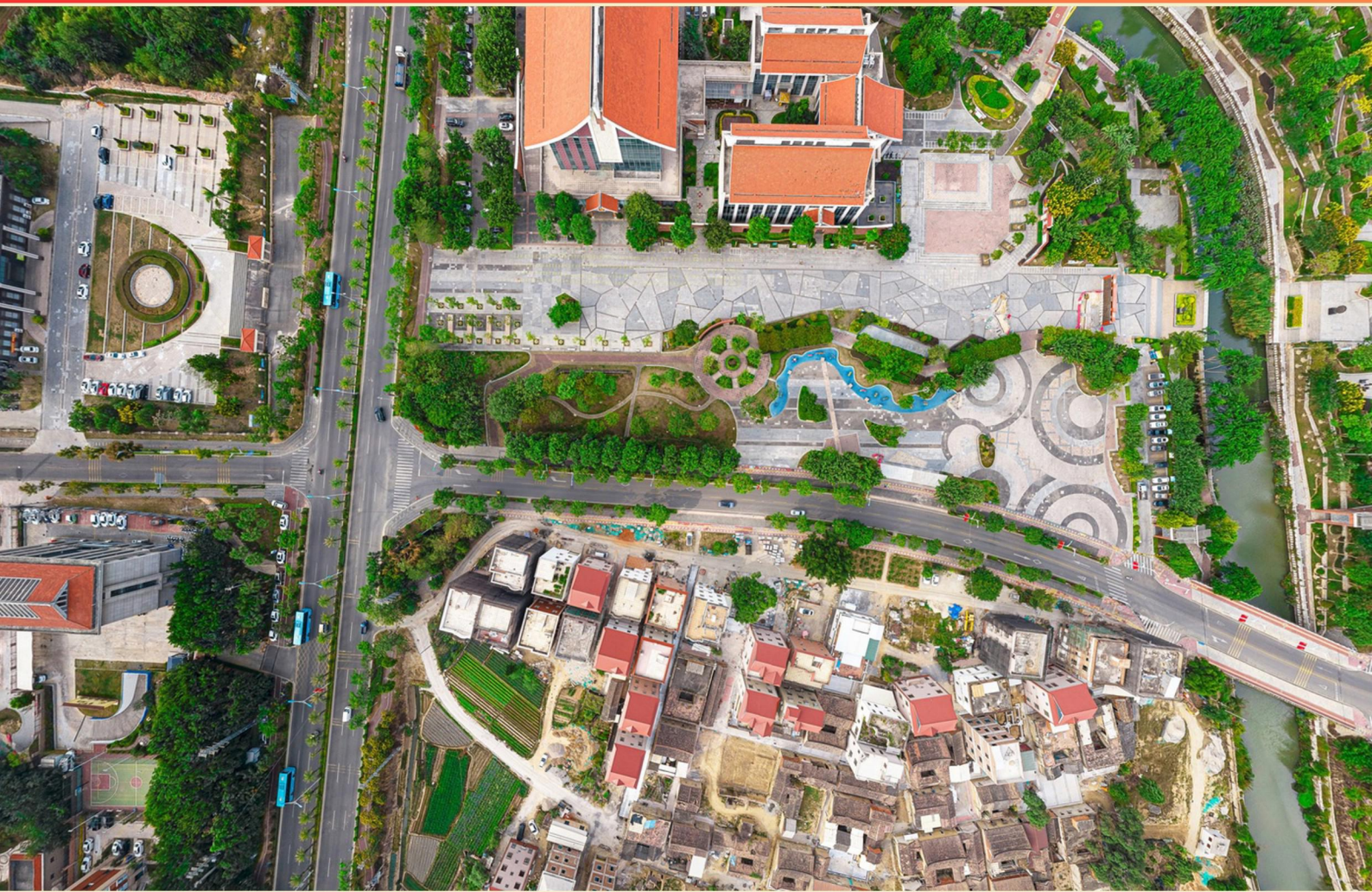


ALABAMA SUPERVISORY LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL (SLP) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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

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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. What type of pruner would you typically use for smaller, delicate pruning tasks?**
 - A. Hand pruner
 - B. Anvil-type pruner
 - C. Loppers
 - D. Chainsaw

