

Veteran Association Accreditation Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2025 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 from reliable sources accurate, complete, and timely information about this product.

SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What should VBA employees review to prioritize a claim based on terminal illness?**
 - A. Social media accounts of the applicant**
 - B. Evidence submitted, including VAMC treatment reports**
 - C. The veteran's age and previous claims**
 - D. Information provided by the VA facility**
- 2. What stipulation is included under DIC for survivors of former POWs?**
 - A. They must have been rated totally disabled for one year preceding death**
 - B. They must have served at least 20 years on active duty**
 - C. They must have been rated as 50% disabled for at least two years**
 - D. They must have died in service**
- 3. What is the primary stipulation for a stepchild to qualify under the definition of 'child'?**
 - A. Must live separately from the Veteran**
 - B. Must acquire stepchild status before age 18**
 - C. Must be biologically related to the Veteran**
 - D. Must attend college full-time to qualify**
- 4. What is the regulation code for diseases related to full-body exposure to mustard gas?**
 - A. 38 CFR 3.318**
 - B. 38 CFR 3.310**
 - C. 38 CFR 3.316**
 - D. 38 CFR 3.309(a)**
- 5. What is one of the key documents required by the VA for fully developed claims (FDC)?**
 - A. Federal tax information**
 - B. Veteran service records**
 - C. Disability evaluation report**
 - D. Claimant's personal statement**

- 6. In which scenario would a claimant NOT be entitled to accrued benefits?**
- A. When payments related to a claim were pending**
 - B. When the Veteran had a dishonorable discharge**
 - C. When evidence was submitted after the Veteran's death**
 - D. When the claimant is not the legal dependent**
- 7. Which organization does NOT have a Duty to Assist but is required to send claims back if errors are found?**
- A. BVA**
 - B. HLR**
 - C. RO**
 - D. Claims Processing Centers**
- 8. What is an 'expressly claimed issue' in the context of VA claims?**
- A. A claim identified by the VA on their own**
 - B. A claim stated clearly on a standardized VA form**
 - C. A claim mentioned informally**
 - D. A claim that is self-evident without evidence**
- 9. How can VBA employees determine if a veteran is homeless?**
- A. Contacting the veteran's last employer**
 - B. Searching the VA records system and contacting the local VAMC**
 - C. Reviewing social media accounts of the veteran**
 - D. Conducting personal interviews with the veteran**
- 10. What does a dishonorable discharge typically mean for VA benefits eligibility?**
- A. It allows for special benefits**
 - B. It does not affect benefits eligibility**
 - C. It renders the claimant ineligible for most benefits**
 - D. It qualifies for a different set of benefits**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What should VBA employees review to prioritize a claim based on terminal illness?

- A. Social media accounts of the applicant**
- B. Evidence submitted, including VAMC treatment reports**
- C. The veteran's age and previous claims**
- D. Information provided by the VA facility**

The review of evidence submitted, including VAMC (Veterans Affairs Medical Center) treatment reports, is crucial for prioritizing a claim based on terminal illness. This documentation provides essential and objective medical evidence regarding the veteran's health status, diagnoses, treatments received, and prognosis. Such information allows VBA employees to assess the severity of the veteran's condition and the urgency of their need for benefits or services. Validating the claims with medical reports ensures that decisions are based on factual evidence, rather than assumptions or incomplete information. This focus on concrete medical data reflects a commitment to supporting veterans in times of critical need, allowing for quicker processing of claims tied to terminal illnesses.

2. What stipulation is included under DIC for survivors of former POWs?

- A. They must have been rated totally disabled for one year preceding death**
- B. They must have served at least 20 years on active duty**
- C. They must have been rated as 50% disabled for at least two years**
- D. They must have died in service**

Under the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program, a specific stipulation exists for survivors of former Prisoners of War (POWs) that states they must have been rated totally disabled for one year preceding their death to qualify for DIC benefits. This provision acknowledges the unique hardships and difficult health conditions that many former POWs may face as a result of their captivity. The requirement for a total disability rating ensures that the survivors receive support based on the severity of the service-related conditions suffered by their loved ones during and after their military service. This stipulation is crucial for recognizing and providing benefits to the survivors of individuals whose health was severely compromised due to their experiences as POWs. The total disability rating must also be effective for a continuous period—which in this case is stated as one year—prior to the service member's death. This helps to establish a clear criteria for eligibility that is consistent with the intent of the DIC program to support widows, widowers, and dependents of veterans who have experienced significant service-connected disabilities.

