

THE PITT MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY PRACTICE TEST (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. A local anesthetic administered into the spinal canal around the spinal cord is delivered into which space?**
 - A. Subdural
 - B. Subarachnoid
 - C. Epidural
 - D. Intrathecal

- 2. Which medication is a second-generation antipsychotic?**
 - A. Haloperidol
 - B. ChlorPromazine
 - C. Lithium
 - D. Olanzapine

- 3. What term describes advanced scarring of the liver?**
 - A. Fibrosis
 - B. Hepatitis
 - C. Steatosis
 - D. Cirrhosis

- 4. Which term describes bands of scar tissue that form between abdominal tissues and organs, most often after abdominal surgery?**
 - A. Fistulas
 - B. Hernias
 - C. Ulcers
 - D. Adhesions

- 5. Which combining form means heart?**
 - A. Liver
 - B. Nerve
 - C. Cardi/o
 - D. Kidney

- 6. What blood product is derived from the liquid portion of human blood, is frozen, and contains clotting factors, proteins, and albumin?**
- A. Platelets
 - B. Fresh Frozen Plasma
 - C. Albumin
 - D. Whole Blood
- 7. Which diagnostic test is used to visualize the vascular system after injecting contrast dye and taking X-ray pictures?**
- A. CT (Compound Tomography)
 - B. MRI
 - C. X-ray
 - D. Angiogram
- 8. What airway device is supraglottic and commonly used during anesthesia or as immediate life-saving care for a failed airway?**
- A. Oropharyngeal airway
 - B. Endotracheal tube
 - C. LMA (Laryngeal Mask Airway)
 - D. Nasopharyngeal airway
- 9. Which plane divides the body into left and right sections?**
- A. Transverse plane
 - B. Sagittal plane
 - C. Coronal plane
 - D. Oblique plane
- 10. Which term means nearer to the point of origin?**
- A. Proximal
 - B. Distal
 - C. Anterior
 - D. Posterior

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A local anesthetic administered into the spinal canal around the spinal cord is delivered into which space?

- A. Subdural
- B. Subarachnoid
- C. Epidural**
- D. Intrathecal

The space being referred to is the epidural space. This is the area just outside the dura mater within the spinal canal. When a local anesthetic is given there, it creates an epidural block as the drug diffuses across the dura to affect the nerve roots. In contrast, an injection into the subarachnoid space (intrathecal) would produce spinal anesthesia with direct contact with CSF and a different, usually quicker, block. The subdural space is a potential space between dura and arachnoid and isn't typically used for this purpose.

2. Which medication is a second-generation antipsychotic?

- A. Haloperidol
- B. Chlorpromazine
- C. Lithium
- D. Olanzapine**

Second-generation antipsychotics, also called atypical antipsychotics, are designed to treat psychotic symptoms with fewer movement-related side effects than older drugs. They typically block dopamine D2 receptors but also strongly antagonize serotonin 5-HT2A receptors, which helps improve a broader range of symptoms, including some negative symptoms, while reducing extrapyramidal symptoms. Olanzapine is a classic example of this class. It combines D2 and 5-HT2A receptor antagonism to manage psychosis with a lower risk of motor-side effects compared with older medications like haloperidol or chlorpromazine, though it carries metabolic side effects such as weight gain and glucose issues. Haloperidol and chlorpromazine are traditional, first-generation antipsychotics with stronger D2 blockade and higher EPS risk. Lithium is a mood stabilizer, not an antipsychotic. So olanzapine fits the description of a second-generation antipsychotic.

3. What term describes advanced scarring of the liver?

- A. Fibrosis
- B. Hepatitis
- C. Steatosis
- D. Cirrhosis**

Advanced scarring of the liver is cirrhosis. This term describes late-stage liver disease where ongoing injury leads to widespread fibrosis (scar tissue) and the development of regenerative nodules that distort the liver's architecture and impair function. Fibrosis refers to scar formation in the liver, but cirrhosis is the more severe, irreversible stage with nodularity and architectural disruption. Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver and can contribute to damage, but it is not the scarred, end-stage condition itself. Steatosis is fatty liver, a different pattern of injury. So the best term for advanced scarring is cirrhosis.

4. Which term describes bands of scar tissue that form between abdominal tissues and organs, most often after abdominal surgery?

