

Canadian Securities Course (CSC) Level 1 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. What does the word margin refer to?**
 - A. Available funds for investing**
 - B. Sum of initial investment**
 - C. Amount investor must personally provide**
 - D. Market value of securities**

- 2. Describe the Expenditure approach.**
 - A. Calculates an industry's output and subtracts the value of all goods and services used to produce the outputs.**
 - B. Adds up all of the income generated by economic activity.**
 - C. Adds up everything that consumers, businesses, and governments spend during a time frame.**
 - D. Total spending on goods and services should equal the total income generated by producing those goods and services.**

- 3. What are the determinants of interest rates?**
 - A. Demand and supply of consumer goods**
 - B. Foreign exchange rates only**
 - C. Central bank policies**
 - D. Demand and supply of capital, default risk, foreign interest rates and exchange rates, central bank credibility, inflation**

- 4. What type of marketplace does CBID operate in the fixed-income markets?**
 - A. Retail only**
 - B. Institutional only**
 - C. Both retail and institutional**
 - D. International markets**

- 5. What is a cash secured put?**
 - A. Writing a put without having cash reserves**
 - B. Writing a put with less cash than the put value**
 - C. Writing a put with cash put aside to cover its potential assignment**
 - D. Buying a put using cash reserves**

6. How would the Bank of Canada implement monetary policy during a recession and unemployment?

- A. Increase interest rates**
- B. Decrease the money supply**
- C. Lower interest rates**
- D. Implement quantitative easing**

7. What is forced conversion regarding bonds?

- A. When bondholders request conversion into common stock**
- B. When the issuer calls the bond for conversion into common stock**
- C. When the bond reaches maturity**
- D. When the bond becomes callable**

8. What is the difference between a regular dividend and an extra dividend?

- A. Regular dividend is unpredictable while an extra dividend is fixed**
- B. Regular dividend is an additional bonus while an extra dividend is a primary payment**
- C. Regular dividend is a specified amount paid annually while an extra dividend is a bonus payment**
- D. Regular dividend does not need to be maintained annually while an extra dividend does**

9. What is a Treasury Bill primarily characterized by?

- A. High-interest payments**
- B. No maturity date**
- C. Sold at a discount and mature to par value**
- D. Paying dividends**

10. Describe 5 protective provisions commonly found in bond contracts.

- A. Market trends, redemption options, issuer's credit rating, coupon rate, and face value**
- B. Stock market performance, bond yield, financial statements, liquidity ratio, and mining bonds**
- C. Conversion rates, par value, bondholder meetings, put options, and legal jurisdiction**
- D. Security details, negative pledge, sale of assets, debt test, and dividend test**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the word margin refer to?

- A. Available funds for investing
- B. Sum of initial investment
- C. Amount investor must personally provide**
- D. Market value of securities

Margin refers to the amount of money that an investor must personally provide when borrowing money from a brokerage firm to purchase securities. This concept is central to margin trading, where investors can buy more securities than they could with just their own funds by leveraging borrowed funds. When engaging in margin trading, the investor typically needs to deposit a certain percentage of the total value of the securities being purchased, which acts as collateral for the loan. The rest can be borrowed from the brokerage. This means that the investor is responsible for maintaining a minimum amount of equity in their margin account, which ensures that they have a personal stake in the investment and reduces the risk for the lender. This definition is distinct from other terms related to investments. The available funds for investing generally refer to the total cash the investor has, while the sum of the initial investment does not specifically imply a borrowing component. Similarly, the market value of the securities pertains to their current price in the market, which is not directly tied to the concept of margin.

2. Describe the Expenditure approach.

- A. Calculates an industry's output and subtracts the value of all goods and services used to produce the outputs.
- B. Adds up all of the income generated by economic activity.
- C. Adds up everything that consumers, businesses, and governments spend during a time frame.**
- D. Total spending on goods and services should equal the total income generated by producing those goods and services.

