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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

AAGYZG22

CA Psychology Laws and Ethics Examination

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for CA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY AAGYZG22 , each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, AAGYZG22
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Under the California Business and Professions Code, which of the following activities are restricted to licensed psychologists, psychologists specifically registered with the Board, or other authorized professionals? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Holding oneself out as a psychologist without holding a valid California license or registration.
- ☐ **B** Providing general wellness coaching for non-clinical life balance topics.
- ☒ **C** Offering psychological services for a fee to a client without the appropriate license or supervised registration.
- ☐ **D** Selling self-help books authored by an unlicensed writer.

ANSWER A • C

WHY Business and Professions Code sections in the Psychology chapter restrict both the protected title 'psychologist' and the practice of psychology for compensation. Holding oneself out as a psychologist without licensure is prohibited, as is offering psychological services for a fee without a license (or, where applicable, the specific supervised registration). General wellness/life coaching that does not constitute the practice of psychology and writing self-help books are not restricted to licensed psychologists.

QUESTION 2

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are true of a California psychologist's mandated reporter duties when working with a minor client? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** The psychologist must report a known or reasonably suspected instance of child abuse or neglect, including sexual exploitation, to the appropriate authorities.
- ☐ **B** The identity of the person making the report and any reported information are strictly confidential and never disclosed to the suspected perpetrator under any circumstance.
- ☒ **C** The psychologist may incur civil or criminal liability for failing to make a required report.
- ☐ **D** The duty to report only applies when the psychologist also serves as the client's primary care physician.

ANSWER A • C

WHY California mandated reporting laws (Penal Code / Welfare and Institutions Code) require psychologists to report known or reasonably suspected child abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation. Failure to report when required can expose the psychologist to civil and criminal liability. Confidentiality is not absolute — the reporter and report information may be disclosed to law enforcement and other authorized agencies in the investigative process, and the identity of the reporter is generally protected but is not absolutely inviolable. The duty applies because of the psychologist's professional role, not because they are a physician.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

Under California law and APA Ethical Principles, when obtaining informed consent for psychological services, the psychologist must disclose which of the following to the client?

- ☐ A Only the psychologist's hourly fee.
- ☐ B Only the diagnosis and the length of treatment.
- ☒ C The nature of the services, fees, third-party payor limits, confidentiality and its limits, and the right to access records.
- ☐ D Only the risks of treatment.

ANSWER C

WHY California law (including the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act where applicable, plus professional ethics) and APA ethics require that informed consent for psychological services include the nature of services to be provided, fees and billing procedures, limits on confidentiality created by third-party reimbursement, the foreseeable uses of the information generated, and the client's right to access their records. Disclosing only a single item is insufficient.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

In California, what is the correct statement about a psychologist's duty to warn or protect identifiable third parties from a client's serious threat of violence?

- ☐ A California has a single, statewide statute called 'Tarasoff' that is the same in every California jurisdiction.
- ☐ B California has no recognition of a duty to warn; psychologists are strictly bound by confidentiality with no exceptions.
- ☒ C California recognizes a duty to protect identifiable victims from serious threats of violence; once that risk is present, confidentiality is no longer absolute regarding that information.
- ☐ D The duty only applies when the client is in custody.

ANSWER C

WHY After Tarasoff v. Regents, California recognizes that a mental health professional has a duty to protect identifiable victims when a client makes a serious threat of violence. This is implemented in California primarily through Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5152 (assisted outpatient) and Civil Code §56.10 plus case law rather than a single statute named 'Tarasoff.' Confidentiality is not absolute; where an identifiable threat exists, the psychologist must take reasonable steps to protect the intended victim, which may include warning the intended victim, notifying police, or initiating involuntary commitment where appropriate.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

In California, what level of supervision is generally required for pre-licensed psychological services delivered under a Supervised Professional Experience (SPE)?

