

Tri-Council Policy Statement (TCPS) 2 Core Practice Exam (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. Which statement best describes the purpose of disclosing conflicts of interest to the REB under TCPS 2?**
 - A. Disclosures are optional.**
 - B. Researchers must disclose to the REB and manage conflicts to prevent bias in design or reporting.**
 - C. Conflicts must be disclosed to participants only.**
 - D. Conflicts should be kept private to protect relationships.**

- 2. Which statement about the underlying value of TCPS 2 is correct?**
 - A. Autonomy**
 - B. Respect for human dignity**
 - C. Do no harm**
 - D. All persons are created equal**

- 3. As the main policy document for research ethics in Canada, TCPS 2 supersedes provincial and territorial legislation.**
 - A. False**
 - B. True**
 - C. Not specified**
 - D. It depends**

- 4. Which statement describes a proportionate approach to ethical review?**
 - A. Applying delegated review to minimal risk research and full board review to more than minimal risk research.**
 - B. Fully board review is required for all research.**
 - C. Minimal risk research must be reviewed by the vice-president only.**
 - D. No initial risk assessment is required to determine review level.**

- 5. Which definition best describes minimal risk according to TCPS 2?**
 - A. No invasive interventions**
 - B. A risk level most prospective participants would accept**
 - C. The possible harms are no greater than those encountered in daily life**
 - D. Research can be conducted without any risk**

- 6. What are the three core principles of TCPS 2 and their practical implications for research?**
- A. Beneficence, Nonmaleficence, and Justice; protect participants and maximize benefit.**
 - B. Respect for Persons, Concern for Welfare, and Justice; guide informed consent, risk management, and fair subject selection.**
 - C. Autonomy, Privacy, and Transparency; ensure data is public.**
 - D. Respect for Persons, Privacy, and Equity; manage conflicts of interest.**
- 7. How does the principle of Justice influence participant selection under TCPS 2?**
- A. Prioritize recruiting from more privileged populations to expedite research.**
 - B. Ensure fair and equitable distribution of burdens and benefits, avoiding exploitation of vulnerable groups.**
 - C. Exclude vulnerable groups from all research.**
 - D. Maximize recruitment from easily accessible groups regardless of burdens.**
- 8. What is the purpose of including community representation on an REB?**
- A. To speed up approvals.**
 - B. To ensure the study's results are favorable for the sponsor.**
 - C. To ensure participants' communities' values and welfare are considered.**
 - D. To meet a quota.**
- 9. Which term describes consent given for future research use that is stored for future uses with restrictions?**
- A. Broad consent.**
 - B. Blanket consent.**
 - C. Specific consent.**
 - D. Verbal consent.**

10. Which activity falls within the TCPS 2 definition of research?

- A. A pilot study to address that research question, and gets a small group of individuals to take part in the study.**
- B. Attending a conference**
- C. Completing a routine form**
- D. Reading a textbook**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement best describes the purpose of disclosing conflicts of interest to the REB under TCPS 2?

A. Disclosures are optional.

B. Researchers must disclose to the REB and manage conflicts to prevent bias in design or reporting.

C. Conflicts must be disclosed to participants only.

D. Conflicts should be kept private to protect relationships.

Disclosing and managing conflicts of interest is about keeping the research review process objective and safeguarding participants. Under TCPS 2, researchers are required to disclose any conflicts that could reasonably be expected to bias the study to the Research Ethics Board and to implement management measures to limit their impact on the study's design, conduct, or reporting. This ensures that bias is identified and mitigated before the study proceeds, maintaining integrity and trust in the research. The best description is that researchers must disclose to the REB and manage conflicts to prevent bias in design or reporting. Disclosures are not optional; conflicts involve financial or personal interests. While explaining conflicts to participants can occur in some contexts, the core obligation is disclosure to the REB and applying safeguards, not keeping conflicts private.

