

The Conference National Board (NBE) - Funeral Service Sciences 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. The small eminence at the medial end of the line of eye closure is called?**
 - A. Pupil**
 - B. Lacrimal caruncle**
 - C. Outer canthus**
 - D. Inner canthus**

- 2. Which document is typically required to authorize disposition of remains and is issued by the government?**
 - A. Death certificate**
 - B. Embalming certificate**
 - C. Burial permit**
 - D. Funeral bill**

- 3. Which Hebrew term refers to a group from the synagogue who care for the dead and may be referred to by laymen as washers?**
 - A. Beth Din**
 - B. Chevrah Kadisha**
 - C. Chevrah Tzedek**
 - D. Shomrim**

- 4. Hematoma is best described as what type of swelling?**
 - A. A blood clot.**
 - B. An area of swelling due to pus.**
 - C. An abnormal accumulation of lymph.**
 - D. A tumor-like mass/swelling made up of blood.**

- 5. Marrow suppression resulting from drugs and/or chemicals, radiation, infection and metabolic disorders is...**
 - A. Drugs and/or chemicals, radiation, infection and metabolic disorders.**
 - B. Vitamin deficiencies.**
 - C. Dehydration.**
 - D. Bacterial overgrowth.**

- 6. Which of the following is an example of a physiological defense mechanism of the body against infection?**
- A. Fever**
 - B. Inflammation**
 - C. Hypertension**
 - D. Edema**
- 7. Which class of chemicals reduces molecular cohesion of a liquid and thereby enables it to flow through smaller openings?**
- A. Penetrating agents.**
 - B. Surfactants.**
 - C. Catalysts.**
 - D. Emulsifiers.**
- 8. The suffix 'algia' means ____.**
- A. Nerve**
 - B. Inflammation**
 - C. Swelling**
 - D. Pain**
- 9. Which term is used for simple sugar units like glucose and fructose?**
- A. Polysaccharides**
 - B. Disaccharides**
 - C. Oligosaccharides**
 - D. Monosaccharides**
- 10. The brachial artery is a continuation of which artery?**
- A. Axillary artery**
 - B. Subclavian artery**
 - C. Aorta**
 - D. Common carotid artery**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The small eminence at the medial end of the line of eye closure is called?

- A. Pupil**
- B. Lacrimal caruncle**
- C. Outer canthus**
- D. Inner canthus**

The medial corner where the upper and lower eyelids meet forms a small, fleshy bump called the lacrimal caruncle. This eminence sits at the inner canthus—the inner corner of the eye along the line of eyelid closure. The inner canthus is the angle itself, not the bump, while the outer canthus is the opposite corner. The pupil is the opening of the iris and is unrelated to this feature. So the term for that small eminence at the medial end is lacrimal caruncle.

2. Which document is typically required to authorize disposition of remains and is issued by the government?

- A. Death certificate**
- B. Embalming certificate**
- C. Burial permit**
- D. Funeral bill**

An official death certificate provides government-issued proof of death that lets the process of disposition begin. It confirms the person has died and includes essential details that funeral homes, cemeteries, and authorities need to move forward with burial or cremation, transport, and other final arrangements. Because it comes from a government vital-records office, it's the standard document accepted and required to legally authorize handling of the remains. Embalming certificates authorize specific procedures and aren't universally required to authorize disposition. A burial permit relates to the right to bury and is indeed important in many places, but the death certificate is the primary, government-issued document that confirms the death and permits the disposition to proceed. A funeral bill is simply a statement of charges and does not authorize disposition.

3. Which Hebrew term refers to a group from the synagogue who care for the dead and may be referred to by laymen as washers?

- A. Beth Din
- B. Chevrah Kadisha**
- C. Chevrah Tzedek
- D. Shomrim

The group from the synagogue that cares for the dead and is often called washers is the Chevrah Kadisha. This term means “holy society” or “burial society,” and its members handle the body with ritual care, performing the taharah (ritual washing), dressing in plain shrouds, and accompanying the deceased from death to burial to ensure dignity according to Jewish law. The name specifically reflects their role in preparing the dead, which is why laypeople commonly refer to them as washers. Beth Din is a rabbinical court dealing with Jewish law and religious rulings, not burial preparation. Shomrim refers to guards or protectors, sometimes a neighborhood watch group or volunteers who assist in various duties, but not the specialized task of washing and preparing the dead. Chevrah Tzedek is not the standard term for the burial society.

