

Veterans Affairs (VA) Accreditation 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 burial allowance is NOT payable if the Veteran is buried in a national cemetery?**
 - A. Burial expense allowance**
 - B. Plot or interment burial allowance**
 - C. Transportation reimbursement**
 - D. Memorialization benefits**
- 2. What happens to a claim if no DTA error is identified by BVA or HLR?**
 - A. It is automatically approved**
 - B. It continues through the claims process**
 - C. It is returned for review**
 - D. It is dismissed entirely**
- 3. What is the maximum time allowed for submitting a VA Form 9 after an SOC is issued?**
 - A. 30 days**
 - B. 60 days**
 - C. 90 days**
 - D. One year**
- 4. The presumption of herbicide exposure for veterans serving in Vietnam began in which year?**
 - A. 1965**
 - B. 1970**
 - C. 1962**
 - D. 1980**
- 5. What form is necessary to apply for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation?**
 - A. 21P-530**
 - B. 21P-601**
 - C. 21P-534**
 - D. 21-4502**

6. Which division is considered the largest within a VA Regional Office?

- A. Veterans Service Center**
- B. Intake Processing Center**
- C. Nursing Care Department**
- D. Veterans Benefits Administration**

7. What form must be used for submitting a supplemental claim?

- A. VA Form 20-0995**
- B. VA Form 21-526EZ**
- C. VA Form 22-0996**
- D. VA Form 10-10EZ**

8. What must new evidence in a VA claim do?

- A. Be previously part of the agency record**
- B. Support the claimant's argument**
- C. Include statements from witnesses**
- D. Identify and submit with appropriate forms**

9. What type of records contain information about a service member's service history?

- A. Clinical Records**
- B. Personnel Records**
- C. Financial Records**
- D. Military Treatment Records**

10. What is considered acceptable documentation for proof of Vietnam service?

- A. Medical records from VA**
- B. College transcripts**
- C. Buddy statements and official orders**
- D. Pay stubs from military service**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which burial allowance is NOT payable if the Veteran is buried in a national cemetery?

- A. Burial expense allowance**
- B. Plot or interment burial allowance**
- C. Transportation reimbursement**
- D. Memorialization benefits**

When considering the burial allowances provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, it's important to understand the specific benefits associated with burials in national cemeteries. The plot or interment burial allowance is specifically designed to assist with costs associated with burying a veteran in a private cemetery; therefore, it is not applicable when the veteran is buried in a national cemetery where interment is already offered at no cost to the family. In national cemeteries, not only is the burial plot provided at no charge, but there are also various other memorialization benefits available, like headstones or markers, which may further alleviate family costs. The burial expense allowance and transportation reimbursement can still be accessed regardless of the burial site. Thus, the plot or interment burial allowance is the only one that is not payable under these circumstances, making it the correct choice in this context.

2. What happens to a claim if no DTA error is identified by BVA or HLR?

- A. It is automatically approved**
- B. It continues through the claims process**
- C. It is returned for review**
- D. It is dismissed entirely**

When no Duty to Assist (DTA) error is identified by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) or Higher-Level Review (HLR), the claim continues through the claims process. This indicates that the review has determined that the claim is adequately developed and does not contain any errors that would necessitate further action or additional assistance from the VA. In this scenario, the absence of a DTA error suggests that the necessary information and evidence are present for the claim to move forward without delay. The claim will thus be evaluated based on its merits, and the appeals process can continue as intended. This ensures that veterans receive timely decisions regarding their claims, maintaining the integrity and efficiency of the claims processing system. Other options suggest outcomes such as automatic approval, dismissal, or a return for review, which do not apply when no errors are found, making the continuation of the claims process the appropriate result.

3. What is the maximum time allowed for submitting a VA Form 9 after an SOC is issued?

- A. 30 days**
- B. 60 days**
- C. 90 days**
- D. One year**

The maximum time allowed for submitting a VA Form 9 after a Statement of the Case (SOC) is issued is 60 days. This period provides veterans the opportunity to formally appeal a decision made by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding their claims. The submission of VA Form 9 is a critical step in the appeals process, as it allows the veteran to express disagreement with the SOC and to request a review by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). While veterans do have up to one year to appeal a decision from the date of the SOC, they must submit their VA Form 9 within the 60-day window to perfect the appeal. It's important to note that if the form is not submitted within this timeframe, the appeal may not be processed, and the veteran could lose the opportunity to contest the decision.

4. The presumption of herbicide exposure for veterans serving in Vietnam began in which year?

- A. 1965**
- B. 1970**
- C. 1962**
- D. 1980**

The presumption of herbicide exposure for veterans who served in Vietnam is established starting from 1962. This is significant because it marks the beginning of the extensive use of herbicides, including Agent Orange, by U.S. forces during the Vietnam War. Veterans who served in Vietnam during this period are presumed to have been exposed to these chemicals, providing them with certain benefits related to health issues arising from this exposure. This presumption was later formally recognized in legislation to aid veterans in accessing medical care and compensation for health problems associated with herbicide exposure. The years mentioned in the other choices are not relevant to the initial establishment of this presumption. 1965 signifies an escalation of U.S. involvement in Vietnam but is not specifically tied to the herbicide exposure presumption. The year 1970 is important in terms of various legislative actions but does not mark the beginning of this presumption. Likewise, 1980 is much later than when the presumption was established and primarily relates to the further development of veterans' benefits.

