

APA Format Research Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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1. Who is the best choice for critiquing your manuscript?

- A. Your spouse or a close friend.**
- B. A colleague who is familiar with your work.**
- C. A stranger off the street.**
- D. A colleague who does not follow your work closely.**

2. How should references be formatted in the reference list?

- A. Single-spaced and using indentations**
- B. Double-spaced and using a hanging indent**
- C. Indented and single-spaced**
- D. Numbered and single-spaced**

3. Which sentence contains a misplaced modifier?

- A. Using this procedure, the investigator tested the participants.**
- B. The investigator tested the participants who were using this procedure.**
- C. The investigator tested the participants using this procedure.**
- D. None of the above.**

4. Which verb tense guideline should be followed in writing a research paper?

- A. Be varied to keep the reader's interest.**
- B. Never change.**
- C. Always be the past or past perfect.**
- D. Be consistent within a section of paper such as the Results.**

5. How do you cite an authored book with no publication date in APA format?

- A. Author, A. A. (n.d.). Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle. Publisher**
- B. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of work. Publisher**
- C. Author, A. A. Title of work. (n.d.). Publisher**
- D. Author, A. A. (n.d.). Title of work. Retrieved from URL**

6. Which of the following is the correct format for citing a webpage in APA style?

- A. Author's Name. Title of the Webpage. Website Name. URL**
- B. Website Name. Title of the Webpage. Author's Name. URL**
- C. Author's Name. Year. Title of the Webpage. URL**
- D. Title of the Webpage. Author's Name. Year. URL**

7. How should the author's name appear in an in-text citation when a source has one author?

- A. Author's surname only.**
- B. Full name of the author.**
- C. Author's first initial plus last name.**
- D. None of the above.**

8. How should bias-free language be used according to APA format?

- A. Use humor to lighten the text**
- B. Employ inclusive language that avoids bias**
- C. Use technical jargon for clarity**
- D. Focus on the author's background**

9. Which of the following examples shows correct hyphenation?

- A. Randomly-assigned participants.**
- B. Higher-scoring students.**
- C. Self-report technique.**
- D. All of the above.**

10. When referencing a book in APA style, what information is essential?

- A. Title, author's last name, publication date, and page numbers**
- B. Author's last name, initial, title in italics, and publisher**
- C. ISBN number, publication date, and edition**
- D. Author's name, release date, digital object identifier (DOI), and location**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who is the best choice for critiquing your manuscript?

- A. Your spouse or a close friend.
- B. A colleague who is familiar with your work.
- C. A stranger off the street.**
- D. A colleague who does not follow your work closely.

Choosing a stranger off the street as the best option for critiquing your manuscript may not be an effective strategy. The ideal critique often stems from a person who has a certain level of investment, understanding, and familiarity with the subject matter. A colleague who is familiar with your work is likely to provide more relevant feedback based on their awareness of your research context, methodology, and the specific field in which you are writing. They can offer insights regarding the nuances and expectations of your discipline, which is crucial for improving the manuscript. Furthermore, someone outside of your academic network may not comprehend specialized terminology or concepts, leading to less valuable feedback. Conversely, those close to you, such as a spouse or close friend, might lack the critical distance needed for objective assessment, potentially leading to biased critiques that do not adequately address the manuscript's strengths and weaknesses. Thus, selecting someone who is knowledgeable about your work offers the potential for constructive, informed criticism, which is essential for refining and enhancing the quality of your manuscript.

2. How should references be formatted in the reference list?

- A. Single-spaced and using indentations
- B. Double-spaced and using a hanging indent**
- C. Indented and single-spaced
- D. Numbered and single-spaced

In APA format, references should be presented in the reference list as double-spaced and formatted with a hanging indent. This means that the first line of each reference entry is flush left, and any subsequent lines are indented by 0.5 inches. The use of double spacing improves readability and ensures a uniform appearance throughout the list, which is critical for clarity when referencing a variety of sources. The hanging indent style is crucial because it allows readers to quickly identify different sources, making it easier to find the information they need. This format adheres to the guidelines laid out in the APA Publication Manual and is essential for proper academic writing and research practices.