4. Hematoma is best described as what type of swelling?

- A. A blood clot.
- B. An area of swelling due to pus.
- C. An abnormal accumulation of lymph.
- D. A tumor-like mass/swelling made up of blood.**

A hematoma is a localized collection of blood that has escaped from vessels and pooled in surrounding tissue, forming a swollen lump. Because this pooled blood creates a tangible mass, it’s described as a tumor-like swelling made up of blood. It’s not simply a blood clot inside a vessel (that would be a thrombus), and it isn’t pus-filled tissue from infection or a buildup of lymph.

5. Marrow suppression resulting from drugs and/or chemicals, radiation, infection and metabolic disorders is...

- A. Drugs and/or chemicals, radiation, infection and metabolic disorders.**
- B. Vitamin deficiencies.
- C. Dehydration.
- D. Bacterial overgrowth.

Bone marrow suppression, or myelosuppression, happens when the marrow’s ability to produce blood cells is reduced. This condition can be caused by drugs and/or chemicals, exposure to radiation, infections that damage hematopoietic tissue, and metabolic disorders that disrupt the marrow environment. The option that names these exact causes is the best choice because it directly identifies the etiologies behind marrow suppression. Other choices describe symptoms or related issues (like vitamin deficiencies or dehydration) but do not capture the specific causes that lead to marrow suppression.

6. Which of the following is an example of a physiological defense mechanism of the body against infection?

- A. Fever
- B. Inflammation**
- C. Hypertension
- D. Edema

Inflammation is the body's immediate, localized defense against infection. When pathogens invade tissue, chemical signals trigger blood vessels to widen and become more permeable, bringing immune cells such as neutrophils and macrophages to the site. This response helps contain the infection, neutralize pathogens, and kick off tissue repair. The classic signs—redness, heat, swelling, and pain—reflect these protective processes at work. Edema you see is a common result of the vascular changes in inflammation, not a separate defense mechanism. Fever is also a protective systemic response, but it's broader and not as directly tied to the tissue-level defense being illustrated here. Hypertension isn't a defensive response to infection.

7. Which class of chemicals reduces molecular cohesion of a liquid and thereby enables it to flow through smaller openings?

- A. Penetrating agents.
- B. Surfactants.**
- C. Catalysts.
- D. Emulsifiers.

Surfactants are surface-active substances that insert themselves at interfaces and reduce the cohesive forces holding liquid molecules together, effectively lowering surface tension. With lower surface tension, the liquid wets surfaces more readily and can be driven through small openings or pores more easily, because less energy is needed to create new surface as the liquid advances. The other options don't address this combination of reducing cohesion within the liquid to promote flow: penetrating agents break down barriers to passage, catalysts speed up chemical reactions, and emulsifiers stabilize mixtures of immiscible liquids rather than promote flow through tiny openings.

8. The suffix 'algia' means ____.

- A. Nerve
- B. Inflammation
- C. Swelling
- D. Pain**

Suffixes in medical terms often indicate the symptom or problem involved. The ending -algia comes from Greek algos, meaning pain, so it signals that the condition is about pain. For example, neuralgia is pain along a nerve, otalgia is ear pain, and cephalalgia is a headache. That's why this suffix points to pain rather than to nerves, inflammation, or swelling. Other ideas are shown by different endings: nerve-related terms use a root like neur- or neuro-, inflammation is -itis, and swelling is typically described as edema or swelling rather.

9. Which term is used for simple sugar units like glucose and fructose?

- A. Polysaccharides**
- B. Disaccharides**
- C. Oligosaccharides**
- D. Monosaccharides**

Single-sugar units are called monosaccharides. These are the basic building blocks of carbohydrates, existing as single sugar molecules that cannot be broken down into smaller sugars. When two monosaccharides join, they form a disaccharide like sucrose or lactose; short chains of a few monosaccharides are oligosaccharides; and long chains of many monosaccharides are polysaccharides such as starch or cellulose. Glucose and fructose are both monosaccharides, the term that identifies simple sugar units.

10. The brachial artery is a continuation of which artery?

- A. Axillary artery**
- B. Subclavian artery**
- C. Aorta**
- D. Common carotid artery**

In the upper limb, the major arteries change names as they pass key landmarks. The subclavian becomes the axillary as it crosses the first rib, and the axillary becomes the brachial as it passes the lower border of the teres major. So the brachial artery is the continuation of the axillary artery as it travels down the arm, where it eventually divides into the radial and ulnar arteries near the elbow.

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://nbfuneralservicescience.examzify.com>

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

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