

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU) REL100 RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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 aspect of spirituality is emphasized in Jainism?**
 - A. Material wealth
 - B. Vows and penance
 - C. Non-violence
 - D. Religious authority
- 2. What are the earliest sacred texts of Hinduism known as?**
 - A. Upanishads
 - B. Vedas
 - C. Bhagavad Gita
 - D. Puranas
- 3. What is one of the main concepts around which Hindu practices revolve?**
 - A. Karma
 - B. Reincarnation
 - C. Dharma
 - D. All of the above
- 4. What was offered into the sacrificial fire by the priests?**
 - A. Grain
 - B. Butter
 - C. Animal flesh
 - D. Fruits
- 5. What principle do Orthodox Jews typically follow in their practice?**
 - A. Strict adherence to traditional Jewish law
 - B. Modern interpretations of scripture
 - C. Syncretism with other religions
 - D. Reformist practices
- 6. What caste is associated with warriors and rulers?**
 - A. Brahmin
 - B. Kshatriya
 - C. Vaishya
 - D. Shudra

- 7. Which smriti text focuses on the dharma of every caste?**
- A. Bhagavadgita
 - B. Manusmriti
 - C. Ramayana
 - D. Vedas
- 8. What is the current rank of Hinduism in terms of global religions?**
- A. Second largest
 - B. Third largest
 - C. Fourth largest
 - D. Largest
- 9. Which quality is NOT associated with Soma according to the passage, "We have drunk the Soma"?**
- A. It provides spiritual enlightenment
 - B. It enhances emotional well-being
 - C. It ensures fertility in women
 - D. It promotes physical strength
- 10. What is the spiritual discipline of postures and bodily exercises called?**
- A. Ashtanga yoga
 - B. Hatha yoga
 - C. Kundalini yoga
 - D. Raja yoga

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What aspect of spirituality is emphasized in Jainism?

- A. Material wealth
- B. Vows and penance
- C. Non-violence**
- D. Religious authority

In Jainism, the aspect of spirituality that is most emphasized is non-violence, also known as "ahimsa." This principle is foundational to Jain beliefs and practices, highlighting a commitment to causing no harm to any living being, whether human or non-human. Non-violence extends beyond physical actions to include thoughts and words, making it a holistic approach to living that respects all forms of life. The principle of non-violence is not only a moral guideline but also a way to achieve spiritual liberation. Jains believe that harming others leads to negative karma, which hinders one's spiritual progress. By practicing non-violence, individuals work towards purification of the soul and ultimately seek liberation from the cycle of birth and death (samsara). While vows and penance are indeed significant in Jain practice, they serve to promote the overarching ideal of non-violence rather than standing alone as the primary focus. Jainism does recognize the importance of religious authority, but non-violence is more central to its spiritual doctrine and daily practices than the adherence to authority or the acquisition of material wealth.

2. What are the earliest sacred texts of Hinduism known as?

- A. Upanishads
- B. Vedas**
- C. Bhagavad Gita
- D. Puranas

The earliest sacred texts of Hinduism are known as the Vedas. These texts form the foundation of Hindu spiritual and ritual traditions, comprising four major collections: the Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda. Composed in Sanskrit, the Vedas consist of hymns, rituals, and philosophical discourses, and they are considered the authoritative scripture in Hinduism. Their significance extends beyond religious practice; they also provide insights into the social and cultural aspects of ancient Indian society. The Upanishads, while critical to Hindu philosophy and spirituality, are later texts that elaborate on the ideas found in the Vedas. The Bhagavad Gita is a revered narrative that is part of the Indian epic Mahabharata and discusses key philosophical concepts but was composed much later. The Puranas, which contain mythological stories, traditions, and cosmology, also come after the Vedic texts in terms of their development. Thus, while all mentioned texts are significant in Hinduism, the Vedas represent the earliest written traditions within the religion.

3. What is one of the main concepts around which Hindu practices revolve?

- A. Karma
- B. Reincarnation
- C. Dharma
- D. All of the above**

One of the foundational aspects of Hinduism is the interconnectedness of karma, reincarnation, and dharma, which all play essential roles in shaping the faith's practices and beliefs. Karma refers to the law of cause and effect, where a person's actions in this life influence their future lives. This concept encourages ethical living and personal responsibility, as individuals are motivated to perform good deeds to generate positive karma. Reincarnation, or samsara, is the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. This belief underscores the significance of life choices, as it implies that the soul is eternal and will continue to evolve through different lifetimes based on karma accrued. Dharma represents moral and ethical duties that vary according to one's age, caste, and gender. Following one's dharma is crucial in Hindu practices, as it guides individuals in living a life that contributes to the greater cosmic order. These concepts are interrelated and support one another; for instance, understanding one's dharma can influence the karma one generates, which in turn affects the nature of future reincarnations. The answer captures the essence of Hindu practices because it acknowledges that all three concepts are central to understanding and engaging in the faith.

4. What was offered into the sacrificial fire by the priests?

- A. Grain
- B. Butter
- C. Animal flesh**
- D. Fruits

The correct response highlights the significance of animal sacrifices in many ancient religious practices. Priests often offered animal flesh into the sacrificial fire as a means to seek favor from the divine, atone for sins, or secure blessings for the community. This practice was rooted in the belief that the life force of the animal could be transformed through fire into a form acceptable to the gods, thereby symbolizing a connection between the sacred and the earthly realms. In various traditions, such as those found in ancient Israelites or other Near Eastern cultures, these rituals were integral to worship and community identity, emphasizing the idea of life, death, and the sacred exchange between humans and the divine. The other options, while potentially beneficial in different contexts, such as dietary offerings or symbolic gestures, do not carry the same weight as animal sacrifices in this specific religious tradition. Grain, butter, and fruits might have been offered in different rituals or as part of communal gatherings, but they lacked the profound sacrificial connotations associated with animal flesh that were essential to many ancient worship practices.

