

Campbell Biology Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 measured by the specific heat capacity of a substance?**
 - A. The amount of heat needed to change temperature**
 - B. The energy stored in chemical bonds**
 - C. The capacity to conduct electricity**
 - D. The thermal expansion of a substance**

- 2. An organism that obtains energy by consuming other organisms is referred to as what?**
 - A. Producer**
 - B. Consumer**
 - C. Autotroph**
 - D. Heterotroph**

- 3. Which type of protein allows ions to pass through the cell membrane?**
 - A. Carrier proteins**
 - B. Transport proteins**
 - C. Ion channels**
 - D. Receptor proteins**

- 4. What type of bond is formed between two glucose molecules when a disaccharide is created?**
 - A. Ionic bond**
 - B. Covalent bond**
 - C. Hydrogen bond**
 - D. Glycosidic bond**

- 5. Which enzyme helps in the digestion of proteins in the stomach?**
 - A. Chymotrypsin**
 - B. Trypsin**
 - C. Pepsin**
 - D. Catalase**

- 6. Which organelle contains enzymes that initiate the conversion of fatty acids to sugar?**
- A. Peroxisomes**
 - B. Glyoxysomes**
 - C. Ribosomes**
 - D. Endoplasmic reticulum**
- 7. What is the primary function of the contractile vacuole in a cell?**
- A. To store nutrients**
 - B. To collect and expel excess water**
 - C. To produce ATP**
 - D. To facilitate cellular communication**
- 8. Which chemical process is used to improve the stability of fats?**
- A. Hydrogenation**
 - B. Polymerization**
 - C. Hydrolysis**
 - D. Dehydration synthesis**
- 9. Which structural protein is most abundant in animals and found in skin and connective tissue?**
- A. Elastin**
 - B. Keratin**
 - C. Collagen**
 - D. Fibrin**
- 10. What structure is composed of stacked thylakoids within chloroplasts?**
- A. Stroma**
 - B. Granum**
 - C. Thylakoid**
 - D. Chlorophyll**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is measured by the specific heat capacity of a substance?

- A. The amount of heat needed to change temperature**
- B. The energy stored in chemical bonds**
- C. The capacity to conduct electricity**
- D. The thermal expansion of a substance**

The specific heat capacity of a substance is defined as the amount of heat required to change the temperature of a unit mass of that substance by one degree Celsius (or one Kelvin). This measurement indicates how much heat energy needs to be absorbed or released for a specific temperature change, which is crucial in various scientific and practical applications like climate science, cooking, and engineering. By understanding specific heat capacity, one can predict how substances will respond to heat changes, helping to explain phenomena such as why water takes longer to heat up compared to metals or how different materials react to temperature changes in diverse environments. This concept forms a fundamental aspect of thermodynamics and energy transfer processes.

2. An organism that obtains energy by consuming other organisms is referred to as what?

- A. Producer**
- B. Consumer**
- C. Autotroph**
- D. Heterotroph**

An organism that obtains energy by consuming other organisms is referred to as a consumer. Consumers play a vital role in ecosystems by transferring energy from one trophic level to another. They can be categorized into various types, including herbivores that eat plants, carnivores that eat animals, and omnivores that consume both. This characteristic distinguishes them from producers, which generate energy through photosynthesis or chemosynthesis, and autotrophs, which are specific types of producers that can create their own food. Heterotrophs is a broader classification that includes consumers but is not as precise in the context of energy acquisition by directly consuming other organisms. Therefore, the term consumer specifically highlights the role of these organisms in the food web and energy transfer within ecosystems.