5. What form is necessary to apply for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation?

- A. 21P-530
- B. 21P-601
- C. 21P-534**
- D. 21-4502

The correct form necessary to apply for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) is the 21P-534. This form is specifically designed for surviving spouses, children, and parents who are seeking compensation because of a service member's death, ensuring that they can access benefits due to that loss. Utilizing the 21P-534 form allows claimants to provide pertinent information about their relationship to the deceased veteran and details necessary for the Department of Veterans Affairs to process their claims effectively. Accurate completion of this form is critical in establishing entitlement to DIC benefits. In contrast, the other forms listed have different purposes. The 21P-530 is used to apply for burial benefits, while the 21P-601 is relevant for applying for a pension for parents of veterans. The 21-4502 is used for requesting the substitution of a claimant upon the death of a veteran regarding pending claims. Each form serves distinct functions, which is why utilizing the correct one for DIC is essential for a successful application.

6. Which division is considered the largest within a VA Regional Office?

- A. Veterans Service Center**
- B. Intake Processing Center
- C. Nursing Care Department
- D. Veterans Benefits Administration

The Veterans Service Center is considered the largest division within a VA Regional Office because it directly handles a majority of the claims and benefits processes for veterans. This division is responsible for determining eligibility for disability compensation, pension benefits, and other veteran entitlements, making it central to the VA's mission of serving veterans. Its significant size can be attributed to the volume of claims it processes and the number of personnel dedicated to assisting veterans in navigating these complex systems. The center acts as the frontline for veterans seeking assistance, thus necessitating a larger staff and resources compared to other divisions within the regional office. In contrast, the Intake Processing Center, while important for handling the initial submission of claims, typically serves a more focused role and does not have the same breadth of responsibilities. The Nursing Care Department, although crucial for providing healthcare services, falls outside the claims and benefits focus of the Regional Office structure, and the Veterans Benefits Administration encompasses a broader scope that includes multiple regional offices rather than being confined to a single division within one office.

7. What form must be used for submitting a supplemental claim?

- A. VA Form 20-0995**
- B. VA Form 21-526EZ**
- C. VA Form 22-0996**
- D. VA Form 10-10EZ**

The correct choice for submitting a supplemental claim is VA Form 20-0995. This form is specifically designed for veterans and other claimants who wish to supplement a previous claim, allowing them to provide additional evidence or information that was not part of the original submission. By using Form 20-0995, claimants can effectively communicate their new or updated arguments for benefits to the VA, ensuring that their additional evidence is considered in the context of their existing claim. The other forms mentioned serve different purposes. VA Form 21-526EZ is utilized for applying for disability compensation, which is not meant for supplemental claims. VA Form 22-0996 is used for submitting a notice of disagreement with a VA claim decision, and then VA Form 10-10EZ is an application for health benefits. Each form has a distinct objective within the VA claims and benefits process, underscoring why VA Form 20-0995 is the only appropriate choice for supplemental claims.

8. What must new evidence in a VA claim do?

- A. Be previously part of the agency record**
- B. Support the claimant's argument**
- C. Include statements from witnesses**
- D. Identify and submit with appropriate forms**

New evidence in a VA claim must identify and be submitted with appropriate forms to ensure that it is properly considered in the claim's evaluation. This procedural requirement ensures that the claims process remains organized and that all new evidence is effectively linked to the claimant's case. Submitting evidence alongside the required forms facilitates the VA's ability to review the information accurately and efficiently. The submission of new evidence is critical because it can significantly impact the outcome of a claim, particularly if it provides additional information that was not previously considered. Proper identification of the evidence allows the VA to understand its relevance and applicability to the claim, which is vital for a fair assessment of the case. While suggestions like supporting the claimant's argument or including witness statements can be important for the merits of a claim, the fundamental requirement hinges on the correct identification and submission process to ensure that the evidence is formally recognized within the claim system.

9. What type of records contain information about a service member's service history?

- A. Clinical Records**
- B. Personnel Records**
- C. Financial Records**
- D. Military Treatment Records**

Personnel records are crucial as they encompass a comprehensive account of a service member's service history. These records are maintained by the military and include vital information such as enlistment dates, duty assignments, promotions, training, performance evaluations, and disciplinary actions. They provide a holistic view of a service member's career within the armed forces, showcasing the trajectory of their military service. In contrast, clinical records focus primarily on a service member's medical history, including treatments and diagnoses, without providing context regarding their overall military service. Financial records pertain to the fiscal aspects of a service member's life, such as pay and benefits, which do not detail service history. Military treatment records are also concerned with medical care and treatment, lacking the broader scope of a service member's complete service experience found in personnel records. Therefore, personnel records are specifically designed to capture the entirety of a service member's professional journey within the military.

10. What is considered acceptable documentation for proof of Vietnam service?

- A. Medical records from VA**
- B. College transcripts**
- C. Buddy statements and official orders**
- D. Pay stubs from military service**

Acceptable documentation for proof of Vietnam service primarily includes buddy statements and official orders. Buddy statements are personal accounts from fellow service members who can attest to an individual's service and experiences in Vietnam, providing firsthand evidence. Official orders, such as deployment orders or orders to a specific unit that served in Vietnam, serve as formal documentation that confirms an individual's presence and service in that geographical area during the Vietnam War era. Both types of documentation are crucial because they are recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as valid methods to substantiate a claim for benefits related to Vietnam service, particularly when other forms of documentation may not be readily available. Other options, while they may reflect aspects of military service, do not serve as direct proof of Vietnam service. Medical records from the VA might indicate treatment for conditions related to service but do not specifically verify active duty status in Vietnam. College transcripts do not provide any relevant information about military service or deployment. Pay stubs from military service can confirm that an individual was in the military but do not inherently link to service in Vietnam or provide geographic verification. Therefore, buddy statements and official orders stand out as the most effective means of documenting such service.

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://vaaccreditation.examzify.com>

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

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