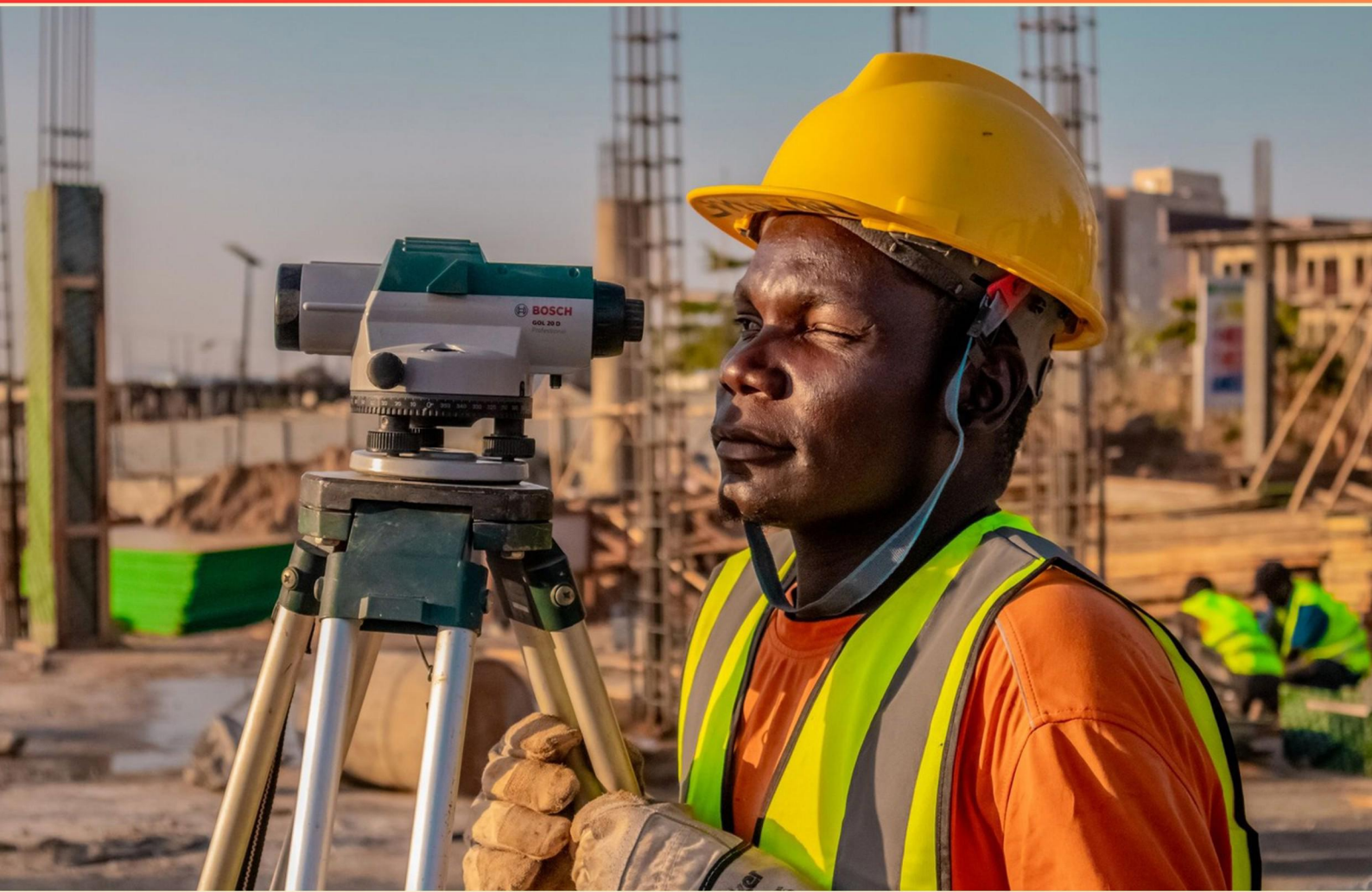


12N TAMMS – EARTHWORKS/ SURVEYING PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://12ntammsearthworkssurveying.examzify.com>



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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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1. How can groundwater affect earthworks?

- A. It improves soil quality
- B. It enhances the speed of construction
- C. It can impact soil stability and excavation
- D. It increases land value

2. In the context of earthworks, what does "slope stability" mean?

- A. The construction of sloped surfaces for drainage
- B. The ability of a slope to maintain its position without collapsing or sliding
- C. The process of creating a slope for aesthetic purposes
- D. The method used to analyze soil types on a slope

3. What type of soils are composed of silt and clay and generally drain poorly when wet?

- A. Coarse grained soils
- B. Fine grained soils
- C. Organic soils
- D. Plastic soils

4. What defines the ability of soil to stick together when dry and is influenced by plasticity when wet?

- A. Contraction
- B. Cohesion
- C. Plasticity
- D. Load bearing capacity

5. What is indicated by the revision block on a blueprint index?

- A. Project deadlines
- B. Changes made to the drawing
- C. Dimensions of the project
- D. Material specifications