- A. Fistulas
- B. Hernias
- C. Ulcers

D. Adhesions

Adhesions describe fibrous bands that form between abdominal tissues and organs during healing after peritoneal injury. When the lining of the abdomen is irritated or damaged—such as after surgery—the inflammatory process can lead to scar tissue that creates these bands. Over time, adhesions can tether loops of intestine or connect organs to the abdominal wall, which can cause pain or—even more seriously—bowel obstruction. Other terms refer to different problems. Fistulas are abnormal passages that develop between organs or between an organ and the skin. Hernias are bulges that occur when an organ pushes through a weakness in the abdominal wall. Ulcers are sores on mucosal surfaces, such as the stomach or intestines. The description given—bands of scar tissue forming between abdominal tissues and organs, most often after abdominal surgery—best fits adhesions.

5. Which combining form means heart?

- A. Liver
- B. Nerve
- C. Cardi/o**
- D. Kidney

Combining forms are building blocks that name body parts in medical terms. For the heart, the form is cardi/o, which you'll see in terms like cardiology, cardiovascular, and cardiogram. The other options point to different organs: hepat/o for liver, neur/o for nerve, and nephro/o (or ren/o) for kidney. So, cardi/o is the correct form because it specifically designates the heart when forming medical terms.

6. What blood product is derived from the liquid portion of human blood, is frozen, and contains clotting factors, proteins, and albumin?

- A. Platelets
- B. Fresh Frozen Plasma**
- C. Albumin
- D. Whole Blood

Plasma is the liquid portion of blood that remains after you remove the cells. Fresh Frozen Plasma is this liquid portion that is collected and frozen to preserve the coagulation factors. When transfused, it provides the clotting factors needed for coagulation, along with other plasma proteins such as albumin. Platelets are cellular fragments, not the liquid portion, so they don't match the description. Albumin is a single plasma protein used mainly for volume but doesn't supply clotting factors. Whole blood includes cells plus plasma, so it isn't just the liquid portion either.

7. Which diagnostic test is used to visualize the vascular system after injecting contrast dye and taking X-ray pictures?

- A. CT (Compound Tomography)
- B. MRI
- C. X-ray
- D. Angiogram**

Angiography is the imaging study designed to visualize blood vessels by injecting a radiopaque contrast dye and taking X-ray images. The contrast highlights arteries and veins, letting you see blockages, aneurysms, or abnormal vessels. It's usually performed under fluoroscopy, so clinicians can watch how the dye fills the vessels in real time. Plain X-ray doesn't show vessels clearly on its own, and MRI or CT image vessels using different techniques (like MR or CT angiography), but the classic test described—visualizing the vascular system after contrast with X-ray imaging—fits an angiogram.

8. What airway device is supraglottic and commonly used during anesthesia or as immediate life-saving care for a failed airway?

- A. Oropharyngeal airway
- B. Endotracheal tube
- C. LMA (Laryngeal Mask Airway)**
- D. Nasopharyngeal airway

When managing airways, the key idea is a device that sits above the vocal cords to ventilate the lungs without passing through the trachea. The Laryngeal Mask Airway is exactly that: a supraglottic device with a cuff that sits in the pharynx and seals around the laryngeal inlet, allowing effective ventilation quickly without tracheal intubation. This makes it a go-to option during anesthesia for rapid airway control and also a common rescue when mask ventilation is inadequate during a failed airway. It's faster and less invasive than placing an endotracheal tube, which goes into the trachea and provides a more secure airway with better protection against aspiration, but takes more time and skill. Oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal airways are adjuncts that help keep the airway open but don't seal over the glottis and aren't used as the primary supraglottic rescue airway in a failing airway.

9. Which plane divides the body into left and right sections?

- A. Transverse plane
- B. Sagittal plane**
- C. Coronal plane
- D. Oblique plane

The main idea here is how anatomical planes slice the body by direction. The plane that divides the body into left and right parts runs vertically from front to back, separating the left side from the right side. That is the sagittal plane. When it passes exactly down the midline, it's the midsagittal (median) plane, producing equal left and right halves; if it's off-center, it's a parasagittal plane. The other planes do different things: the transverse plane is horizontal and separates top from bottom; the coronal (frontal) plane divides front from back; the oblique plane is any slanted orientation.

10. Which term means nearer to the point of origin?

A. Proximal

B. Distal

C. Anterior

D. Posterior

In anatomy, directional terms describe locations relative to the body's central point or limb attachment. Proximal means closer to the trunk or to the point of origin of a limb. In contrast, distal means farther away from the trunk. For example, the elbow is proximal to the wrist, and the knee is proximal to the ankle. Anterior and posterior describe front and back surfaces, not distance from origin, so they don't convey proximity to where a limb attaches. So, nearer to the point of origin is expressed by proximal.

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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://thepittmedicalterms.examzify.com>

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

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