DIGESTIVE SYSTEM A&P 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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. Where is enteropeptidase located and what is its function?

A. Pancreas; converts trypsinogen to trypsin

B. Brush border of the duodenum; converts trypsinogen to trypsin

C. Stomach; activates pepsinogen

D. Jejunum; activates chymotrypsinogen

2. Which organ is primarily involved in absorbing water from indigestible material?

A. Large intestine

B. Stomach

C. Liver

D. Pancreas

3. Pouches of the large intestine that allow expansion and elongation are known as what?

A. Haustra

B. Villi

C. Plicae

D. Rugae

4. Which duct connects the gallbladder to the common bile duct?

A. Cystic duct

B. Common bile duct

C. Hepatic duct

D. Pancreatic duct

5. What enzyme in saliva begins the breakdown of carbohydrates?

A. Salivary amylase

B. Pepsin

C. Lipase

D. Trypsin

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6. Which essential nutrient requiring intrinsic factor is absorbed in the terminal ileum?

A. Vitamin C

B. Vitamin B12 (cobalamin)

C. Vitamin D

D. Vitamin A

7. Which term describes the release of secretions into the digestive tract?

A. Secretion

B. Ingestion

C. Absorption

D. Elimination

8. Which hormone primarily slows gastric emptying and stimulates pancreatic enzyme secretion and gallbladder contraction?

A. Secretin

B. Cholecystokinin

C. Gastrin

D. Motilin

9. Which substance emulsifies fats and where is it produced?

A. Bile acids emulsify fats; produced by gallbladder

B. Hydrochloric acid emulsifies fats; produced by stomach

C. Bile salts emulsify fats; produced by the liver

D. Pancreatic lipase emulsifies fats; produced by pancreas

10. Which substances amplify the acid secretion stimulated by gastrin in the stomach?

A. Secretin and cholecystokinin

B. Histamine and acetylcholine

C. Epinephrine and norepinephrine

D. Somatostatin and gastrin-releasing peptide

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where is enteropeptidase located and what is its function?

A. Pancreas; converts trypsinogen to trypsin

B. Brush border of the duodenum; converts trypsinogen to trypsin

C. Stomach; activates pepsinogen

D. Jejunum; activates chymotrypsinogen

Enteropeptidase (enterokinase) is a brush-border enzyme on the microvilli of duodenal enterocytes in the small intestine. Its role is to activate pancreatic trypsinogen by cleaving off its activation peptide, producing active trypsin. This kickstarts the pancreatic enzyme cascade, because trypsin then activates other zymogens like chymotrypsinogen and procarboxypeptidases, allowing protein digestion to proceed in the small intestine. The site matters: the duodenum is where chyme mixes with pancreatic juice, so activation starts there. The pancreas produces trypsinogen, not enteropeptidase; pepsinogen is activated in the stomach by acid and pepsin; and chymotrypsinogen is activated downstream by trypsin, not directly by enteropeptidase.

2. Which organ is primarily involved in absorbing water from indigestible material?

A. Large intestine

B. Stomach

C. Liver

D. Pancreas

Water absorption from indigestible material mainly occurs in the large intestine. After nutrients have been absorbed earlier in the digestive tract, the remaining chyme moves into the colon, where the lining actively takes up water and electrolytes. This reabsorption concentrates the waste into solid feces and helps regulate fluid balance. The process is aided by the gut microbiota and peristaltic movements that gradually push material toward the rectum. The stomach handles digestion with acid and enzymes and passes partially digested food on, but it isn't where most water reabsorption happens. The liver and pancreas contribute essential digestive juices (bile and enzymes) but not the primary reabsorption of water from indigestible material.

3. Pouches of the large intestine that allow expansion and elongation are known as what?

A. Haustra

B. Villi

C. Plicae

D. Rugae

Haustra are the pouch-like segments of the large intestine that form as the circular muscle is gathered into bands called teniae coli. These sacculations give the colon its characteristic segmented appearance and, more importantly, allow it to expand and elongate as it fills with contents. The haustral pattern enables gradual mixing and propulsion of material along the colon, accommodating variability in stool volume without requiring a dramatic increase in length all at once. Villi are tiny finger-like projections found in the small intestine that increase surface area for absorption, so they aren't involved in the large intestine's ability to expand. Plicae are circular folds in the mucosa of the small intestine that also boost absorption and surface area, not a feature of the colon. Rugae are folds in the stomach mucosa (and can accommodate gastric expansion) but are not the structures that create the large intestine's expandable sacculations.

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4. Which duct connects the gallbladder to the common bile duct?

A. Cystic duct

B. Common bile duct

C. Hepatic duct

D. Pancreatic duct

Understanding the biliary tree and how bile moves from the gallbladder to the duodenum. The duct that connects the gallbladder to the common bile duct is the cystic duct. Bile produced by the liver travels through the hepatic ducts and joins with the cystic duct to form the common bile duct. The cystic duct provides the link that allows bile to be stored in the gallbladder and then released back into the biliary system when needed. The common bile duct then carries bile to the duodenum. The other ducts have different roles: the hepatic ducts drain the liver, forming the common hepatic duct, and the pancreatic duct drains the pancreas and joins the biliary system near the duodenum. The cystic duct often contains spiral valves (valves of Heister) to help keep it patent during flow.

