

Canadian Confederation Practice Exam (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. Newfoundland joined Confederation in which year?**
 - A. 1949**
 - B. 1905**
 - C. 1867**
 - D. 1982**

- 2. What significant land purchase was made in 1834 to protect the Mi'kmaq?**
 - A. The Crown bought the entire island group.**
 - B. A private party purchased a large tract inland.**
 - C. A treaty was signed to relocate the Mi'kmaq.**
 - D. David Stewart purchased an island off the north coast.**

- 3. Why was Edmonton chosen as the capital of Alberta?**
 - A. It was selected for geographic centrality.**
 - B. It was chosen as a political reward for Liberal votes.**
 - C. It had the most developed infrastructure.**
 - D. It was the oldest city.**

- 4. Which region did George Étienne Cartier represent in Confederation talks?**
 - A. Canada East**
 - B. Canada West**
 - C. Maritime Provinces**
 - D. Ontario**

- 5. What was the outcome of the 1905 Saskatchewan Act and Alberta Act?**
 - A. They created two new provinces: Saskatchewan and Alberta.**
 - B. They merged the territories into a single province.**
 - C. They dissolved the North-West Territories.**
 - D. They granted full independence to Rupert's Land.**

- 6. As part of the PEI terms, what land-related action was promised?**
 - A. Expropriate all land from settlers**
 - B. Sell off government lands to private corporations**
 - C. Buy back land from absentee landowners**
 - D. Enact land taxes only for small farmers**

- 7. What did Confederation provide for British Columbia in terms of governance?**
 - A. Direct rule by Britain with no local governance**
 - B. No financial aid**
 - C. Financial support and infrastructure development**
 - D. Immediate independence**

- 8. Which major western expansion event connected governance with Confederation?**
 - A. Newfoundland joining Confederation in 1949.**
 - B. Manitoba's entry in 1870 and creation of the Prairie provinces.**
 - C. British Columbia joining in 1871.**
 - D. Ontario's border changes.**

- 9. What was the outcome of the 1870 talks between British Columbia and Canada?**
 - A. Independence from Canada**
 - B. No agreement reached**
 - C. Agreement to join Confederation**
 - D. Annexation by the United States**

- 10. What was the status of the Mi'kmaq population in the 1800s?**
 - A. It had grown to more than 1,000.**
 - B. It remained around 600.**
 - C. Only 300 Mi'kmaq remained on the island.**
 - D. It disappeared completely.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Newfoundland joined Confederation in which year?

- A. 1949**
- B. 1905
- C. 1867
- D. 1982

Newfoundland joined Confederation in 1949, becoming Canada's tenth province. For decades it had been a British colony and then a dominion, but self-government was suspended in 1934 and a Commission of Government governed the territory until 1949. After referendums in 1948, Newfoundland chose to join Canada, with the entry taking effect on March 31, 1949. The other years correspond to different milestones: 1867 is when Canada was formed as a country, 1905 is when Alberta and Saskatchewan joined, and 1982 marks the patriation of the Constitution.

2. What significant land purchase was made in 1834 to protect the Mi'kmaq?

- A. The Crown bought the entire island group.
- B. A private party purchased a large tract inland.
- C. A treaty was signed to relocate the Mi'kmaq.
- D. David Stewart purchased an island off the north coast.**

This question examines how private land actions were used to safeguard Indigenous communities in the early 19th century. In 1834, David Stewart purchased an island off the north coast specifically to protect the Mi'kmaq. This private purchase created a tangible refuge for the Mi'kmaq and shows how individuals could intervene to shield Indigenous lands and livelihoods from growing settlement pressures, long before formal government treaties or reserves were established. It's different from a Crown acquisition of a large island group or a treaty that relocates people; the key point is the private, targeted purchase aimed at preserving Mi'kmaq security. That specific action fits the historical record most closely.

3. Why was Edmonton chosen as the capital of Alberta?

- A. It was selected for geographic centrality.
- B. It was chosen as a political reward for Liberal votes.**
- C. It had the most developed infrastructure.
- D. It was the oldest city.

The key idea is that where a capital sits in a new province is often shaped by political considerations as much as geography or size. When Alberta formed in 1905, the Liberal government needed broad support to establish and stabilize the province's institutions. By naming Edmonton as the capital, they rewarded Liberal voters in that region, reinforcing political loyalty and helping secure the government's legitimacy in the early years. While Edmonton also offered practical advantages like rail access and centrality, the decisive factor in that context was the political calculation to consolidate Liberal support across the province.

4. Which region did George Étienne Cartier represent in Confederation talks?

- A. Canada East**
- B. Canada West**
- C. Maritime Provinces**
- D. Ontario**

George-Étienne Cartier was a leading politician from Canada East, the eastern portion of the Province of Canada that would become Quebec. At the Confederation talks, the main regional players were Canada East and Canada West, plus the Maritime Provinces. Cartier partnered with John A. Macdonald from Canada West to push for a federal union and to secure guarantees that would protect French language rights and civil law in the new country. Because Cartier represented the Canada East region, the correct answer is Canada East.

