

UOP PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT (PA) INTERVIEW QUESTIONS 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. When a caregiver is anxious and confrontational with staff, what is the best approach?**
 - A. Use active listening, set respectful boundaries, involve the patient's goals, and seek support from a supervisor or team.
 - B. Immediately terminate care and ask security to escort them out.
 - C. Ignore their concerns and proceed with the plan.
 - D. Schedule a different time to discuss without the patient present.

- 2. Describe a mentor's influence on your development and how you plan to seek mentorship in PA school.**
 - A. Rely solely on self-study.
 - B. Wait for a formal invitation to seek mentorship.
 - C. Choose a single mentor and limit interactions to quarterly meetings.
 - D. Develop a structured mentorship plan with multiple mentors across faculty, peers, and professional networks.

- 3. How does PA school typically differ from undergraduate study?**
 - A. PA school has slower pace and fewer exams
 - B. PA school is more rigorous, faster-paced, with heavier studying
 - C. No difference
 - D. PA school focuses on research only

- 4. Where does the candidate say the future of medicine is heading?**
 - A. Traditional hospital-based care
 - B. Technology, AI
 - C. Herbal medicine
 - D. Nuclear medicine

- 5. Which prompt asks you to reflect on the people you would invite to dinner and what you would serve them?**
 - A. Name three role models and why you look up to them.
 - B. What three people, living or dead, would you invite to dinner? What would you serve them?
 - C. Tell me about your support system.
 - D. How do you manage your time?

- 6. In the operating room, if you observe a potentially unsafe situation involving provider impairment, what should you do?**
- A. Report concerns to supervisor or chief so it can be addressed
 - B. Confront the provider aggressively
 - C. Ignore and hope it resolves
 - D. End the case yourself
- 7. Which quality is identified as a key component of effective leadership?**
- A. Communication
 - B. Patience
 - C. Creativity
 - D. Punctuality
- 8. Which statement best reflects an appropriate approach when a patient with HIV does not want to disclose to a partner but will need treatment?**
- A. Disclose to the partner immediately.
 - B. Educate patient on risks and respect confidentiality.
 - C. End the patient-provider relationship.
 - D. Coerce disclosure.
- 9. Why do you want to become a Physician Assistant?**
- A. Shorter training path and team-based patient care.
 - B. Higher salary than MDs.
 - C. Independence from supervising physicians.
 - D. Limited patient contact.
- 10. Which change did the 2019 California Senate bill make regarding physician assistants?**
- A. Practice agreements outlining scope of care that PAs can provide
 - B. In-person physician oversight became mandatory for all PAs
 - C. PAs were prohibited from prescribing Schedule 2-5 medications
 - D. Service agreements between employer and PA were expanded

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When a caregiver is anxious and confrontational with staff, what is the best approach?

- A. Use active listening, set respectful boundaries, involve the patient's goals, and seek support from a supervisor or team.**
- B. Immediately terminate care and ask security to escort them out.
- C. Ignore their concerns and proceed with the plan.
- D. Schedule a different time to discuss without the patient present.

When a caregiver is anxious and confrontational with staff, the priority is de-escalation while keeping safety and patient-centered care at the forefront. Active listening helps acknowledge the caregiver's feelings and concerns, which can reduce defensiveness and open space for dialogue. By reflecting back what you hear and asking clarifying questions, you show empathy and help the caregiver feel heard. Setting respectful boundaries reinforces professional expectations and safety, making it clear what behavior is acceptable and how disagreements will be managed. Keeping the patient's goals in view reframes the discussion toward shared objectives, demonstrating how the plan aligns with the patient's values and desired outcomes. If tensions rise or uncertainty remains, seeking support from a supervisor or the broader team brings additional expertise and ensures decisions follow policy while protecting everyone involved. While it might be tempting to terminate care, ignore concerns, or postpone the discussion without addressing underlying issues, those approaches can damage trust, compromise safety, and fail to meet the patient's needs. This approach promotes de-escalation, collaboration, and safe, patient-centered care.

