

Arizona Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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. How long should a subject's gaze be held at maximum deviation during the HGN test?**
 - A. Two seconds**
 - B. About four seconds**
 - C. Six seconds**
 - D. One second**
- 2. What should an officer do if they observe multiple clues of impairment during HGN testing?**
 - A. Conclude that the subject is sober**
 - B. Document the findings but take no further action**
 - C. Consider further testing or arrest for DUI**
 - D. Ignore the results**
- 3. What is the first clue observed in the HGN test?**
 - A. Nystagmus maximum deviation**
 - B. Onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees**
 - C. Uni-lateral nystagmus**
 - D. Failure to track smoothly**
- 4. What is the primary purpose of the HGN test in DUI investigations?**
 - A. To determine a driver's sleepiness level**
 - B. To assess eye movements as an indicator of impairment**
 - C. To evaluate a driver's driving skills**
 - D. To confirm that a driver has consumed alcohol**
- 5. What is the chemical symbol for beverage alcohol?**
 - A. OH**
 - B. C₂H₅OH**
 - C. ETOH**
 - D. CH₃OH**

- 6. What is methanol often used for?**
- A. Fuel and antifreeze**
 - B. Food and beverages**
 - C. Medical purposes**
 - D. High-proof spirits**
- 7. What skill is primarily tested during the Walk and Turn test?**
- A. Physical flexibility**
 - B. Divided attention**
 - C. Speed and agility**
 - D. Muscle strength**
- 8. What can vertical nystagmus signify in a HGN test?**
- A. Normal eye function with no impairment**
 - B. Possible severe intoxication or specific drug effects**
 - C. Youthful energy levels in the subject**
 - D. Sobriety in the presence of alcohol**
- 9. What is a common error officers make during HGN testing?**
- A. Failing to observe the subject's eyes**
 - B. Rushing through the test**
 - C. Providing clear, concise instructions**
 - D. Using appropriate testing techniques**
- 10. What is a primary indicator that the HGN test is being improperly administered?**
- A. Multiple officers present**
 - B. Subject is not cooperative**
 - C. Poor visibility**
 - D. Inconsistent officer instructions**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How long should a subject's gaze be held at maximum deviation during the HGN test?

A. Two seconds

B. About four seconds

C. Six seconds

D. One second

Holding a subject's gaze at maximum deviation for about four seconds during the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test is critical for accurate assessment. This duration allows the officer to observe any nystagmus (involuntary eye movement) that may occur at the edges of the subject's visual field. A longer hold at maximum deviation increases the likelihood of detecting the presence of nystagmus, as it provides adequate time for the eye to respond to the position and stability required during the assessment. This ensures that the observation is not rushed, allowing for a more reliable determination of whether the subject may be impaired.

2. What should an officer do if they observe multiple clues of impairment during HGN testing?

A. Conclude that the subject is sober

B. Document the findings but take no further action

C. Consider further testing or arrest for DUI

D. Ignore the results

When an officer observes multiple clues of impairment during Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) testing, it is crucial for them to consider further testing or potentially arrest the individual for driving under the influence (DUI). HGN is a field sobriety test that reveals specific signs of alcohol or drug impairment through the measurement of eye movement when the subject is asked to follow a stimulus, usually a pen or finger. The presence of multiple clues, such as distinct nystagmus at maximum deviation or the inability to smoothly pursue the object, indicates a significant impairment level that warrants additional action. This can include conducting further sobriety tests or initiating an arrest, as the objective is to ensure public safety and enforce DUI laws. Ensuring a thorough process helps build a stronger case and ensures that the individual is properly assessed for their level of impairment. In this context, documentation alone or dismissing the results would not align with responsible law enforcement practices. Ignoring observed impairment can lead to dangerous situations on the road. Therefore, taking further steps after identifying multiple clues during HGN testing is the appropriate and responsible action for an officer to take.

3. What is the first clue observed in the HGN test?

- A. Nystagmus maximum deviation
- B. Onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees
- C. Uni-lateral nystagmus
- D. Failure to track smoothly**

In the context of the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test, the first clue typically observed is the failure to track smoothly. This phenomenon occurs when the eyes are unable to follow a moving stimulus, such as the tip of a pen or a finger, in a seamless motion. Instead, the eyes exhibit jerking or jerky movements, indicating a lack of smooth pursuit. This failure can suggest impairment, often associated with intoxication or certain neurological conditions. Understanding this initial indication is crucial when conducting the HGN test, as it sets the stage for further evaluation and analysis of the subject's eye movements. Recognizing this first clue allows the examiner to continue assessing the other components of the HGN test, such as the onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees and maximum deviation. These subsequent indicators provide additional evidence of potential impairment, which helps in forming a comprehensive assessment.

4. What is the primary purpose of the HGN test in DUI investigations?

- A. To determine a driver's sleepiness level
- B. To assess eye movements as an indicator of impairment**
- C. To evaluate a driver's driving skills
- D. To confirm that a driver has consumed alcohol

The primary purpose of the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test in DUI investigations is to assess eye movements as an indicator of impairment. This test is based on scientific observations that show the presence of nystagmus, which is an involuntary jerking motion of the eyes, becomes more pronounced when an individual is under the influence of alcohol or certain drugs. During the HGN test, law enforcement officers look for specific characteristics, such as the angle at which the jerkiness occurs, which can indicate the level of impairment. The presence of nystagmus is a reliable sign that the person's ability to drive safely may be compromised due to the effects of alcohol or other intoxicants. This method does not focus on other factors such as sleepiness, driving skills, or confirming alcohol consumption directly; rather, it provides objective evidence of impairment that is critical for supporting DUI charges.

