

APA Write and Cite Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

- 1. What is the defining characteristic of a case study?**
 - A. It provides depth of information rather than breadth, giving extensive detail about a single unit or small number of units.**
 - B. It provides breadth of knowledge, giving an overview of many similar cases.**
 - C. It is most useful in studies where the phenomenon of interest is widespread, and many cases exist.**
 - D. It describes a particular case, but does not apply broadly to a larger solution.**
- 2. Identify the error in the sentence: The committee have made their decision.**
 - A. Spelling error**
 - B. Subject/verb agreement**
 - C. Fragment/run-on**
 - D. No error**
- 3. How can popular periodicals such as magazines be used for academic research?**
 - A. If properly cited, any periodical is a credible source for academic research.**
 - B. Popular magazines from established publishing houses are credible sources of information for academic research.**
 - C. Popular periodicals have no place in academic writing.**
 - D. Popular periodicals can add context to a topic, but should be supported with scholarly sources.**
- 4. What is the primary advantage of using a journal article for academic research?**
 - A. Journal articles are the most comprehensive source of information on a topic.**
 - B. Academic journals are available at most bookstores.**
 - C. Journal articles are easy to understand.**
 - D. Journals offer expert content on a regular basis, ensuring information is credible and up-to-date.**

5. Which is an acceptable way to attribute authorship of a webpage if no individual author is identified?
- A. Use the organization's name as the author.
 - B. Cite the publication date in the author's place.
 - C. Leave the author section blank.
 - D. Use "Anonymous" as the author.
6. Which section would NOT typically be included in your outline for a research paper?
- A. A section explaining why the topic is personally important to you.
 - B. A section discussing your research methods, noting what you hope to add to the field.
 - C. A section presenting your findings.
 - D. A section discussing current theories in the topic area, and how they support or disagree with your findings.
7. Which is a common error related to verb tense inconsistency?
- A. Using both past and present in the same sentence.
 - B. Incorrect subject/verb agreement.
 - C. Using comma splices in a sentence.
 - D. Using ambiguous pronouns.
8. What is the issue in the sentence: "The Ford GT is sleeker, faster, and more powerful."?
- A. Too many commas are distracting.
 - B. Incomplete comparison.
 - C. Introductory phrase needs a comma.
 - D. No error.
9. What is the average page requirement for a master's thesis?
- A. 5-10 pages
 - B. 20-40 pages
 - C. 80-120 pages
 - D. 125-250 pages

10. A well-chosen case for a case study will do all the following EXCEPT:

- A. Lead to resolution of a problem, or incite further research.**
- B. Challenge common assumptions.**
- C. Provide new perspectives to understand a research problem.**
- D. Represent what is commonly known about the phenomenon of interest.**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the defining characteristic of a case study?

- A. It provides depth of information rather than breadth, giving extensive detail about a single unit or small number of units.**
- B. It provides breadth of knowledge, giving an overview of many similar cases.**
- C. It is most useful in studies where the phenomenon of interest is widespread, and many cases exist.**
- D. It describes a particular case, but does not apply broadly to a larger solution.**

A case study is characterized by its focus on depth rather than breadth. This means it delves into extensive detail about a single unit or a small number of units, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of the case in question. This approach is essential in disciplines such as psychology, sociology, and medicine, where the individuality of the case can lead to insights that might not be captured in larger, more generalized studies. By concentrating on specific instances, researchers can explore complexities, contextual factors, and various dynamics that help provide a richer narrative and analysis of the subject matter. In contrast, the other choices indicate different methodologies. Providing breadth of knowledge by exploring many similar cases does not align with the in-depth nature of a case study. Also, suggesting that a case study is suitable for widespread phenomena indicates a focus on generalizations, which runs counter to the specialized insights obtained from a case study. The final choice hints that while a case study offers detailed descriptions, it implies a limitation in applicability, but the strength of a case study is precisely its ability to inform broader theories by examining individual or unique cases deeply.

2. Identify the error in the sentence: The committee have made their decision.

- A. Spelling error**
- B. Subject/verb agreement**
- C. Fragment/run-on**
- D. No error**

The sentence "The committee have made their decision" contains a subject/verb agreement error. In this case, "committee" is a collective noun that is treated as a singular entity in American English. Therefore, the correct verb form should be "has" instead of "have." The proper phrasing would be "The committee has made its decision." This highlights that while a committee consists of multiple members, it functions as a single unit in this context, necessitating the use of a singular verb. This choice demonstrates an important principle in English grammar regarding collective nouns and their agreement with verbs. Understanding subject/verb agreement is crucial for writing clearly and effectively, allowing readers to understand the intended meaning without confusion.