3. Which sentence contains a misplaced modifier?

- A. Using this procedure, the investigator tested the participants.
- B. The investigator tested the participants who were using this procedure.**
- C. The investigator tested the participants using this procedure.
- D. None of the above.

A misplaced modifier occurs when a descriptive phrase is positioned in a sentence in a way that suggests an incorrect or unintended meaning. In the chosen answer, the sentence "The investigator tested the participants who were using this procedure" implies that only the participants who were currently using the procedure were tested, which can create ambiguity about what the subject is doing. In contrast, the other options present clearer meanings. The first sentence suggests that the procedure was used by the investigator during testing, without misdirecting the reader about who is using it. The third option indicates that the procedure was utilized in the process of testing participants, maintaining clarity. Therefore, option B stands out as having a misplaced modifier because it creates confusion around the relationship between the investigator and the usage of the procedure.

4. Which verb tense guideline should be followed in writing a research paper?

- A. Be varied to keep the reader's interest.
- B. Never change.
- C. Always be the past or past perfect.
- D. Be consistent within a section of paper such as the Results.**

In research writing, maintaining consistency within a section, such as the Results, is essential for clarity and coherence. Different sections of a paper may require different tenses based on the content being discussed; however, within each individual section, it is important to stick to one tense. For example, the Results section typically employs the past tense to describe what was done and what was found, while the Discussion section might use the present tense to relate findings to current knowledge or implications. This consistency helps the reader follow the narrative of the research without confusion. By adhering to this guideline, authors ensure that their writing is not only clear but also professional, enhancing the understanding of the audience regarding the research's context and significance.

5. How do you cite an authored book with no publication date in APA format?

- A. Author, A. A. (n.d.). Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle. Publisher**
- B. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of work. Publisher**
- C. Author, A. A. Title of work. (n.d.). Publisher**
- D. Author, A. A. (n.d.). Title of work. Retrieved from URL**

When citing an authored book with no publication date in APA format, the correct approach involves reflecting the absence of a specific date in the citation. The proper format indicates this by using the abbreviation "n.d." which stands for "no date." This indicates to the reader that while the work is authored, the year of publication is not available. The citation format begins with the author's last name followed by their initials, maintaining the standard APA structure. After the author's name, "n.d." is included in parentheses to signify the lack of a publication date. Following this, the title of the work is presented in italics, and proper capitalization rules apply where the first word of the title, the first word of the subtitle (if there is one), and any proper nouns are capitalized. Conclusively, the publisher's name follows the title. This structure not only adheres to APA guidelines but also provides clarity for the reader regarding the publication date's absence. The other choices fail to follow the correct citation structure or misplace essential elements, thus not conveying the information in the required APA format.

6. Which of the following is the correct format for citing a webpage in APA style?

- A. Author's Name. Title of the Webpage. Website Name. URL**
- B. Website Name. Title of the Webpage. Author's Name. URL**
- C. Author's Name. Year. Title of the Webpage. URL**
- D. Title of the Webpage. Author's Name. Year. URL**

The correct format for citing a webpage in APA style follows a specific structure that ensures clarity and consistency in academic writing. Citing a webpage accurately involves identifying the author, providing the title of the webpage, stating the name of the website, and including the URL where the content can be found. In the correct format, the author's name appears first, which makes it easy to identify who created the content. Following the author's name is the title of the webpage. This is crucial because it immediately informs readers of the specific piece of information being referred to. The name of the website serves as the overarching source where the webpage is hosted, giving context about the credibility and relevance of the material. Finally, the URL is provided, allowing readers to access the source directly. This structure is essential to convey the necessary information in a clear and recognized manner, enabling readers to locate and verify sources used in research. By adhering to this format, you also reflect a professional approach in academic writing.

