MSU COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (COM) INTERVIEW 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. **Which approach best describes how you would respond to a request to discuss a major change you faced?**

   A. Deny the change and wait for instructions.

   B. Blame others for the change.

   C. Describe adaptation, resilience, outcome, what learned.

   D. Focus solely on the negative impact.

2. **Which prompt asks you to reflect on your leadership style?**

   A. Are you a leader or a follower?

   B. Tell me about a challenge and how you dealt with it.

   C. I think a good leader is one who knows when to follow, who knows when other people are more qualified to lead, who knows how to lift other people up to showcase their voices and abilities.

   D. What is the difference between a DO and an MD?

3. **Which approach best demonstrates critical thinking during a medical interview?**

   A. Recite memorized facts

   B. Brainstorm and problem-solve

   C. Avoid challenging questions

   D. Focus on personal anecdotes

4. **Which prompt asks about the difference between a DO and an MD?**

   A. What is the difference between a DO and an MD?

   B. If two people had the same disease and there was only one option of treatment for one of the people, what would you do?

   C. Tell me about a challenge and how you dealt with it.

   D. Are you prepared academically and mentally for medical school?

5. **Why would MSU want you as part of its medical community?**

   A. My dedication to service, teamwork, and aligning with MSU's values

   B. My desire to attend any medical school

   C. I have the highest test score only

   D. I want to move far away

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6. What is a recommended approach when a patient with limited health literacy seeks a high-risk procedure?

A. Use medical jargon and assume understanding.

B. Refuse due to literacy.

C. Proceed without consent.

D. Assess literacy, simplify, verify understanding, involve family if appropriate, use teach-back.

7. If you could not be a doctor, what profession would you choose?

A. Graphic designer

B. Chef

C. Pelvic floor therapist

D. Stockbroker

8. Which statement best explains the body-mind-soul connection in healing?

A. Body alone drives healing.

B. Soul alone.

C. Mind alone.

D. Whole-person approach; stress, psychosocial factors influence outcomes; OMM supports.

9. What do you hope your future patients would say about you as a physician?

A. Rude and unknowledgeable.

B. Indifferent.

C. Inconsistent.

D. Compassionate, competent, trustworthy, and a good communicator.

10. When confronted with a potential lapse in ethics involving confidentiality and safety, what is an appropriate first step?

A. Immediately disclose to everyone.

B. Notify the patient and consider ethics principles; consult colleagues.

C. Discard the case and refer somewhere else.

D. Identify ethical principles, consult with colleagues, document, and prioritize patient welfare.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which approach best describes how you would respond to a request to discuss a major change you faced?

A. Deny the change and wait for instructions.

B. Blame others for the change.

C. Describe adaptation, resilience, outcome, what learned.

D. Focus solely on the negative impact.

When discussing a major change you faced, you should frame your response to highlight adaptation, resilience, the outcome, and what you learned. This approach shows you can navigate uncertainty, take ownership of your role, and turn challenges into growth. Thinking through the change this way, you briefly describe what changed, the concrete steps you took to adjust, the results that followed, and the insights you gained or actions you'd take differently next time. It demonstrates your problem-solving in action, your ability to stay productive under pressure, and your commitment to continuous improvement—qualities essential in a medical training environment and collaborative clinical practice. Denying the change and waiting for instructions signals avoidance of responsibility and unclear initiative. Blaming others undermines trust and teamwork. Focusing only on the negative impact ignores your capacity to adapt and learn, which can leave an interviewer unsure about how you handle real-world challenges. By emphasizing adaptation, resilience, outcomes, and lessons learned, you present a balanced, proactive, and credible narrative.

2. Which prompt asks you to reflect on your leadership style?

A. Are you a leader or a follower?

B. Tell me about a challenge and how you dealt with it.

C. I think a good leader is one who knows when to follow, who knows when other people are more qualified to lead, who knows how to lift other people up to showcase their voices and abilities.

