

FREE PRACTICE GUIDE

California

Notary Public Exam Practice

25 Questions · Complete Answer Key

What's Inside

- 25 multiple-choice questions across key exam topics
- Complete answer key with detailed explanations
- Covers commission rules, notarial acts, record keeping & more

Based on California notary statutes. Always confirm current requirements with your state's commissioning authority.

Practice Questions

Choose the best answer for each question. Check your answers in the Answer Key section at the end.

1 To identify a signer using "Satisfactory Evidence," what is required?

Medium

Notarial Acts

- A A driver's license only,
- B A credible witness or identifying documents,
- C The signer's verbal assurance,
- D A utility bill

2 Is a Consular ID acceptable?

Medium

Notarial Acts

- A Yes,
- B No,
- C Only for visas,
- D Only if recent

3 When taking an oath:

Hard

Notarial Acts

- A Signer must raise right hand,
- B Signer must pay extra fee,
- C Signer must repeat oath,
- D Raising right hand is not required

4 Which of the following lists are all Notary Actions:

Hard

Notarial Acts

- A Acknowledgment Jurat Copy Certification Oath Deposition,
- B Jurat Affirmation Protest Power of Attorney Loan Document Signing,
- C Proof of Execution Protest Affidavit Jurat,
- D Proof of Execution Jurat Oath of Office Acknowledgment

5 **The main purpose of an acknowledgment is to:**

Medium

Notarial Acts

- A Authenticate signatures,
- B Establish mental competence,
- C Require personal appearance,
- D Both a and c

6 **Does a peace officer need a warrant to seize a journal?**

Hard

Notarial Acts

- A Yes always,
- B No if they have probable cause,
- C No they can take it anytime,
- D Only for felonies

7 **Can a notary notarize a document in which they have a direct financial or beneficial interest?**

Easy

General Information

- A Yes if they disclose it,
- B No it is a conflict of interest,
- C Yes if no fee is charged,
- D Only for family members

8 **When the last day for filing an instrument or other document with a state agency falls upon a Saturday or holiday, such act may be performed:**

Easy

General Information

- A Within one week,
- B Within two weeks,
- C Within thirty days,
- D Upon the next business day

9 **If a notary is convicted of a felony, what happens to their commission?**

Medium

Misconduct and Fines

- A Probation,
- B Fine only,
- C Revocation or Suspension,
- D Nothing if off-duty

10

Influencing a notary to perform improperly is a:

Medium

Misconduct and Fines

- A Moral Turpitude Felony,
- B Misdemeanor,
- C Felony,
- D Infraction

11

An acknowledgment is:

Easy

Notarial Definitions

- A An oath,
- B A formal declaration before an authorized official confirming that a signature is authentic,
- C A protest,
- D A deposition

12

Must a notary maintain a record book even if no fees are charged?

Easy

Record Book

- A Yes the record book is required regardless,
- B No only if fees are charged,
- C Only for real estate documents,
- D Only for acknowledgments

13

Can a notary seal be oval shaped?

Easy

Notary Public Commission

- A Yes,
- B No it must be rectangular or circular,
- C Only if 2 inches wide,
- D Only for electronic notarization

14

Which is the true statement?

Medium

Fees

- A It is the notary's duty to draft power of attorney mortgages and deeds when requested,
- B A notary does not have to charge a fee,
- C Holographic wills must be notarized to be valid,
- D Holographic wills are typewritten

15

In addition to the notary's name, the seal must include:

Notary Seal

Easy

- A The notary's home address,
- B The date the notary's commission expires,
- C The county where the notary resides,
- D The notary's employer name

16

A notary public may NOT:

Prohibited Acts

Easy

- A Perform acts constituting the practice of law,
- B Administer oaths,
- C Take acknowledgments,
- D Protest negotiable instruments

17

Can a notary notarize a document if the signer is not physically present?

Additional Topics

Easy

- A Yes if the signer calls on the phone,
- B No, the signer must personally appear,
- C Yes if a witness confirms identity,
- D Yes if the signer sent a text

18

What is Remote Online Notarization (RON)?

Remote Online Notarization

Easy

- A Notarizing a document and mailing it to the signer,
- B A notarization performed using audio-visual technology where the signer and notary are in different locations,
- C Notarizing via a phone call without video,
- D Sending a notarized copy by email

19

What must a notary public do before performing their first official notarial act?

Commission and Qualification

Easy

- A Purchase errors and omissions insurance,
- B Take an official oath of office,
- C Register their seal with the county recorder,
- D Complete a state-approved training course

20

The required notice must be in letters of:

Easy

Unauthorized Practice of Law

- A Any size,
- B A conspicuous size,
- C Microscopic print,
- D Standard 12-point font only

21

A notary suspects a signer is being coerced into signing a document. What should the notary do?

Medium

Signer Competence and Coercion

- A Proceed with the notarization since it is not the notary's business,
- B Refuse to complete the notarization,
- C Ask the coercing party to step outside and then proceed,
- D Notarize and note the suspicion in the journal

22

What is a 'Signature by Mark'?

