

How Many Questions Are On The Cpc Exam

How Many Questions Are on the CPC Exam? Everything You Need to Know **how many questions are on the cpc exam** is a common query among aspiring medical coders preparing to take this important certification test. Understanding the exam format, including the number of questions, is essential for effective study planning and reducing test-day anxiety. The Certified Professional Coder (CPC) exam, offered by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC), is a pivotal step for those aiming to establish a career in medical coding. Let's dive into the details about the exam structure, question types, and tips to help you confidently approach the CPC certification.

Understanding the CPC Exam Format

Before tackling the question of how many questions are on the cpc exam, it's important to grasp the overall format of the test. The CPC exam is designed to assess your knowledge and skills in medical coding across various specialties, including evaluation and management, anesthesia, surgery, radiology, pathology, and more. The exam's structure is standardized to ensure fairness and comprehensiveness.

Number of Questions and Time Limit

One of the first things candidates want to know is the exact number of questions on the CPC exam. The exam consists of **150 multiple-choice questions**. These questions cover a broad spectrum of coding scenarios and require you to apply your knowledge of CPT, ICD-10-CM, and HCPCS Level II coding guidelines. Candidates are given **5 hours and 40 minutes** to complete the exam, which means you have roughly two minutes per question. This timing underscores the importance of time management during the test, especially since some questions may be more complex and require careful analysis.

Types of Questions on the CPC Exam

The multiple-choice questions on the CPC exam are crafted to evaluate your ability to accurately assign codes based on medical documentation. Questions may ask you to:

- Identify the correct CPT code for a procedure or service
- Assign the appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnosis code
- Determine HCPCS Level II codes for supplies and equipment
- Apply coding guidelines and conventions
- Interpret medical reports and documentation to select the right codes

This variety ensures that the exam tests both your theoretical knowledge and practical coding skills.

Why Knowing the Number of Questions Matters

Understanding how many questions are on the CPC exam helps you structure your study sessions more effectively. It provides a clear target and allows you to simulate realistic practice tests. When you practice with full-length tests mirroring the actual 150 questions, you can better gauge your readiness and build stamina for the exam day. Moreover, knowing the question count helps you develop time management strategies. Since the exam has a strict time limit, pacing yourself to answer approximately one question every two minutes can prevent rushing through questions or running out of time.

Tips for Managing the CPC Exam Questions

- **Practice with Full-Length Exams:** Use practice tests with 150 questions to build endurance.
- **Develop a Time Strategy:** Allocate about 2 minutes per question but be flexible to spend more time on complex problems.
- **Flag Difficult Questions:** If unsure, mark questions and return to them after completing easier ones to optimize your time.
- **Focus on Accuracy Over Speed:** While pacing is important, accuracy in selecting the correct code is crucial to passing.

Content Areas Covered by the CPC Exam

The 150 questions on the CPC exam are spread across several key content areas. Each section tests your proficiency in coding specific types of medical services and diagnoses, reflecting real-world coding responsibilities.

Evaluation and Management (E/M) Coding

A significant portion of the exam focuses on E/M services, which involve coding patient visits, consultations, and other evaluation-related services. Questions here assess your understanding of documentation requirements, medical decision-making, and guidelines for office and outpatient coding.

Surgery and Procedures

Surgical coding questions test your ability to select the correct CPT codes for various procedures, including understanding modifiers, global periods, and anesthesia coding nuances.

Radiology, Pathology, and Laboratory Coding

These specialties require precise coding knowledge due to their specific coding systems and documentation. Questions may involve selecting the correct radiology procedure codes or pathology tests.

Medical Terminology and Anatomy

To answer coding questions accurately, a solid grasp of medical terminology and anatomy is essential. The exam includes questions that indirectly test your knowledge in these areas to ensure you can interpret documentation correctly.

Preparing for the CPC Exam: Beyond Knowing How Many Questions Are on the CPC Exam

While understanding the number of questions on the CPC exam is important, success depends on comprehensive preparation. Here are some strategies to help you get ready:

1. **Study the Official AAPC CPC Study Guide:** This guide aligns closely with the exam content and provides detailed explanations.
2. **Use Coding Books and Software:** Familiarize yourself with the CPT, ICD-10-CM, and HCPCS coding manuals as these are your primary references during the test.
3. **Take Practice Exams:** Simulating the 150-question format helps build confidence and identify areas needing improvement.
4. **Join Study Groups or Classes:** Engaging with peers or instructors can provide additional insights and motivation.
5. **Keep Up with Coding Updates:** Medical coding standards evolve, so staying current is vital for exam success and later professional practice.

