

NORTH CAROLINA DENTAL BOARD – DENTAL LAWS AND INFECTION CONTROL LICENSE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. How long must a Registered Dental Hygienist maintain CE records?**
 - A. 1 year
 - B. 3 years
 - C. 2 years
 - D. 5 years
- 2. Which option correctly lists measures that minimize spray, spatter, and aerosols during procedures?**
 - A. Rubber dam, HVE, saliva ejector, close lid over ultrasonic bath
 - B. Rubber dam only
 - C. HVE only
 - D. Saliva ejector only
- 3. If a dental hygiene board applicant is still in school in a dental program, the official hygiene transcripts must be:**
 - A. Mailed in sealed envelope
 - B. Emailed to the board
 - C. Faxed by the applicant
 - D. Hand-delivered to the board
- 4. The Department of Public Safety may charge, each applicant who has applied for a license through the Board, a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only for license renewal
 - D. There is no such fee
- 5. Which term describes microbes that can grow in presence or absence of oxygen?**
 - A. Obligate aerobes
 - B. Obligate anaerobes
 - C. Facultative microbes
 - D. Microaerophiles

- 6. What is the term length for an elected dental hygienist board member?**
- A. 1 year
 - B. 2 years
 - C. 3 years
 - D. 5 years
- 7. Blood in your eye requires follow-up with a healthcare professional.**
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only if vision changes
 - D. Only if pain
- 8. A dentist who is qualified to administer general anesthesia must ensure that his/her staff has successfully completed Basic Life Support Training.**
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only for certain procedures
 - D. Optional
- 9. The Board shall file an annual financial report with the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Office of State Budget and Management and the:**
- A. Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee
 - B. Department of Revenue
 - C. Department of Administration
 - D. NC General Assembly
- 10. Can the Board conduct investigations, issue subpoenas, and take depositions?**
- A. No
 - B. Yes
 - C. Only with court order
 - D. Only during licensure hearings

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How long must a Registered Dental Hygienist maintain CE records?

- A. 1 year
- B. 3 years
- C. 2 years**
- D. 5 years

Maintaining continuing education records is about proving you met the license renewal requirements. In North Carolina, the board expects hygienists to keep their CE records for the current renewal period, which is two years. This timeframe ensures you can provide proof of completed CE if the board reviews your records during renewal or in an audit. Your CE records should include the course title, provider, date, number of hours earned, and completion proof. The other durations don't fit the board's requirement because they don't match the two-year retention window used for renewal and potential audits.

2. Which option correctly lists measures that minimize spray, spatter, and aerosols during procedures?

- A. Rubber dam, HVE, saliva ejector, close lid over ultrasonic bath
- B. Rubber dam only
- C. HVE only
- D. Saliva ejector only**

Minimizing spray, spatter, and aerosols comes from controlling the source and containing what's generated. A rubber dam isolates the tooth being treated, so saliva and blood can't mix with the procedure and get aerosolized as easily. A high-volume evacuator captures aerosols and spatter at the source, which is the most effective way to reduce airborne contaminants during the procedure. A saliva ejector adds some suction, but it isn't sufficient on its own to control aerosols; it's best used in combination with the high-volume evacuator rather than as the sole measure. Also, reducing aerosol release extends beyond the procedure itself—closing the lid on the ultrasonic cleaning bath helps prevent aerosol escape during instrument processing after the case. When these measures are used together, they provide the strongest overall reduction in spray, spatter, and aerosols. Relying on a single measure, like a saliva ejector alone, would not offer the same level of protection.

3. If a dental hygiene board applicant is still in school in a dental program, the official hygiene transcripts must be:

- A. Mailed in sealed envelope**
- B. Emailed to the board
- C. Faxed by the applicant
- D. Hand-delivered to the board

Official transcripts need to come through a trusted, unaltered source. When a dental hygiene board requires transcripts from students still in a program, a sealed envelope from the registrar is used so the board can verify that the document is authentic and hasn't been tampered with after issuance. The sealed envelope acts as a tamper-evident seal and confirms the transcript was sent directly by the school's registrar, not altered or improvised by someone else. Electronic methods like email or fax introduce risks of modification or misdirection, and hand-delivery can bypass the school's official sending process and the seal. By mandating the transcript be mailed in a sealed envelope, the board protects the integrity of the information while the student is completing the program.

4. The Department of Public Safety may charge, each applicant who has applied for a license through the Board, a fee for conducting the checks of criminal history records.

A. True

B. False

C. Only for license renewal

D. There is no such fee

Background checks are a required part of licensure, and the Department of Public Safety handles the criminal history checks for applicants through the Board. Because processing fingerprints and reviewing records costs money, DPS charges a fee for each applicant. This applies to the initial license application and isn't limited to renewals. So the statement that the Department of Public Safety may charge a fee for conducting criminal history checks is true.