3. Which type of protein allows ions to pass through the cell membrane?

- A. Carrier proteins**
- B. Transport proteins**
- C. Ion channels**
- D. Receptor proteins**

Ion channels are specialized types of proteins that facilitate the movement of ions across the cell membrane. These channels provide a passageway that is selective for specific ions, allowing them to flow in and out of the cell according to their concentration gradients. This movement is crucial for various cellular functions, including the generation of electrical signals in nerve and muscle cells. Ion channels typically open or close in response to certain stimuli, such as changes in voltage across the membrane or the binding of signaling molecules. This dynamic regulation helps maintain ion balance, which is essential for processes like nerve impulse transmission and muscle contraction. In contrast, carrier proteins and transport proteins serve different roles. Carrier proteins bind to specific substances and undergo a conformational change to shuttle those substances across the membrane, but they do not form open channels through which ions can pass freely. Receptor proteins are involved in signal transduction and do not facilitate the direct transport of ions across the membrane. Therefore, ion channels are the specific proteins designed for the passage of ions, making them the correct answer.

4. What type of bond is formed between two glucose molecules when a disaccharide is created?

- A. Ionic bond**
- B. Covalent bond**
- C. Hydrogen bond**
- D. Glycosidic bond**

When two glucose molecules combine to form a disaccharide, such as maltose, they undergo a specific type of covalent bond formation known as a glycosidic bond. This bond is established through a dehydration synthesis reaction, during which a hydroxyl group from one glucose molecule and a hydrogen atom from the other are removed, resulting in the release of a water molecule. The remaining oxygen atom forms a linkage between the two glucose units, thereby creating a glycosidic bond. This bond fundamentally involves covalent interactions, as it links the two monosaccharides through the sharing of electrons. The glycosidic bond is essential for the formation of disaccharides and polysaccharides, allowing for the storage and transport of energy in biological systems. This specificity in terminology distinguishes glycosidic bonds from other types of chemical bonds, such as ionic or hydrogen bonds, which do not participate in the formation of carbohydrates in this context.

5. Which enzyme helps in the digestion of proteins in the stomach?

- A. Chymotrypsin**
- B. Trypsin**
- C. Pepsin**
- D. Catalase**

Pepsin is the enzyme responsible for the digestion of proteins in the stomach. It is secreted by the gastric lining in an inactive form called pepsinogen. Once in the acidic environment of the stomach, pepsinogen is activated to pepsin, which then breaks down proteins into smaller peptides. Pepsin is particularly important because it functions optimally in the highly acidic conditions of the stomach, unlike other enzymes that may function in the more neutral pH of the small intestine. This specificity allows the stomach to efficiently begin the process of protein digestion before the proteins are further broken down by enzymes such as trypsin and chymotrypsin in the intestine. These latter enzymes, although also involved in protein digestion, operate in the small intestine rather than the stomach. Catalase, on the other hand, is not involved in protein digestion at all; it is an enzyme that catalyzes the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen.

6. Which organelle contains enzymes that initiate the conversion of fatty acids to sugar?

- A. Peroxisomes**
- B. Glyoxysomes**
- C. Ribosomes**
- D. Endoplasmic reticulum**

The correct choice is the organelle known as glyoxysomes. These specialized organelles are found primarily in plant cells, particularly in seeds. Glyoxysomes contain enzymes that are crucial for the conversion of fatty acids into sugar through a process called glyoxylate cycle. This pathway is essential for seedlings as it allows them to utilize stored fats for energy during the early stages of growth before they are able to perform photosynthesis. This conversion is important because it provides carbohydrates, which are vital for energy and structure in plant development. In contrast, while peroxisomes do contain enzymes for lipid metabolism and the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide, their main function is not to convert fatty acids to sugars. Ribosomes are responsible for protein synthesis and do not have a role in fatty acid metabolism. The endoplasmic reticulum is involved in lipid synthesis and protein processing but does not initiate the conversion of fatty acids to sugar. Thus, glyoxysomes are specifically tailored for this unique metabolic task.