5. What was the outcome of the 1905 Saskatchewan Act and Alberta Act?

- A. They created two new provinces: Saskatchewan and Alberta.**
- B. They merged the territories into a single province.**
- C. They dissolved the North-West Territories.**
- D. They granted full independence to Rupert's Land.**

The acts tested here show how Canada expanded governance westward by turning parts of the Northwest Territories into new provinces. The Saskatchewan Act and the Alberta Act were laws that created two new provinces—Saskatchewan and Alberta—each with its own provincial government and defined borders. This change meant the western portion of the Northwest Territories became provinces, while the remaining part of the Territory continued to exist as the Northwest Territories. So, the outcome wasn't a merge of all territories into a single province, and it wasn't the dissolution of Rupert's Land or granting independence. It was the creation of two new provinces from the western portion of the Northwest Territories.

6. As part of the PEI terms, what land-related action was promised?

- A. Expropriate all land from settlers**
- B. Sell off government lands to private corporations**
- C. Buy back land from absentee landowners**
- D. Enact land taxes only for small farmers**

The land issue the PEI terms address is resolving the problem of concentrated ownership by absentee landlords. Prince Edward Island had most of its land owned by a few landlords who rented to tenant farmers, which caused hardship and discontent. The promised action was that the federal government would buy back land from absentee landowners and transfer it to the tenants, often with compensation to the landlords. This aimed to redistribute land to those who actually cultivate it and promote agricultural stability. The other options don't fit the terms, as there was no pledge to expropriate all land from settlers, sell government lands to corporations, or tax only small farmers.

7. What did Confederation provide for British Columbia in terms of governance?

- A. Direct rule by Britain with no local governance**
- B. No financial aid**
- C. Financial support and infrastructure development**
- D. Immediate independence**

Confederation brought British Columbia into Canada's federal system, giving it provincial governance with its own government and representation in Parliament, rather than remaining under direct British rule. In return, BC received federal financial support and commitments to build key infrastructure, notably the Canadian Pacific Railway, plus subsidies to develop roads and institutions. This combination—self-governing provincial structures plus funding and infrastructure from the federal government—is why financial support and infrastructure development is the best fit. It wasn't direct British rule, it wasn't no aid, and BC did not become independent.

8. Which major western expansion event connected governance with Confederation?

- A. Newfoundland joining Confederation in 1949.**
- B. Manitoba's entry in 1870 and creation of the Prairie provinces.**
- C. British Columbia joining in 1871.**
- D. Ontario's border changes.**

The event tests how Confederation expanded by bringing in new provinces and tying their governance into the federal system. Manitoba's entry in 1870 did just that: it created a formal provincial government under the Manitoba Act, gave the new province representation in Parliament, and established constitutional terms for its powers and rights. This was the moment Western governance became an official part of Confederation, laying the groundwork for future western provinces to join and be governed within the same federal framework. While British Columbia's 1871 addition also integrated the West, Manitoba's admission is the clearest example of connecting governance with Confederation by establishing a provincial government and representation as part of the federation.

9. What was the outcome of the 1870 talks between British Columbia and Canada?

- A. Independence from Canada**
- B. No agreement reached**
- C. Agreement to join Confederation**
- D. Annexation by the United States**

The main idea here is why British Columbia decided to become part of Canada and what was promised in the deal. In 1870, BC and the federal government negotiated over whether BC would join Confederation and under what conditions. BC wanted a secure future with a railway link to the east and protection for its debt and interests. Canada wanted to complete a transcontinental railway and ensure western expansion. The outcome of those talks was an agreement for British Columbia to enter Confederation, with the federal government promising to build a transcontinental railway to the Pacific and to assume a portion of BC's debt. This is why the correct understanding is that BC agreed to join Confederation. It wasn't independence, there wasn't a failure to reach an agreement, and it certainly wasn't annexation by the United States.

10. What was the status of the Mi'kmaq population in the 1800s?

- A. It had grown to more than 1,000.**
- B. It remained around 600.**
- C. Only 300 Mi'kmaq remained on the island.**
- D. It disappeared completely.**

In the 1800s, Mi'kmaq communities in the Maritimes faced severe pressures from colonization—disease, land loss, and disruption of traditional ways of life—yet they persisted in small numbers. On the island, these pressures reduced the Mi'kmaq population to a relatively small community, about 300 people, by mid- to late-century. This reflects a pattern of decline from earlier, larger populations rather than growth or disappearance. The estimate of roughly 300 remaining on the island best fits the historical trend of a once larger community now living in small, constrained numbers due to displacement and ongoing colonial encroachment.

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://canadianconfederation.examzify.com>

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

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