2. Describe a mentor's influence on your development and how you plan to seek mentorship in PA school.

- A. Rely solely on self-study.
- B. Wait for a formal invitation to seek mentorship.
- C. Choose a single mentor and limit interactions to quarterly meetings.
- D. Develop a structured mentorship plan with multiple mentors across faculty, peers, and professional networks.**

Mentorship is a dynamic driver of growth in PA school, and planning to engage with several mentors from different sources shows initiative, professionalism, and a proactive approach to learning. A structured plan that taps into multiple mentors—across faculty, practicing PAs, alumni, and peers—offers a wide range of guidance: clinical reasoning and patient care skills from faculty, real-world insights and career planning from practicing PAs, and peer support for study strategies and resilience. This multi-faceted mentorship provides diverse feedback, broadens professional networks, and creates accountability, which a single mentor or passive waiting for an invitation can't guarantee. To put this into action, identify mentors early and outline clear goals for each relationship—clinical skill development, rotation planning, research opportunities, specialty exploration, or professional etiquette and networking. Establish practical expectations: how often you'll meet, preferred formats (in-person or virtual), topics to cover, and how you'll track progress. Include a mix of formal mentoring, informal check-ins, and peer mentorship to reinforce learning from multiple angles. By building a plan that leverages multiple mentors, you'll gain well-rounded development and a robust support system throughout PA school.

3. How does PA school typically differ from undergraduate study?

- A. PA school has slower pace and fewer exams
- B. PA school is more rigorous, faster-paced, with heavier studying**
- C. No difference
- D. PA school focuses on research only

The main idea is that PA programs are designed to rapidly turn students into ready-to-practice clinicians, so the coursework is intense and tightly focused on practical medical knowledge and patient care. The pace is fast and the workload heavy, with a strong emphasis on applying what you learn to real clinical scenarios. You'll move quickly from learning foundational topics to integrating them in clinical decision-making, often through case-based learning, labs, and continuous assessment. The program culminates in substantial clinical rotations that demand professional skills, teamwork, and the ability to manage patients across settings, all while preparing for licensure exams. In contrast, undergraduate study typically unfolds over a longer timeline with a broader, less clinically focused scope. The emphasis is often on building foundational knowledge, developing study habits, and exploring a wide range of subjects, with less immediate responsibility for patient care and fewer tightly integrated clinical requirements.

4. Where does the candidate say the future of medicine is heading?

- A. Traditional hospital-based care
- B. Technology, AI**
- C. Herbal medicine
- D. Nuclear medicine

Technology and AI are reshaping medicine by enabling faster, more accurate diagnoses, personalized treatment plans, and scalable data-driven care. The future is driven by digital health tools such as machine learning algorithms that analyze images and patient data, predictive analytics that identify at-risk individuals, and decision-support systems that assist clinicians at the point of care. Wearables and remote monitoring expand continuous data streams, while telemedicine, robotics, and automated workflows improve access and efficiency. All these elements point to a health care landscape powered by advanced technology and artificial intelligence, rather than relying on traditional hospital-based care alone or focusing on single modalities like herbal or nuclear medicine.

5. Which prompt asks you to reflect on the people you would invite to dinner and what you would serve them?

A. Name three role models and why you look up to them.

B. What three people, living or dead, would you invite to dinner? What would you serve them?

C. Tell me about your support system.

D. How do you manage your time?

This prompt centers on how you read people and communicate about them through a personal, social scenario. Imagining who you'd invite to dinner and what you'd serve forces you to consider guests' personalities, backgrounds, and preferences, and to translate that into a thoughtful plan. You're shown to think about empathy, cultural awareness, and practical reasoning all at once: choosing guests reveals what you value and admire, while deciding a menu shows your attention to dietary needs, cultural considerations, and the way you create a comfortable environment for others. In a PA context, this demonstrates your ability to engage with diverse patients, anticipate needs, and adapt your approach to fit individuals. A strong answer would discuss selecting guests who illustrate qualities you value (for example, curiosity, kindness, and resilience) and then explain how you'd tailor the menu to accommodate allergies, religious or cultural dietary restrictions, and personal preferences. It also provides a window into how you communicate and think about others, which is essential for patient-centered care and teamwork. Other prompts don't focus on this blend of interpersonal insight and practical planning. One asks you to name role models and why you look up to them, which centers on motivation and values rather than a social scenario. Another asks about your support system, which highlights resources and networks rather than your ability to read people and plan interactions. A final option on time management concentrates on organization skills, not the nuanced understanding of people and hospitality that reveals how you relate to others in real-life settings.