3. What is the primary stipulation for a stepchild to qualify under the definition of 'child'?

- A. Must live separately from the Veteran**
- B. Must acquire stepchild status before age 18**
- C. Must be biologically related to the Veteran**
- D. Must attend college full-time to qualify**

The primary stipulation for a stepchild to qualify under the definition of 'child' is that they must acquire stepchild status before age 18. This means that in order for a stepchild to be recognized for benefits or considerations that relate to the Veteran's status, the marriage that created the stepchild relationship must occur before the stepchild turns 18 years old. This is crucial as it establishes a legal and familial connection required to extend various benefits, including those related to education, healthcare, and other support mechanisms available to the Veteran's immediate family. By having this age stipulation, the guidelines ensure that the relationship is recognized and that the relevant familial ties are considered legitimate for formulating benefits tied to the Veteran's service. Other choices do not satisfy the requirements outlined for defining a stepchild in the context of Veteran benefits; for example, a stepchild living separately from the Veteran does not negate their eligibility, nor does being biologically related pertain to a stepchild since that relationship inherently does not require biological connection. Full-time college attendance is not a prerequisite for recognition as a stepchild but rather relates to other potential benefits that might be available at a later point in time.

4. What is the regulation code for diseases related to full-body exposure to mustard gas?

- A. 38 CFR 3.318**
- B. 38 CFR 3.310**
- C. 38 CFR 3.316**
- D. 38 CFR 3.309(a)**

The correct choice is rooted in how the regulatory framework defines the conditions related to exposure to specific substances, including mustard gas. The regulation known as 38 CFR 3.316 specifically addresses diseases that can arise from full-body exposure to mustard gas and other chemical agents during military service. This regulation allows for service connection for certain respiratory, digestive, and skin disorders directly tied to this type of exposure. Choosing this regulation is critical for veterans seeking benefits related to mustard gas exposure, as it provides the means for them to establish service connection for their claimed conditions. It sets clear parameters on the eligibility for these benefits, based on service history and documented exposures. In contrast, the other choices refer to different aspects of service-related injuries and diseases rather than the specific conditions attributed to mustard gas exposure. For instance, 38 CFR 3.318 deals with conditions related to prisoners of war, 38 CFR 3.310 pertains to secondary service connections, and 38 CFR 3.309(a) covers chronic conditions that may be presumed related to service but do not specifically mention mustard gas. Each of these regulations serves distinct categories of service-connected conditions, emphasizing the specificity and importance of 38 CFR 3.316 for veterans with mustard gas-related health issues.

5. What is one of the key documents required by the VA for fully developed claims (FDC)?

- A. Federal tax information**
- B. Veteran service records**
- C. Disability evaluation report**
- D. Claimant's personal statement**

The key document required by the VA for fully developed claims (FDC) refers to specific information that aids in the timely and accurate processing of claims. One crucial component for FDCs is the claimant's personal statement. This statement allows veterans to articulate their experiences, symptoms, and conditions in their own words, providing context that may not be captured in official records. Veteran service records and disability evaluation reports are also important, but they do not fulfill the specific requirements of personal documentation that is often needed for a fully developed claim. Federal tax information generally does not relate directly to disability claims, making it less pertinent in this context. By submitting a personal statement, claimants play an active role in their claims process, potentially speeding up the review and decision-making times.

6. In which scenario would a claimant NOT be entitled to accrued benefits?

- A. When payments related to a claim were pending**
- B. When the Veteran had a dishonorable discharge**
- C. When evidence was submitted after the Veteran's death**
- D. When the claimant is not the legal dependent**

A claimant is not entitled to accrued benefits when evidence is submitted after the Veteran's death because accrued benefits are specifically designed to allow for the continuation of certain benefits that were due to the Veteran up until their passing. The law dictates that in order for a claimant to qualify for these benefits, all necessary evidence must be submitted before the Veteran dies. If evidence is presented after the Veteran's death, it cannot be considered for accrued benefits, as the claims process must be finalized during the Veteran's lifetime. In contrast, pending payments related to a claim do not negate a claimant's entitlement to accrued benefits, as they pertain to benefits that are owed but not yet disbursed. A dishonorable discharge does affect eligibility for benefits in general, but it is not relevant to accrued benefits in the context of timing related to evidence submission. Likewise, while the legal status of a claimant is important, it is not the primary factor that determines entitlement to accrued benefits when considering the submission of evidence relative to the Veteran's passing.