Exam Day Tips

On the day of the exam, being calm and well-prepared can make all the difference. Some tips include: - Arrive early to the testing center. - Bring necessary identification and materials. - Manage your time wisely across all 150 questions. - Don't spend too long stuck on any one question. - Take brief mental breaks, if allowed, to maintain focus.

Understanding Scoring and Passing the CPC Exam

Though the exam has 150 questions, not all may count towards your final score, as some are pretest questions used by the AAPC to evaluate future exam content. However, candidates will not know which questions these are. You need to achieve a minimum passing score of ****70%**** or higher to earn your CPC certification. This means correctly answering at least 105 questions out of 150. Knowing this benchmark can help you set clear study goals.

Retaking the Exam

If you don't pass on your first attempt, understanding how many questions are on the CPC exam remains critical for your next try. Analyze which sections you struggled with,

focus your preparation there, and retake the exam with improved strategy and confidence. Knowing how many questions are on the CPC exam and what to expect from its format is a valuable part of your certification journey. With 150 questions covering a wide range of coding areas and a strict time limit, thorough preparation, strategic study, and effective time management are keys to success. Embrace the challenge, and soon you'll be on your way to becoming a certified professional coder.

How Many Questions Are on the

The Certified Professional Coder exam consists of 120 multiple-choice questions that assess a candidate's ability to interpret and apply coding standards within real-world healthcare scenarios. The exact number remains fixed at 120, but how those questions are formulated and what they cover can vary year to year.

Understanding the CPC Exam Format

When preparing for certification, you'll quickly notice that the way the exam presents information matters as much as the number of questions themselves. The test is designed to challenge your practical understanding rather than just memorization. Each question appears in a clear, direct format, allowing you to focus on decision-making under realistic constraints.

Question Types and What to Expect

Most candidates find that the majority of items fall into two categories: coding selection and coding clarification. Coding selection involves choosing the correct code based on given clinical documentation. Coding clarification asks you to identify ambiguities or missing information before proceeding. Both styles appear throughout the set to reflect day-to-day tasks you may encounter after certification.

Because every question aligns with industry coding standards, preparation should involve reviewing official guidelines alongside practice items. These questions won't stray far from topics that influence reimbursement, compliance, and audit readiness, making their relevance immediate and tangible.

Why Exactly 120 Questions Matter

The fixed count of 120 questions serves several purposes. First, it ensures broad coverage across a wide range of medical coding concepts, from basic procedural codes to intricate modifiers and payer-specific rules. Second, the quantity allows for statistical consistency—enough data points mean exam developers can refine questions over time while maintaining fairness for all candidates.

Third, the fixed length supports test security. A consistent number reduces opportunities for bias toward particular candidates by standardizing the workload and the pacing required to complete the exam efficiently.

The Role of Time Management

With exactly two hours to complete the test, each question effectively has roughly one minute to work under pressure. Practicing timing with sample sets helps you develop an instinct for allocating time wisely. Many experienced candidates suggest dividing the exam into logical segments rather than treating it as random guessing. For example, focus on areas where you feel most confident early on, then circle back to tricky items later.

Content Areas Represented by Each Question

The exam draws from several core domains that define current coding expectations. Below is an overview of key subject areas you'll likely encounter, often reflected in individual questions:

1. **Chronology and sequencing:** Determining the order of procedures or services when documentation overlaps.
2. **Modifier usage:** Applying appropriate modifiers for services performed by multiple providers or unusual circumstances.
3. **Coding specificity:** Selecting the most precise procedural code based on detailed clinical descriptions.
4. **Compliance considerations:** Recognizing potential upcoding or downcoding risks within legal boundaries.
5. **Documentation gaps:** Deciding whether additional information is necessary before assigning a code.

Each question reflects these topics in miniature case studies, requiring you to connect theory to practical judgment.

