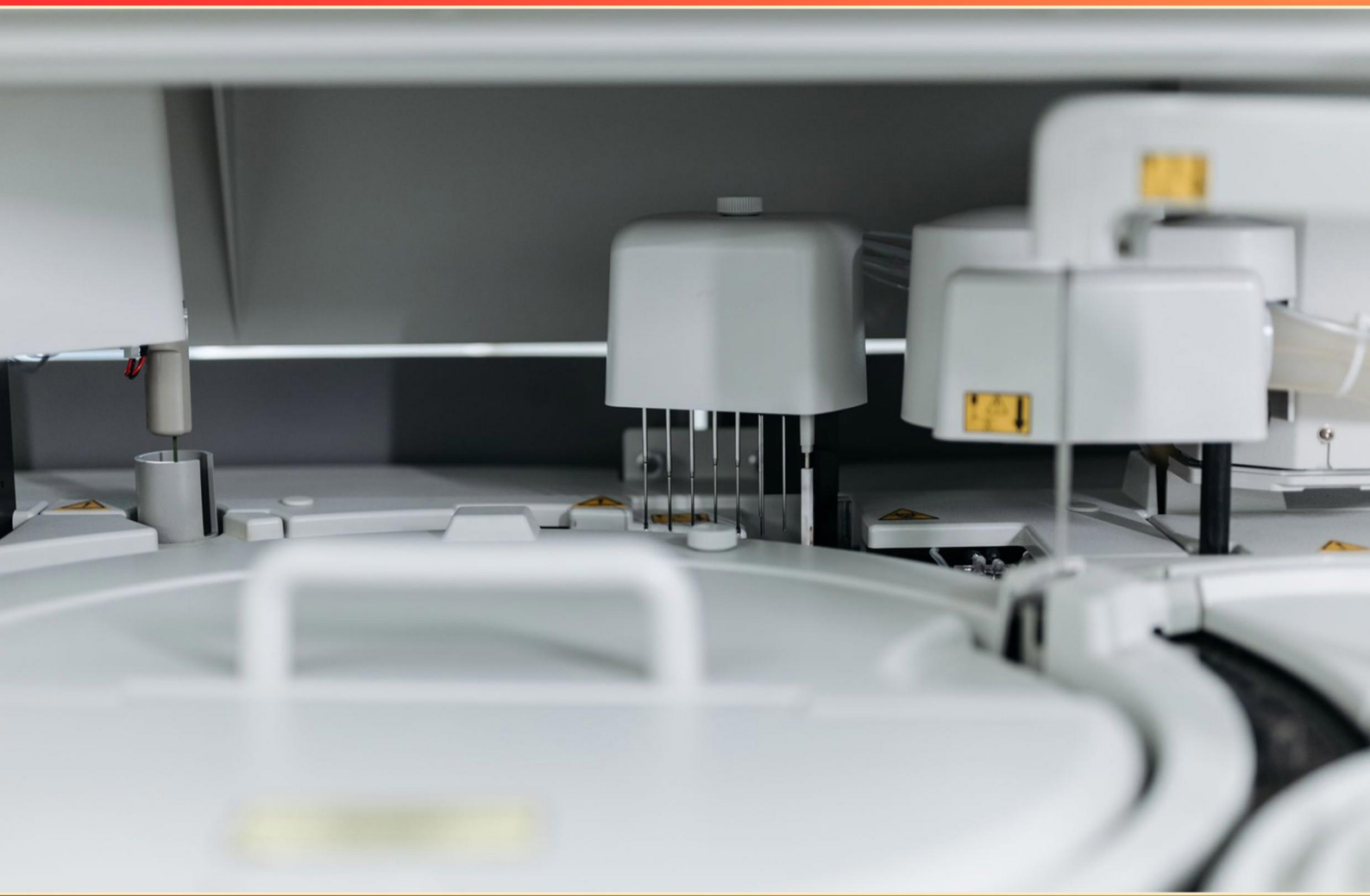
MATLOCK BIOETHICS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://matlockbioethics.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 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 accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Which view argues that moral standards are discerned in nature through human reason?

A. Natural Law theory

B. Deontology

C. Virtue Ethics

D. Contractarianism

2. Which issue is described as a moral conflict in nursing involving balancing duties to help patients with respecting their autonomy?

A. Beneficence versus patient autonomy

B. Patient-provider confidentiality

C. Truth-telling

D. Informed consent

3. A competent patient has the right to reject recommended treatments, even life-saving ones.

A. True

B. False

C. Only for non-life-saving treatments

D. Only with physician consent

4. Which concern suggests IVF may devalue children by treating them as products?

A. It undermines the value we place on children.

B. It strengthens the family unit.

C. It enhances parental responsibility.

D. It ensures better child outcomes.

5. Helga Wanglie case illustrates a respirator is non-beneficial because it would not restore consciousness. This concept is best described as what?