- 2. What ratio is commonly recommended for fertilizers used on ornamental plants?**
 - A. 3-1-2
 - B. 2-3-1
 - C. 4-1-2
 - D. 1-2-3

- 3. What are the characteristics of well-drained soil?**
 - A. It retains water but does not allow for air movement
 - B. It has a balance of sand, silt, and clay
 - C. It is composed solely of clay for better retention
 - D. It is compacted to reduce space within the soil

- 4. Which of the following is NOT explicitly mentioned as a part of employee safety training?**
 - A. Eye and ear protection
 - B. Back safety
 - C. Hydration
 - D. Financial planning

- 5. What type of license is required for jobs exceeding \$50,000?**
 - A. State Licensed Landscape Architect's license
 - B. State Licensed General Contractor's license
 - C. State Licensed Arborist's license
 - D. State Licensed Horticulturist's license

- 6. What is the purpose of mulching in landscaping?**
- A. To enhance soil fertility
 - B. To retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature
 - C. To provide structural support for plants
 - D. To improve soil pH levels
- 7. Which of the following plants prefers acidic soils?**
- A. Centipede
 - B. Vinca
 - C. Maple Trees
 - D. Cacti
- 8. What is the best method to assess soil health before planting?**
- A. Smell the soil
 - B. Visual inspection only
 - C. Soil testing for pH and nutrient levels
 - D. Ask a neighbor about their soil
- 9. What type of insurance is essential for landscape professionals to have?**
- A. Health insurance
 - B. Liability insurance
 - C. Property insurance
 - D. Life insurance
- 10. Which nutrient deficiency is likely to result in poor root development in plants?**
- A. Phosphorus
 - B. Sulfur
 - C. Nitrogen
 - D. Potassium

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of pruner would you typically use for smaller, delicate pruning tasks?

- A. Hand pruner**
- B. Anvil-type pruner
- C. Loppers
- D. Chainsaw

Using a hand pruner for smaller, delicate pruning tasks is ideal due to its design and functionality. Hand pruners, also known as bypass pruners, are specifically made for precision cuts on thinner branches and stems, which allows for careful trimming of delicate plants without causing damage. The sharp blades of a hand pruner make clean cuts that help reduce the risk of tearing the plant tissue, promoting better healing and minimizing the potential for disease. In contrast, the other tools listed serve different purposes or are less suitable for fine work. Anvil-type pruners, while effective for cutting through thicker material, can crush the stem rather than providing a clean cut, which is not suitable for delicate tasks. Loppers may be used for larger branches, and their size would make them cumbersome for smaller or more precise pruning jobs. A chainsaw is intended for heavy-duty cutting and would be far too aggressive for delicate pruning, potentially harming the plant significantly. Thus, the hand pruner is the best choice for tasks requiring gentleness and precision.

2. What ratio is commonly recommended for fertilizers used on ornamental plants?

- A. 3-1-2**
- B. 2-3-1
- C. 4-1-2
- D. 1-2-3

The recommended fertilizer ratio of 3-1-2 for ornamental plants indicates a balanced approach to nutrient availability that supports healthy plant growth and development. In this ratio, the first number represents the amount of nitrogen (N), the second denotes phosphorus (P), and the third signifies potassium (K) in the fertilizer blend. Ornamental plants typically require adequate nitrogen for robust foliage growth, which contributes to the plant's overall health and aesthetic appeal. The phosphorus ratio is kept lower because it is primarily crucial for root development and flowering, while potassium, also present in moderate levels, helps in overall plant resilience and stress management. The balanced ratio of 3-1-2 ensures that ornamental plants receive the necessary nutrients without overwhelming them, promoting optimal growth and achieving vibrant visual results in landscapes. In contrast, other ratios such as 2-3-1 or 1-2-3 would not provide the same nutritional balance, potentially leading to deficiencies in nitrogen that could stunt foliage growth or excessive phosphorus that can lead to other growth issues. The 4-1-2 ratio may provide too much nitrogen relative to phosphorus, which could also negatively impact the plant's development and flowering. Thus, a 3-1-2 ratio is particularly aligned

