SCRIBEAMERICA HOSPITALIST PRACTICE EXAM (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. What characteristic signs might indicate an ischemic cerebrovascular accident (CVA)?

A. Changes in motor weakness

B. Changes in sensation (numbness/tingling)

C. Changes in speech or vision

D. All of the above

2. Which condition is indicated by the presence of irregularly irregular heart rhythms?

A. Atrial fibrillation

B. Ventricular tachycardia

C. Bradycardia

D. Premature atrial contractions

3. Which condition is characterized by burning epigastric pain exacerbated by acidic foods?

A. Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

B. Peptic Ulcer Disease

C. Pancreatitis

D. Acid Gastritis

4. What is the primary purpose of administering TPA in a medical setting?

A. To dissolve blood clots

B. To increase heart rate

C. To reduce inflammation

D. To manage pain

5. A patient with slurred speech and left leg weakness likely experienced which type of stroke?

A. Hemorrhagic CVA

B. Transient ischemic attack

C. Ischemic CVA

D. Subarachnoid hemorrhage

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6. What was the severity of the pain described by the patient?

A. 4/10

B. 6/10

C. 8/10

D. 10/10

7. What must be documented when the patient's history is limited?

A. Reasons for limited history

B. Patient's age and gender

C. Previous medical conditions

D. All medications taken

8. If a patient presents with calf tenderness and swelling, what is likely on the differential diagnosis?

A. Heart failure

B. Deep vein thrombosis

C. Nephrotic syndrome

D. Peripheral vascular disease

9. What type of drug is Ambien classified as?

A. Narcotic

B. Analgesic

C. Sedative

D. Antidepressant

10. What category of medical history is represented by a patient who had a heart attack and has family members diagnosed with CAD?

A. Social History

B. Surgical History

C. Medical History

D. Family History

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What characteristic signs might indicate an ischemic cerebrovascular accident (CVA)?

A. Changes in motor weakness

B. Changes in sensation (numbness/tingling)

C. Changes in speech or vision

D. All of the above

Ischemic cerebrovascular accidents (CVAs), commonly known as strokes, occur when there is an interruption of blood supply to part of the brain, resulting in a range of neurological deficits. Each of the characteristics mentioned plays a crucial role in identifying and diagnosing a CVA: Changes in motor weakness are significant because they often manifest as sudden difficulty in moving one side of the body, which is a hallmark symptom of a stroke. This weakness can affect the face, arm, leg, or combinations thereof, and is typically unilateral. Changes in sensation, such as numbness or tingling, can indicate that a specific area of the brain responsible for sensory input has been affected. Patients may report a sudden loss of feeling or an unusual sensation on one side of the body, which is a common symptom in ischemic strokes. Changes in speech or vision are also critical signs. These can manifest as difficulty speaking (aphasia), slurred speech, or sudden trouble understanding others. Additionally, vision might be affected, leading to sudden blindness or visual field cuts, which can alert caregivers to an ongoing cerebrovascular event. Considering all these aspects, a comprehensive understanding indicates that the presence of any one of these symptoms alone may suggest a CVA, making it important to recognize

2. Which condition is indicated by the presence of irregularly irregular heart rhythms?

A. Atrial fibrillation

B. Ventricular tachycardia

C. Bradycardia

D. Premature atrial contractions

The presence of irregularly irregular heart rhythms is a hallmark of atrial fibrillation. In this condition, the electrical signals in the atria become disorganized, leading to rapid and chaotic contractions. This results in an inconsistent and unpredictable heartbeat, which is characterized as irregularly irregular. Atrial fibrillation often presents with varied intervals between heartbeats, making it distinct from other arrhythmias. For instance, ventricular tachycardia typically shows a consistent pattern, and bradycardia refers to a slower heart rate without the irregularity associated with atrial fibrillation. Premature atrial contractions can introduce irregularities in the rhythm but do not typically result in a sustained irregularly irregular pattern. Therefore, when evaluating irregularly irregular heart rhythms, atrial fibrillation stands out as the definitive condition associated with this characteristic.