7. How should the author's name appear in an in-text citation when a source has one author?

- A. Author's surname only.**
- B. Full name of the author.**
- C. Author's first initial plus last name.**
- D. None of the above.**

When citing a source in-text that has one author, the correct format requires only the author's surname to be included. This concise representation helps maintain clarity and brevity in academic writing, ensuring that the reader can easily identify the source without unnecessary information. Following the APA style guidelines, when you first mention the author's work, you should provide the surname followed by the publication year in parentheses. For example, if the author's name is John Smith and the work was published in 2020, the in-text citation would look like this: (Smith, 2020). This approach emphasizes the author's contribution while adhering to the concise nature of in-text citations as prescribed by APA standards. Using the full name or including first initials would be inappropriate in this context, as it deviates from the established format.

8. How should bias-free language be used according to APA format?

- A. Use humor to lighten the text**
- B. Employ inclusive language that avoids bias**
- C. Use technical jargon for clarity**
- D. Focus on the author's background**

Using bias-free language is essential in APA format as it promotes inclusiveness and respects the diverse identities of individuals. This approach requires the use of language that is not discriminatory or marginalizing. Employing inclusive language means carefully choosing terms that reflect and respect the complexities of identity, including but not limited to gender, race, and disability. By doing so, writers create a more equitable environment for readers and ensure that their writing is accessible and respectful to all audiences. While humor can be effective in certain contexts, it may not be appropriate in formal academic writing and could detract from the primary focus of the research. Using technical jargon might seem like a way to enhance clarity, but it can often alienate readers who are not familiar with such terms, which can create a barrier to understanding. Focusing on the author's background is not relevant to promoting bias-free language and can lead to a narrative that is centered on the individual rather than the inclusive and equitable representation of all individuals within the text.

9. Which of the following examples shows correct hyphenation?

- A. Randomly-assigned participants.**
- B. Higher-scoring students.**
- C. Self-report technique.**
- D. All of the above.**

To determine the correct example of hyphenation, it is essential to understand how hyphens are used in compound adjectives. In this context, the aim is to connect words that function together as a single descriptor before a noun. The example "Self-report technique" does not require a hyphen because it is not used as a modifier directly before a noun; instead, "self-report" stands alone and clearly describes the technique. However, the other options correctly use hyphens as they describe nouns that are modified by the preceding compound adjectives when placed before them. For "Randomly-assigned participants," the hyphen connects "randomly" and "assigned," signifying that "randomly" modifies how the participants are assigned. In the case of "Higher-scoring students," the hyphen connects "higher" and "scoring," indicating the specific subset of students being referenced. Both these cases correctly illustrate the use of hyphenation in compound adjectives that precede nouns. Therefore, although "Self-report technique" demonstrates a proper compound term, it is not in the context where hyphenation is needed. The other examples exhibit the correct usage of hyphenation before nouns, making it evident why they showcase correct hyphenation practices.

10. When referencing a book in APA style, what information is essential?

- A. Title, author's last name, publication date, and page numbers**
- B. Author's last name, initial, title in italics, and publisher**
- C. ISBN number, publication date, and edition**
- D. Author's name, release date, digital object identifier (DOI), and location**

In APA style, accurately referencing a book requires specific elements that provide a clear identification of the source. The correct choice emphasizes the importance of including the author's last name, initials, the title of the book in italics, and the publisher's name. The author's name and initials help attribute the work properly, recognizing the contributions of the individual or individuals who created it. The title, presented in italics, allows readers to identify the specific work among a myriad of publications, while including the publisher's name gives context to the edition and influence of the book. This structure effectively leads readers to locate the source if they wish to explore it further. While options containing page numbers, ISBN numbers, or details like the digital object identifier (DOI) provide useful information in different contexts, they are not considered essential for a standard book citation in APA style. Page numbers are specifically relevant only in the context of citing specific parts of a work. ISBN numbers can be helpful for identifying books but are not required by APA guidelines for referencing. Similarly, the DOI pertains mainly to articles, while books are typically cited through their publisher information. This understanding aligns with APA standards to ensure clear and concise citations, enhancing the reliability and traceability of referenced works.

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://apaformatresearch.examzify.com>

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

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