5. What principle do Orthodox Jews typically follow in their practice?

A. Strict adherence to traditional Jewish law

B. Modern interpretations of scripture

C. Syncretism with other religions

D. Reformist practices

Orthodox Jews are characterized by a strict adherence to traditional Jewish law, known as Halakha. This principle is central to their practice, as it governs various aspects of life, including dietary laws, Sabbath observance, prayer rituals, and moral conduct. Orthodox Judaism places a strong emphasis on maintaining the practices and beliefs that have been handed down through generations, closely following the interpretations found in the Torah and Talmud. This dedication to traditional law sets Orthodox Judaism apart from other branches of Judaism that may adopt more modern interpretations or practices that align with contemporary society. The commitment to Halakha reflects a belief in the divine origin of these laws and their unchanging nature, which serves as a guiding framework for personal and communal life among Orthodox Jews.

6. What caste is associated with warriors and rulers?

A. Brahmin

B. Kshatriya

C. Vaishya

D. Shudra

The caste associated with warriors and rulers is Kshatriya. In the traditional four-fold Varna system of Hindu society, the Kshatriyas are recognized as the class responsible for governance, protection, and warfare. Historically, they were the ruling class and included kings, warriors, and nobles who upheld societal order and defended their realms. Their role was not only to lead in battle but also to administer justice and ensure the welfare of their subjects. The other castes serve different functions within society. Brahmins are typically associated with priestly duties and scholarly activities, Vaishyas are linked to commerce and agriculture, while Shudras are associated with service roles. Each caste has specific responsibilities that contribute to the overall functioning of society, but when it comes to warriors and rulers specifically, Kshatriya is the distinct caste group recognized for that role.

7. Which smriti text focuses on the dharma of every caste?

A. Bhagavadgita

B. Manusmriti

C. Ramayana

D. Vedas

The Manusmriti, also known as the "Laws of Manu," is the smriti text that specifically addresses the dharma of every caste in Hindu society. This ancient legal text outlines the duties, responsibilities, and moral conduct appropriate to each of the four main castes (varnas) – Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras. It serves as a guide for social order and ethical behavior within the caste system, detailing duties pertaining to social roles, conduct, and rituals. The Bhagavadgita, while a significant text within the Mahabharata, focuses more on the concept of duty (dharma) in a broader philosophical context rather than rigorously codifying the specific duties based on caste. The Ramayana, another important epic, primarily narrates the life and virtues of Lord Rama, exploring themes of loyalty, dharma, and morality but does not serve as a legal text concerning caste. The Vedas, the oldest and most revered texts in Hinduism, primarily focus on hymns, rituals, and spiritual knowledge rather than specific regulations governing the castes. Manusmriti's detailed discussions on caste-specific duties and the implications of adhering to or deviating from them make it the

8. What is the current rank of Hinduism in terms of global religions?

- A. Second largest
- B. Third largest**
- C. Fourth largest
- D. Largest

Hinduism is recognized as the third largest religion in the world, following Christianity and Islam. This ranking is based on the number of adherents globally, with approximately one billion people identifying as Hindus. The widespread distribution of Hindu communities primarily in India, Nepal, and among the diaspora in various countries contributes to its significant population. In this context, the classification of world religions by size shows a clear hierarchy, with Hinduism holding a substantial position as the third largest. Christianity and Islam dominate the first and second spots, respectively, which shapes the comparative understanding of religious adherences worldwide. This classification highlights the prominence of Hinduism in the global religious landscape, justifying its rank accurately.

9. Which quality is NOT associated with Soma according to the passage, "We have drunk the Soma"?

- A. It provides spiritual enlightenment
- B. It enhances emotional well-being
- C. It ensures fertility in women**
- D. It promotes physical strength

The quality that is not associated with Soma, as mentioned in the passage "We have drunk the Soma," is its alleged ability to ensure fertility in women. While Soma is often noted for its various attributes, such as providing spiritual enlightenment and enhancing emotional well-being, the connection to fertility is less prominent in historical and religious texts that describe Soma. The focus of Soma is more centered around its role as a divine substance that induces altered states of consciousness and enhances the spiritual experience rather than a direct influence on fertility. This helps to clarify that while other options highlight recognized effects of Soma in spiritual and emotional contexts, the association with fertility does not hold the same significance in the literature surrounding it.

10. What is the spiritual discipline of postures and bodily exercises called?

- A. Ashtanga yoga
- B. Hatha yoga**
- C. Kundalini yoga
- D. Raja yoga

The spiritual discipline that focuses on postures and bodily exercises is widely recognized as Hatha yoga. This form of yoga is primarily concerned with physical techniques and is foundational to many contemporary yoga practices. Hatha yoga emphasizes the practice of physical postures (asanas) and breathing exercises (pranayama), which aim to prepare the body for meditation and promote physical health. Hatha yoga is often characterized by its emphasis on alignment and the physicality of the yoga practice, making it accessible to practitioners of all levels. It serves as a balance between the body and mind, offering a way to cultivate awareness and presence through physical movement. In contrast, Ashtanga yoga is a specific style of Hatha yoga that follows a set sequence of postures and is typically more vigorous. Kundalini yoga focuses on awakening spiritual energy through dynamic movement, meditation, and the chanting of mantras, while Raja yoga is traditionally viewed as the "royal" path of meditation and mental discipline, incorporating physical postures but emphasizing meditation and the mind's control. Hence, Hatha yoga is distinct in its primary focus on postures and bodily exercises.

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-rel100.examzify.com>

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

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