2. Which statement about the underlying value of TCPS 2 is correct?

A. Autonomy

B. Respect for human dignity

C. Do no harm

D. All persons are created equal

TCPS 2 is grounded in recognizing the inherent worth of every person and treating participants with dignity. This respect for human dignity underpins how researchers approach autonomy, consent, and protections for those who may be vulnerable, ensuring people are treated as capable of making their own decisions and are shielded from exploitation. That makes the statement about respect for human dignity the best fit. Autonomy is a part of respecting persons, but it's not the overarching value by itself—it's one aspect of the broader commitment to dignity and rights. Do no harm reflects welfare and safety considerations, but it doesn't alone capture the foundational value that TCPS 2 aims to uphold. All persons are created equal speaks more to fairness and justice, which are important, but the fundamental emphasis in the policy is on recognizing and upholding each person's dignity.

3. As the main policy document for research ethics in Canada, TCPS 2 supersedes provincial and territorial legislation.

A. False

B. True

C. Not specified

D. It depends

TCPS 2 provides ethical guidance for research involving humans in Canada, but it is not a law. It functions as a standard that institutions and research ethics boards (REBs) adopt, particularly for research funded by the Tri-Council agencies. It does not override provincial or territorial legislation. When provincial or territorial laws apply—such as privacy, consent, or health information regulations—those legal requirements must be followed, and in cases of conflict, the law takes precedence over guidelines. This is why the statement is not correct: TCPS 2 guides ethical review, but it does not supersede enforceable laws.

4. Which statement describes a proportionate approach to ethical review?

A. Applying delegated review to minimal risk research and full board review to more than minimal risk research.

B. Fully board review is required for all research.

C. Minimal risk research must be reviewed by the vice-president only.

D. No initial risk assessment is required to determine review level.

Proportionate oversight means the level of ethics review matches the study's risk. For minimal risk research, delegated review by qualified board members or a designated administrator is appropriate and efficient. When research presents more than minimal risk, the full board should review to ensure a thorough assessment of protections for participants and the research's risks and benefits. This balances protecting participants with avoiding unnecessary delays for low-risk studies. Why the other options don't fit: applying full board review to everything ignores the risk-based allocation of oversight; assigning minimal risk review to a single executive (like a vice-president) isn't how review is typically structured and bypasses appropriate panel input; and skipping an initial risk assessment would remove the mechanism that determines which level of review is appropriate in the first place.

5. Which definition best describes minimal risk according to TCPS 2?

- A. No invasive interventions**
- B. A risk level most prospective participants would accept**
- C. The possible harms are no greater than those encountered in daily life**
- D. Research can be conducted without any risk**

Minimal risk means the potential harms or discomfort from participation are no greater than those encountered in daily life or during routine clinical or psychological examinations. That's why the option describing harms no greater than what people experience in daily life is the best fit. It captures that some minor risk is allowable, as long as it doesn't exceed everyday experiences. The other descriptions imply no risk at all, or rely on participant acceptance, or require invasiveness to be avoided entirely, which aren't how TCPS 2 defines minimal risk.

6. What are the three core principles of TCPS 2 and their practical implications for research?

- A. Beneficence, Nonmaleficence, and Justice; protect participants and maximize benefit.**
- B. Respect for Persons, Concern for Welfare, and Justice; guide informed consent, risk management, and fair subject selection.**
- C. Autonomy, Privacy, and Transparency; ensure data is public.**
- D. Respect for Persons, Privacy, and Equity; manage conflicts of interest.**