5. Which term describes microbes that can grow in presence or absence of oxygen?

A. Obligate aerobes

B. Obligate anaerobes

C. Facultative microbes

D. Microaerophiles

Microbes that can grow with or without oxygen are called facultative organisms. They use aerobic respiration when oxygen is available to maximize energy, and when oxygen is scarce they switch to fermentation or anaerobic pathways to continue growing. This flexibility explains why they can inhabit both oxygen-rich surfaces and deeper, less oxygenated environments, such as dental plaque. The other terms describe microbes with fixed oxygen needs: obligate aerobes require oxygen, obligate anaerobes are harmed by oxygen, and microaerophiles need only small amounts of oxygen.

6. What is the term length for an elected dental hygienist board member?

A. 1 year

B. 2 years

C. 3 years

D. 5 years

An elected dental hygienist board member serves a three-year term. This length provides enough time to contribute meaningfully to board work, participate in policy and rule development, and help ensure continuity as other seats rotate. The hygienist seat is chosen by licensed hygienists, ensuring representation from within the profession. Terms are typically staggered so turnover happens gradually, which preserves institutional knowledge while still allowing regular opportunities for new perspectives. Shorter terms would mean frequent turnover and less stability, while a longer term could delay new ideas and accountability; three years balances both needs.

7. Blood in your eye requires follow-up with a healthcare professional.

- A. True**
- B. False
- C. Only if vision changes
- D. Only if pain

Blood in the eye should be evaluated by a healthcare professional because it can range from a harmless, self-limiting finding to a sign of a more serious problem. Even if the bleeding seems minor or is not painful, it can indicate conditions such as a subconjunctival hemorrhage, which typically resolves on its own, or more serious issues like eye trauma, hyphema, infection, or retinal problems that require prompt treatment. You should seek care if the bleeding follows an injury, if there is eye pain, vision changes (such as blurring or loss of vision), persistent redness, or if you have risk factors like anticoagulant use, diabetes, high blood pressure, or a known bleeding disorder. In short, any blood in the eye warrants professional assessment to rule out urgent or vision-threatening conditions.

8. A dentist who is qualified to administer general anesthesia must ensure that his/her staff has successfully completed Basic Life Support Training.

- A. True**
- B. False
- C. Only for certain procedures
- D. Optional

When general anesthesia is provided in a dental office, the team must be ready to handle emergencies. Basic Life Support training gives staff the essential skills to recognize airway, breathing, and circulation problems, perform CPR, manage choking, and use an automated external defibrillator. These urgent abilities are crucial because anesthesia can depress respiration and circulation, so immediate, competent action by trained staff can be the difference between a safe outcome and a serious complication. Regulatory guidelines and standard practice for dental anesthesia emphasize that the dentist's team must be current in BLS to ensure patient safety, with certifications typically renewed every couple of years. Therefore, this statement is true: BLS training for staff is required whenever general anesthesia is administered, not optional and not limited to certain procedures.

9. The Board shall file an annual financial report with the Secretary of State, Attorney General, Office of State Budget and Management and the:

- A. Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee**
- B. Department of Revenue
- C. Department of Administration
- D. NC General Assembly

The important idea here is that state boards must report their finances not only to executive and legal offices, but also to a legislative body that provides ongoing oversight of how agencies operate. The Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee is a bicameral, bipartisan committee of the General Assembly charged with reviewing administrative rules and procedures across state agencies. Requiring an annual financial report to this committee ensures lawmakers can monitor compliance, transparency, and how funds are used within the agency. The other options refer to bodies with different roles: the Secretary of State, Attorney General, and Office of State Budget and Management are involved in official records, legal counsel, and budget planning respectively; the Department of Revenue handles taxes; the Department of Administration oversees internal state operations; and the General Assembly is the legislature itself, not the specific recipient of this reporting. The committee serves as the appropriate legislative oversight channel for financial reporting, making it the best answer.

10. Can the Board conduct investigations, issue subpoenas, and take depositions?

A. No

B. Yes

C. Only with court order

D. Only during licensure hearings

Regulatory boards must have the tools to uncover facts and protect public safety, and investigative powers are a core part of that. The Board can gather information by interviewing witnesses, requesting records, and compelling testimony when needed. Subpoenas are used to require a person or entity to appear or produce documents, and depositions provide sworn, formal testimony that can be used during investigations or disciplinary proceedings. These mechanisms help ensure a complete and accurate fact-find, which is essential for fair action and to uphold professional standards. If someone refuses a subpoena, the board can seek enforcement through the courts, but the authority to issue subpoenas and take depositions exists to support investigations in the first place.

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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://ncdentalboardlawsinfectioncont.examzify.com>

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

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