Realistic Scenarios and Decision Logic

Consider a scenario where a patient underwent two procedures during the same visit. One was minor and routine; the other involved significant complexity. Which code applies, and could any modifiers affect payment? A well-structured question will describe the situation, list relevant options, and include subtle hints in the wording that separate correct answers from distractors.

Realism is key. The more closely a question mirrors actual work conditions, the better prepared you become. This realism also makes the exam valuable beyond certification—it builds habits you'll rely on during daily work.

Changing Trends and Their Impact on

Over the years, the exam has evolved along with changes in coding standards like ICD-10-CM and CPT updates. Advances in EHR systems, telehealth expansion, and shifting billing policies have all influenced question frequency and focus. For example, recent years saw increased attention on telehealth-related documentation and appropriate coding for remote services.

Preparing for today means acknowledging that past versions might emphasize different areas than current ones. Reviewing recent testing patterns shows increasing weight on contextual understanding versus isolated code lookups. That shift encourages candidates to study broader processes rather than memorizing pages of codes.

How Trends Shape Strategy

If advanced knowledge of payer-specific nuances grows more critical, spending time with sample exams becomes essential. Payers occasionally introduce their own interpretation quirks, so familiarity with real-world audits and appeals can tilt odds in your favor. Questions may sometimes involve “which statement best describes...” formats that directly address common misunderstandings among professionals.

Practice Matters—But Quality Counts More Than

Simply completing dozens of practice questions does not guarantee success. What matters is analyzing why certain choices are right or wrong. Reviewing explanations helps build mental models that stick longer than rote memory. When practice sessions feel mechanical, take a step back to ask yourself how each answer connects to underlying principles, especially when faced with ambiguous terminology or partial documentation.

Learning from Mistakes

Every incorrect answer offers insight. Did you misinterpret coding guidelines? Overlook documentation requirements? Misjudge the sequence of events? Capturing these moments creates personal feedback loops, helping you recognize blind spots faster. Over time, this process reduces guesswork and increases confidence during the live exam.

Resources That Help Decode Question Complexity

Several resources complement self-study when tackling the exact number and type of questions. Official CMS publications outline the foundational rules governing modern coding practice. Third-party materials, including review books and online modules, break down concepts into digestible sequences. Some candidates also benefit from joining study groups focused on dissecting sample items together, offering fresh perspectives on challenging cases.

One advantage of the fixed 120-question format is the ability to compare performance metrics across cohorts. If many successful candidates consistently excel in a specific area, it signals where emphasis belongs during review. Conversely, topics where errors cluster highlight potential weak spots worth reinforcing.

Adapting Your Study Plan Around the

Knowing there are always 120 questions allows for strategic planning. You can estimate pacing and allocate more time to sections requiring deeper analysis. For instance, if you tend to rush through straightforward items, reserving two minutes per question instead of one-and-a-half can reduce anxiety late in the exam.

Additionally, tracking progress across batches of ten or twenty questions helps maintain momentum. Rather than fixating on hitting a perfect score early, focus on consistent improvement. Celebrate incremental gains and note recurring patterns in areas needing reinforcement.

Balancing Breadth and Depth

Balancing the need to cover all topics equally is challenging. While some areas dominate certain tests, others remain important throughout. A structured approach involves mapping your strengths and weaknesses against the domain breakdown. Schedule dedicated sessions for high-priority subjects, interleaving them with lighter reviews to keep retention strong.

Exam Day Tips for Maximum Performance

On the day itself, arrive mentally prepared and ensure your equipment functions smoothly if taking the test remotely. Wear comfortable clothing, stay hydrated, and avoid unfamiliar foods right before starting. Once the timer begins, resist the urge to spend too much time on any single item; move forward and return if possible.

Remember, confidence grows alongside experience. Trust the study methods that resonated most with you during preparation. The fixed length of the exam isn't a limitation—it's an opportunity to demonstrate mastery across the full spectrum of coding principles.

Final Thoughts

The CPC exam's consistency, particularly its firm limit of 120 questions, provides both clarity and challenge. Understanding not just the number itself but how it fits into the wider landscape of coding education transforms preparation from an exercise in counting to a journey of skill refinement. By engaging thoughtfully with each prompt and learning from every outcome, you build not just certification credentials but lasting expertise applicable to everyday practice.

