PAXTON PATTERSON DENTISTRY 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 permanent teeth typically erupt first and appear behind the primary molars?

A. The permanent canines

B. The first permanent molars

C. The permanent incisors

D. The second permanent molars

2. During a composite filling, is light exposure required to cure the bonding agent and the composite?

A. True

B. False

C. Only the bonding agent cures with light

D. Only the composite cures with light

3. Which statement correctly defines the facial surface?

A. Facial surface is the surface closest to the cheek and lips

B. Lingual surface is the surface closest to the tongue

C. Occlusal surface is the chewing surface

D. Mesial surface is the surface toward the midline

4. Which procedure involves surgically reshaping gum tissue to expose more tooth structure for a restorative procedure?

A. Root planing

B. Orthodontics

C. Crown lengthening

D. Gingival flap

5. Which tooth surface faces away from the midline of the dental arch?

A. Mesial surface

B. Occlusal surface

C. Distal surface

D. Cervical surface

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6. How many permanent teeth are normally present in a full set that includes the third molars?

A. 32

B. 28

C. 20

D. 24

7. What is the primary function of the incisors?

A. Tearing food

B. Cutting food

C. Crushing and grinding food

D. Grinding food

8. Dental pulp is best described as?

A. The enamel outer layer

B. The cementum attachment

C. Inside the tooth is hollow, space filled with blood supply and nerves

D. The periodontal ligament

9. Bonding in dentistry is the technique of attaching orthodontic brackets or other appliances to teeth using adhesives.

A. It involves removing tartar

B. It is used to whiten enamel

C. It is used to drill cavities

D. It attaches brackets to teeth with adhesives

10. What is the midline?

A. An imaginary line located between the two front teeth that separates left and right

B. A horizontal line through the molars

C. The vertical axis of the face

D. The edge where upper and lower teeth touch

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which permanent teeth typically erupt first and appear behind the primary molars?

A. The permanent canines

B. The first permanent molars

C. The permanent incisors

D. The second permanent molars

The first permanent molars usually erupt around age six, behind the primary molars. Because they emerge in the space behind the existing baby teeth, they do not replace a primary tooth; they are often called the "six-year molars." Permanent incisors also begin erupting around this age, but the first permanent molars are typically the first permanent teeth to appear.

2. During a composite filling, is light exposure required to cure the bonding agent and the composite?

A. True

B. False

C. Only the bonding agent cures with light

D. Only the composite cures with light

Light activation drives the curing of resin-based bonding agents and composites. These materials use photoinitiators, typically camphorquinone, that absorb blue light and generate free radicals to start polymerization. When you apply the curing light, both the bonding agent layer and the composite layer harden, creating a strong bond to enamel and dentin and achieving the desired final properties of the restoration. If curing is incomplete, you can get weaker bonding, more microleakage, and reduced durability. Some systems can cure chemically or with dual-cure mechanisms in areas where light doesn't reach, but using light ensures the most reliable, thorough cure for both layers.

3. Which statement correctly defines the facial surface?

A. Facial surface is the surface closest to the cheek and lips

B. Lingual surface is the surface closest to the tongue

C. Occlusal surface is the chewing surface

D. Mesial surface is the surface toward the midline

In dentistry, surfaces are named by where they point relative to the face and the dental arch. The facial surface is the outward-facing side that faces the lips and cheeks, which on front teeth is the surface you see when you smile and on back teeth is the buccal surface toward the cheek. That makes the statement describing the facial surface as the surface closest to the cheek and lips the best description. The other surfaces have different orientations: the lingual surface faces the tongue, the occlusal surface is the chewing surface, and the mesial surface points toward the midline of the arch.

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4. Which procedure involves surgically reshaping gum tissue to expose more tooth structure for a restorative procedure?

A. Root planing

B. Orthodontics

C. Crown lengthening

D. Gingival flap

The essential idea is creating more visible tooth structure for a restoration. Crown lengthening is the procedure that surgically reshapes the gum tissue, and sometimes removes underlying bone, to expose more of the tooth above the gum line. This provides enough tooth height and a clean margin for placing a crown or other restoration, ensuring proper retention and seal. Root planing, by contrast, is a cleaning/debridement of root surfaces to remove plaque, calculus, and diseased tissue, not about increasing visible tooth structure for a restoration. Orthodontics moves teeth into better alignment and bite relationships, which can affect restoration access indirectly but does not surgically expose more tooth structure in the way crown lengthening does. A gingival flap is a broader periodontal access technique used to reach underlying tissues but isn't specifically aimed at exposing additional tooth structure for restorations.

5. Which tooth surface faces away from the midline of the dental arch?

A. Mesial surface

B. Occlusal surface

C. Distal surface

D. Cervical surface

The distal surface of a tooth faces away from the midline of the dental arch. The mesial surface faces toward the midline; occlusal refers to a chewing surface, and cervical refers to the area near the gumline or tooth's neck.

6. How many permanent teeth are normally present in a full set that includes the third molars?

A. 32

B. 28

C. 20

D. 24

A complete permanent dentition normally contains 32 teeth, including the four third molars, commonly called wisdom teeth. That is 16 teeth in the upper arch and 16 in the lower. Without the third molars, the usual count is 28.

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7. What is the primary function of the incisors?

A. Tearing food

B. Cutting food

C. Crushing and grinding food

D. Grinding food

Incisors are the front teeth, shaped with thin, sharp edges that slice through food. Their primary function is cutting food into smaller pieces before it is chewed further. Canines are better suited for tearing, while premolars and molars crush and grind food.

8. Dental pulp is best described as?

A. The enamel outer layer

B. The cementum attachment

C. Inside the tooth is hollow, space filled with blood supply and nerves

D. The periodontal ligament

Dental pulp is the soft, living tissue inside the tooth that sits in the pulp chamber of the crown and the root canals, all enclosed by dentin and protected by enamel. It contains blood vessels and nerves, which supply nutrients and sensory signals to the tooth. Describing it as the space inside the tooth filled with blood supply and nerves accurately reflects its location and function as the tooth's living core. This is different from the enamel, which is the hard outer layer; from cementum, which covers the root and helps attach the tooth to the jaw via the periodontal ligament; and from the periodontal ligament itself, which is the connective tissue linking the tooth to surrounding bone.

9. Bonding in dentistry is the technique of attaching orthodontic brackets or other appliances to teeth using adhesives.

A. It involves removing tartar

B. It is used to whiten enamel

C. It is used to drill cavities

D. It attaches brackets to teeth with adhesives

Bonding in dentistry is about attaching orthodontic brackets or other appliances to teeth with adhesive. The essential idea is to create a strong bond between the tooth surface and the appliance, usually by etching the enamel, applying a bonding agent, and then placing resin adhesive on the bracket before positioning it and curing. This matches the description of bonding as the method used to attach brackets to teeth with adhesives. The other listed activities—tartar removal, enamel whitening, and drilling cavities—are different procedures (cleaning, cosmetic whitening, and cavity preparation) and do not describe attaching appliances with adhesive.

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10. What is the midline?

A. An imaginary line located between the two front teeth that separates left and right

B. A horizontal line through the molars

C. The vertical axis of the face

D. The edge where upper and lower teeth touch

Midline is an imaginary line that splits the teeth into left and right halves. In dentistry, it typically runs between the two upper central incisors and serves as a reference to judge how the upper and lower arches align with each other and with the face. It's about symmetry of the front teeth, not about a horizontal line through the molars, the overall vertical axis of the face, or the edge where the teeth touch.

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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://paxpatdentistry.examzify.com

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

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