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3. Which condition is characterized by burning epigastric pain exacerbated by acidic foods?

A. Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

B. Peptic Ulcer Disease

C. Pancreatitis

D. Acid Gastritis

The condition characterized by burning epigastric pain that is exacerbated by acidic foods is Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD). In GERD, stomach acid flows back into the esophagus, leading to symptoms such as heartburn and regurgitation. The burning sensation in the epigastric region can worsen when acidic foods, which can stimulate stomach acid production, are consumed. This is due to increased acid exposure and the irritative effect on the esophageal lining, making the symptoms more pronounced. Peptic Ulcer Disease also involves abdominal pain, but the pain is typically related to eating and can be relieved by antacids or food, rather than exacerbated by acidic consumption. Pancreatitis can cause abdominal pain, but it does not specifically relate to the consumption of acidic foods and tends to present with more diffuse abdominal discomfort, often accompanied by more systemic symptoms. Acid Gastritis involves inflammation of the stomach lining, which can also cause epigastric pain, but the exacerbation by acidic foods is more characteristically associated with GERD, rather than gastritis itself.

4. What is the primary purpose of administering TPA in a medical setting?

A. To dissolve blood clots

B. To increase heart rate

C. To reduce inflammation

D. To manage pain

The administration of TPA, or tissue plasminogen activator, is primarily aimed at dissolving blood clots. This medication is critical in the treatment of several medical emergencies, primarily acute ischemic stroke, where a clot blocks blood flow to the brain. The timely use of TPA can help restore blood flow, minimize brain damage, and improve patient outcomes. By converting plasminogen into plasmin, TPA promotes the breakdown of fibrin, the protein that forms the structural framework of blood clots. This action is essential in rapidly addressing conditions caused by occluded blood vessels, thus reducing the risk of further complications associated with prolonged ischemia. While other treatments may focus on increasing heart rate, reducing inflammation, or managing pain, these are not the primary goals associated with TPA administration. The specificity of TPA's action on dissolving clots makes it a unique and vital tool in emergency medical settings.

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5. A patient with slurred speech and left leg weakness likely experienced which type of stroke?

A. Hemorrhagic CVA

B. Transient ischemic attack

C. Ischemic CVA

D. Subarachnoid hemorrhage

The scenario describes a patient exhibiting slurred speech and weakness in the left leg, which suggests a neurological deficit affecting motor control and potentially language function. These symptoms are indicative of an ischemic cerebrovascular accident (CVA), also known as an ischemic stroke. An ischemic stroke occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is obstructed, often by a clot. This lack of blood flow leads to brain tissue damage and results in symptoms such as slurred speech (suggesting involvement of the language centers, often located in the left hemisphere of the brain) and motor weakness (the left leg weakness indicates that the right side of the brain may be affected, as motor pathways cross over). The clinical presentation of slurred speech combined with specific limb weakness is crucial for identifying the type of stroke. Ischemic strokes are far more common than hemorrhagic strokes and can often present acutely with these types of deficits. Transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) may present with similar symptoms but are characterized by temporary deficits that resolve quickly within 24 hours, often much sooner. The permanence of the symptoms in this case does not align with TIAs. Hemorrhagic strokes involve bleeding in or around the brain and can lead to a

6. What was the severity of the pain described by the patient?

A. 4/10

B. 6/10

C. 8/10

D. 10/10

The severity of the pain described by the patient is assessed using a numerical scale, which often ranges from 0 to 10, where 0 indicates no pain and 10 represents the worst pain imaginable. A rating of 8/10 indicates that the patient experiences severe pain, which significantly impacts their ability to function normally. This level of pain can be consistent with acute conditions or exacerbations of chronic pain, potentially leading to distress or the need for immediate medical attention. When patients rate their pain as 8/10, it often suggests that they require considerable management to alleviate their discomfort. This level of pain may be associated with conditions like significant fractures, severe migraines, or major injuries, making it clear that the patient is experiencing a very high level of suffering that demands thorough assessment and appropriate treatment strategies.