The correct choice emphasizes the central premise of the Expenditure approach to measuring economic activity, which fundamentally revolves around the total spending by different sectors of the economy. By adding up all expenditures made by consumers, businesses, and governments, this approach provides a comprehensive picture of economic health. This measurement includes consumer spending on goods and services, business investments, government expenditures, and net exports (exports minus imports). This approach is significant because it directly correlates to the overall demand within an economy. When consumers, businesses, and governments increase their spending, it can lead to higher production, more jobs, and ultimately, economic growth. This makes the Expenditure approach a critical tool for economists and policymakers when assessing the state and trajectory of an economy. While other approaches may focus on outputs or income generation, the Expenditure approach is unique in its direct attention to spending flow, making it a foundational concept in understanding economic dynamics.

3. What are the determinants of interest rates?

- A. Demand and supply of consumer goods
- B. Foreign exchange rates only
- C. Central bank policies
- D. Demand and supply of capital, default risk, foreign interest rates and exchange rates, central bank credibility, inflation**

The correct answer is D because interest rates are influenced by various factors such as the demand and supply of capital, default risk, foreign interest rates and exchange rates, central bank credibility, and inflation. These determinants collectively play a crucial role in shaping interest rates in the market. Options A, B, and C do not directly affect interest rates as comprehensively as the factors listed in option D.

4. What type of marketplace does CBID operate in the fixed-income markets?

- A. Retail only
- B. Institutional only
- C. Both retail and institutional**
- D. International markets

CBID operates in a marketplace that serves both retail and institutional investors in the fixed-income markets. This dual focus allows CBID to cater to a broader range of clients, facilitating transactions across different types of bonds and fixed-income securities. By including both types of investors, CBID can enhance liquidity and provide a more diverse trading platform. Retail investors, often individual investors, can access fixed-income products that may have been traditionally available only to larger institutional investors, thus democratizing access to these financial instruments. At the same time, institutional investors benefit from the increased trading volumes and liquidity that the retail segment can provide. This inclusive approach is significant in the context of fixed-income markets, which can be less accessible compared to equity markets, creating opportunities for both types of participants to engage more effectively.

5. What is a cash secured put?

- A. Writing a put without having cash reserves
- B. Writing a put with less cash than the put value
- C. Writing a put with cash put aside to cover its potential assignment**
- D. Buying a put using cash reserves

A cash secured put is an options strategy where the investor writes a put option while also setting aside enough cash to buy the underlying asset if the option is exercised. This strategy is considered less risky than writing a put without cash reserves (option A) or with less cash than the put value (option B) because it ensures that there are funds available to fulfill the obligation if the option is assigned. Buying a put using cash reserves (option D) is a different options strategy where the investor pays for the right to sell the underlying asset at a specific price within a specified time frame.

6. How would the Bank of Canada implement monetary policy during a recession and unemployment?

- A. Increase interest rates**
- B. Decrease the money supply**
- C. Lower interest rates**
- D. Implement quantitative easing**

During a recession and high unemployment, the Bank of Canada typically implements expansionary monetary policy to stimulate the economy. Lowering interest rates is a common strategy used by central banks during economic downturns. By reducing interest rates, borrowing becomes cheaper, which encourages businesses and consumers to spend more and invest, ultimately helping to boost economic activity and reduce unemployment. Option A, increasing interest rates, would not be an appropriate response during a recession as it would likely slow down economic activity further by making borrowing more expensive. Option B, decreasing the money supply, would also not be a suitable course of action during a recession because it could further restrict economic activity at a time when stimulus is needed. Option D, implementing quantitative easing, involves central banks buying financial assets to increase the money supply and lower interest rates. Although this strategy can be used during economic crises, lowering interest rates directly (Option C) is often the initial step taken by central banks to address a recession and unemployment.