6. In the operating room, if you observe a potentially unsafe situation involving provider impairment, what should you do?

A. Report concerns to supervisor or chief so it can be addressed

B. Confront the provider aggressively

C. Ignore and hope it resolves

D. End the case yourself

In the OR, patient safety comes first, so suspected provider impairment must be escalated through the proper channels so the situation can be evaluated and managed without delay. Reporting concerns to a supervisor or department chief is the best action because they can assess the risk, arrange coverage or removal from the case if needed, and ensure appropriate steps are taken to protect the patient and the team. Direct confrontation is risky and can escalate tension, while ignoring the concern or trying to end the case yourself could put the patient at harm and put you in a difficult position. If you observe impairment, calmly notify the supervising authority, document what you observed and when, and follow your institution's policies for reporting and response. The goal is to safeguard the patient while handling the issue professionally and discreetly.

7. Which quality is identified as a key component of effective leadership?

A. Communication

B. Patience

C. Creativity

D. Punctuality

Clear and effective communication underpins leadership because it shapes direction, builds trust, and coordinates action. A leader who communicates well articulates the vision, explains expectations, and keeps the team informed about priorities and changes. This clarity reduces misunderstandings and aligns efforts, making it easier to delegate tasks and track progress. Good communication also involves listening and responding to feedback, which reinforces psychological safety, fosters buy-in, and motivates people. While patience, creativity, and punctuality are useful traits, they don't alone drive team alignment and execution the way strong communication does.

8. Which statement best reflects an appropriate approach when a patient with HIV does not want to disclose to a partner but will need treatment?

A. Disclose to the partner immediately.

B. Educate patient on risks and respect confidentiality.

C. End the patient-provider relationship.

D. Coerce disclosure.

When a patient with HIV does not want to disclose to a partner, the priority is to protect patient confidentiality while helping the patient understand the risks to others and the benefits of disclosure. The best approach is to educate about how HIV is transmitted, how to reduce risk (such as consistent condom use and maintaining viral suppression with antiretroviral therapy), and to discuss strategies for disclosure in a nonjudgmental, supportive way. Provide resources to assist with disclosure, such as counseling, social work support, or couples counseling, and respect the patient's autonomy in deciding if and how to tell the partner. If the patient consents to partner notification, you can facilitate confidential or anonymous notification through public health resources when allowed by law, but you should not disclose information without the patient's consent. Disclosing to the partner unilaterally, ending the patient-provider relationship, or coercing disclosure would undermine trust, violate confidentiality, and are not appropriate.

9. Why do you want to become a Physician Assistant?

A. Shorter training path and team-based patient care.

B. Higher salary than MDs.

C. Independence from supervising physicians.

D. Limited patient contact.

The main idea being tested is what motivates someone to choose the Physician Assistant path, emphasizing practical entry into patient care and working within a team. The best answer reflects that the PA route offers a shorter training path while embracing a team-based approach to patient care. PAs receive a broad, focused medical education that lets them start practicing sooner, and they do so as part of a collaborative team with physicians and other clinicians, sharing responsibilities to diagnose, treat, and manage patients. Salaries for PAs are generally not higher than those of MDs, so financial motivation isn't the primary draw. The PA role centers on working under supervision or in close collaboration with physicians, not complete independence. And PAs typically have substantial patient contact, not limited interactions.

10. Which change did the 2019 California Senate bill make regarding physician assistants?

- A. Practice agreements outlining scope of care that PAs can provide**
- B. In-person physician oversight became mandatory for all PAs
- C. PAs were prohibited from prescribing Schedule 2-5 medications
- D. Service agreements between employer and PA were expanded

The change centers on formalizing how PAs and physicians work together by requiring a written practice agreement that defines what care a PA can provide and how they will be supervised. This makes the PA's scope of practice and the physician's supervisory role explicit, setting clear expectations for patient care, prescriptive authority, and supervision arrangements. It helps ensure consistent standards and accountability, rather than relying on informal or vague supervision. The other options aren't about this formal, documented collaboration. Requiring in-person oversight for all PAs isn't what the bill mandated, and it doesn't hinge on prescribing restricted medications or expanding employer-PA service agreements. The meaningful shift was the move to a defined practice agreement between the PA and supervising physician.

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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://uoppainterview.examzify.com>

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

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