

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU) CIS105 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MIDTERM PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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	15

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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 is the most important aspect of a website?**
 - A. Design and graphics
 - B. Content
 - C. Navigation structure
 - D. User interactivity
- 2. Magnetic tape is widely utilized in what type of computer systems?**
 - A. Personal Computers
 - B. Game Consoles
 - C. Mainframe Computers
 - D. Servers
- 3. What allows users to move around the web from one page to another?**
 - A. URLs
 - B. Hyperlinks
 - C. Buttons
 - D. Search Bars
- 4. How many of EPEAT's criteria are optional?**
 - A. 18
 - B. 20
 - C. 28
 - D. 30
- 5. Which storage device is generally considered the slowest?**
 - A. Hard Disk Drive
 - B. Magnetic Tape
 - C. Optical Disk
 - D. USB Flash Drive
- 6. What is the main characteristic of Cloud Storage capacity?**
 - A. Limited
 - B. Fixed
 - C. Unlimited
 - D. Variable

- 7. What is the primary function of the BIOS in a computer?**
- A. To manage peripheral devices
 - B. To perform a system check at startup
 - C. To provide a user interface
 - D. To encrypt stored data
- 8. Which storage device is characterized by a series of stacked platters?**
- A. SSD
 - B. RAID
 - C. USB Flash Drive
 - D. External Hard Drive
- 9. Which type of memory is categorized as secondary storage?**
- A. RAM
 - B. ROM
 - C. Hard Drive
 - D. Cache Memory
- 10. Another term for acceptance of an acknowledged problem is what?**
- A. Diffusion
 - B. Adaptation
 - C. Resolution
 - D. Validation

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the most important aspect of a website?

- A. Design and graphics
- B. Content**
- C. Navigation structure
- D. User interactivity

Content is the most important aspect of a website because it provides the core value and reason for users to visit. High-quality, relevant, and engaging content is what effectively communicates the website's purpose, whether that's information, products, services, or entertainment. It is the content that keeps users on the page, encourages them to return, and helps optimize the site for search engines, making it easier for potential visitors to find the website. While design and graphics can attract visitors initially, without strong content, they will not stay engaged. Navigation structure is crucial for helping users find content quickly, and user interactivity enhances the experience; however, these elements are ultimately designed to support the delivery of valuable content. In essence, without compelling content, all other aspects of the website become less significant, as they serve the primary goal of attracting and retaining an audience based on the value of the information they provide.

2. Magnetic tape is widely utilized in what type of computer systems?

- A. Personal Computers
- B. Game Consoles
- C. Mainframe Computers**
- D. Servers

Magnetic tape is specifically advantageous for mainframe computers due to its capacity for handling vast amounts of data storage and retrieval, which is essential for enterprise-level operations. Mainframes are often used for tasks that require reliability, large-scale data processing, and backup solutions. Magnetic tape provides a cost-effective medium for these large volumes of data. It allows organizations to archive data securely and efficiently, making it an ideal choice for mainframe environments. Its sequential access nature also complements mainframe operations that may not require rapid access times for all data. In contrast, personal computers typically rely on more accessible and faster storage options like hard drives and solid-state drives. Game consoles are optimized for performance and appreciate quick access to game data rather than mass storage solutions. Servers can utilize various storage forms, but they often favor more immediate access technologies over the slower performance of magnetic tape.

3. What allows users to move around the web from one page to another?

- A. URLs
- B. Hyperlinks**
- C. Buttons
- D. Search Bars

Hyperlinks are essential for navigation on the web, as they are embedded links that connect one web page to another. When a user clicks on a hyperlink, they are directed to a different webpage, which can either be on the same website or on an entirely different site. Hyperlinks are typically highlighted or underlined text, and they can also be images. They serve as the primary means through which users traverse the vast amount of information available online. While URLs (Uniform Resource Locators) are crucial for identifying the specific address of a webpage, they do not inherently facilitate movement unless a user types them in or interacts with them in some way. Buttons can also trigger navigation, but they often serve a specific function rather than acting as a general means of moving between pages. Search bars allow users to find content by entering keywords but do not themselves establish direct connections between web pages. Therefore, hyperlinks are the most direct and common method for navigating from one page to another.

4. How many of EPEAT's criteria are optional?

- A. 18
- B. 20
- C. 28**
- D. 30

EPEAT, which is the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool, uses a set of criteria to evaluate the environmental performance of electronic products. Among these criteria, a specific number is designated as optional, which means that manufacturers can choose whether or not to meet these criteria when they seek EPEAT certification for their products. The correct answer indicates that 28 of EPEAT's criteria are optional. This information is significant for understanding the flexibility that manufacturers have in pursuing EPEAT certification. By having optional criteria, manufacturers can cater to different markets and consumer needs while still providing a baseline of environmental responsibility through the mandatory criteria. This distinction is crucial because it highlights the balance between rigorous environmental standards and the practicalities of manufacturing. Knowing how many criteria are optional can help stakeholders, including consumers, make informed decisions based on the level of environmental compliance a product achieves.

