SWIFT RIVER VIRTUAL CLINICALS 2.0 – EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT (ED) 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 is the suspected cause of Duane Burton's agitation and disorientation?**

   A. Alcohol toxicity

   B. Cocaine toxicity

   C. Food poisoning

   D. Heat stroke

2. **What is the highest acuity level for a client with severe burns and a GCS of 5?**

   A. Acuity 1

   B. Acuity 2

   C. Acuity 3

   D. Acuity 4

3. **What is the recommended follow-up for a patient diagnosed with a severe headache that has persisted for three days?**

   A. Neurologic consult

   B. Immediate discharge

   C. Routine pain medication

   D. Self-monitoring at home

4. **What assessment finding is most concerning for a client with abdominal pain and vomiting that has lasted for 12 hours?**

   A. Temperature at 38.6˚ C

   B. Heart rate at 115/min

   C. Reported pain level of 5/10

   D. Blood pressure at 130/90 mm Hg

5. **Who is assigned an acuity level of 4 and is a non-trauma case?**

   A. Kathryn Torres

   B. Ruth Huskey

   C. Rebecca Foster

   D. Peter Stewart

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6. What complication is Marilyn Carter experiencing as indicated by her symptoms?

A. Anemia due to blood loss

B. Acute kidney injury

C. Sepsis from unknown infection

D. Liver failure

7. Which symptom is a critical sign for the 19-year-old male client presenting with a collapsed state during basketball practice?

A. Chest pain

B. Pulseless and apneic on arrival

C. High blood pressure

D. Stable heart rate of 109/min

8. What recent exposure did Tanya Kennedy have that raised concerns for COVID-19?

A. Travel to an outbreak area

B. Exposure to a co-worker who tested positive

C. Attending a crowded event

D. Interaction with a symptomatic family member

9. Which vital sign indicates Arnold Cohen is experiencing fever?

A. Blood pressure 139/67 mm Hg

B. Heart rate 104/min

C. Temperature 38.6° C (101.5° F)

D. Respiratory rate 28/min

10. Who among the following has the highest acuity level?

A. Virginia Washington

B. Courtney Farmer

C. Walter Jackson

D. Kirk Park

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the suspected cause of Duane Burton's agitation and disorientation?

A. Alcohol toxicity

B. Cocaine toxicity

C. Food poisoning

D. Heat stroke

The suspected cause of Duane Burton's agitation and disorientation is linked to cocaine toxicity. Cocaine is a powerful central nervous system stimulant that can lead to a range of acute symptoms, including agitation, restlessness, and disorientation. These symptoms often result from the drug's effects on dopamine pathways in the brain, which can heighten arousal and lead to behavioral changes. When a person is under the influence of cocaine, they may exhibit signs such as increased heart rate, heightened alertness, and significant anxiety or agitation. In emergency situations, healthcare providers often assess for toxicological causes of agitation and confusion, and drugs like cocaine are commonly considered due to their prevalence and pronounced neurological effects. The other options might also lead to symptoms like confusion or altered mental status, but cocaine toxicity is more directly associated with rapid onset agitation and behavioral changes seen in a clinical setting. For instance, while alcohol toxicity can also cause confusion and disorientation, it typically results in more subdued behavior rather than the hyperactivity associated with cocaine. Hence, in this context of acute agitation and disorientation, cocaine toxicity is the most plausible explanation.

2. What is the highest acuity level for a client with severe burns and a GCS of 5?

A. Acuity 1

B. Acuity 2

C. Acuity 3

D. Acuity 4

Acuity levels in emergency settings help prioritize patient care based on the severity of their condition. In this case, the client has severe burns and a Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) score of 5, which indicates a critically low level of consciousness. A GCS score of 5 suggests that the patient is unable to effectively respond to verbal commands and is likely in a state of reduced responsiveness or altered mental status. Severe burns represent a dramatic trauma that requires immediate medical attention due to the potential for life-threatening complications, including shock, infection, and airway issues. When combined with a low GCS score, the patient's condition escalates to the highest acuity level. This ensures that the patient will receive the most urgent and intensive care possible, as they fall into a critical category that necessitates rapid intervention. In emergency triage systems, Acuity 1 is designated for patients in the most dire situations, requiring immediate life-saving measures. Therefore, the combination of severe burns and a very low GCS score unequivocally categorizes this client at Acuity 1, meriting prompt and specialized medical attention.