5. What is the chemical symbol for beverage alcohol?

- A. OH
- B. C₂H₅OH
- C. ETOH**
- D. CH₃OH

The chemical symbol for beverage alcohol, which is commonly known as ethanol, is represented by the formula C₂H₅OH. This compound is an alcohol that consists of two carbon atoms, six hydrogen atoms, and one oxygen atom. It is the substance found in alcoholic beverages and is responsible for their intoxicating effects. Although ETOH is a common shorthand notation used to refer to ethanol, it is not the formal chemical symbol or molecular formula. The notation ETOH reflects a casual or simplified representation of the compound rather than its complete chemical structure. Thus, while ETOH is widely recognized and used informally, the full chemical formula C₂H₅OH is the most accurate representation for beverage alcohol, clearly indicating its component atoms and providing clarity in chemical contexts. Methyl alcohol, represented by CH₃OH, is structurally different from ethanol, as it contains only one carbon atom, making it significantly more toxic and unsuitable for consumption as a beverage. In summary, while ETOH is used in casual discussions about alcoholic beverages, C₂H₅OH is the correct and formal representation of beverage alcohol, crucial for understanding its chemical identity.

6. What is methanol often used for?

- A. Fuel and antifreeze**
- B. Food and beverages
- C. Medical purposes
- D. High-proof spirits

Methanol is primarily known for its use as a fuel and a key component in antifreeze products. It is a type of alcohol, but unlike ethanol, which is the alcohol found in beverages, methanol is toxic and unsuitable for consumption. In automotive applications, methanol serves as an effective fuel alternative, particularly in racing and high-performance engines due to its high octane rating. Additionally, methanol is commonly utilized as an antifreeze agent in windshield washer fluids and in various industrial processes where low-temperature performance is required. Its properties make it a versatile option for these purposes, underlining its role in fuel and antifreeze applications specifically.

7. What skill is primarily tested during the Walk and Turn test?

- A. Physical flexibility**
- B. Divided attention**
- C. Speed and agility**
- D. Muscle strength**

The Walk and Turn test primarily assesses divided attention. This is because the test requires the individual to complete a physical task—walking in a straight line and turning around—while simultaneously following specific verbal instructions provided by the officer. Participants must focus on balancing their body and coordinating their steps, all while mentally processing and remembering the directions given. This dual-task requirement simulates real-life situations where a person must juggle multiple cognitive and physical demands, helping law enforcement evaluate whether an individual may be impaired. It is critical to understand that the test is designed to measure how well a person can divide their attention between different tasks, which is a vital component of driving safely.

8. What can vertical nystagmus signify in a HGN test?

- A. Normal eye function with no impairment**
- B. Possible severe intoxication or specific drug effects**
- C. Youthful energy levels in the subject**
- D. Sobriety in the presence of alcohol**

Vertical nystagmus can indicate possible severe intoxication or specific drug effects, making this answer the most accurate. In the context of the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test, practitioners look for involuntary eye movements as a sign of impairment. While horizontal nystagmus is often associated with alcohol consumption, vertical nystagmus is not typically expected from alcohol alone. Instead, it is more commonly linked to the influence of certain drugs, particularly central nervous system depressants, hallucinogens, or stimulants. Observing vertical nystagmus during the test can thus signal that a subject may be under the influence of such substances, leading to significant impairment in motor coordination and judgment. Researchers and law enforcement agencies take this response very seriously when assessing a driver's capabilities.

9. What is a common error officers make during HGN testing?

- A. Failing to observe the subject's eyes**
- B. Rushing through the test**
- C. Providing clear, concise instructions**
- D. Using appropriate testing techniques**

Rushing through the test is a common error officers make during HGN testing because it can lead to inaccurate observations and assessments. The HGN test requires a careful and methodical approach to ensure that the results are valid. When officers rush, they may miss crucial indicators of impairment, such as the presence of nystagmus or the lack of smooth pursuit in the subject's eye movements. A thorough and unhurried execution of the test allows officers to accurately assess the eye movement characteristics that are indicative of possible intoxication, leading to more reliable outcomes in DUI evaluations.

10. What is a primary indicator that the HGN test is being improperly administered?

- A. Multiple officers present**
- B. Subject is not cooperative**
- C. Poor visibility**

D. Inconsistent officer instructions

The correct choice highlights that inconsistent officer instructions during the HGN test can significantly compromise the effectiveness of the evaluation. The HGN test is designed to measure a subject's eye movements, looking for specific cues that indicate impairment, often due to substances like alcohol. For the results to be valid and reliable, it is crucial that the officer administers the test consistently, adhering strictly to standard procedures. When instructions vary from one test to another, or if the subject does not receive clear and uniform guidance, the results may be skewed. Subjects could misunderstand what is required of them, leading to confusion and potentially inaccurate readings of their eye movements. This inconsistency can affect the assessor's ability to accurately interpret the results, ultimately undermining the purpose of conducting the test. Thus, maintaining a standardized approach in administering the instructions is vital for the integrity of the HGN assessment.

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://azhgn.examzify.com>

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