This question tests your grasp of TCPS 2 by focusing on its three guiding principles and how they shape ethical research in practice. The correct set names Respect for Persons, Concern for Welfare, and Justice. Respect for Persons means recognizing that people are autonomous agents and should be treated with dignity, with special protections for those who may have diminished autonomy. In practice this shows up as an informed, voluntary consent process where participants understand what they are agreeing to, can ask questions, and can withdraw at any time without penalty. It also includes protecting privacy and confidentiality. Concern for Welfare centers on the well-being of participants and communities. Researchers must minimize risks and maximize potential benefits, carefully weighing any harm against possible advantages. This leads to thoughtful risk assessment, appropriate safeguards, and consideration of the broader social, cultural, and economic impacts on those involved, with extra protections for vulnerable groups. Justice focuses on fair distribution of the burdens and benefits of research. This means fair subject selection—ensuring no group is unfairly burdened or excluded without justification—and equitable access to the benefits of research. It also involves avoiding exploitation of participants and being mindful of power dynamics between researchers and communities. Putting these into practice, you'd see robust consent processes, thorough risk-benefit analysis, privacy protections, and thoughtful, fair recruitment strategies, all under ongoing ethical oversight. The other options echo important ethical themes in broader bioethics, but they do not reflect the three TCPS 2 core principles and their typical practical emphasis.

7. How does the principle of Justice influence participant selection under TCPS 2?

- A. Prioritize recruiting from more privileged populations to expedite research.**
- B. Ensure fair and equitable distribution of burdens and benefits, avoiding exploitation of vulnerable groups.**
- C. Exclude vulnerable groups from all research.**
- D. Maximize recruitment from easily accessible groups regardless of burdens.**

Justice in TCPS 2 means fairness in who bears the risks of research and who benefits from it. When selecting participants, this translates to distributing burdens and benefits equitably and avoiding exploitation of vulnerable groups. Practically, it means not prioritizing privileged populations just because they're easy to recruit, and not excluding vulnerable groups without a solid justification. It also means designing inclusion criteria that allow fair access to potential benefits while safeguarding those at greater risk. In short, participant selection should be just and inclusive, aiming to distribute risks and benefits fairly across groups.

8. What is the purpose of including community representation on an REB?

- A. To speed up approvals.**
- B. To ensure the study's results are favorable for the sponsor.**
- C. To ensure participants' communities' values and welfare are considered.**
- D. To meet a quota.**

The main idea is that including community representation on a Research Ethics Board ensures that the voices and welfare of the communities affected by the study are part of the ethical review. When research involves a particular community, its values, norms, and potential risks can differ from those of individual participants, so having community input helps the board interpret consent processes, assess risks in context, and consider benefits in a way that respects that community. This alignment supports respect for persons and justice by extending protections beyond individuals to the communities that may bear collective risks or benefits. It also brings cultural insight, helps identify community-level concerns, and supports ethical decisions meaningful to participants and their communities. It is not about speeding approvals, influencing outcomes to favor sponsors, or meeting a quota.

9. Which term describes consent given for future research use that is stored for future uses with restrictions?

- A. Broad consent.**
- B. Blanket consent.**
- C. Specific consent.**
- D. Verbal consent.**

Broad consent is consent given for future research use of data or biospecimens that will be stored for future studies with defined restrictions and governance. It recognizes that the exact future projects can't be known at the time of collection, but it sets out the kinds of future research that may be conducted, how privacy will be protected, who may access the data, and how oversight will occur. This distinguishes it from specific consent, which is for a single, defined project, and from blanket consent, which implies far fewer or no restrictions. Verbal consent, meanwhile, concerns how consent is given rather than the scope of future use.

10. Which activity falls within the TCPS 2 definition of research?

- A. A pilot study to address that research question, and gets a small group of individuals to take part in the study.**
- B. Attending a conference**
- C. Completing a routine form**
- D. Reading a textbook**

Under TCPS 2, research is a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge and that involves humans or human data. A pilot study fits this definition because it uses a planned, systematic approach to collect data from participants to answer a research question and to refine methods, with the aim of producing findings that could apply beyond the specific study. Attending a conference involves sharing existing findings rather than generating new data. Completing a routine form is typically administrative data collection, not a structured inquiry aimed at broader knowledge. Reading a textbook is learning from existing information, not conducting new research with participants. So the pilot study is the activity that aligns with the TCPS 2 definition of research.

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://tcps2core.examzify.com>

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

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