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7. What must be documented when the patient's history is limited?

A. Reasons for limited history

B. Patient's age and gender

C. Previous medical conditions

D. All medications taken

When a patient's history is limited, documenting the reasons for this limitation is paramount. This documentation provides context for other healthcare providers regarding the lack of information, which can be critical for understanding the patient's current health status and planning appropriate care. For instance, if the patient is unable to provide a complete history due to factors such as unconsciousness, language barriers, or cognitive impairments, noting these reasons helps to clarify why certain details may be missing. This is especially important in medical settings, where comprehensive history-taking is essential for accurate diagnosis and treatment. Having this documentation can also serve as protection for the healthcare provider, indicating that due diligence was exercised to obtain the patient's history. While other options, such as documenting the patient's age, gender, previous medical conditions, and medications taken, are important components of a medical history, they do not address the specific scenario of a limited history. Therefore, outlining the reasons behind that limitation is the most critical documentation in this context.

8. If a patient presents with calf tenderness and swelling, what is likely on the differential diagnosis?

A. Heart failure

B. Deep vein thrombosis

C. Nephrotic syndrome

D. Peripheral vascular disease

When evaluating a patient with calf tenderness and swelling, deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is a leading consideration on the differential diagnosis due to its defining characteristics. DVT typically presents with unilateral leg swelling and pain, often localized in the calf. This condition arises from the formation of a thrombus in the deep veins, and it can result in significant complications including pulmonary embolism if not identified and treated promptly. In the context of calf swelling and tenderness, DVT presents a classic scenario that matches the clinical picture, making it a high-priority entity to rule out. The presence of risk factors such as recent surgery, immobility, or history of clotting disorders further supports the likelihood of this diagnosis. Heart failure may lead to leg edema; however, it typically presents bilaterally and is more characterized by systemic symptoms such as shortness of breath and fluid overload. Nephrotic syndrome also causes swelling due to protein loss and resultant hypoalbuminemia but again generally affects both legs in a more diffuse manner along with urinary symptoms. Peripheral vascular disease primarily leads to ischemic changes and claudication rather than isolated calf tenderness and swelling, focusing more on pain induced by exertion due to low blood flow. Thus, deep vein thrombosis

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9. What type of drug is Ambien classified as?

A. Narcotic

B. Analgesic

C. Sedative

D. Antidepressant

Ambien, which is the brand name for zolpidem, is classified as a sedative. It belongs to a category of medications known as hypnotics, which are specifically designed to induce sleep. Sedatives like Ambien work by enhancing the activity of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), a neurotransmitter in the brain that promotes relaxation and sleepiness. This is particularly useful in treating insomnia, as it helps patients fall asleep more quickly and may improve sleep quality. In contrast, narcotics are typically used to alleviate pain and are not involved in the processes associated with inducing sleep. Analgesics are medications that specifically relieve pain, while antidepressants are used to treat mood disorders and are not primarily focused on sleep induction. Therefore, the classification of Ambien as a sedative highlights its primary function in promoting sleep, distinguishing it from other drug types which serve different therapeutic purposes.

10. What category of medical history is represented by a patient who had a heart attack and has family members diagnosed with CAD?

A. Social History

B. Surgical History

C. Medical History

D. Family History

The category of medical history represented by a patient who had a heart attack and has family members diagnosed with coronary artery disease (CAD) is indeed medical history. This is because medical history encompasses the patient's past health events, including their own medical conditions and illnesses, such as the heart attack the patient experienced. In addition, this category can also include conditions that affect the patient directly, which would be relevant when assessing risk factors or continuing care. Family history, while related to inherited conditions and the prevalence of diseases among relatives, focuses specifically on the health issues that affect family members rather than the patient's past illnesses or personal health status. The inclusion of both the patient's heart attack and family members' CAD indicates critical medical factors that can influence the patient's current health status and management plan, making the correct categorization medical history.

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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:

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

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