

CERTIFIED SURVEY TECHNICIAN LEVEL 1 PRACTICE EXAM (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 technique is commonly utilized to establish a vertical control point?

- A. Re-sectioning
- B. Trilateration
- C. Leveling
- D. Benchmarking

2. Why is accuracy important when taking field notes?

- A. To ensure the field notes are obtained quickly
- B. To provide a precise record of survey operations
- C. To allow for more creative interpretations
- D. To minimize the need for equipment

3. How are original field notes characterized?

- A. Notes taken during the analysis phase
- B. Notes taken at the time the survey measurements were made
- C. Notes reviewed after project completion
- D. Summaries prepared for clients

4. Hydrographic surveys must be referenced to which type of control?

- A. Horizontal and vertical
- B. Vertical and magnetic
- C. Lateral and longitudinal
- D. Geodetic and planimetric

5. In a typical roadway construction project, which of the following is not necessarily required?

- A. Hard hats
- B. Safety vest
- C. Protective goggles
- D. Work shoes

- 6. What is the minimum speed allowed in a construction zone on a multi-lane divided highway?**
- A. 30 mph
 - B. 45 mph
 - C. 55 mph
 - D. 60 mph
- 7. Which details are normally required to be included in field notes?**
- A. Date, name of party chief and crew members, weather conditions
 - B. Name of the landowner and surveyor
 - C. Type of equipment used and time taken
 - D. Observations made during the survey
- 8. Break lines on plat details are used to indicate what?**
- A. A longer depiction of an entire object
 - B. An incomplete representation of the object
 - C. A shorter depiction of an entire object
 - D. An alternate view of the object
- 9. What should you do if you detect that your instrument has a collimation error?**
- A. Adjust the instrument yourself
 - B. Take to repairman
 - C. Ignore the error
 - D. Calibrate the instrument
- 10. What scale is primarily used in the United States for scaling distances on a surveying drawing?**
- A. Metric scale
 - B. Architectural scale
 - C. Engineering scale
 - D. Geographic scale

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What technique is commonly utilized to establish a vertical control point?

- A. Re-sectioning
- B. Trilateration
- C. Leveling**
- D. Benchmarking

The technique commonly utilized to establish a vertical control point is leveling. Leveling is a precise surveying method used to determine the height differences between points, which is essential for establishing vertical control points. This technique involves measuring the vertical distances relative to a reference point, ensuring that the elevation of the control point is accurately determined. Leveling is critical in construction, mapping, and various engineering projects, ensuring that all subsequent measurements or structures are correctly aligned vertically. By establishing a reliable vertical control point through leveling, surveyors can ensure the accuracy and integrity of their work, facilitating proper drainage, foundation placement, and overall site design. Other techniques, such as re-sectioning and trilateration, are primarily used for horizontal positioning rather than establishing vertical control. Benchmarking is a related concept referring to the use of established points of known elevation, but it doesn't describe the process of measuring and establishing a vertical control point directly.

2. Why is accuracy important when taking field notes?

- A. To ensure the field notes are obtained quickly
- B. To provide a precise record of survey operations**
- C. To allow for more creative interpretations
- D. To minimize the need for equipment

Accuracy is fundamental when taking field notes because it provides a precise record of survey operations. When conducting surveys, the data collected must be reliable and exact, as these notes serve as a legal document and guide for future reference. Accurate field notes ensure that the measurements and observations are recorded correctly, which is essential for reproducing results, verifying the integrity of the data, and making informed decisions based on the survey findings. This precision facilitates effective communication among surveyors and other stakeholders involved in the project, ultimately upholding the quality and credibility of the surveying work. High accuracy in field notes also aids in identifying and resolving discrepancies that may arise during data analysis or application in engineering or planning contexts.

3. How are original field notes characterized?

- A. Notes taken during the analysis phase
- B. Notes taken at the time the survey measurements were made**
- C. Notes reviewed after project completion
- D. Summaries prepared for clients

Original field notes are characterized as notes taken at the time the survey measurements were made. This means that they are direct records of what the surveyor observed and measured in the field, capturing details such as distances, angles, elevations, and other pertinent data relevant to the survey. The immediacy of these notes is crucial, as they reflect the conditions, techniques, and methodologies utilized during the surveying process without any alterations or biases that might occur at a later stage. This characteristic makes original field notes foundational for ensuring accuracy and reliability in the survey's results. They serve as primary documentation for the survey work, providing essential insights for subsequent analysis, reporting, and verification processes. Having this data recorded as it happens helps maintain the integrity and quality of the surveying work, which is vital for professional standards in the field.

4. Hydrographic surveys must be referenced to which type of control?

- A. Horizontal and vertical
- B. Vertical and magnetic
- C. Lateral and longitudinal
- D. Geodetic and planimetric

The correct answer focuses on the necessity for hydrographic surveys to be referenced to both horizontal and vertical control points. Horizontal control is essential for accurately determining the position of points on the Earth's surface, which is crucial for mapping underwater features and navigational routes. Vertical control is equally important as it establishes the elevation or depth, which allows for the accurate representation of underwater topography and changes in water levels. In hydrographic surveying, the combination of these controls ensures that the data collected reflects the true position and depth of features relative to a standardized datum. This dual reference is vital for creating reliable charts and conducting safe navigation in maritime contexts. By using both horizontal and vertical controls, surveyors can produce detailed and accurate representations of aquatic environments that are critical for various marine applications, including navigation, resource management, and environmental studies.