7. Which organization does NOT have a Duty to Assist but is required to send claims back if errors are found?

A. BVA

B. HLR

C. RO

D. Claims Processing Centers

The Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) does not have a Duty to Assist claimants in developing their cases as part of its appellate review function. BVA primarily focuses on evaluating appeals from veterans regarding the decisions made by lower entities. When it finds errors in the cases presented, instead of directly developing the claim further, BVA remands cases back to the appropriate agency — usually the Regional Office (RO) — for correction or additional information. This remanding process is important for ensuring that veterans' appeals are handled properly and that all necessary considerations are made. In contrast, organizations such as the Higher-Level Review (HLR) and Regional Offices (RO) have a Duty to Assist, meaning they are responsible for helping claimants gather evidence and develop their claims. Similarly, Claims Processing Centers play an active role in the initial evaluation and processing of claims, including reaching out for additional information when needed. The lack of a Duty to Assist at BVA underscores its specific role in the appeals process, focused more on legal standards and decision-making based on the established record rather than on assistance in gathering evidence.

8. What is an 'expressly claimed issue' in the context of VA claims?

A. A claim identified by the VA on their own

B. A claim stated clearly on a standardized VA form

C. A claim mentioned informally

D. A claim that is self-evident without evidence

An 'expressly claimed issue' refers to a claim that is stated clearly and definitively on a standardized VA form. This kind of claim is critical in the Veterans Affairs claims process because it establishes the specific issues that a veteran is seeking benefits for. When veterans fill out standardized forms, they often provide clear statements regarding their conditions or concerns, which enables the VA to assess the claims accurately and efficiently. This clear articulation helps ensure that the claim is understood and processed without ambiguity, which is essential for appropriate evaluations and decisions by the VA. In contrast, other options describe claims that may lack the clear and formal presentation necessary for effective processing. Claims identified by the VA on their own do not rely on the veteran's explicit input and may not directly reflect the veteran's concerns. Informal mentions of a claim could lead to misunderstandings or misinterpretations, as they lack the clarity required for formal consideration. Self-evident claims without evidence are not sufficient for VA review, as they require documentation to substantiate the veteran's assertions. Hence, the standardized form allows the claims to be communicated in a way that aligns with the VA's review processes.

9. How can VBA employees determine if a veteran is homeless?

- A. Contacting the veteran's last employer**
- B. Searching the VA records system and contacting the local VAMC**
- C. Reviewing social media accounts of the veteran**
- D. Conducting personal interviews with the veteran**

The ability of VBA employees to determine if a veteran is homeless relies heavily on the integrity, accuracy, and comprehensiveness of official records and available resources. Searching the VA records system and contacting the local Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is an effective method because it provides access to verified information regarding a veteran's status, including any registered addresses or recorded homelessness. The VA records system contains valuable data on veterans, including their service history and additional services they may be receiving. By accessing this information, employees can quickly assess whether the veteran is documented as experiencing homelessness. Additionally, reaching out to the local VAMC is crucial, as they often have direct interactions and resources related to veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and can provide up-to-date information. This approach is preferred over others, such as contacting a veteran's last employer or reviewing social media accounts, as these methods may yield unreliable information and do not provide the official verification needed in these circumstances. Conducting personal interviews, while useful in certain contexts, may not be the most efficient way to gather accurate data regarding a veteran's living situation compared to accessing official records and established support systems.

10. What does a dishonorable discharge typically mean for VA benefits eligibility?

- A. It allows for special benefits**
- B. It does not affect benefits eligibility**
- C. It renders the claimant ineligible for most benefits**
- D. It qualifies for a different set of benefits**

A dishonorable discharge from military service generally signifies that the service member's conduct was deemed to be inconsistent with acceptable military standards. This type of discharge typically renders the individual ineligible for most Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. The reasoning behind this is that the VA benefits are designed to support those who have served honorably and met certain conduct standards during their service. While certain circumstances around a dishonorable discharge might lead to a review that allows for eligibility in specific cases, the overarching rule is that this type of discharge significantly limits the individual's access to the comprehensive benefits that other veterans with more favorable discharge statuses can receive. Thus, it is crucial for veterans to understand the implications of their discharge status on their benefit applications and any potential support they may receive from the VA.