5. What enzyme in saliva begins the breakdown of carbohydrates?

A. Salivary amylase

B. Pepsin

C. Lipase

D. Trypsin

Carbohydrate digestion starts in the mouth, where saliva provides an enzyme that begins breaking down starches. This enzyme is salivary amylase (also called ptyalin). It cleaves the alpha-1,4 glycosidic bonds in starch and glycogen, producing smaller sugars such as maltose and dextrins, so the carbohydrate digestion process begins even before food reaches the stomach. Pepsin digests proteins in the stomach, not carbohydrates. Lipase targets fats, aiding fat digestion (with some contribution from lingual lipase in saliva, but the main fat digestion happens later in the small intestine). Trypsin is a pancreatic enzyme that also digests proteins in the small intestine.

6. Which essential nutrient requiring intrinsic factor is absorbed in the terminal ileum?

A. Vitamin C

B. Vitamin B12 (cobalamin)

C. Vitamin D

D. Vitamin A

Vitamin B12 (cobalamin) is the nutrient that depends on intrinsic factor for absorption, and the terminal ileum is its specific site of uptake. In the stomach, intrinsic factor produced by parietal cells binds B12 after it's freed from dietary proteins. The B12–intrinsic factor complex then travels to the terminal ileum, where ileal enterocytes have receptors (cubilin with amnionless) that recognize this complex and internalize it via endocytosis, with calcium facilitating the uptake. Inside the enterocyte, B12 is released from intrinsic factor and bound to transcobalamin II for transport in the bloodstream. Other vitamins listed—such as vitamin C, vitamin D, and vitamin A—do not require intrinsic factor for absorption and use different digestive pathways.

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7. Which term describes the release of secretions into the digestive tract?

A. Secretion

B. Ingestion

C. Absorption

D. Elimination

Secretion refers to the release of substances into the digestive tract to aid digestion. Glands produce and pour out fluids like saliva, gastric juice, bile, and pancreatic enzymes directly into the digestive lumen, which helps break down food as it moves through the tract. This is distinct from ingestion, which is simply taking food into the mouth; absorption, which is the uptake of digested nutrients into the bloodstream or lymph; and elimination, which is the expulsion of indigestible waste from the body. So secretion is the best fit because it specifically describes releasing digestive secretions into the tract to facilitate digestion.

8. Which hormone primarily slows gastric emptying and stimulates pancreatic enzyme secretion and gallbladder contraction?

A. Secretin

B. Cholecystokinin

C. Gastrin

D. Motilin

Cholecystokinin (CCK) is the hormone that fits these actions. It's released by I cells in the duodenum and proximal jejunum when fatty or protein-rich chyme enters the small intestine. Its main job is to coordinate digestion: it slows gastric emptying by reducing stomach motility so the chyme has time to be broken down, while simultaneously signaling the pancreas to release enzyme-rich juice needed for digestion. CCK also triggers the gallbladder to contract, pushing bile into the duodenum, and it relaxes the sphincter of Oddi to let bile and pancreatic secretions enter the intestine. By contrast, secretin mainly stimulates bicarbonate secretion to neutralize acid, gastrin mainly increases gastric acid production, and motilin drives fasting motility patterns, not the combination described. Hence, CCK is the hormone that best matches all three effects.

9. Which substance emulsifies fats and where is it produced?

A. Bile acids emulsify fats; produced by gallbladder

B. Hydrochloric acid emulsifies fats; produced by stomach

C. Bile salts emulsify fats; produced by the liver

D. Pancreatic lipase emulsifies fats; produced by pancreas

Emulsification of fats is done by bile salts, which are amphipathic molecules that coat fat droplets and break them into tiny pieces, increasing the surface area for digestion. These bile salts are produced by the liver; bile is stored and concentrated in the gallbladder and released into the intestine as needed. That makes the statement that bile salts emulsify fats and are produced by the liver the best choice. Hydrochloric acid in the stomach does not emulsify fats, and while bile is released from the gallbladder, it is produced by the liver, not created there. Pancreatic lipase digests fats once they've been emulsified, rather than performing emulsification itself.

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10. Which substances amplify the acid secretion stimulated by gastrin in the stomach?

A. Secretin and cholecystokinin

B. Histamine and acetylcholine

C. Epinephrine and norepinephrine

D. Somatostatin and gastrin-releasing peptide

Gastrin-stimulated acid secretion is potentiated by two other mediators that act in different ways to boost the parietal cell's output. Histamine, released from enterochromaffin-like cells in response to gastrin, binds to H2 receptors on parietal cells and increases cAMP, which markedly enhances acid production. Acetylcholine, from parasympathetic nerves, directly stimulates parietal cells via muscarinic receptors and also promotes gastrin release, further raising acid secretion. Together, they amplify the acid response beyond what gastrin would achieve alone. The other substances don't fit because they either inhibit acid secretion or don't enhance gastrin's effect: secretin and cholecystokinin tend to suppress or have little to no potentiating effect on gastric acid; epinephrine and norepinephrine generally inhibit gastric secretion; and somatostatin inhibits acid secretion, while gastrin-releasing peptide mainly increases gastrin release rather than directly boosting acid secretion.

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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://digetivesysaandp.examzify.com

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

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