Easy

Special Notarial Situations

- A A document signed by a notary on behalf of a signer,
- B When a signer who cannot write their full name makes a mark (e.g., an X) as their legal signature,
- C A digital mark placed electronically,
- D A signature made with a rubber stamp

23

The notary stamp may be:

Easy

Notary Public Seal

- A Triangle,
- B Rectangular,
- C Only a circle,
- D None of the above

24

Should a notary rely only on a credit card to identify a signer?

Easy

FAQ

- A Yes if the card has a photo,
- B No a government-issued ID card or US passport must be used,
- C Yes if the credit card is current,
- D Only for low-value transactions

25

What does 'impartiality' mean in the context of a notary's duties?

Easy

Impartiality and Notary Ethics

- A The notary always favors the document's beneficiary,
 - B The notary has no personal interest in the transaction and treats all parties equally,
 - C The notary must always side with the lender in a real estate transaction,
 - D The notary defers to the attorney who prepared the document
-

Answer Key & Explanations

Correct answers with full explanations for every question.

1 To identify a signer using "Satisfactory Evidence," what is required?

B. A credible witness or identifying documents,

Satisfactory evidence means the absence of information leading the notary to believe ID is false, and relies on proper ID cards or credible witnesses.

2 Is a Consular ID acceptable?

A. Yes,

A valid consular identification document is acceptable.

3 When taking an oath:

D. Raising right hand is not required

Applying the oath is required; raising the right hand is traditional but not strictly legally required if the oath is administered properly.

4 Which of the following lists are all Notary Actions:

D. Proof of Execution Jurat Oath of Office Acknowledgment

Proof of Execution, Jurat, Oath of Office, and Acknowledgment are all official notary actions.

5 The main purpose of an acknowledgment is to:

D. Both a and c

Authentication and appearance are key purposes.

6 Does a peace officer need a warrant to seize a journal?

B. No if they have probable cause,

A peace officer must have probable cause to seize a journal.

7 Can a notary notarize a document in which they have a direct financial or beneficial interest?

B. No it is a conflict of interest,

A notary cannot notarize a document if they have a direct financial or beneficial interest in the transaction.

8 When the last day for filing an instrument or other document with a state agency falls upon a Saturday or holiday, such act may be performed:

D. Upon the next business day

Extended to next business day.

9 If a notary is convicted of a felony, what happens to their commission?

C. Revocation or Suspension,

Felony convictions are grounds for denial, revocation, or suspension of the commission.

10 Influencing a notary to perform improperly is a:

B. Misdemeanor,

Soliciting or influencing a notary to perform an improper act is a misdemeanor.

11 An acknowledgment is:

B. A formal declaration before an authorized official confirming that a signature is authentic,

An acknowledgment is a formal declaration before an authorized official confirming that the signature on a document is authentic.

12 Must a notary maintain a record book even if no fees are charged?

A. Yes the record book is required regardless,

The record book must be maintained whether or not any fees are charged for notary services.

13 Can a notary seal be oval shaped?

B. No it must be rectangular or circular,

The seal must be circular or rectangular.

14 Which is the true statement?

B. A notary does not have to charge a fee,

Notaries are not required to charge a fee (it is discretionary up to the max).

15 In addition to the notary's name, the seal must include:

B. The date the notary's commission expires,

The seal must include the notary's name and the date the commission expires.

16 A notary public may NOT:

A. Perform acts constituting the practice of law,

Performing acts constituting the practice of law is prohibited.

17 Can a notary notarize a document if the signer is not physically present?

B. No, the signer must personally appear,

The person whose signature is notarized must personally appear before the notary at the time the notarization is performed.

18 What is Remote Online Notarization (RON)?

B. A notarization performed using audio-visual technology where the signer and notary are in different locations,

RON allows a notary to notarize documents for a remotely located signer using two-way audio-visual communication technology.

19 What must a notary public do before performing their first official notarial act?

B. Take an official oath of office,

In virtually all U.S. states a notary must take a formal oath of office before performing any notarial acts. This oath swears or affirms the notary to faithfully perform their official duties.

20 The required notice must be in letters of:

B. A conspicuous size,

The notice must be in letters of a conspicuous size.

21 A notary suspects a signer is being coerced into signing a document. What should the notary do?

B. Refuse to complete the notarization,

A notary has the duty to refuse a notarization if they have reasonable grounds to believe the signer is acting under duress or coercion. A willing and voluntary signer is a fundamental requirement.

22 What is a 'Signature by Mark'?

B. When a signer who cannot write their full name makes a mark (e.g., an X) as their legal signature,

A Signature by Mark allows individuals who cannot write their name due to a disability or illiteracy to use a mark (typically an X) as a legally valid signature, witnessed by others.

23 The notary stamp may be:

B. Rectangular,

The seal must be rectangular or circular.

24 Should a notary rely only on a credit card to identify a signer?

B. No a government-issued ID card or US passport must be used,

If the signer is not personally known or identified by a credible witness, the notary must use a government-issued ID card or US passport.

25 What does 'impartiality' mean in the context of a notary's duties?

B. The notary has no personal interest in the transaction and treats all parties equally,

A notary public is a disinterested impartial witness. They must have no personal or financial stake in the outcome of any transaction they notarize.

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