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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CA DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

DLPT2VKN

RDA General and Law and Ethics Written Exam

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

ISSUED

September 3, 2026

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for CA DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA **DLPT2VKN**, 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, **DLPT2VKN**
- the question number
- the email address on your order

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

Licence

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QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

Under the California Dental Practice Act, which of the following duties may a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) perform only under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist?

- ☐ A Taking intraoral photographs
- ☐ B Applying topical fluoride
- ☒ C Performing coronal polishing on a patient who has not been examined by a dentist at the time of the procedure
- ☐ D Instructing a patient in oral hygiene

ANSWER C

WHY Under California law, coronal polishing is a function that, when performed by an RDA, requires that a dentist has examined the patient and provided a written authorization, and the procedure must be carried out under direct supervision. The other listed tasks (taking intraoral photographs, applying topical fluoride when authorized, and oral hygiene instruction) are duties that an RDA may generally perform under appropriate supervision without requiring the dentist to be physically present at the chair for direct supervision of that specific act in the same manner.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

To renew an RDA license in California, the licensee must satisfy all of the following EXCEPT:

- ☐ A Payment of the renewal fee to the Dental Board of California
- ☐ B Completion of continuing education as required by the Board
- ☐ C Maintaining a current, valid Basic Life Support (BLS) certification from an approved provider
- ☒ D Passing the California Dental Law and Ethics Written Examination again each renewal cycle

ANSWER D

WHY The RDA license is renewed biennially by paying the renewal fee, completing the required continuing education units (including mandatory courses such as infection control, dental practice act, and BLS), and meeting other Board requirements. The California Dental Law and Ethics Written Examination is a one-time licensure examination and is not required to be retaken at each renewal.

QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

According to the California Minimum Standards for Infection Control, which item must be heat-sterilized between each patient use?

- ☐ A The dental chair upholstery
- ☐ B The patient examination gloves
- ☒ C High-speed handpieces and their attachments
- ☐ D The lead apron used for radiography

ANSWER C

WHY California's Minimum Standards for Infection Control require that semicritical and critical instruments, including handpieces and their attachments, be heat-sterilized between each patient use. Patient examination gloves are single-use disposable items. Dental chair upholstery is cleaned and disinfected with an appropriate intermediate-level disinfectant. Lead aprons are typically cleaned and disinfected, not routinely heat-sterilized, because heat sterilization can damage the protective material.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

A licensee of the Dental Board of California has which of the following reporting obligations regarding another licensee's impairment?

- ☐ A No duty to report; reporting is voluntary and confidential
- ☒ B A duty to report to the Board any knowledge of another licensee whose professional fitness may be impaired due to substance abuse or a mental illness that affects competence
- ☐ C A duty to report only if the impaired licensee consents in writing
- ☐ D A duty to report only when a patient has actually been harmed

ANSWER B

WHY The Dental Practice Act imposes a mandatory reporting duty on licensees. A licensee with knowledge that another licensed dental professional is impaired by alcohol, drugs, or a mental illness that affects the ability to practice safely must report that information to the Dental Board of California. Failing to report is itself considered unprofessional conduct.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

Under the California Dental Practice Act, placing pit and fissure sealants is classified as:

- ☐ A A function that only a licensed dentist may perform
- ☒ B An extended function that may be performed by an RDA with a pit and fissure sealant certification issued by the Board
- ☐ C A duty that any dental front-office staff member may perform without supervision
- ☐ D An act that requires the patient to sign a special informed consent form for sealants only

ANSWER B

WHY The application of pit and fissure sealants is an additional/extended function. An RDA may perform this function only after successfully completing a Board-approved course in pit and fissure sealants and meeting the certification requirements. The procedure must still be performed under the appropriate level of supervision and after a dentist has examined the patient and authorized the procedure.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

When exposing dental radiographs in California, which requirement must be met?

- ☐ A All staff members must hold an individual radiology certificate
- ☒ B The dental office must possess a current registration issued by the Department of Public Health for each X-ray machine, and the licensee must comply with the Dental Radiation Protection Act
- ☐ C Radiographs may only be taken on patients who are 18 years of age or older
- ☐ D Lead aprins are not required if the office uses digital sensors

ANSWER B

WHY Under the Dental Radiation Protection Act and associated California regulations, dental offices operating dental X-ray equipment must be registered with the California Department of Public Health (Radiologic Health Branch) and must comply with the radiation safety requirements set forth in statute and regulation. A thyroid collar/lead apron and other protective measures are still required for patients regardless of whether film or digital sensors are used. Only appropriately trained and authorized personnel may operate the equipment, but not every staff member is required to hold an individual radiology certificate.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

California law requires that a dentist provide a patient with copies of their dental records upon request. Which statement correctly describes the rules that apply?

- ☐ A The dentist may charge any amount, and the patient must pay before any copies are released
- ☒ B The dentist must provide copies at a reasonable cost and within a reasonable time, and may not withhold the records because of an unpaid account balance
- ☐ C The dentist is required to release originals, not copies, upon the patient's request
- ☐ D Records may be withheld from the patient indefinitely at the dentist's discretion

ANSWER B

WHY Under California law, patients have a right to a copy of their dental records. The provider may charge a reasonable fee for copying and must respond within the timeframes required by law. Records may not be withheld from a patient because the patient has not paid the account, although the dentist may pursue collection separately. The dentist must provide copies, not surrender originals.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following actions by an RDA would most clearly violate the patient's right to confidentiality under California law and HIPAA?

- ☐ A Discussing a patient's treatment plan privately with the dentist in a closed office
- ☐ B Releasing patient X-rays only with the patient's signed authorization
- ☒ C Discussing details of a patient's treatment with friends in the office break room where other patients can overhear
- ☐ D Shredding patient charts that have reached the end of the legally required retention period

ANSWER C

WHY Confidentiality rules require that protected health information not be disclosed in a manner that allows others to overhear or see it. Casually discussing a patient's treatment in a location where unauthorized persons may overhear is a violation. The other options are lawful or required actions: discussing the case with the treating dentist, releasing records only with authorization, and properly destroying records after the retention period are all consistent with confidentiality obligations.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Under the California Dental Practice Act, which of the following procedures may a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) perform? (Choose two.)

- ☐ A Perform a periodontal screening and recording (PSR) of probing depths
- ☒ B Cement a permanent crown after the dentist has adjusted the final occlusion
- ☒ C Place a retraction cord subgingivally for crown impressions
- ☐ D Place and contour amalgam restorations after the dentist has prepared the tooth

ANSWER B - C

WHY Under the California Dental Practice Act, an RDA may cement a permanent crown (after the dentist has tried it in and adjusted it) and may place retraction cord subgingivally for crown impressions, both of which are within the RDA's allowable duties. Performing a PSR periodontal screening is not an RDA duty (it is reserved for the dentist or a licensed dental hygienist under specific supervision), and placing, condensing, and carving amalgam restorations is not a function the RDA is permitted to perform.