How Many Questions Are on the CPC Exam? A Detailed Examination of the Certified

Professional Coder Test **how many questions are on the cpc exam** is a query frequently posed by medical coding professionals preparing to achieve certification through the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC). Understanding the structure and content of the Certified Professional Coder (CPC) exam is crucial for candidates aiming to navigate the rigorous testing process successfully. This article takes an investigative approach to dissect the exam's format, question distribution, and related factors that influence candidate preparedness and performance.

An Overview of the CPC Exam Format

The CPC exam serves as a benchmark for competence in medical coding, assessing candidates' ability to interpret healthcare documentation and apply coding guidelines accurately. Central to many candidates' concerns is the number of questions presented on the exam, as this directly influences study strategies, time management, and psychological readiness. Typically, the CPC exam consists of **150 multiple-choice questions** that candidates must complete within a **5-hour and 40-minute** time frame. This extensive duration underscores the exam's comprehensive nature, requiring not only knowledge recall but also analytical application of coding principles under time constraints.

Breakdown of Question Types and Content Areas

The 150 questions on the CPC exam are carefully designed to evaluate proficiency across diverse coding domains. These include:

1. **Medical Terminology and Anatomy:** Testing understanding of language and human body systems critical to coding accuracy.
2. **CPT Coding:** Focused on Current Procedural Terminology, emphasizing procedural codes for physician services.
3. **ICD-10-CM Coding:** Assessing usage of International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification for diagnosis coding.
4. **HCPCS Level II Coding:** Covering codes for products, supplies, and services not included in CPT.
5. **Compliance and Regulatory Guidelines:** Evaluating knowledge of healthcare laws, regulations, and ethical coding practices.

Each question is crafted to simulate real-world coding scenarios, requiring candidates to apply coding manuals, guidelines, and critical thinking skills.

How the Number of Questions Influences Exam Preparation

Awareness of the exact number of questions on the CPC exam—150—allows candidates

to tailor their study schedules effectively. The volume demands a broad yet deep familiarity with coding manuals and guidelines, alongside speed and accuracy in answering multiple-choice questions.

Time Allocation per Question

With a total time limit of 340 minutes (5 hours and 40 minutes), candidates have approximately ****2 minutes and 15 seconds per question****. This calculation is essential for pacing during the exam, ensuring that no single question consumes disproportionate time. Candidates who understand this pacing can allocate more time to challenging questions and avoid rushing through easier ones.

Comparative Perspective: CPC vs. Other Coding Exams

The CPC exam's 150-question format contrasts with other coding certification exams. For instance, the Certified Coding Specialist (CCS) exam by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) typically features around 97 scored questions with an extended time frame. The relatively higher number of questions on the CPC exam reflects its comprehensive scope within outpatient and physician-based coding contexts. This comparison also highlights the CPC exam's focus on breadth over depth, demanding familiarity with a wide range of coding scenarios rather than intensive specialization.

Implications of Exam Length and Question Volume on Candidate Performance

The sheer number of questions on the CPC exam introduces both advantages and challenges:

1. **Pros:** A larger question pool reduces the impact of a few incorrectly answered items, allowing a more balanced assessment of overall competency.
2. **Cons:** The extended exam duration can contribute to mental fatigue, potentially affecting focus and accuracy in latter sections.

Candidates often benefit from practice exams mimicking the 150-question format, which helps build endurance and refine time management strategies.

Adaptive Study Techniques Based on Question Count

Given the exam's length, many candidates adopt segmented study plans, breaking down preparation into focused modules aligned with exam content areas. For example, dedicating specific weeks to CPT coding questions, followed by ICD-10-CM practice, can enhance mastery without overwhelming the learner. Additionally, timed mock exams simulating the 150-question layout enable candidates to develop pacing skills essential for balancing speed with accuracy.

The Role of Question Types in Exam Difficulty

While the CPC exam primarily features multiple-choice questions, these are not straightforward recall queries. Instead, many questions involve case studies or require cross-referencing coding manuals, which increases complexity. Thus, knowing how many questions are on the CPC exam is just one facet; understanding the cognitive demands of each question is equally critical.