7. What is forced conversion regarding bonds?

- A. When bondholders request conversion into common stock**
- B. When the issuer calls the bond for conversion into common stock**
- C. When the bond reaches maturity**
- D. When the bond becomes callable**

Forced conversion regarding bonds refers to when the issuer calls the bond for conversion into common stock. In this scenario, the issuer has the right to force bondholders to convert their bonds into common stock at a predetermined conversion price and ratio. This action is initiated by the issuer and not the bondholders themselves. Options A, C, and D are incorrect because they do not accurately define forced conversion. Option A states that forced conversion occurs when bondholders request conversion into common stock, which is not the case for forced conversion. Option C mentions when the bond reaches maturity, which is a different event from forced conversion. Option D refers to when the bond becomes callable, which is also a separate concept from forced conversion.

8. What is the difference between a regular dividend and an extra dividend?

- A. Regular dividend is unpredictable while an extra dividend is fixed**
- B. Regular dividend is an additional bonus while an extra dividend is a primary payment**
- C. Regular dividend is a specified amount paid annually while an extra dividend is a bonus payment**
- D. Regular dividend does not need to be maintained annually while an extra dividend does**

Regular dividends are typically a specified amount paid by a company to its shareholders on a regular basis, often quarterly or annually. These dividends are established and declared by the company's board of directors. On the other hand, extra dividends are additional payments made by the company on top of the regular dividends. They are not part of the regular dividend policy and are typically paid when the company experiences unexpected profits or has excess cash to distribute to shareholders. Therefore, option C is the correct choice as it accurately distinguishes between regular dividends and extra dividends.

9. What is a Treasury Bill primarily characterized by?

- A. High-interest payments**
- B. No maturity date**
- C. Sold at a discount and mature to par value**
- D. Paying dividends**

A Treasury Bill (T-bill) is primarily characterized by being sold at a discount and maturing to par value. This means that when investors purchase T-bills, they do so for an amount less than their face value. Upon maturity, the government repays the full face value to the holder. This discount represents the interest income for the investor, with the difference between the purchase price and the par value indicating the return on the investment. T-bills have a specific, short-term maturity and do not pay interest or dividends, which further underscores why being sold at a discount and maturing to par value is a definitive characteristic of these instruments. They are considered one of the safest forms of investments, given they are backed by the government, and the return is locked in at the time of purchase due to the difference between the purchase price and the par value at maturity.

10. Describe 5 protective provisions commonly found in bond contracts.

- A. Market trends, redemption options, issuer's credit rating, coupon rate, and face value**
- B. Stock market performance, bond yield, financial statements, liquidity ratio, and mining bonds**
- C. Conversion rates, par value, bondholder meetings, put options, and legal jurisdiction**
- D. Security details, negative pledge, sale of assets, debt test, and dividend test**

The choice highlighting security details, negative pledge, sale of assets, debt test, and dividend test accurately represents protective provisions commonly found in bond contracts. Security details refer to the specifics of the collateralized assets that back the bond, providing bondholders with a claim on these assets in case of default. This can greatly reduce the risk associated with the bond, as bondholders have a tangible asset to claim. A negative pledge is a covenant that prevents the issuer from pledging certain assets to other creditors, thereby ensuring that the bondholders have a priority claim on those assets. This is crucial in safeguarding bondholder interests, particularly if the issuer faces financial difficulties. The sale of assets provision restricts the issuer's ability to sell off significant assets without bondholder approval. This protection ensures that the issuer maintains a healthy balance sheet that can support its debt obligations. The debt test requires the issuer to maintain certain financial ratios, thereby ensuring that their leverage remains within a manageable range. This is vital for maintaining the issuer's creditworthiness. Finally, the dividend test limits the issuer's ability to pay dividends on its equity while debt obligations are outstanding. This ensures that cash flow is preserved for meeting interest and principal payments to bondholders. These provisions are fundamental in establishing a

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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://canadiansecuritieslevelone.examzify.com>

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

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