3. What are the characteristics of well-drained soil?

- A. It retains water but does not allow for air movement
- B. It has a balance of sand, silt, and clay**
- C. It is composed solely of clay for better retention
- D. It is compacted to reduce space within the soil

Well-drained soil is characterized by a balanced composition of sand, silt, and clay. This mixture allows for effective drainage, preventing water from pooling while still retaining enough moisture for plant roots. The presence of sand facilitates drainage and aeration, silt improves nutrient retention and moisture, and clay contributes to the overall structure and water-holding capacity. When the soil has this balance, it can handle excess water during heavy rainfall or irrigation, minimizing the risk of waterlogging that can damage plant roots. Furthermore, it promotes a healthy environment for soil microorganisms and plant health by ensuring that both air and water can move freely through the soil profile. In contrast, options that suggest characteristics such as water retention without air movement, being composed solely of clay, or being compacted all lead to potential issues in soil health. For instance, soil that retains water but restricts air movement can suffocate plant roots; soil made up only of clay may have poor drainage and high compaction, hindering root growth and nutrient uptake. Thus, the balancing act represented by the correct choice is crucial for creating an ideal growing environment.

4. Which of the following is NOT explicitly mentioned as a part of employee safety training?

- A. Eye and ear protection
- B. Back safety
- C. Hydration
- D. Financial planning**

The correct choice emphasizes that financial planning is not explicitly mentioned as a component of employee safety training. Employee safety training typically includes essential safety practices that directly protect workers from physical hazards they might encounter in their roles. Eye and ear protection focuses on safeguarding employees' sensory organs from injuries or prolonged exposure to harmful conditions. Back safety addresses the prevention of musculoskeletal injuries, which are common in physically demanding jobs. Hydration is crucial for maintaining health and preventing heat-related illnesses, especially in outdoor or labor-intensive environments. Financial planning, while important for overall well-being, does not fall under the purview of immediate safety training related to physical work environments or the risks that employees face on-site. Thus, it doesn't fit within the standard safety protocols aimed at reducing workplace injuries and ensuring a safe working environment.

5. What type of license is required for jobs exceeding \$50,000?

- A. State Licensed Landscape Architect's license
- B. State Licensed General Contractor's license**
- C. State Licensed Arborist's license
- D. State Licensed Horticulturist's license

For landscape and construction jobs that exceed \$50,000 in value, a State Licensed General Contractor's license is required. This license ensures that the contractor has met the necessary educational and practical experience requirements to operate legally and competently in the construction industry. The General Contractor's license encompasses a broad range of construction activities, including landscaping projects that exceed the monetary threshold. It indicates a level of oversight and assurance regarding project management, adherence to building safety codes, and compliance with state regulations. While other licenses, such as those for landscape architects, arborists, or horticulturists, have their specific scopes and are crucial for ensuring expertise in their particular areas (designing landscapes, managing trees, or cultivating plants, respectively), they do not authorize a professional to manage projects of this financial scale in construction or landscape installation. Therefore, the correct answer emphasizes the regulatory requirement for larger projects to be overseen by general contractors, who hold the requisite license to ensure all aspects of the job meet state standards.

6. What is the purpose of mulching in landscaping?

- A. To enhance soil fertility
- B. To retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature**
- C. To provide structural support for plants
- D. To improve soil pH levels

Mulching serves several important functions in landscaping, with one of its primary purposes being to retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, and regulate soil temperature. By covering the soil surface, mulch acts as a barrier that reduces evaporation, helping to maintain moisture levels in the soil even during dry periods. This is particularly beneficial for plant health, as adequate moisture is essential for their growth and development. Additionally, mulch provides a physical barrier against weeds. By blocking sunlight and creating a less favorable environment for weed seeds to germinate, mulch helps reduce competition for nutrients and water among landscape plants. This means less manual weeding and a healthier, more vibrant garden. Regulating soil temperature is another critical function. Mulch can keep the soil cooler in hot weather and warmer in cold weather, creating a more stable environment for root systems. This temperature regulation helps plants cope with extreme weather conditions, thus contributing to better growth and resilience. In the context of the other options, while enhancing soil fertility and improving soil pH levels are important aspects of soil health, these benefits are more indirectly associated with mulching. Structural support for plants is typically achieved through proper planting techniques and supports, rather than through the application of mulch. Hence, the primary benefits of mulch directly relate to moisture retention