3. How can popular periodicals such as magazines be used for academic research?

- A. If properly cited, any periodical is a credible source for academic research.**
- B. Popular magazines from established publishing houses are credible sources of information for academic research.**
- C. Popular periodicals have no place in academic writing.**
- D. Popular periodicals can add context to a topic, but should be supported with scholarly sources.**

The correct answer highlights the role of popular periodicals in academic research by acknowledging their ability to provide valuable contextual information about a topic. While they may not offer the rigorous peer-reviewed content found in scholarly journals, popular magazines can help illustrate current trends, public opinions, or real-world applications related to academic subjects. This context can enrich the discussion and help frame scholarly arguments, especially when addressing contemporary issues or societal impacts. By emphasizing the need to support information from popular periodicals with scholarly sources, the correct answer encourages a balanced approach to research. It recognizes the importance of integrating various types of resources to build a well-rounded perspective while maintaining academic integrity through proper citations. This balance is crucial in academic writing, as it ensures that claims are rooted in credible evidence while still engaging with broader public narratives.

4. What is the primary advantage of using a journal article for academic research?

- A. Journal articles are the most comprehensive source of information on a topic.**
- B. Academic journals are available at most bookstores.**
- C. Journal articles are easy to understand.**
- D. Journals offer expert content on a regular basis, ensuring information is credible and up-to-date.**

The primary advantage of using a journal article for academic research lies in the fact that journals provide expert content on a consistent basis, contributing to the credibility and timeliness of the information presented. This is crucial in academic research, as scholars and researchers require access to current and peer-reviewed material that reflects the latest advancements and discussions within their field. Unlike other sources, journal articles are often authored by experts who have conducted extensive research, ensuring that the information is not only reliable but also rigorously evaluated through the peer-review process before publication. In contrast, while some journal articles might be comprehensive, this is not true for all articles, as coverage can vary widely across different topics. Access to academic journals is often limited to institutional subscriptions rather than availability at local bookstores. Additionally, the complexity of the subject matter in academic journals can vary, making them potentially more challenging to understand for some readers, depending on their background knowledge and familiarity with the topic. Thus, the credibility and regular publication of expert content serve as the primary advantage that enhances the value of journal articles in academic research.

5. Which is an acceptable way to attribute authorship of a webpage if no individual author is identified?

- A. Use the organization's name as the author.**
- B. Cite the publication date in the author's place.**
- C. Leave the author section blank.**
- D. Use "Anonymous" as the author.**

Using the organization's name as the author is a correct method of attributing authorship when no individual author is identified for a webpage. This approach aligns with the American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines, which suggest that when a specific individual is not available to credit, the responsible organization or group can be credited instead. This provides clarity to the reader about the source of the information and acknowledges the entity that produced or is responsible for the content. Choosing to cite the publication date instead of an author, leaving the author section blank, or using "Anonymous" does not adhere to APA standards. These options can lead to confusion regarding the source's credibility and accountability, as they do not provide the necessary context or attribution that an organizational author does. Using the organization's name helps maintain the integrity and reliability of the citation by pointing the reader to the source of the information.

6. Which section would NOT typically be included in your outline for a research paper?

- A. A section explaining why the topic is personally important to you.**
- B. A section discussing your research methods, noting what you hope to add to the field.**
- C. A section presenting your findings.**
- D. A section discussing current theories in the topic area, and how they support or disagree with your findings.**

The reason why the first choice is not typically included in an outline for a research paper is that it focuses on the personal significance of the topic to the researcher rather than the academic or scholarly aspects of the research. Research papers prioritize objective analysis, methodology, and results, emphasizing data and findings that contribute to the field of study. Outlines are meant to be structured frameworks that guide the development of the research content, and personal anecdotes or reflections on the topic's importance are generally reserved for reflective essays or personal statements rather than formal research papers. The other options align with the typical components necessary for a research paper, such as discussing methods, presenting findings, and reviewing current theories.