- ☐ A No supervision is required once the candidate has completed academic coursework.
- ☒ B Supervision must be provided by a qualified licensed psychologist with oversight appropriate to the trainee's experience and across all relevant practice activities.
- ☐ C Supervision is required only during crisis cases.
- ☐ D Supervision must be provided exclusively by any physician licensed in California.

ANSWER B

WHY California's SPE requirements (outlined in Business and Professions Code and Board regulations) require a trainee accruing qualifying experience to be supervised by a qualified, licensed psychologist (or other qualifying supervisor designated by the Board) for the entirety of the experience, not just during crisis cases. The supervisor is responsible for the trainee's psychological services during that period.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

A California-licensed psychologist is asked to also use the title 'Dr.' in advertisements. Under California law and the Board's guidelines, which statement is most accurate?

- ☐ A The 'Dr.' title may never be used by a psychologist.
- ☒ B A licensed psychologist with an earned doctorate from a regionally accredited institution may use 'Dr.' in professional contexts but must ensure the advertisement or presentation of the title does not falsely imply medical licensure.
- ☐ C Only Board-certified specialists may use 'Dr.' in California.
- ☐ D Any professional with a master's degree may use 'Dr.'

ANSWER B

WHY California permits a properly credentialed licensed psychologist to use 'Dr.' if the doctoral degree was earned from a regionally accredited institution in psychology or a related field. However, when advertising or announcing professional services, the psychologist must not allow the 'Dr.' title to mislead a reasonable person into believing the psychologist is a medical doctor or otherwise licensed as such. Unlicensed master's-level providers may not use 'Dr.' in a professional clinical context.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

In California, what is the general status of a client's right to access their own psychological records, and where does the appropriate balance typically lie?

- ☐ **A** Clients have no right to access psychological records in California.
- ☒ **B** Clients have a right to review and obtain copies of their records consistent with California law, except in limited circumstances where substantial risk of harm is documented; the psychologist must release information when properly authorized or required.
- ☐ **C** Clients may access records only after a court orders it.
- ☐ **D** Clients' access rights are unlimited in all situations, including active suicide crisis.

ANSWER B

WHY California, like the APA Record Keeping Guidelines and Civil Code provisions on health information (CMIA), provides clients with a right to access their records (with required fees), with limited exceptions where access presents a documented substantial risk of harm to the client. Records must be released when properly authorized by the client (or legally required, e.g., for a mandated report, court order, or other recognized exception to confidentiality).

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

On the California Board of Psychology's license renewal cycle, which of the following obligations is the licensee typically responsible for demonstrating?

- ☐ A That they still hold a valid, current license only.
- ☒ B That they have met all applicable continuing education requirements, any required suicide prevention training, and paid the renewal fee in the cycle identified by the Board.
- ☐ C That they personally completed an entirely new doctoral degree each renewal cycle.
- ☐ D That they have transferred all clients to other providers regardless of need.

ANSWER B

WHY California licensed psychologists must complete required continuing education, including statutorily required coursework such as suicide prevention training for health professionals as well as ethics and other mandated topics, and pay the Board's renewal fee each cycle. They are not required to re-earn a doctoral degree each cycle. The licensee does not have to transfer all existing clients; transfer obligations arise only when actually terminating services for a client who still needs them.

QUESTION 9

SINGLE CHOICE

Which conduct constitutes an ethical and legal violation under California's licensing statutes and regulations for psychologists?

- ☐ A Maintaining a social acquaintance with a former client after a reasonable post-termination interval.
- ☒ B Engaging in a sexual or other intimate contact with a current client.
- ☐ C Referring a client to an appropriate outside professional.
- ☐ D Discussing fees transparently at the start of services.

ANSWER B

WHY The California Business and Professions Code expressly prohibits psychologists from engaging in sexual or other intimate contact with current clients. Such contact is both an ethical violation under APA Standards and a basis for Board discipline under California law. Each of the other options is permissible and may even be required.