

ASVAB GENERAL SCIENCE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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 does the chordata classification encompass?**
 - A. A Only amphibians
 - B. B Vertebrate animals including humans
 - C. C Invertebrates
 - D. D Prokaryotic organisms
- 2. Which enzyme is responsible for converting polypeptides into amino acids?**
 - A. Lipase
 - B. Trypsin
 - C. Amylase
 - D. Bile
- 3. Which term refers to a large region of the earth?**
 - A. Habitat
 - B. Biome
 - C. Dominion
 - D. Landscape
- 4. What aspect of the Earth does geology primarily study?**
 - A. Animal behavior
 - B. Human impact on the environment
 - C. The history and composition of Earth and its life
 - D. Climate change over the centuries
- 5. What characteristic do arthropods, classified as invertebrates, possess?**
 - A. A Jointed legs and unsegmented bodies
 - B. B Segmented bodies and jointed legs
 - C. C Single-celled organisms
 - D. D Vertebrate characteristics
- 6. In which type of rock are fossils most likely found?**
 - A. Basalt
 - B. Shale
 - C. Slate
 - D. Quartzite

- 7. Which of the following best describes animals in the phylum Echinodermata?**
- A. They are freshwater animals with bilateral symmetry.
 - B. They are spiny marine animals with five or more legs.
 - C. They are air-breathing land animals.
 - D. They are mammals that give live birth.
- 8. What is the term for the area of the earth where all living things exist?**
- A. Atmosphere
 - B. Hydrosphere
 - C. Biosphere
 - D. Geosphere
- 9. Which cellular structure is primarily responsible for storing wastes and other materials?**
- A. Vesicle
 - B. Vacuole
 - C. Centrioles
 - D. Nucleus
- 10. What is the primary process by which plants convert sunlight into energy?**
- A. Cellular respiration
 - B. Photosynthesis
 - C. Transpiration
 - D. Decomposition

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the chordata classification encompass?

- A. A Only amphibians
- B. B Vertebrate animals including humans**
- C. C Invertebrates
- D. D Prokaryotic organisms

The chordata classification encompasses vertebrate animals, which includes a wide range of organisms such as mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. All members of the phylum Chordata share specific characteristics at some stage of their development, such as a notochord (a flexible rod-like structure), a dorsal nerve cord, pharyngeal slits, and a post-anal tail. Humans, being mammals, are included within this diverse classification. While amphibians are part of the chordates, the classification itself is much broader and includes many more groups, so focusing solely on amphibians would not represent the whole classification. Invertebrates, which do not have a backbone, are not included in the chordata phylum, as this group is specifically defined by the presence of neural and skeletal structures. Prokaryotic organisms, such as bacteria and archaea, are fundamentally different from chordates, belonging to distinct domains of life that lack a nucleus and complex cellular structures. Thus, the classification of chordata is indeed centered around vertebrate animals, making this the accurate choice.

2. Which enzyme is responsible for converting polypeptides into amino acids?

- A. Lipase
- B. Trypsin**
- C. Amylase
- D. Bile

The enzyme responsible for converting polypeptides into amino acids is trypsin. Trypsin is a proteolytic enzyme, meaning it breaks down proteins into smaller peptides and ultimately into amino acids through the process of hydrolysis. This enzyme is produced in the pancreas and released into the small intestine, where it acts on polypeptides to cleave them into shorter chains and, eventually, into individual amino acids that can be easily absorbed into the bloodstream. In the context of digestion, trypsin plays a vital role in protein metabolism; without it, the body would struggle to utilize proteins from food effectively. Once proteins are broken down into amino acids, these building blocks can be used for various functions in the body, including building new proteins and supporting metabolic processes.

3. Which term refers to a large region of the earth?

- A. Habitat
- B. Biome**
- C. Dominion
- D. Landscape

The term that refers to a large region of the Earth is "biome." A biome is characterized by its climate, vegetation, and animal life, and it encompasses various ecosystems that share similar environmental conditions. Examples of biomes include deserts, forests, grasslands, and tundras. Each biome has distinctive features and serves as a habitat for many species, illustrating the intricate connections between the living organisms and their environment on a grand scale. In contrast, "habitat" denotes a specific area where an organism lives, which is smaller and more focused than a biome. "Dominion" typically refers to control or sovereignty over a territory and is not a scientific classification. "Landscape" usually describes a physical area that encompasses land forms, vegetation, and human influences but does not specify the ecological characteristics needed to define a biome.

4. What aspect of the Earth does geology primarily study?

- A. Animal behavior
- B. Human impact on the environment
- C. The history and composition of Earth and its life**
- D. Climate change over the centuries

Geology is primarily concerned with understanding the history and composition of the Earth, including its materials, structures, and the processes that have shaped it over time. This encompasses studying rocks, minerals, and fossils to learn about Earth's formation, its evolution, and the various environmental and biological changes that have occurred throughout its history. By examining geological features and the distribution of different materials, geologists can interpret past climates, geological events, and the development of life on Earth. This comprehensive approach allows geologists to contribute to our understanding of Earth's past and predict future changes. While the other options touch on important aspects of Earth's systems—such as the impact of humans on the environment, animal behavior, and climate change—they do not capture the primary focus of geology, which is centered on the Earth's physical characteristics and its geological history.