7. Which is a common error related to verb tense inconsistency?

- A. Using both past and present in the same sentence.**
- B. Incorrect subject/verb agreement.
- C. Using comma splices in a sentence.
- D. Using ambiguous pronouns.

Using both past and present in the same sentence is a common error related to verb tense inconsistency because it disrupts the flow and clarity of writing. Consistent verb tense helps readers easily follow the timeline of events and understand when actions are occurring. When a writer switches tenses without reason, it can confuse the reader about whether the actions are happening simultaneously, in the past, or into the present. For example, if an author starts a narrative in the past tense describing events that have already occurred and suddenly shifts to the present tense, it breaks the narrative's continuity. Maintaining consistent verb tense is crucial in signaling to the reader how events relate temporally, thereby ensuring effective communication. The other choices pertain to different aspects of grammar and sentence structure but do not directly relate to verb tense inconsistencies. Incorrect subject/verb agreement addresses the relationship between subjects and their corresponding verbs, comma splices relate to punctuation errors, and ambiguous pronouns involve clarity in references, none of which focus specifically on the issue of verb tense.

8. What is the issue in the sentence: "The Ford GT is sleeker, faster, and more powerful."?

- A. Too many commas are distracting.
- B. Incomplete comparison.**
- C. Introductory phrase needs a comma.
- D. No error.

The sentence "The Ford GT is sleeker, faster, and more powerful." lacks a complete comparison context, which is crucial for clarity in writing. The phrase implies that the Ford GT is being compared to other cars, yet it does not specify what vehicles it is being compared against. A more complete sentence might address this by mentioning other cars, such as "The Ford GT is sleeker, faster, and more powerful than the Lamborghini Huracán." This enhances the reader's understanding by providing a clear benchmark for the comparison, making it evident what other vehicles the Ford GT surpasses or relates to. A complete comparison is essential in providing context and ensuring that the reader fully grasps the intent of the statement.

9. What is the average page requirement for a master's thesis?

- A. 5-10 pages**
- B. 20-40 pages**
- C. 80-120 pages**
- D. 125-250 pages**

The average page requirement for a master's thesis typically falls in the range of 80 to 120 pages. This length allows for a comprehensive exploration of a chosen topic, including a thorough review of literature, methodology, results, and discussion. A thesis of this length provides sufficient space for the author to articulate their research question, present their findings in detail, and engage critically with existing scholarship in their field. In most academic disciplines, a master's thesis is meant to be a substantive piece of original research that showcases the student's ability to conduct independent work. This often necessitates a depth of analysis and a breadth of supporting material that aligns with the upper page range. The rigorous standards of academic writing at the graduate level expect a well-organized document that effectively communicates complex ideas, which is best achieved within the specified page limit. Other choices do not reflect the common expectations for thesis length at the master's level: shorter lengths, such as 5-10 or 20-40 pages, would likely be too concise to cover the required components of a master's thesis thoroughly. The range of 125-250 pages, although it may be appropriate for some doctoral dissertations, exceeds typical master's thesis requirements.

10. A well-chosen case for a case study will do all the following EXCEPT:

- A. Lead to resolution of a problem, or incite further research.**
- B. Challenge common assumptions.**
- C. Provide new perspectives to understand a research problem.**
- D. Represent what is commonly known about the phenomenon of interest.**

A well-chosen case for a case study typically aims to provide insights that enhance understanding or provoke further inquiry into a phenomenon. When evaluating the purpose of a case study, it is essential to recognize that it seeks to deepen knowledge and foster critical thinking rather than merely conforming to established norms. In this context, options A, B, and C all support the notion that an effective case study should generate new insights, challenge existing beliefs, or prompt additional investigation into the subject matter. Well-selected cases often lead to the resolution of problems or inspire further research (A), push against the status quo by questioning prevalent assumptions (B), and offer fresh perspectives that can illuminate aspects of the issue that are not immediately obvious (C). In contrast, representing what is commonly known about the phenomenon does not align with the primary goals of a case study. Instead, it suggests a more passive approach that limits exploration and critical analysis. By sticking to familiar narratives, the study misses opportunities to uncover new knowledge or provoke deeper engagement with the topic at hand. Therefore, the correct understanding is that a case study should strive to go beyond the familiar and challenge researchers to think differently.

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://apawriteandcite.examzify.com>

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