A. Beneficence

B. Non-maleficence

C. Medical Futility

D. Autonomy

SAMPLE

6. Which statement best describes the primary purpose of informed consent in medical treatment?

A. To respect patient autonomy by enabling informed decision-making

B. To ensure physicians always follow patient wishes

C. To expedite trials without patient input

D. To restrict patient rights

7. Phase III clinical trials primarily involve:

A. Phase III: determine whether the drug is effective, how it compares with other proven treatments, and how to use it in the safest way

B. Phase III: tests safety in a small group

C. Phase III: compare price with alternatives

D. Phase III: test the drug in animals

8. Which theory argues that a just distribution maximizes the net good for society?

A. Utilitarian theories of justice

B. Egalitarian theories of justice

C. Libertarian theories of justice

D. Positive rights theory

9. Which description best characterizes the blastocyst stage?

A. Stage of early development consisting of a solid ball of cells

B. Stage of early development that occurs 2-3 days after fertilization

C. Stage of early development in mammals that consists of a hollow ball of cells (5-6 days after fertilization)

D. Stage of early development where the embryo implants

10. Which statement best defines futility in medical ethics?

A. The alleged pointlessness or ineffectiveness of administering particular treatments

B. The high cost of treatments

C. The probability of a cure

D. The time required for therapy

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which view argues that moral standards are discerned in nature through human reason?

A. Natural Law theory

B. Deontology

C. Virtue Ethics

D. Contractarianism

Morality in Natural Law theory is understood as discernible in the order of nature itself and accessible to human reason. The idea is that there are objective goods built into human nature and the natural world, and rational reflection lets us see which actions promote those goods and which undermine them. For example, considerations about preserving life, forming families, seeking knowledge, and living peacefully with others point to standards of right and wrong that flow from the natural order. Because these standards arise from nature and human nature, they can be known through reason rather than being merely invented or justified by social agreements. This distinguishes Natural Law from other approaches: deontology emphasizes duties derived from universal rational principles; Virtue Ethics concentrates on character and flourishing; Contractarianism bases morality on agreements among rational agents.

2. Which issue is described as a moral conflict in nursing involving balancing duties to help patients with respecting their autonomy?

A. Beneficence versus patient autonomy

B. Patient-provider confidentiality

C. Truth-telling

D. Informed consent

At the heart of this item is the tension between doing good for patients and respecting their personal decision-making rights. Beneficence means acting to promote the patient's well-being and prevent harm, while patient autonomy means recognizing their right to make their own health care choices, even if those choices conflict with what the clinician believes is best. In nursing, you often face situations where you want to provide the most beneficial treatment, but you must honor the patient's informed preferences, which may include accepting a different plan or even declining treatment. That push-and-pull between helping the patient and respecting their autonomous choices is the classic moral conflict described here. Confidentiality centers on protecting private information; truth-telling concerns honesty in disclosure; informed consent relates to ensuring a patient understands options and consents voluntarily. While related to ethics in care, the described struggle is most directly about beneficence versus autonomy.

SAMPLE

3. A competent patient has the right to reject recommended treatments, even life-saving ones.

A. True

B. False

C. Only for non-life-saving treatments

D. Only with physician consent

A key idea here is patient autonomy: a competent patient has the right to decide what happens to their own body, including the choice to refuse treatment that could save their life. When a person is judged to have decision-making capacity, they can understand the information about a proposed treatment, appreciate the consequences of accepting or refusing it, reason about their options, and communicate a clear choice. If they choose to refuse, their decision should be respected, and the clinician's role is to ensure they are fully informed and to document the discussion. Understanding this helps explain why the statement is correct: refusing life-saving treatment can be a legitimate expression of autonomy. The other options fall short because they either deny the patient's right to decline (False), restrict autonomy only to non-life-saving scenarios (Only for non-life-saving treatments), or imply that physician authorization is needed for the patient's decision to stand (Only with physician consent).

4. Which concern suggests IVF may devalue children by treating them as products?

A. It undermines the value we place on children.

B. It strengthens the family unit.

C. It enhances parental responsibility.

D. It ensures better child outcomes.

The main idea here is the concern about commodification in reproductive technology—the fear that IVF could lead us to treat children as products rather than as persons with inherent value. When people worry about IVF, they often point to how embryos are selected, how donor gametes are used, or how surrogacy creates a marketplace around reproduction, which can imply that children are goods to be chosen or manufactured to meet parental desires. That line of thought directly addresses devaluing children, since it ties a child's worth to what can be bought or produced. The other statements describe potential positive effects on families or outcomes, not the moral worry about treating children as products.

5. Helga Wanglie case illustrates a respirator is non-beneficial because it would not restore consciousness. This concept is best described as what?

