

Certamen Harvard Intermediate 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 word meaning "to pick up" is a compound of emō?
 - A. Sūmō
 - B. Capiō
 - C. Adīre
 - D. Accēdo

2. What use of the accusative is found in phrases like "Mē miserum" and "Ecce mē"?
 - A. Accusative of exclamation
 - B. Accusative of destination
 - C. Direct object
 - D. Accusative of time

3. Which of the following is NOT a name of a Spartoi who survived?
 - A. Echion
 - B. Udaeus
 - C. Pelorus
 - D. Theseus

4. Otus and Ephialtes were the sons of Poseidon and what woman?
 - A. Athena
 - B. Circe
 - C. Iphemedēia
 - D. Calypso

5. Which figure ridiculed Phaethon about his parentage?
 - A. Helios
 - B. Clymene
 - C. Epaphus
 - D. Daemon

6. Who are the parents of Achilles, whose wedding was interrupted by Eris?
- A. Peleus and Thetis
 - B. Zeus and Hera
 - C. Hades and Persephone
 - D. Poseidon and Amphitrite
7. What does the name "Eumenides" literally mean in relation to the Furies?
- A. Avenging Spirits
 - B. Kindly Ones
 - C. Wrathful Beings
 - D. Nightmare Creatures
8. Make 'haec rēs atrōx' accusative singular.
- A. Hanc rem atrōcem
 - B. Hac rem atrōcem
 - C. Hanc rēs atrōx
 - D. Haec rem atrōcem
9. Who allied himself with Antonius Primus and later became a future emperor?
- A. Nero
 - B. Vespasian
 - C. Trajan
 - D. Domitian
10. Which ruler restored the territories taken from Rome by Orodes II?
- A. Phraates IV
 - B. Ardashir
 - C. Surena
 - D. Demophoon

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What word meaning "to pick up" is a compound of emō?

- A. Sūmō**
- B. Capiō
- C. Adīre
- D. Accēdo

The term that means "to pick up" and is a compound of the verb emō is sūmō. The verb emō itself means "to take" or "to buy," and sūmō derives from it through the prefix "sū-" which implies upward movement or taking up. Therefore, sūmō translates to "I take up" or "I pick up," effectively conveying the notion of lifting or acquiring something. The other words presented do not share this relationship with emō. Capiō means "I seize" or "I take," but it does not form a compound with emō. Adīre means "to approach" or "to go to," while accēdo translates to "I approach" or "I come near." Neither of these verbs relates to the idea of picking up in the context intended by the question.

2. What use of the accusative is found in phrases like "Mē miserum" and "Ecce mē"?

- A. Accusative of exclamation**
- B. Accusative of destination
- C. Direct object
- D. Accusative of time

The phrase "Mē miserum" translates to "Me wretched" and "Ecce mē" translates to "Behold me." In these constructions, the accusative case is employed to convey a strong emotional response or exclamatory statement about the subject being addressed. This usage falls under the category of the accusative of exclamation, where the accusative case intensifies the expression of emotion or sentiment, rather than serving a grammatical function such as a direct object or indicating time. In "Mē miserum," the speaker is exclaiming about their own state of misery, and in "Ecce mē," the speaker commands attention, calling out for someone to behold them. This use of the accusative highlights the emotional aspect of the phrases rather than a grammatical relationship typically seen with direct objects or specifications of time or destination.

3. Which of the following is NOT a name of a Spartoi who survived?

- A. Echion
- B. Udaeus
- C. Pelorus
- D. Theseus**

The correct answer is that Theseus is not a name of a Spartoi who survived. The Spartoi are mythical warriors from Greek mythology who were said to have sprung from the dragon's teeth sown by Cadmus. According to the legend, the Spartoi were five warriors who survived after slaying each other in battle, specifically Echion, Udaeus, and other characters associated with the myth. Theseus, on the other hand, is a well-known hero in Greek mythology known for his many adventures, including slaying the Minotaur and various feats involving the Amazons and battles with other mythical creatures. He is not one of the Spartoi but represents a different heroic lineage and narrative in the mythology. Recognizing these characters and their respective stories helps in understanding the broader tapestry of Greek mythological figures and their significance.

4. Otus and Ephialtes were the sons of Poseidon and what woman?

A. Athena

B. Circe

C. Iphimedēia

D. Calypso

Otus and Ephialtes, known as the Otusian giants in Greek mythology, were indeed the sons of Poseidon and a woman named Iphimedeia. She was described in mythology as a figure connected to the earth and the divine, which aligns with Poseidon's own power over the sea and the earth. The story of Otus and Ephialtes highlights their incredible height and strength, which they used to challenge the gods, particularly seeking to reach the heavens. The other figures mentioned—Athena, Circe, and Calypso—are mythological characters associated with different stories and themes. Athena is known for her wisdom and warfare, Circe for her sorcery, and Calypso for her role in Odysseus's adventures. None are linked to the parentage of Otus and Ephialtes, making Iphimedeia the correct answer in this context.