5. Which storage device is generally considered the slowest?

- A. Hard Disk Drive
- B. Magnetic Tape**
- C. Optical Disk
- D. USB Flash Drive

Magnetic tape is considered the slowest storage device primarily due to its sequential access nature. Unlike other storage mediums that allow for random access, magnetic tape requires data to be read sequentially, meaning that if the desired data is located near the end of the tape, the entire tape must be traversed until that data is reached. This results in significantly longer access times compared to devices that allow for direct access, such as hard disk drives or USB flash drives. While hard disk drives, optical disks, and USB flash drives have advantages in read and write speeds and can access data almost instantly regardless of its location, magnetic tape is primarily used for archiving large amounts of data where speed is less critical than storage capacity and cost-effectiveness. As a result, its role has become more specialized in data backup and archival systems rather than for everyday access or high-speed data retrieval tasks.

6. What is the main characteristic of Cloud Storage capacity?

- A. Limited
- B. Fixed
- C. Unlimited**
- D. Variable

The main characteristic of cloud storage capacity is that it is often considered unlimited. This means that users can store as much data as they need without worrying about running out of space, as long as they keep paying for the service or upgrade their plan as needed. Many cloud storage providers offer scalable storage options that allow businesses and individuals to expand their storage capacity dynamically. This flexibility is a significant advantage over traditional fixed storage solutions, where physical limitations are imposed by hardware. In this context, the other choices reflect misconceptions about cloud storage. Limited implies a strict cap, which is not typical of many cloud services; fixed suggests a non-flexible amount of storage that cannot be adjusted, which contrasts with the adaptable nature of cloud storage; variable might suggest fluctuating storage options, but it doesn't fully encompass the concept of scalability and openness that 'unlimited' provides. Therefore, considering the adaptive and responsive feature of cloud storage, the characterization as unlimited is the most accurate.

7. What is the primary function of the BIOS in a computer?

- A. To manage peripheral devices
- B. To perform a system check at startup**
- C. To provide a user interface
- D. To encrypt stored data

The primary function of the BIOS (Basic Input/Output System) in a computer is to perform a system check at startup, known as the Power-On Self-Test (POST). During this process, the BIOS initializes and tests the system hardware components, such as the processor, memory, and storage devices. This ensures that everything is functioning properly before the operating system is loaded. The BIOS also provides a basic interface for the computer to communicate with its hardware components, but its main role at startup is significantly focused on checking the system's readiness. If any issues arise during this test, the BIOS will typically generate error messages or codes that can help diagnose the problem. This critical function sets the stage for the operating system to boot correctly, establishing the foundational operation of the computer's system.

8. Which storage device is characterized by a series of stacked platters?

- A. SSD
- B. RAID**
- C. USB Flash Drive
- D. External Hard Drive

The correct answer is that a RAID system can be characterized by a series of stacked platters, but it's important to clarify that RAID is not solely about the physical characteristics of the storage devices it encompasses. RAID, or Redundant Array of Independent Disks, is a technology that combines multiple physical disk drive components into a single logical unit for improved performance and redundancy. In many RAID configurations, such as RAID 0, RAID 1, or RAID 5, traditional hard drives that use platters are often employed, which are responsible for reading and writing data. While RAID can include solid state drives (SSDs), USB flash drives, or external hard drives as part of its array, when specifically discussing the characteristic of "stacked platters," you're referring to traditional hard disk drives (HDDs). These types of drives contain one or more platters coated with magnetic material, which spin and allow read/write heads to access data. In contrast, SSDs use flash memory and do not contain any moving parts or platters. USB flash drives utilize a similar principle as SSDs and also lack platters. External hard drives can consist of HDDs, but their characterization typically pertains more to their external casing rather than the internal components specifically.

9. Which type of memory is categorized as secondary storage?

- A. RAM
- B. ROM
- C. Hard Drive
- D. Cache Memory

The correct answer is the hard drive, as it is classified as secondary storage. Secondary storage refers to non-volatile storage that retains data even when the computer is powered off. Hard drives, whether traditional spinning disks or solid-state drives, are designed to store large amounts of data persistently, allowing users to save files, applications, and the operating system. In contrast, RAM (Random Access Memory) is considered primary memory or main memory, as it is used for temporary storage while the computer is running. It loses all data when the power is turned off. ROM (Read-Only Memory) is also categorized as primary storage, specifically for firmware that is not meant to be modified frequently, and it retains data without power but is not designed for general data storage. Cache memory serves as a very fast type of volatile memory that stores frequently accessed data to speed up processing but does not retain information when the computer is shut down. Thus, the hard drive stands out as the type of memory used for long-term data storage, which is the defining characteristic of secondary storage.

10. Another term for acceptance of an acknowledged problem is what?

- A. Diffusion
- B. Adaptation
- C. Resolution
- D. Validation

The correct term for the acceptance of an acknowledged problem is "Validation." In various fields such as software development, data management, and project management, validation involves confirming that a particular issue has been recognized and aligns with recognized criteria. This process ensures that the problem is understood and acknowledged, providing a foundation for addressing it effectively. Validation plays a crucial role in many processes, as it establishes a mutual understanding of the problem among stakeholders. It is an essential step before moving towards solutions like adaptation or resolution. In contrast, diffusion refers to the spread of information or innovation, adaptation typically involves making adjustments to respond to a problem rather than simply accepting it, and resolution refers to finding a solution to a problem rather than just acknowledging its existence.

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://asu-cis105midterm.examzify.com>

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

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