D. What is the difference between a DO and an MD?

Prompts that invite you to reflect on how you lead are testing your self-awareness about leadership style. The best prompt to reveal your approach is the one that directly asks whether you are a leader or a follower. It prompts you to articulate where you stand on taking charge versus supporting others, how you decide when to lead, how you influence a team, and how you balance initiative with listening. This kind of question helps interviewers gauge your true leadership tendencies, adaptability, and how you apply your style in real situations. The other prompts don't zero in on your personal leadership approach. Asking you to describe a challenge and how you handled it highlights problem-solving and resilience rather than your overall leadership identity. A statement about what a good leader should be focuses on ideals rather than your own behavior, experiences, or pattern of action. A question about the difference between professional degrees is unrelated to leadership style and instead touches on credentials. If you were answering the best prompt, you'd reflect on your default stance in team settings—when you take initiative, how you empower others, how you communicate, and how you decide when to lead or to follow for the group's success.

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3. Which approach best demonstrates critical thinking during a medical interview?

A. Recite memorized facts

B. Brainstorm and problem-solve

C. Avoid challenging questions

D. Focus on personal anecdotes

Critical thinking in a medical interview is shown by actively brainstorming and problem-solving about the patient's presentation. This means you generate possible explanations, weigh evidence, and test ideas against the information you're gathering, rather than simply delivering rehearsed facts. Why this is the best approach: it reflects clinical reasoning in action—you form a differential diagnosis, consider alternative explanations, assess what information is missing, and plan the next steps (questions to ask, tests to order, and how to prioritize concerns). This approach adapts as new data come in and helps you avoid jumping to conclusions. Reciting memorized facts focuses on recall rather than application to the patient's story, so it doesn't demonstrate how you interpret information or reason through a case. Avoiding challenging questions shuts down information gathering and can miss important clues. Focusing on personal anecdotes may be biased and not sufficiently evidence-based to guide diagnosis or management. So, brainstorming and problem-solving best showcases the analytic process essential for effective medical interviewing.

4. Which prompt asks about the difference between a DO and an MD?

A. What is the difference between a DO and an MD?

B. If two people had the same disease and there was only one option of treatment for one of the people, what would you do?

C. Tell me about a challenge and how you dealt with it.

D. Are you prepared academically and mentally for medical school?

The main idea this prompt tests is understanding the difference between a DO and an MD. It's the only option that directly asks you to compare the two types of medical degrees, which requires you to know what each credential stands for and how the training and approach differ. A DO is Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, trained with an emphasis on the whole person, preventive care, and hands-on treatment through osteopathic manipulative medicine in addition to standard medical training. An MD is Doctor of Medicine, trained in allopathic medicine with a focus on diagnosing and treating disease using conventional medical therapies. In the U.S., both types of physicians are licensed and can practice medicine, though historically DOs followed the osteopathic philosophy and often completed the COMLEX-USA exams, while MDs completed the USMLE; nowadays many programs accept either path, and DOs and MDs train side by side in many residencies. Other prompts focus on treatment decisions, personal challenges, or readiness for medical school—topics about experiences or mindset rather than the specific differences between DO and MD credentials. So this direct comparison prompt is the best fit for demonstrating knowledge about what distinguishes osteopathic and allopathic medical training and practice.

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5. Why would MSU want you as part of its medical community?

A. My dedication to service, teamwork, and aligning with MSU's values

B. My desire to attend any medical school

C. I have the highest test score only

D. I want to move far away

The crucial idea this item tests is how well a candidate fits with the medical school's culture and mission. MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine looks for students who will contribute to a community focused on service, collaboration, and the osteopathic principles of caring for the whole person. Demonstrating dedication to service, teamwork, and alignment with MSU's values shows that you're not just pursuing medicine for personal reasons or grades, but you're prepared to engage in community service, work well with peers and clinicians, and uphold the ethical, patient-centered approach that the school strives to instill. That alignment is what admissions committees want, because it predicts how you'll function in a team-based, values-driven environment and how you'll contribute to the school's culture. Other statements—like wanting to go to any medical school, relying only on top test scores, or expressing a desire to move far away—don't reveal that same level of commitment to the community, teamwork, and shared values that MSU seeks in its future physicians.

6. What is a recommended approach when a patient with limited health literacy seeks a high-risk procedure?

A. Use medical jargon and assume understanding.

B. Refuse due to literacy.

C. Proceed without consent.

D. Assess literacy, simplify, verify understanding, involve family if appropriate, use teach-back.

When a patient with limited health literacy faces a high-risk procedure, the essential move is to ensure truly informed consent through clear communication and verification of understanding. Start by assessing how much the patient understands and what terms or concepts need simplification. Then translate medical jargon into plain language, using shorter sentences, concrete examples, and visuals if helpful. After explaining risks, benefits, alternatives, and uncertainties, verify understanding with teach-back—asking the patient to explain in their own words how the procedure works, what the risks are, and what choices they have. Involve a family member or trusted caregiver if appropriate and with the patient's permission, to support comprehension and decision-making. This approach supports autonomy, improves comprehension, and reduces the chance of misinformed decisions or nonadherence, which is especially important for high-risk procedures. Using jargon and assuming understanding can hide gaps in knowledge, refusing care due to literacy denies access to needed services, and proceeding without proper consent is unethical and unsafe.

