressure injuries and ensure access to surgical sites**
- C. To showcase surgical techniques
- D. To allow for better anesthesia administration

Proper positioning of the patient during surgery is crucial primarily to prevent pressure injuries and ensure access to surgical sites. When a patient is positioned correctly, it minimizes the risk of skin breakdown and other complications that can arise from prolonged pressure on certain areas of the body. This is particularly important for patients who may have underlying health issues or who are undergoing lengthy surgical procedures. Additionally, the correct positioning facilitates optimal access for the surgical team to the area being operated on. It aligns the surgical site with the surgeon's line of sight and instruments, which enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of the surgical procedure. Proper positioning also ensures that critical physiological systems are not compromised, allowing for safer surgical practices. While patient comfort and the ability to showcase surgical techniques can be considerations during positioning, they do not hold the same level of priority as preventing pressure injuries and providing adequate access to surgical sites. Better anesthesia administration could be a consideration, but it is secondary to the primary goals of preventing injury and ensuring proper surgical access.

**5. What precautions should be taken with electrical equipment in the operating room?**

- A. Complete removal of all cords**
- B. Ensuring proper grounding and regular inspection**
- C. Using equipment only once**
- D. Limiting the use of electrical devices**

Ensuring proper grounding and regular inspection of electrical equipment in the operating room is crucial for patient safety and to prevent electrical hazards. Proper grounding helps prevent electrical shock to both the patient and surgical team members by providing a safe pathway for the electrical current. Regular inspections are necessary to identify any wear and tear, malfunction, or damage to the equipment or cords, which could lead to unsafe conditions during surgical procedures. Electricity can pose significant risks in a surgical environment where flammable substances and equipment are in use. Therefore, maintaining strict protocols regarding the safety and functionality of electrical equipment is essential. This includes checking that all equipment is grounded according to manufacturer specifications and institutional policies, as well as scheduling regular maintenance checks to ensure all devices are in safe working condition.

**6. What would be a potential consequence of not ensuring correct surgical counts?**

- A. Reduced recovery time for the patient**
- B. Increased patient satisfaction**
- C. Complications and legal issues**
- D. Improved surgical efficiency**

Ensuring correct surgical counts is vital for patient safety and the overall integrity of surgical procedures. When correct counts of instruments, sponges, and other items used during surgery are not maintained, there is a significant risk of leaving foreign objects in the surgical site. This can lead to severe complications for the patient, including infection, additional surgeries to remove retained items, and prolonged recovery. In addition to these health risks, improper counts can result in legal complications for the surgical team and the healthcare facility. This could involve lawsuits or malpractice claims, further emphasizing the importance of rigorous counting protocols in surgery. Therefore, the potential consequence of inadequate surgical counts is primarily related to complications and legal issues that can arise from such oversights.

**7. What is the significance of the "surgical count"?**

- A. To ensure all staff are present**
- B. To confirm that all surgical instruments are accounted for**
- C. To record the time taken for the procedure**
- D. To document the types of sutures used**

The significance of the surgical count lies in its role of confirming that all surgical instruments, sponges, and other items used during the procedure are accounted for. This count is a critical safety measure aimed at preventing retained foreign objects in the patient's body after surgery, which can lead to serious complications such as infection, additional surgeries, or prolonged hospital stays. By meticulously counting instruments and materials both at the beginning and the end of the procedure, the surgical team ensures that everything used is returned to its original state, thereby safeguarding the patient's well-being and maintaining the integrity of the surgical process. This procedure serves as a systematic check that enhances communication and coordination within the surgical team, fortifying patient safety protocols.

**8. What does the acronym MDR stand for in a medical context?**

- A. Multi-drug resistance**
- B. Minimal disease recovery**
- C. Multiple daily routines**
- D. Massive drug reactions**

The acronym MDR stands for multi-drug resistance in a medical context. This term is particularly significant in the field of infectious diseases and oncology, where it refers to the phenomenon in which a microorganism, such as bacteria or cancer cells, develops the ability to resist multiple drugs that are intended to treat infections or tumors. Multi-drug resistance presents a significant challenge for healthcare providers, as it limits the effectiveness of standard treatment regimens and can lead to treatment failures, prolonged illness, and increased healthcare costs. Understanding and addressing MDR is crucial for developing new therapeutic strategies and ensuring effective treatment options for patients. This concept also emphasizes the importance of antibiotic stewardship and careful management of antibiotic use to reduce the development of resistance. Other choices, while they contain some related terminology, do not accurately reflect the established meaning of "MDR" within the medical community.

**9. What is the term for an infection acquired within a health care facility?**

- A. Endemic**
- B. Sporadic**
- C. Nosocomial**
- D. Community-acquired**

The term for an infection acquired within a health care facility is "nosocomial." Nosocomial infections, also known as hospital-acquired infections (HAIs), occur in patients during the process of care in a hospital or other health care setting. These infections can be caused by various pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi, and can arise from various sources, such as surgical sites, medical devices, and even through direct contact with healthcare workers or visitors. Understanding nosocomial infections is critical in surgical settings because they can significantly compromise a patient's recovery, lead to longer hospital stays, increase medical costs, and raise the risk of complications and mortality. Managing and preventing these infections through proper sterilization techniques, hand hygiene, and infection control protocols is a key responsibility of the surgical technologist and all healthcare personnel. In contrast, endemic refers to diseases or infections consistently present in a particular geographic region, sporadic describes isolated cases occurring irregularly, and community-acquired pertains to infections acquired outside of the healthcare setting. Each term describes different contexts of infection occurrences, emphasizing how nosocomial specifically highlights the unique challenges posed by infections acquired in health care environments.

**10. What is the primary characteristic of viruses?**

- A. They can reproduce independently**
- B. They do not contain RNA or DNA**
- C. They are made of living cells**
- D. They infect bacteria only**

The primary characteristic of viruses is that they do not contain RNA or DNA in the traditional sense, as they are entities that must hijack the cellular machinery of a host organism to replicate. However, the correct understanding is that viruses do contain either RNA or DNA as their genetic material, which encodes the information necessary for their replication and infection processes. This unique characteristic differentiates viruses from other pathogens, such as bacteria, that can reproduce independently and are made of living cells. Viruses cannot be classified as living organisms because they lack the cellular structure that characterizes living cells and require a host to replicate and carry out their replication cycle. While viruses can infect bacteria, a variety of organisms, including plants, animals, and human cells, can be host to different viruses, further underscoring the misconception of the given answer. Understanding the nature of viruses involves recognizing that they possess genetic material but operate in a fundamentally different manner compared to living cells, which is essential for surgical technologists when considering infection control and handling potential viral pathogens in the clinical setting.

## 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://surgicaltechforsurgicaltech.examzify.com>**

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

SAMPLE