7. What is the primary function of the contractile vacuole in a cell?

- A. To store nutrients**
- B. To collect and expel excess water**
- C. To produce ATP**
- D. To facilitate cellular communication**

The primary function of the contractile vacuole in a cell is to collect and expel excess water. This organelle is particularly important in unicellular organisms, such as protists, that inhabit freshwater environments. These organisms are constantly gaining water due to osmosis, as their internal solute concentration is higher than that of their surroundings. The contractile vacuole helps to maintain osmotic balance by accumulating the excess water and periodically contracting to expel it from the cell. This process is crucial for preventing the cell from bursting and helps to ensure proper cellular function and survival in hypotonic environments. The other choices do not align with the function of the contractile vacuole. While cells have various organelles for storing nutrients, producing ATP, or facilitating communication, these roles fall to other structures within the cell, such as lysosomes, mitochondria, and signaling molecules, respectively.

8. Which chemical process is used to improve the stability of fats?

- A. Hydrogenation**
- B. Polymerization**
- C. Hydrolysis**
- D. Dehydration synthesis**

Hydrogenation is the process used to improve the stability of fats. In this chemical reaction, hydrogen is added to unsaturated fats, which converts them into saturated fats. Unsaturated fats contain one or more double bonds between carbon atoms, making them more reactive and less stable. By saturating these bonds with hydrogen, the fat becomes more stable and solid at room temperature, which helps to prevent rancidity and extend the shelf life of food products that contain fats. This process is commonly applied in the food industry, particularly in the production of margarine and shortening, where the goal is to create a more solid and spreadable product. Increased stability from hydrogenation can also influence the texture and flavor profile of food items. Other processes listed, such as polymerization, hydrolysis, and dehydration synthesis, do not specifically enhance the stability of fats in the same manner. Polymerization involves the joining of smaller molecules to form larger macromolecules, which is not directly related to the stabilization of fat. Hydrolysis is a reaction with water that breaks down fats into glycerol and fatty acids, which actually reduces stability. Dehydration synthesis refers to the process of removing water to form bonds, commonly found in the formation of larger biomolecules but does not apply directly

9. Which structural protein is most abundant in animals and found in skin and connective tissue?

- A. Elastin
- B. Keratin
- C. Collagen**
- D. Fibrin

Collagen is indeed the most abundant structural protein found in animals and plays a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and structure of various tissues, including skin and connective tissues. It provides strength and elasticity, forming a supportive network that helps tissues withstand stretching and deformation. Collagen fibers are primarily located in the extracellular matrix, giving structure to the skin, tendons, ligaments, and cartilage, thereby contributing significantly to the overall mechanical properties of these tissues. When considering the role of other proteins in the choices provided, elastin is important for elasticity and flexibility in tissues, particularly in blood vessels and lungs, but it is not as abundant as collagen. Keratin, on the other hand, is primarily found in hair, nails, and the outer layer of skin, serving more of a protective function than providing structural support for connective tissues. Fibrin is a protein involved in blood clotting rather than in providing structural support to tissues. Therefore, collagen stands out as the key protein responsible for the structural framework in skin and connective tissue.

10. What structure is composed of stacked thylakoids within chloroplasts?

- A. Stroma
- B. Granum**
- C. Thylakoid
- D. Chlorophyll

The structure composed of stacked thylakoids within chloroplasts is known as a granum. A granum is an essential component of the chloroplast's internal structure, primarily involved in the light-dependent reactions of photosynthesis. Each granum is made up of multiple thylakoids stacked together, which increases the surface area available for capturing light energy. This arrangement facilitates the efficient absorption of light and the subsequent conversion of that energy into chemical energy. The stroma refers to the fluid matrix surrounding the thylakoids within the chloroplasts, where the light-independent reactions (Calvin cycle) occur, but it is not a stack of thylakoids. A thylakoid is an individual membrane-bound compartment within the chloroplast, containing chlorophyll and other pigments necessary for photosynthesis, but does not refer to the stacked form. Chlorophyll is the green pigment found within the thylakoid membranes, crucial for absorbing light energy, but it is not a structural arrangement. Thus, the term granum specifically denotes the stacked organization essential for maximizing light capture in the photosynthetic process.

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://campbellbiology.examzify.com>

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

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