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7. If you could not be a doctor, what profession would you choose?

A. Graphic designer

B. Chef

C. Pelvic floor therapist

D. Stockbroker

This question looks at your preference for a health care role that centers on patient care and functional improvement, even if you're not practicing as a physician. Pelvic floor therapy sits right in rehabilitative medicine, requiring an understanding of anatomy, movement, and women's health. It emphasizes helping people regain continence, reduce pelvic pain, and improve daily activities, which are direct, meaningful patient outcomes. Choosing this path shows you value hands-on care, long-term patient relationships, education, and collaboration with doctors to improve quality of life. The other careers, while valuable in their own right, don't align as closely with patient-centered medical care: graphic design focuses on visual communication; a chef on culinary arts; and a stockbroker on finance. They lack the direct clinical, rehabilitative focus that demonstrates a commitment to health and functional restoration in a medical context.

8. Which statement best explains the body-mind-soul connection in healing?

A. Body alone drives healing.

B. Soul alone.

C. Mind alone.

D. Whole-person approach; stress, psychosocial factors influence outcomes; OMM supports.

Healing arises from a whole-person view that integrates body, mind, and spirit. The best explanation recognizes that stress and psychosocial factors can shape outcomes and that osteopathic manipulative medicine supports healing by addressing how the body's structure, function, and nervous system interact. Treatments that focus only on the physical tissues miss how emotional state, coping, and social context influence recovery, while focusing on mind or spirit alone ignores tangible bodily contributors. OMM complements psychosocial care by reducing somatic dysfunction and improving circulation and nervous system balance, helping the body heal more effectively when combined with attention to stress, coping, and support.

9. What do you hope your future patients would say about you as a physician?

A. Rude and unknowledgeable.

B. Indifferent.

C. Inconsistent.

D. Compassionate, competent, trustworthy, and a good communicator.

Patients judge a physician by how they treat them and how well they partner in care. The best outcome is a physician who is compassionate, competent, trustworthy, and a good communicator. Compassion shows you value the patient's experience and concerns, building rapport and making patients more willing to share information essential for accurate diagnosis and personalized treatment. Competence ensures you have the knowledge and skills to diagnose correctly, choose appropriate therapies, and keep patient safety at the forefront. Trustworthiness means you are reliable, respectful of confidentiality, honest about limitations, and steadfast in commitments, which encourages ongoing care and adherence. Being a good communicator means explaining conditions and options in clear terms, listening actively, and involving patients in decisions, which improves understanding and outcomes. In osteopathic care, this aligns with treating the person as a whole and collaborating with patients, supporting a patient-centered, effective practice. The other traits—rudeness, indifference, or inconsistency—undermine trust, disrupt the therapeutic relationship, and can lead to poorer outcomes.

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10. When confronted with a potential lapse in ethics involving confidentiality and safety, what is an appropriate first step?

A. Immediately disclose to everyone.

B. Notify the patient and consider ethics principles; consult colleagues.

C. Discard the case and refer somewhere else.

D. Identify ethical principles, consult with colleagues, document, and prioritize patient welfare.

When faced with an ethics lapse involving confidentiality and safety, start by clarifying which obligations apply and how they interact. Identify the ethical principles at stake—confidentiality alongside the responsibility to protect patient safety, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and autonomy—and assess how they balance in the specific situation. Then bring in others. Consulting colleagues, supervisors, or an ethics resource helps ensure the response isn't driven by a single viewpoint and aligns with professional standards. Document the process. Write down the concerns, the principles considered, who was consulted, and the rationale for the chosen course of action. This creates a clear, defensible record and supports accountability. Throughout, prioritize the patient's welfare and act to mitigate risk while upholding confidentiality as much as possible within safety requirements. This measured, collaborative approach is preferable to abrupt, unilateral actions or bypassing the decision-making process.

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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://msucominterview.examzify.com

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

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