5. Which figure ridiculed Phaethon about his parentage?

A. Helios

B. Clymene

C. Epaphus

D. Daemon

The figure who ridiculed Phaethon about his parentage was Epaphus. In the myth, Epaphus is often portrayed as a friend of Phaethon who doubts Phaethon's claim that Helios, the sun god, is his father. This moment of ridicule stems from Epaphus's disbelief, leading to Phaethon's desire to prove himself and seek confirmation of his lineage by asking to drive Helios's chariot across the sky. This interaction highlights themes of identity and validation, as Phaethon feels the need to prove his divine heritage in the face of skepticism from Epaphus. Phaethon's journey toward self-discovery and acceptance of his identity forms a critical part of the narrative, and it is this ridicule that ultimately sets the tragic events of his story in motion.

6. Who are the parents of Achilles, whose wedding was interrupted by Eris?

- A. Peleus and Thetis**
- B. Zeus and Hera**
- C. Hades and Persephone**
- D. Poseidon and Amphitrite**

Achilles, one of the most famous heroes of Greek mythology, is the son of Peleus, a mortal king, and Thetis, a sea nymph. The wedding of Peleus and Thetis is a significant event in mythological narratives because it was at this wedding that Eris, the goddess of discord, threw the golden apple inscribed with "To the fairest." This act initiated a series of events leading to the Trojan War, as it ultimately sparked a dispute among the goddesses Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite. The other options listed do not pertain to the parents of Achilles. Zeus and Hera are the king and queen of the gods, while Hades and Persephone rule the underworld, and Poseidon and Amphitrite are associated with the sea. None of these pairings directly relate to the lineage of Achilles, making Peleus and Thetis the correct and relevant answer in the context of his parentage and the associated mythological narrative.

7. What does the name "Eumenides" literally mean in relation to the Furies?

- A. Avenging Spirits**
- B. Kindly Ones**
- C. Wrathful Beings**
- D. Nightmare Creatures**

The name "Eumenides" literally means "Kindly Ones." This term is a euphemistic title for the Furies, who are also known as Erinyes in Greek mythology. While the Furies were initially seen as vengeful spirits who pursued wrongdoers and instilled fear, the name "Eumenides" reflects a complex transformation in their representation. This designation suggests a more benevolent aspect, indicating that they could also be protectors of justice and order, especially in the context of the trials and purification of the guilty. As such, the title embodies a duality in their nature and highlights how the Furies could be perceived as guardians who ensure moral conduct, rather than strictly vengeful entities. The other options include interpretations that align more closely with their intimidating characteristics rather than the nuanced understanding conveyed by "Eumenides." The term emphasizes the cultural tendency to soften the image of deities related to vengeance by using a more positive, respectful name.

8. Make 'haec rēs atrōx' accusative singular.

A. Hanc rem atrōcem

B. Hac rem atrōcem

C. Hanc rēs atrōx

D. Haec rem atrōcem

The phrase "haec rēs atrōx" translates to "this terrible thing" in English, where "haec" is the nominative singular feminine form of the demonstrative pronoun, "rēs" is the nominative singular feminine noun for "thing," and "atrōx" is the nominative singular form of the adjective meaning "terrible." To change this phrase to the accusative singular, you need to ensure that all parts match the accusative case. The accusative singular feminine form of "rēs" is "rem." Additionally, the demonstrative pronoun "haec" must agree with the noun in case, number, and gender, and thus changes to "hanc." The adjective remains in the accusative singular form as "atrōcem" to agree with "rem." Putting all of this together, you arrive at "hanc rem atrōcem," meaning "this terrible thing" in the accusative case, which is the correct transformation of the original phrase.

9. Who allied himself with Antonius Primus and later became a future emperor?

A. Nero

B. Vespasian

C. Trajan

D. Domitian

The individual who allied himself with Antonius Primus and later became emperor is Vespasian. In the context of Roman history, Antonius Primus was a significant general during the Year of the Four Emperors (69 AD), a tumultuous period marked by civil war following the death of Nero. Vespasian, who was a key figure in this power struggle, initially aligned himself with Antonius Primus to bolster his claims to power during this chaotic time. Vespasian's support of Primus was instrumental in his rise, especially given that Primus was a key ally in successfully overthrowing the previous emperor, Vitellius. Following the successful campaign that led to his eventual elevation as emperor, Vespasian initiated a new dynasty known as the Flavian dynasty, which would have lasting impacts on Rome, including construction projects like the Colosseum. This context is important to understanding Vespasian's strategic partnerships during the power transitions in Rome and signifies why he was a pivotal figure leading to the stabilizing of the empire post-Nero's rule. The other options, while notable figures in Roman history, do not have the same connection to Antonius Primus during this particular time frame.

10. Which ruler restored the territories taken from Rome by Orodes II?

A. Phraates IV

B. Ardashir

C. Surena

D. Demophoon

Phraates IV, the ruler of the Parthian Empire, is credited with restoring the territories that had been taken from Rome by Orodes II. Orodes II had previously engaged in conflicts with Roman generals, leading to territorial gains for the Parthians. However, Phraates IV's reign saw a shift in power dynamics. He negotiated peace and territorial boundaries through both warfare and diplomacy. His consolidation of power and subsequent military campaigns allowed him to reclaim and stabilize the regions that had changed hands. This context is crucial in understanding why Phraates IV is the correct answer. During his rule, he managed to reassert Parthian influence in the region and maintain control over territories that were once part of the ancient Roman Empire, thereby reinforcing the power of the Parthian state.

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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:

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

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