- 6. What is the primary purpose of the sub grade in road construction?**
- A. To support the surface course
 - B. To serve as the final grade
 - C. To indicate the slope
 - D. To provide structural integrity
- 7. What do presentation drawings primarily aim to showcase?**
- A. The construction timeline
 - B. The proposed construction with color and shading
 - C. Technical specifications
 - D. Site inspection reports
- 8. What are soils made up of decayed plant and animal matter commonly referred to as?**
- A. Expansion soils
 - B. Silty soils
 - C. Organic soils
 - D. Granular soils
- 9. In what situation would a survey monument be critical?**
- A. During soil testing
 - B. While defining property lines
 - C. When mixing construction materials
 - D. In analyzing weather patterns
- 10. What information is vital for a surveyor to ensure regarding their field notes?**
- A. Accuracy in calculations
 - B. Legibility and clarity
 - C. Digital storage
 - D. Completeness of data

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. A
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. How can groundwater affect earthworks?

- A. It improves soil quality
- B. It enhances the speed of construction
- C. It can impact soil stability and excavation**
- D. It increases land value

Groundwater plays a significant role in earthworks, particularly impacting soil stability and excavation processes. When groundwater levels are high, the presence of water can lead to increased pore pressure in the soil. This can reduce effective stress, which is the stress carried by the soil skeleton and significantly affects the overall stability of the ground. If an excavation is made in saturated soil conditions without proper dewatering measures, the risk of soil collapse or instability increases. Moreover, groundwater can influence the soil's cohesion and friction angles, altering its load-bearing abilities. This necessitates careful assessment and management during earthwork operations to ensure safety and structural integrity. Understanding groundwater's effects is crucial for engineers and contractors to avoid potential hazards and project delays associated with unstable soils or in-depth excavation issues.

2. In the context of earthworks, what does "slope stability" mean?

- A. The construction of sloped surfaces for drainage
- B. The ability of a slope to maintain its position without collapsing or sliding**
- C. The process of creating a slope for aesthetic purposes
- D. The method used to analyze soil types on a slope

Slope stability refers to the ability of a slope to maintain its position without collapsing or sliding. This concept is crucial in earthworks, as it determines the safety and sustainability of embankments, cut slopes, and other structures that exist on or near inclined surfaces. When assessing slope stability, various factors such as soil type, moisture content, the angle of the slope, and external loads are considered to evaluate the risk of slope failure. Understanding these factors is essential for engineers and surveyors to design safe structures and implement necessary measures to mitigate potential landslides or erosion. Proper analysis of slope stability ensures that earthmoving activities are conducted without compromising the land's integrity and that water drainage is managed effectively, further preserving the stability of the slopes.

3. What type of soils are composed of silt and clay and generally drain poorly when wet?

- A. Coarse grained soils
- B. Fine grained soils**
- C. Organic soils
- D. Plastic soils

Fine grained soils are characterized by their composition primarily consisting of silt and clay particles. These soils possess small particle sizes, which result in a high specific surface area. Because of this property, fine grained soils have a tendency to hold water and do not drain well when saturated. The small void spaces between the particles make it difficult for water to flow through, leading to poor drainage characteristics. In contrast, coarse grained soils, composed of larger particles such as sand and gravel, typically allow for better drainage due to their larger pore spaces. Organic soils contain decayed plant material and have different physical properties than silt and clay, often affecting their behavior in terms of drainage as well. Plastic soils refer to soils that can undergo deformation without fracturing, and while they may be fine grained, this term is more specific to their mechanical behavior rather than their drainage characteristics. Overall, the defining features of fine grained soils lead to their classification as having poor drainage when wet, which is why this option is the most accurate.

4. What defines the ability of soil to stick together when dry and is influenced by plasticity when wet?

- A. Contraction
- B. Cohesion**
- C. Plasticity
- D. Load bearing capacity

The ability of soil to stick together when dry and its responsiveness to plasticity when wet is best defined by cohesion. This refers to the attractive forces between particles within the soil that help maintain its structure. When soil is dry, cohesive forces allow particles to hold together, creating a stable mass. When moisture is introduced, the plasticity of the soil can change, affecting its cohesiveness. Plasticity describes the degree to which soil can be molded or shaped when wet, but cohesion is the critical factor that explains how the soil maintains structural integrity both in dry and wet conditions. This concept is particularly significant in understanding how various soil types behave under different moisture levels and mechanical stresses, which is essential for construction and earthworks. Cohesion plays a vital role in assessing soil stability, making it a key focus in geotechnical engineering and surveying practices.