5. What characteristic do arthropods, classified as invertebrates, possess?

- A. A Jointed legs and unsegmented bodies
- B. B Segmented bodies and jointed legs**
- C. C Single-celled organisms
- D. D Vertebrate characteristics

Arthropods are a diverse group of invertebrates that exhibit distinctive characteristics, which include segmented bodies and jointed legs. The segmentation in arthropods allows for specialization of body regions and facilitates movement, while the jointed limbs enable enhanced mobility and adaptability in various environments. This combination of features is essential for their survival and evolutionary success, as it allows them to occupy a wide range of ecological niches. In contrast, the other options describe characteristics not applicable to arthropods. For instance, single-celled organisms are not representative of arthropods, which are multicellular and complex. Similarly, vertebrate characteristics, such as a backbone, are not found in arthropods, as they are classified as invertebrates.

6. In which type of rock are fossils most likely found?

- A. Basalt
- B. Shale**
- C. Slate
- D. Quartzite

Fossils are most likely found in shale because it is a sedimentary rock formed from the accumulation of fine sediment, primarily clay. Sedimentary rocks are conducive to fossil preservation because they typically form in environments where organisms can be buried quickly, such as river deltas, lakes, or ocean beds. The fine particles in shale can encapsulate remains of plants and animals, allowing them to be preserved over geological time. In contrast, basalt is an igneous rock formed from the rapid cooling of lava and typically does not contain fossils due to the high temperatures and molten state in which it forms. Slate, also a metamorphic rock, originates from shale but has undergone transformation under heat and pressure, which generally destroys any fossils that may have been present. Quartzite, another metamorphic rock that forms from sandstone, is similar in that it undergoes intense heat and pressure, which also typically precludes the preservation of fossils. This makes shale the most likely type of rock to contain fossils.

7. Which of the following best describes animals in the phylum Echinodermata?

- A. They are freshwater animals with bilateral symmetry.
- B. They are spiny marine animals with five or more legs.**
- C. They are air-breathing land animals.
- D. They are mammals that give live birth.

Animals in the phylum Echinodermata are indeed best described as spiny marine creatures. This phylum includes well-known examples such as starfish, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers. One of the defining characteristics of echinoderms is their radial symmetry, often observed as having a body plan organized around a central axis, usually with five or more arms or radiating sections. The term "spiny" refers to the calcareous endoskeleton composed of ossicles, which may appear as spines on the surface of these animals. Echinoderms are exclusively marine and cannot be found in freshwater or on land, setting them apart from other forms of life. Therefore, the description that highlights their marine habitat and distinctive spiny features, along with their limb structure, appropriately encapsulates their primary biological and ecological characteristics.

8. What is the term for the area of the earth where all living things exist?

- A. Atmosphere
- B. Hydrosphere
- C. Biosphere**
- D. Geosphere

The term that describes the area of the Earth where all living things exist is known as the biosphere. This encompasses all ecosystems and living organisms, including animals, plants, and microorganisms. The biosphere is crucial for life as it interacts with other spheres of the Earth, such as the atmosphere (which contains the air we breathe), the hydrosphere (which includes all water bodies), and the geosphere (which comprises the Earth's physical materials and landforms). The biosphere is vital for maintaining the balance of ecosystems, facilitating processes like photosynthesis and decomposition, and supporting biodiversity, all of which are essential for the survival of living organisms.

9. Which cellular structure is primarily responsible for storing wastes and other materials?

- A. Vesicle
- B. Vacuole**
- C. Centrioles
- D. Nucleus

The vacuole is primarily responsible for storing wastes and other materials within a cell. Vacuoles are membrane-bound sacs found in both plant and animal cells, though they are typically larger and more prominent in plant cells. These structures serve multiple functions, including the storage of nutrients, waste products, and materials needed by the cell, as well as contributing to maintaining turgor pressure in plant cells, which helps keep them rigid and structurally sound. In plant cells, vacuoles can occupy most of the cell's interior, allowing them to store a variety of substances. In contrast, while vesicles also serve roles in transport and storage, they are smaller than vacuoles and are involved more in moving materials within the cell rather than long-term storage. Centrioles play a different role altogether, primarily involved in cell division by helping organize the microtubules that separate chromosomes. The nucleus, while vital for housing genetic material and controlling cellular functions, does not function in the storage of waste or other materials. Thus, the vacuole is distinctly suited for the task of storage among these cellular structures.

10. What is the primary process by which plants convert sunlight into energy?

- A. Cellular respiration
- B. Photosynthesis**
- C. Transpiration
- D. Decomposition

Plants primarily convert sunlight into energy through the process known as photosynthesis. During photosynthesis, plants utilize chlorophyll, a green pigment found in their leaves, to absorb sunlight. This energy from sunlight is then used to convert carbon dioxide, which they take in from the air, and water, absorbed through their roots, into glucose and oxygen. The glucose serves as an energy source for the plant, while the oxygen is released as a byproduct into the atmosphere. This process is crucial not only for plant life but also for all living organisms on Earth, as it forms the basis of the food chain and is the primary source of oxygen in our atmosphere. Other processes, such as cellular respiration, are involved in how living organisms utilize that energy, but they do not convert sunlight into energy, which is the core function of photosynthesis.

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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://asvabgenscience.examzify.com>

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

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