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3. What is the recommended follow-up for a patient diagnosed with a severe headache that has persisted for three days?

A. Neurologic consult

B. Immediate discharge

C. Routine pain medication

D. Self-monitoring at home

The recommended follow-up for a patient diagnosed with a severe headache that has persisted for three days is to obtain a neurologic consult. This is essential because a headache that lasts for such a prolonged period can indicate a serious underlying condition, such as a subarachnoid hemorrhage, intracranial pressure issues, or other neurological disorders. A neurologist has specialized training to evaluate complex headache disorders and can perform necessary diagnostic tests, such as imaging studies, to rule out any potentially life-threatening conditions. It is important to assess the severity and nature of the headache, the presence of any associated symptoms, and the patient's medical history. This specialized follow-up helps ensure that the patient receives a comprehensive evaluation and appropriate management, rather than simply treating the headache symptomatically without addressing a possible underlying cause. The other options—immediate discharge, routine pain medication, and self-monitoring at home—do not provide the necessary level of evaluation and management needed for a severe, persistent headache, which could lead to delayed diagnosis and treatment of a serious condition.

4. What assessment finding is most concerning for a client with abdominal pain and vomiting that has lasted for 12 hours?

A. Temperature at 38.6˚ C

B. Heart rate at 115/min

C. Reported pain level of 5/10

D. Blood pressure at 130/90 mm Hg

In evaluating the assessment findings for a client experiencing abdominal pain and vomiting, the most concerning finding is a temperature of 38.6˚ C. This elevated temperature indicates a possible infection or inflammatory process happening within the body, which could be critical in a patient with abdominal symptoms. A fever in the context of abdominal pain and vomiting raises suspicion for conditions such as appendicitis, pancreatitis, or perforated viscera, all of which require immediate medical attention. The presence of fever signifies that the body is responding to a potential infection or irritation, making it an important vital sign in the context of these symptoms. While the other findings, such as the heart rate, pain level, and blood pressure, provide useful information about the client's overall status, they are relatively less indicative of an acute and potentially life-threatening condition compared to the fever. A heart rate of 115/min may suggest tachycardia, which could occur due to anxiety, pain, or fever but is not as specific. A reported pain level of 5/10 indicates moderate pain but does not necessarily reflect the severity of the underlying condition. Blood pressure at 130/90 mm Hg is within a generally acceptable range and does not indicate immediate concern compared to an elevated temperature

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5. Who is assigned an acuity level of 4 and is a non-trauma case?

A. Kathryn Torres

B. Ruth Huskey

C. Rebecca Foster

D. Peter Stewart

An acuity level of 4 is typically associated with non-urgent conditions that require medical attention but are not life-threatening. This categorization is essential in emergency department settings to prioritize patients based on the severity of their conditions. In this case, the individual assigned to acuity level 4, Rebecca Foster, likely presents with symptoms or issues that are stable and can wait without significant risk of deterioration. This might involve situations like minor infections, mild dehydration, or other similar presentations that, while needing care, do not pose an immediate threat to life or limb. Understanding the importance of acuity levels helps ensure that patients with more severe conditions receive timely care, while those with less urgent needs are managed appropriately without overwhelming the emergency department resources. In contrast, the other individuals mentioned may present with either higher acuity levels indicating more urgent or trauma cases or reflect characteristics that do not fit the definition of acuity level 4 cases.

6. What complication is Marilyn Carter experiencing as indicated by her symptoms?

A. Anemia due to blood loss

B. Acute kidney injury

C. Sepsis from unknown infection

D. Liver failure

Marilyn Carter is likely experiencing anemia due to blood loss if her symptoms indicate significant fatigue, pallor, weakness, or any signs of low hemoglobin levels. Anemia can result from various causes, but in particular cases, it can be attributed to acute or chronic blood loss from sources such as gastrointestinal bleeding, trauma, or heavy menstruation. The presentation of anemia often includes symptoms such as dizziness, shortness of breath, and tachycardia, reflecting the body's response to decreased oxygen-carrying capacity. In this context, while other conditions may cause overlapping symptoms, the indicators of anemia are specifically related to the body's inability to maintain adequate red blood cell levels. This distinction is crucial as it helps inform appropriate interventions and treatments, focusing on addressing the underlying cause of the bleeding or loss of blood.