A. Beneficence

B. Non-maleficence

C. Medical Futility

D. Autonomy

Medical futility describes a situation where a treatment is unlikely to produce any meaningful benefit for the patient, such as restoring consciousness or achieving a meaningful recovery. In the Helga Wanglie case, using a respirator would not restore consciousness, so continuing ventilation wouldn't meet the goals of care. This concept goes beyond general beneficence or non-maleficence by focusing on whether the intervention can achieve worthwhile outcomes; a treatment might be well-intentioned (beneficent) or not directly causing harm (non-maleficent) yet still be considered futile if it cannot achieve the patient's goals. Autonomy is relevant because surrogates or patients (when able) make decisions, but the label that best fits this clinical judgment is medical futility.

SAMPLE

6. Which statement best describes the primary purpose of informed consent in medical treatment?

A. To respect patient autonomy by enabling informed decision-making

B. To ensure physicians always follow patient wishes

C. To expedite trials without patient input

D. To restrict patient rights

The main idea here is that informed consent centers on respecting patient autonomy by enabling informed decision-making about one's own medical care. Informed consent isn't about making doctors always do what patients want, nor is it a tool to speed up trials without patient input, nor a way to restrict patient rights. Instead, it ensures patients receive clear information about their condition, the proposed treatment, potential risks and benefits, and available alternatives (including the option of no treatment), so they can decide in line with their values and preferences. This process protects their right to make voluntary choices about their own body and care, rather than directing or limiting those choices.

7. Phase III clinical trials primarily involve:

A. Phase III: determine whether the drug is effective, how it compares with other proven treatments, and how to use it in the safest way

B. Phase III: tests safety in a small group

C. Phase III: compare price with alternatives

D. Phase III: test the drug in animals

Phase III trials are large-scale studies designed to determine whether a new drug actually works in practice and how it compares to existing proven treatments, while also establishing the best and safest way to use it. This phase tests efficacy in a broader, more diverse patient population and gathers data on safety, dosing, and practical use that inform labeling and clinical guidelines. The aim is to confirm benefits observed in earlier studies and to understand how the drug performs against standard care or placebo in real-world settings. The other descriptions fit earlier stages or different activities: testing safety in a small group aligns with early-phase work focused on dosing and tolerability; price comparisons aren't a trial objective; and animal testing occurs before human trials.

8. Which theory argues that a just distribution maximizes the net good for society?

A. Utilitarian theories of justice

B. Egalitarian theories of justice

C. Libertarian theories of justice

D. Positive rights theory

The main idea is that justice is evaluated by consequences that maximize overall welfare. In utilitarian theories of justice, the just distribution is the one that yields the greatest net good for society—taking into account the total happiness or well-being of everyone. This approach uses the sum of utilities across all individuals and judges outcomes by how much welfare they produce, even if that means some people do better than others or that equality isn't perfect. That focus on maximizing total welfare explains why utilitarian theory is the correct match to the description. By contrast, egalitarian theories prioritize equality, libertarian theories emphasize individual rights and voluntary exchanges, and positive rights theories stress entitlements to certain goods—none of which center the distribution on maximizing the overall net good.

SAMPLE

9. Which description best characterizes the blastocyst stage?

A. Stage of early development consisting of a solid ball of cells

B. Stage of early development that occurs 2-3 days after fertilization

C. Stage of early development in mammals that consists of a hollow ball of cells (5-6 days after fertilization)

D. Stage of early development where the embryo implants

The idea being tested is recognizing the defining structure and timing of the blastocyst. The blastocyst is characterized by being a hollow ball of cells with a fluid-filled cavity called the blastocoel. This hollow stage marks the transition from the earlier solid cluster of cells (the morula) to a structure ready to implant, and it typically forms in mammals about five to six days after fertilization. While implantation into the uterine lining begins during this stage, the essential description is the hollow nature of the blastocyst. The other descriptions don't fit as well: a solid ball of cells describes the earlier morula, and the stated timing is earlier than the blastocyst stage, while the implantation note refers to a process rather than the defining structure of the stage.

10. Which statement best defines futility in medical ethics?

A. The alleged pointlessness or ineffectiveness of administering particular treatments

B. The high cost of treatments

C. The probability of a cure

D. The time required for therapy

Futility in medical ethics is about whether an intervention is unlikely to provide any meaningful benefit to the patient. The best statement captures this idea by focusing on pointlessness or ineffectiveness of the treatment in achieving worthwhile outcomes for the patient's health or quality of life. If a therapy is unlikely to help the patient meet their goals of care, it's considered futile. Cost, while important in broader discussions, is not a definition of futility. The probability of a cure speaks to how likely a single favorable outcome is, but futility centers on whether the treatment would meaningfully help the patient, not just the chance of a cure. The time required for therapy is about duration and burden, not about the likelihood of achieving a beneficial outcome.

SAMPLE

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://matlockbioethics.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE