

ARIZONA HORIZONTAL GAZE NYSTAGMUS (HGN) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://azhgn.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What should an officer conclude if nystagmus is not observable during the HGN test?**
 - A. The driver may not be under the influence of alcohol
 - B. The driver is definitely sober
 - C. No further tests are needed
 - D. The driver should be arrested regardless
- 2. Why is it important to evaluate the onset of nystagmus at a specific angle?**
 - A. To ensure proper testing equipment is used
 - B. To confirm the driver's identity
 - C. To assess level of alcohol impairment
 - D. To check for eye health
- 3. Which clue indicates the inability of a subject to follow a moving stimulus smoothly in the HGN test?**
 - A. Nystagmus maximum deviation
 - B. Onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees
 - C. Failure to track smoothly
 - D. Excessive blinking
- 4. What measurement unit is primarily used to determine Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)?**
 - A. Milligrams
 - B. Milliliters
 - C. Grams per deciliter
 - D. Percentage by volume
- 5. What is a false positive in the context of HGN testing?**
 - A. A condition where an individual shows signs of HGN but is actually impaired
 - B. A condition where an individual shows signs of HGN but is not impaired by alcohol or drugs
 - C. A correct identification of impairment through HGN testing
 - D. A scenario where HGN testing indicates no impairment

- 6. What is Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN)?**
- A. An involuntary eye movement occurring when under the influence of substances
 - B. A voluntary eye movement used for focus
 - C. A symptom of physical illness
 - D. A test for determining eyesight quality
- 7. What does "proof" indicate in the context of alcoholic beverages?**
- A. The total volume of the drink
 - B. Twice the ethanol percentage
 - C. The strength of the flavor
 - D. The amount of carbonation
- 8. The Countdown Technique requires the subject to do what?**
- A. Count to 100
 - B. Count out loud 15 or more numbers in reverse sequence
 - C. Count down from 50 to 0
 - D. Recite the alphabet backwards
- 9. What is the major decision that must be made in Phase Three of DWI detection?**
- A. Should I conduct a breath test?
 - B. Should I arrest the subject for DWI?
 - C. Should I call for backup?
 - D. Should I ask more questions?
- 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

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What should an officer conclude if nystagmus is not observable during the HGN test?

- A. The driver may not be under the influence of alcohol**
- B. The driver is definitely sober
- C. No further tests are needed
- D. The driver should be arrested regardless

If nystagmus is not observable during the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test, it suggests that there are no indications of alcohol impairment based on the specific eye movement response being evaluated. The HGN test measures the involuntary jerking of the eyes as they move from side to side, and the presence of nystagmus generally indicates possible intoxication. When nystagmus is absent, it provides an important signal that the driver may not be under the influence of alcohol to the point where it affects this specific function. This context is critical because the HGN test is designed to detect signs of impairment due to alcohol. While the absence of nystagmus does not conclusively prove that a driver is entirely sober or that they haven't consumed other substances, it does indicate a significant lack of evidence supporting the idea that they are impaired by alcohol. This understanding aids officers in making informed decisions about whether further assessments might be necessary or whether the driver may be free to continue their driving.

2. Why is it important to evaluate the onset of nystagmus at a specific angle?

- A. To ensure proper testing equipment is used
- B. To confirm the driver's identity
- C. To assess level of alcohol impairment**
- D. To check for eye health

Evaluating the onset of nystagmus at a specific angle is crucial for assessing the level of alcohol impairment in an individual. Nystagmus refers to the involuntary eye movement that can indicate impairment when a person has consumed alcohol or other substances. By observing the angle at which nystagmus begins, law enforcement officers can gather evidence regarding the degree of impairment. If nystagmus is detected at 45 degrees or earlier, it typically suggests a higher level of intoxication. This measurement is a key component of the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus test, which is used to help establish whether a driver is under the influence of alcohol, thereby aiding in the determination of their fitness to operate a vehicle. The onset angle is a critical factor that enhances the reliability of this assessment.

3. Which clue indicates the inability of a subject to follow a moving stimulus smoothly in the HGN test?

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

The indication of the inability of a subject to follow a moving stimulus smoothly in the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test is observed through the presence of failure to track smoothly. During the HGN test, a trained officer moves a stimulus, typically a pen or similar object, horizontally in front of the subject's eyes. If the subject cannot smoothly follow this movement and exhibits jerking or a noticeable discontinuation in the movement of their eyes, it indicates potential impairment. This failure to track smoothly is significant because it reveals that the subject's neurological function may be compromised, which is a key indicator of possible intoxication or impairment. The officer looks for distinct signs of this jerking motion, as it affects the reliability of the test results. In contrast, the other options pertain to different aspects of eye movement that might indicate impairment, but they do not specifically describe the inability to follow a smooth motion. For instance, nystagmus maximum deviation and onset of nystagmus prior to 45 degrees provide different but relevant indicators of impairment severity and timing, while excessive blinking does not directly relate to tracking ability.