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7. Which symptom is a critical sign for the 19-year-old male client presenting with a collapsed state during basketball practice?

A. Chest pain

B. Pulseless and apneic on arrival

C. High blood pressure

D. Stable heart rate of 109/min

In this scenario, the presence of being pulseless and apneic on arrival indicates a critical and life-threatening condition for the 19-year-old male client. When a patient exhibits both pulselessness and apnea, it signifies that there is a complete lack of circulation and respiration, which leads to an immediate risk of cardiac arrest and death if not treated promptly. In emergency situations, identifying such life-threatening symptoms is crucial because they dictate the immediate medical interventions required, such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and advanced cardiac life support (ACLS). The absence of a pulse means that the heart is not effectively pumping blood to vital organs, while apnea indicates that the patient is not breathing, depriving the body of oxygen. Other symptoms listed could indicate significant issues as well, but they do not place the patient in as critical a state as being pulseless and apneic. For instance, chest pain can suggest serious conditions such as myocardial infarction or aortic dissection, but it does not necessarily indicate an immediate threat to life. Similarly, high blood pressure and a stable heart rate, even if elevated, do not reflect the urgency and criticality of the patient's condition in the same direct manner as being

8. What recent exposure did Tanya Kennedy have that raised concerns for COVID-19?

A. Travel to an outbreak area

B. Exposure to a co-worker who tested positive

C. Attending a crowded event

D. Interaction with a symptomatic family member

The scenario presents Tanya Kennedy having concerns for COVID-19 due to her exposure to a co-worker who tested positive. This is significant because direct exposure to someone who has confirmed COVID-19 increases the risk of contracting the virus, especially in a workplace environment where close contact is common. Such situations warrant heightened awareness and potentially testing, as this form of exposure is considered a primary mode of transmission for the virus. While travel to an outbreak area, attending a crowded event, or interacting with a symptomatic family member are all relevant risk factors for COVID-19 exposure, a direct contact with a confirmed case specifically amplifies the immediate concern for infection. This makes her situation more critical in terms of the need for monitoring symptoms, self-isolation, and possibly following public health guidelines regarding testing and quarantine. Understanding the importance of these direct exposures helps reinforce precautions to prevent virus spread.

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9. Which vital sign indicates Arnold Cohen is experiencing fever?

A. Blood pressure 139/67 mm Hg

B. Heart rate 104/min

C. Temperature 38.6° C (101.5° F)

D. Respiratory rate 28/min

The correct indication of fever in Arnold Cohen's case is a temperature of 38.6° C (101.5° F). Normal body temperature typically ranges from about 36.1° C to 37.2° C (97° F to 99° F). When the body temperature rises above this range, it is classified as fever. The value of 38.6° C clearly exceeds the normal limit, signifying that the patient is likely experiencing an infectious process or inflammatory response. Monitoring temperature as a vital sign is critical for assessing a patient's health status, particularly in emergency situations, as it can indicate the body's response to infection or other medical conditions. The other vital signs mentioned—blood pressure, heart rate, and respiratory rate—can provide additional context about a patient's condition, but they do not specifically indicate the presence of fever.

10. Who among the following has the highest acuity level?

A. Virginia Washington

B. Courtney Farmer

C. Walter Jackson

D. Kirk Park

The individual with the highest acuity level typically presents with the most critical medical needs, requiring immediate attention and intervention. In this context, Virginia Washington is indicated as having the highest acuity level, suggesting that her condition is more severe or life-threatening compared to the other individuals listed. This might be due to a variety of factors, such as vital signs that indicate instability, the presence of acute symptoms that require urgent care, or a diagnosis that is known to lead to rapid deterioration if not treated promptly. Emergency departments prioritize patients based on acuity to ensure those who need the most immediate care are treated first, aligning with the appropriate triage protocols in a clinical setting. For example, Virginia Washington may be experiencing severe chest pain indicative of a cardiac event, while the other patients have conditions that, while still requiring attention, are not as critical in nature. This prioritization is vital in an emergency department to optimize outcomes and manage resource allocation effectively.

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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://swiftriver2ed.examzify.com

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

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