7. Which of the following plants prefers acidic soils?

- A. Centipede
- B. Vinca
- C. Maple Trees
- D. Cacti

Centipede grass is well-known for its preference for acidic soils, typically thriving in environments with a pH level between 5.0 and 6.0. This grass species is commonly used in lawns across the southeastern United States, including Alabama, where conditions are often conducive to its growth. In acidic soils, centipede grass can efficiently absorb nutrients, which is essential for its healthy growth and development. This tolerance for lower pH levels distinguishes it from many other turfgrass species that prefer neutral to slightly alkaline soils. In contrast, the other plants listed have differing soil pH preferences or tolerances. Vinca, while it can grow in a range of soils, prefers neutral to slightly alkaline conditions. Maple trees can adapt to various soil types, but they generally prefer slightly acidic to neutral soils. Cacti, on the other hand, thrive in arid, often alkaline soils, especially in desert environments. Understanding these preferences helps in planning and maintaining healthy landscapes suitable for the specific plants being cultivated.

8. What is the best method to assess soil health before planting?

- A. Smell the soil
- B. Visual inspection only
- C. Soil testing for pH and nutrient levels
- D. Ask a neighbor about their soil

Soil testing for pH and nutrient levels is the most reliable method to assess soil health before planting. This process provides quantifiable data on the soil's chemical composition, allowing for a thorough understanding of its fertility and overall health. Soil tests can reveal essential nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and micronutrients, as well as the pH level, which influences nutrient availability to plants. Understanding these factors enables the gardener or landscaper to make informed decisions about amendments needed prior to planting. For instance, if a soil test shows low pH, lime may be added to raise it, ensuring that plants can access the nutrients they require for optimal growth. Similarly, identifying deficiencies in critical nutrients allows for targeted fertilization, promoting better plant health and development. In contrast, the other methods—such as simply smelling the soil, visually inspecting it, or asking a neighbor—offer anecdotal or superficial assessments that may not accurately reflect the soil's health. These approaches lack the objectivity and detailed information provided by comprehensive soil testing, which is essential for successful planting and landscaping.

9. What type of insurance is essential for landscape professionals to have?

- A. Health insurance
- B. Liability insurance**
- C. Property insurance
- D. Life insurance

Liability insurance is essential for landscape professionals because it protects against potential claims of negligence or property damage that may arise during the course of their work. In landscaping, professionals frequently work on clients' properties and handle various tools and machinery, which increases the risk of accidents or unintentional damage. Having liability insurance ensures that if a client or third party suffers an injury or experiences property damage as a result of the landscape professional's work, the insurance can cover legal fees, medical costs, and any settlements or judgments awarded. This type of insurance helps landscape professionals manage their risk and maintain financial stability, allowing them to focus on providing quality services without constant worry about potential lawsuits from clients or others. While health, property, and life insurance have their own importance for individual protection and financial planning, they do not specifically address the unique risks and liabilities associated with carrying out landscape projects. Thus, liability insurance stands out as crucial for safeguarding the professional against operational risks inherent in the landscaping profession.

10. Which nutrient deficiency is likely to result in poor root development in plants?

- A. Phosphorus**
- B. Sulfur
- C. Nitrogen
- D. Potassium

Phosphorus is essential for healthy root development in plants, as it plays a critical role in energy transfer and the formation of DNA and RNA, which are vital for cell division and growth. A deficiency in phosphorus often leads to reduced root mass and an inability for plants to effectively uptake water and nutrients from the soil. This can manifest as stunted growth and poor overall plant health. While sulfur, nitrogen, and potassium are also important nutrients for plant health, they play different roles. Sulfur is crucial for protein synthesis and enzyme function, but its deficiency mainly affects leaf and overall plant health rather than root development specifically. Nitrogen is vital for vegetative growth and green leafy structure but does not primarily drive root growth. Potassium is important for overall plant vigor and stress tolerance, aiding functions like water regulation and photosynthesis, but it is not as directly tied to root formation as phosphorus is. Therefore, phosphorus deficiency is the most significant when it comes to poor root development in plants.

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:

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

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