5. What is indicated by the revision block on a blueprint index?

- A. Project deadlines
- B. Changes made to the drawing**
- C. Dimensions of the project
- D. Material specifications

The revision block on a blueprint index serves to document any modifications that have been made to the original drawing. This is crucial for maintaining an accurate record of the project's development and ensures all stakeholders are aware of the latest changes. Each revision typically includes a description of the change, the date it was made, and possibly the initials of the person who implemented it. This documentation is essential for tracking the evolution of the project design, helping prevent confusion and ensuring that everyone involved is working from the most current set of plans. It enhances communication among architects, engineers, contractors, and clients, thereby minimizing the potential for errors during construction or project execution. The other options refer to different aspects of a blueprint but are not directly related to the purpose of the revision block. Project deadlines pertain to scheduling, dimensions relate to the size and scale of elements within the design, and material specifications detail what materials should be used—none of which specifically indicate changes made to the drawings.

6. What is the primary purpose of the sub grade in road construction?

- A. To support the surface course**
- B. To serve as the final grade
- C. To indicate the slope
- D. To provide structural integrity

The primary purpose of the subgrade in road construction is to provide a stable foundation for the surface layers of the roadway. It is the layer of soil or material beneath the pavement, which directly supports the weight and pressure exerted by vehicles. By ensuring that the subgrade has sufficient strength and stability, it helps maintain the integrity of the road surface and prevents deformation, settlement, or cracking over time. This foundational support is critical, as any weaknesses in the subgrade can lead to premature failure of the road. Properly compacted and prepared subgrade enhances load distribution and prevents issues caused by water infiltration or expansive soil movement, thereby ensuring a durable and reliable roadway.

7. What do presentation drawings primarily aim to showcase?

- A. The construction timeline
- B. The proposed construction with color and shading**
- C. Technical specifications
- D. Site inspection reports

Presentation drawings primarily aim to showcase the proposed construction with color and shading. These drawings are designed to visually communicate the design intent and aesthetic qualities of a project to a diverse audience, including clients, stakeholders, and the general public. The use of color and shading enhances the three-dimensionality of the rendering, helping viewers better understand how the finished project will look in its environment. These visuals are not merely functional; they aim to evoke an emotional response and generate interest in the project. While technical specifications, construction timelines, and site inspection reports are crucial for the project's execution and management, they serve different purposes. Presentation drawings focus on the overall visual representation, highlighting the design's artistic and functional aspects rather than the technical details or schedule compliance. Therefore, the emphasis on color and shading in presentation drawings is instrumental in making the design approachable and visually appealing.

8. What are soils made up of decayed plant and animal matter commonly referred to as?

- A. Expansion soils
- B. Silty soils
- C. Organic soils**
- D. Granular soils

Soils composed of decayed plant and animal matter are most appropriately referred to as organic soils. This type of soil is rich in organic material, which results from the decomposition of living organisms over time. Organic soils play a crucial role in the ecosystem as they are foundational for supporting plant life, enhancing soil fertility, and improving water retention. The presence of organic matter contributes to the soil's ability to hold nutrients and improve overall soil structure. This is particularly beneficial in agricultural settings, where soil health directly impacts crop yield. Other types of soil, such as expansion soils, silty soils, and granular soils, are defined by different characteristics and do not emphasize organic content. While these soils have their own unique properties, only organic soils specifically highlight the decomposed biological material that gives them their name and functional importance in the environment.

9. In what situation would a survey monument be critical?

- A. During soil testing
- B. While defining property lines**
- C. When mixing construction materials
- D. In analyzing weather patterns

A survey monument is a permanent marker used in surveying to define points of reference for measurements. Its primary purpose is to establish a precise location for property boundaries, which makes it critical when defining property lines. Accurate definition of property lines is essential for legal purposes, ensuring that landowners know the extent of their property and can resolve disputes regarding boundary encroachments. The permanence and reliability of survey monuments help maintain the integrity of property descriptions over time. In other contexts such as soil testing, while having a general idea of property lines may be beneficial, the primary focus of soil testing is on the composition and properties of the soil itself, rather than the boundaries of the land. Similarly, mixing construction materials or analyzing weather patterns is unrelated to precise property delineation and does not require the use of survey monuments.

10. What information is vital for a surveyor to ensure regarding their field notes?

- A. Accuracy in calculations
- B. Legibility and clarity**
- C. Digital storage
- D. Completeness of data

For field notes, legibility and clarity are paramount. Surveyors rely heavily on their notes to document observations, measurements, and calculations made in the field. If the notes are not easy to read, it can lead to misinterpretation of the data when it is analyzed or when decisions need to be made based on that information. Clear notes help ensure that all parties, whether it be project managers, engineers, or other surveyors, can understand the details without confusion, thus maintaining the integrity and usability of the survey data. While accuracy in calculations, digital storage, and completeness of data are also important aspects of survey work, without legible and clear notes, the utility of any calculations or data storage systems is diminished. Poorly written notes can obscure critical information and could ultimately lead to errors in decision-making or implementation. Therefore, clarity and legibility are essential for effective communication and record-keeping in surveying practices.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://12ntammsearthworkssurveying.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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