Practical Application vs. Theoretical Knowledge

The exam emphasizes practical application, meaning candidates must interpret coding scenarios accurately instead of relying solely on memorized information. This approach reflects industry demands where coders routinely analyze clinical documentation, select appropriate codes, and ensure compliance with billing regulations. Therefore, preparation must go beyond memorization to include hands-on practice with coding manuals and realistic case examples.

Additional Considerations: Passing Criteria and Scoring

Understanding how many questions are on the CPC exam also ties into scoring expectations. The AAPC requires a passing score of **70%**, which translates to correctly answering at least 105 out of 150 questions. This benchmark informs candidates about the margin for error and highlights the importance of thorough preparation. Furthermore, the exam includes 25 pretest questions that do not count toward the final score but are indistinguishable from scored items. Awareness of this aspect can help candidates maintain consistent focus throughout the exam.

Impact on Retake Policies and Candidate Outlook

Candidates who do not meet the 70% threshold on the 150-question exam are allowed to retake the test after a specified waiting period. The relatively high number of questions means that even a small number of missed items can affect the overall score, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive readiness.

Conclusion

In sum, the question “how many questions are on the cpc exam” opens a window into the exam’s comprehensive and demanding nature. The 150 multiple-choice questions, spread over nearly six hours, test a wide array of coding knowledge and practical skills crucial for professional success. Candidates who understand the exam’s structure—including question volume, time management, and content distribution—are better positioned to approach their preparation strategically. This knowledge ultimately supports a more confident and informed journey toward CPC certification.

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Digital books play an important role in professional development. Many careers require continuous learning as industries evolve. Having ***How Many Questions Are On The Cpc Exam*** available digitally allows professionals to update skills, explore new methodologies, and stay informed without disrupting daily routines.

Students also benefit from digital access in meaningful ways. Academic success often depends on the ability to review material repeatedly and study efficiently. Downloadable PDFs allow offline access, easy note-taking, and organized revision. Digital books reduce physical strain and support more comfortable study habits.

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Accessibility features further expand the reach of digital books. Adjustable text size, text-

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Perhaps the most significant change brought by digital access is how it reshapes attitudes toward learning. When information is readily available, curiosity feels encouraged rather than inconvenient. Readers are more willing to explore unfamiliar topics, revisit previous interests, and continue learning throughout their lives.

This mindset supports lifelong learning. Knowledge is no longer confined to formal education or specific career stages. It becomes a continuous process shaped by evolving goals and interests. Having ***How Many Questions Are On The Cpc Exam*** available digitally ensures that learning remains adaptable and relevant over time.

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How Many Questions Are on the

The Certified Professional Coder (CPC) examination consists of 100 multiple-choice questions that assess a candidate's ability to code accurately according to widely recognized medical coding standards. This structure remains consistent across most testing campaigns conducted by leading certification bodies.

Core Insights into Exam Structure and

The CPC exam's question count provides a framework for candidates to gauge preparation strategy and time allocation per section. Understanding this metric is pivotal for optimizing study plans and aligning expectations with actual testing conditions.

Comparative Context: Variations Across Code Sets

Though the primary format stabilizes at 100 questions, minor variations exist depending on jurisdiction-specific requirements and periodic updates from authoritative sources. Candidates must verify current regulations because incremental revisions can influence the total number of items presented during certain test cycles.

Mechanics Behind Question Distribution

Examiners balance clinical specificity with administrative relevance, ensuring coverage across major physiology systems while maintaining proportional representation relative to coding frequency in healthcare records. The 100-question cap promotes comprehensive evaluation without over-saturating the assessment environment.

Use Cases Driving Question Count

Because medical practice evolves rapidly, the CPC exam periodically integrates new scenarios reflecting contemporary documentation trends. This dynamic approach ensures ongoing alignment between tested competencies and operational realities within health systems.

Detailed Breakdown: Exam Design and Cognitive

Interpretive vs. Recall-Heavy Segments

The majority of questions require interpretation of clinical documentation rather than pure memorization. Test-takers encounter case vignettes prompting application of relevant coding principles under realistic constraints, blending factual recall with analytical reasoning.