4. What measurement unit is primarily used to determine Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)?

- A. Milligrams
- B. Milliliters
- C. Grams per deciliter
- D. Percentage by volume**

The primary measurement unit used to determine Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is percentage by volume. BAC is expressed as the percentage of alcohol in a given volume of blood, which indicates the level of alcohol present in a person's bloodstream. For example, a BAC of 0.08% means that there are 0.08 grams of alcohol per deciliter of blood. This unit is widely recognized for assessing intoxication levels and is the standard in many legal contexts related to driving under the influence. This measurement is crucial for law enforcement and medical professionals when evaluating impairment and making decisions related to safe driving and potential legal ramifications. Using percentage by volume provides a clear, universal understanding of alcohol in the bloodstream across different jurisdictions, making it the appropriate answer in this context.

5. What is a false positive in the context of HGN testing?

- A. A condition where an individual shows signs of HGN but is actually impaired
- B. A condition where an individual shows signs of HGN but is not impaired by alcohol or drugs**
- C. A correct identification of impairment through HGN testing
- D. A scenario where HGN testing indicates no impairment

In the context of HGN testing, a false positive refers to a situation where an individual exhibits signs of Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus, suggesting impairment, yet is not actually impaired by alcohol or drugs. This can happen for various reasons, such as natural variations in ocular movements, medical conditions, or other factors unrelated to substance use. Understanding false positives is crucial in the realm of HGN testing, as it emphasizes the importance of knowledgeable interpretation of the results. Officers and evaluators must consider that there are situations where the test may indicate impairment that does not correlate with actual intoxication levels. This distinction is essential to ensure accurate assessments and uphold the integrity of the testing process.

6. What is Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN)?

- A. An involuntary eye movement occurring when under the influence of substances**
- B. A voluntary eye movement used for focus
- C. A symptom of physical illness
- D. A test for determining eyesight quality

Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) refers to a specific involuntary eye movement that can occur when a person is under the influence of alcohol or certain drugs. When conducting the HGN test, law enforcement personnel observe the way the eyes move as they follow a stimulus, typically a pen or finger, horizontally from side to side. The presence of HGN is a sign that can indicate impairment, as it differs from normal eye movement patterns. In contrast to voluntary eye movements that are under conscious control, HGN is involuntary and often results from disruptions in the brain's ability to control eye muscles due to the effects of intoxicants. This form of eye movement can be indicative of impairment, making it a valuable tool in the field for officers assessing potential driving under the influence situations. Understanding this distinction is crucial for recognizing how HGN is used in sobriety assessments.

7. What does "proof" indicate in the context of alcoholic beverages?

- A. The total volume of the drink
- B. Twice the ethanol percentage**
- C. The strength of the flavor
- D. The amount of carbonation

In the context of alcoholic beverages, "proof" refers to a measure of the strength or potency of the alcohol. It is defined as twice the percentage of ethanol (alcohol) in the beverage. For example, if a drink contains 40% ethanol, it is considered to be 80 proof. This system is used primarily in the United States, and understanding proof is essential for both consumers and law enforcement in assessing alcohol content. The other choices don't accurately describe what proof represents. The total volume of the drink, the strength of the flavor, and the amount of carbonation are all characteristics of the beverage but do not relate to the measure of alcohol content capturing its intoxicating potential.

8. The Countdown Technique requires the subject to do what?

- A. Count to 100
- B. Count out loud 15 or more numbers in reverse sequence**
- C. Count down from 50 to 0
- D. Recite the alphabet backwards

The Countdown Technique specifically involves the subject counting out loud 15 or more numbers in reverse sequence. This task is used as a cognitive assessment during field sobriety tests, particularly in detecting impairment. When a person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, their cognitive functioning can be impaired, making it challenging to perform tasks that require mental processing, such as counting backwards. By asking the subject to count backwards, law enforcement can evaluate their ability to think clearly and maintain focus, which may indicate impairment if they struggle with this task. The emphasis on counting backwards instead of forwards plays a significant role in assessing a person's mental acuity and coordination. The technique serves as an additional indicator alongside other sobriety tests, enriching the evaluation process.

9. What is the major decision that must be made in Phase Three of DWI detection?

- A. Should I conduct a breath test?
- B. Should I arrest the subject for DWI?**
- C. Should I call for backup?
- D. Should I ask more questions?

The major decision that must be made in Phase Three of DWI detection focuses on whether to arrest the subject for driving while intoxicated (DWI). This phase comes after the officer has completed the initial observations and assessments of the driver's behavior, physical condition, and results from any preliminary testing, such as the standardized field sobriety tests. In this phase, the officer has gathered sufficient evidence to evaluate whether the driver is impaired to the extent that they pose a danger to themselves or others on the road. The determination to arrest hinges on the officer's interpretation of the evidence collected, including behavioral cues and physical indicators of impairment. Making the decision to arrest not only requires an assessment of the driver's condition but also an understanding of the legal standards for impairment. The other choices involve actions that may be relevant to the overall process of law enforcement but do not encapsulate the critical decision-making point that Phase Three represents in the standardized DWI detection protocol. Conducting a breath test, calling for backup, or asking more questions could provide additional information but do not directly address the pivotal decision of whether legal action should be taken against the driver suspected of DWI.

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE