

California Notary Public Exam Questions – Sections 1 to 4

Section 1. Term of Office

1. Q1. How long is the term of office for a California notary public?
 - A. Two years
 - B. Four years
 - C. Five years
 - D. Six years

2. Q2. When does the four-year term of office officially begin?
 - A. When the commission is mailed by the Secretary of State
 - B. When the notary receives the commission in the mail
 - C. On the commencement date stated in the commission
 - D. When the oath of office is filed with the county clerk

3. Q3. A notary public's commission does not take effect unless:
 - A. The notary attends training within 60 days of appointment
 - B. The notary's employer signs an employment verification
 - C. Both the oath of office and bond are filed with the county clerk within 30 days of the commencement date
 - D. The commission certificate is displayed in the notary's office

4. Q4. What happens if the oath of office and bond are not filed within 30 days of the commission's commencement date?
 - A. The notary must pay a late fee
 - B. The commission is invalid
 - C. The notary may still serve but with limited authority
 - D. The commission term is reduced by one year

Section 2. Geographic Jurisdiction

5. Q5. A California notary public may perform notarial acts:
 - A. Only in the county where their oath and bond are filed
 - B. Anywhere in the United States
 - C. Anywhere within the state of California
 - D. Anywhere in North America

6. Q6. Maria Mobile is commissioned in Nevada County, California. Can she perform a notarization in Stateline, Nevada, at a client's home?

- A. Yes, as long as the document will be filed in California
 - B. No, because notarial acts cannot be performed outside of California
 - C. Yes, if the signer is a California resident
 - D. Yes, but only with prior approval from the Secretary of State
7. Q7. A notary appointed to serve on a military or naval reservation may:
- A. Perform notarial acts anywhere in California
 - B. Perform notarial acts only within the boundaries of the reservation for which they are appointed
 - C. Perform notarial acts in any state if the signer is a member of the armed forces
 - D. Collect fees for services performed on the reservation

Section 3. Bond

8. Q8. What is the required amount of a notary public's bond in California?
- A. \$10,000
 - B. \$15,000
 - C. \$20,000
 - D. \$25,000
9. Q9. The bond for a notary public is filed with:
- A. The California Secretary of State
 - B. The county clerk of the county where the notary's principal place of business is located
 - C. The notary's employer
 - D. The Department of Insurance
10. Q10. Why is a notary public's bond required?
- A. To cover the notary's licensing fees
 - B. To provide a limited fund to reimburse the public for damages caused by notarial misconduct
 - C. To guarantee the notary's salary
 - D. To cover errors and omissions insurance
11. Q11. If damages exceed the \$15,000 bond, the notary public:
- A. Has no further liability
 - B. May only be liable for \$15,000
 - C. May still be personally liable for additional damages, costs, and attorney's fees
 - D. May not be sued

Section 4. Public Employee Notaries Public

12. Q12. A notary public appointed as an employee of a public agency may perform notarial acts:

- A. Anytime, including on personal time
- B. Only for and on behalf of their public entity employer
- C. For the public at large, provided they are on duty
- D. Only if approved by their supervisor

13. Q13. If a public employee notary resigns or is terminated, they must:

- A. Notify the Secretary of State within 60 days
- B. Keep their journal for future use
- C. Send written notice of resignation to the Secretary of State, deliver all notarial records to the county clerk within 30 days, and deface or destroy their seal
- D. Transfer their commission to another employee

14. Q14. Federal civil service employees appointed as notaries public on a military reservation must meet which requirement?

- A. Be a California resident
- B. Be at least 25 years old
- C. Be a U.S. citizen
- D. Have prior military service

15. Q15. Federal civil service notaries public on military or naval reservations:

- A. May collect fees for services performed
- B. Cannot collect fees for any service
- C. Can notarize documents anywhere on base or off base
- D. Do not need to maintain a journal

Answer Key

Section 1. Term of Office

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B

Section 2. Geographic Jurisdiction

5. C
6. B
7. B

Section 3. Bond

8. B
9. B
10. B
11. C

Section 4. Public Employee Notaries Public

12. B
13. C
14. C
15. B