Strategic Implications of Fixed Quantity

A stable question count allows for methodical pacing, enabling candidates to manage time efficiently between sections such as Evaluation and Management, Professional Training, and Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems. Predictability aids in developing personal time management strategies tailored to each stage of the exam.

Advantages of Consistent Format

Maintaining a fixed item count across retakes offers equity among examinees, reducing variability influenced by external factors like test version disparities. Uniformity enhances the reliability of scores as true reflections of skill level rather than anomalies tied to differing question volumes.

Real-World Practicalities and Candidate Readiness

The 100-question configuration supports nuanced assessment through scenario-based problem-solving. Candidates who systematically address each segment tend to achieve higher accuracy rates due to the emphasis placed on contextual comprehension rather than rote learning alone.

Scenario Complexity and Depth

Complexity increases incrementally within sections, beginning with straightforward documentation review before advancing to multifaceted cases requiring cross-referencing multiple code categories. This scaffolded progression mirrors the expected trajectory of coding proficiency development.

Balancing Speed and Precision

Time pressure remains a critical factor; effective pacing ensures sufficient attention to avoid careless transcription errors. Simulations indicate that optimal performance correlates strongly with allocating adequate mental bandwidth to confirm selections against established guidelines.

Strategic Considerations for Long-Term Mastery

Beyond numerical specifics, recognizing how the fixed item count impacts overall preparation methodology is essential. Strategic planning involves mapping study schedules around anticipated cognitive load while incorporating frequent practice under timed conditions.

Longitudinal Impact of Stable Structure

Consistency reinforces confidence and enables targeted review sessions focused on weaker areas. Candidates benefit from identifying recurring patterns within sections and adapting revision tactics accordingly without unnecessary deviations caused by fluctuating formats.

Integration with Modern Technology-Assisted Learning

Digital platforms simulating the exact distribution help learners acclimate to spatial and temporal parameters inherent in the actual exam. Immersive environments replicate not only question quantity but also interface familiarity crucial for minimizing distractions during live sessions.

Conclusion and Actionable Takeaways

The definitive answer to “how many questions are on the cpc exam” remains anchored at precisely 100 items per administration cycle. This structural feature underpins both the assessment’s credibility and its capacity to mirror authentic coding challenges faced by professionals navigating day-to-day healthcare documentation workflows.

Candidates aiming for mastery should leverage this certainty when crafting personalized study roadmaps. Prioritize deep immersion in core code sets while practicing under simulated pressures matching the official format. Continuous adaptation based on evolving healthcare delivery models will further position professionals for sustained compliance and improved job performance within complex coding ecosystems.

Questions & Answers About how many questions are on the cpc exam

No	Question	Answer
1	How many questions are on the CPC exam?	The CPC exam consists of 150 multiple-choice questions.
2	Are all 150 questions on the CPC exam scored?	No, out of the 150 questions, 20 are pretest questions that do not count toward your final score.
3	How many scored questions are on the CPC exam?	There are 130 scored questions on the CPC exam.
4	Is the number of questions on the CPC exam subject to change?	Yes, the number of questions can change based on updates from the AAPC, but currently it is 150 questions.

5	How long do you have to complete the 150 questions on the CPC exam?	You have 5 hours and 40 minutes to complete all 150 questions on the CPC exam.
6	Are the 150 CPC exam questions multiple choice?	Yes, all 150 questions on the CPC exam are multiple-choice format.
7	Do all 150 CPC exam questions cover the same topics?	The questions cover a wide range of medical coding topics including ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS Level II codes.
8	Can you skip questions during the CPC exam's 150 questions?	Yes, you can skip and return to questions within the 5 hours and 40 minutes allotted for the 150 questions.
9	Is there a passing score based on the 150 questions on the CPC exam?	Yes, you must correctly answer at least 70% of the scored questions to pass the CPC exam.
10	Are there any breaks during the CPC exam with 150 questions?	The CPC exam is administered in one sitting of 5 hours and 40 minutes, and breaks are generally not allowed except for emergencies.

CPC exam question count, number of questions on CPC test, CPC certification exam questions, CPC exam length, CPC test question total, CPC exam format, CPC exam question number, how many questions CPC exam, CPC exam structure, CPC certification test questions

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