5. In a typical roadway construction project, which of the following is not necessarily required?

- A. Hard hats
- B. Safety vest
- C. Protective goggles
- D. Work shoes

In a typical roadway construction project, the necessity of protective goggles can vary depending on the specific tasks being performed on-site. While all the personal protective equipment (PPE) mentioned plays a crucial role in ensuring safety, protective goggles may not be universally required for every worker or operation within the project. For instance, if a worker is involved in general labor not involving flying debris, chemical hazards, or other risks that necessitate eye protection, goggles may not be required in that instance. On the other hand, hard hats are essential for protecting against falling objects, and safety vests are critical for visibility, especially in areas where vehicles may be present. Work shoes are also vital, offering support and protecting the feet from heavy objects or accidents. As a result, while protective goggles are important safety gear, their use may depend on the specific job duties or environment, making them not necessarily required for everyone on-site.

6. What is the minimum speed allowed in a construction zone on a multi-lane divided highway?

- A. 30 mph
- B. 45 mph
- C. 55 mph
- D. 60 mph

In many jurisdictions, the minimum speed in a construction zone on a multi-lane divided highway is often set at 45 mph to ensure safety and efficiency in the flow of traffic. This speed allows vehicles to maintain a reasonable pace while also accommodating the presence of construction activities that may affect road conditions or traffic patterns. While some areas may have different regulations, establishing a minimum speed helps prevent drivers from going too slowly, which can create hazardous conditions and impede traffic flow. The specific speed limits can vary by state or region, but a typical minimum of 45 mph strikes a balance between safety and maintaining traffic momentum in construction zones, especially on highways designed for higher-speed travel.

7. Which details are normally required to be included in field notes?

- A. Date, name of party chief and crew members, weather conditions
- B. Name of the landowner and surveyor
- C. Type of equipment used and time taken
- D. Observations made during the survey

Field notes are an essential part of any surveying process, capturing important details that provide context and ensure the validity of the survey work. The correct answer includes several critical details: the date, the name of the party chief and crew members, and the weather conditions. The date is crucial for recording when the survey was conducted, as this information can be important for legal purposes, future reference, and understanding the context of the collected data. Identifying the party chief and crew members is also important, as it allows for accountability and traceability; anyone reviewing the notes later will know who was responsible for conducting the survey. Weather conditions might influence the survey's accuracy and must be documented as they can affect visibility, ground conditions, and even equipment performance. In contrast, while knowing the name of the landowner and surveyor or the type of equipment used may be useful, they do not provide the same foundational information about the survey conditions or crew responsibility that field notes aim to capture. Additionally, while recording observations made during the survey is important, they focus more on the interpretation of data rather than the operational context outlined in the chosen answer. Thus, the details in the correct answer align closely with the essential elements that ensure a comprehensive and reliable record of the surveying

8. Break lines on plat details are used to indicate what?

- A. A longer depiction of an entire object
- B. An incomplete representation of the object
- C. A shorter depiction of an entire object
- D. An alternate view of the object

Break lines on plat details are commonly used to indicate a shorter depiction of an entire object. When a surveyor uses break lines, it suggests that the object is too large to represent fully on the drawing to scale. Instead of showing the complete form, break lines allow for a simplified view, making it clear to the viewer that the representation is not exhaustive but rather condenses that object's portrayal. This can improve the clarity of the drawing by avoiding undue complexity and making it easier to understand the overall layout without overwhelming detail or unnecessary information. The use of break lines effectively communicates to viewers that although the entire object may exist in reality, the emphasis is placed on key aspects that are relevant for the survey or analysis at hand. This technique is essential in ensuring that drawings remain practical and useful in conveying information efficiently.

9. What should you do if you detect that your instrument has a collimation error?

- A. Adjust the instrument yourself
- B. Take to repairman**
- C. Ignore the error
- D. Calibrate the instrument

When a collimation error is detected in surveying instruments, it is essential to address the issue appropriately to ensure precise measurements. Taking the instrument to a repairman is vital because collimation errors can indicate underlying problems that may require professional adjustment or calibration expertise. A repairman has the specialized knowledge and tools necessary to diagnose and resolve such issues, ensuring that the instrument functions correctly. Attempting to adjust the instrument yourself might lead to further inaccuracies or damage, as proper calibration often requires an understanding of the instrument's mechanics and optics. Ignoring the error can result in consistently inaccurate readings, which compromises the integrity of survey data. Calibration, while a necessary routine maintenance task, is generally performed by professionals in cases of detected errors, especially when it pertains to critical aspects like collimation. In summary, the correct action in the presence of a collimation error is to consult a repairman to ensure that the instrument is restored to proper working order.

10. What scale is primarily used in the United States for scaling distances on a surveying drawing?

- A. Metric scale
- B. Architectural scale
- C. Engineering scale**
- D. Geographic scale

The engineering scale is predominantly utilized for scaling distances on surveying drawings in the United States. This scale features divisions that represent feet and decimal fractions, making it particularly suitable for civil engineering and surveying applications where precision is crucial. Surveyors often need to create accurate representations of land and structures, and the engineering scale allows for effective communication of these details. In contrast, the architectural scale is specifically tailored for architectural drawings, often reflecting inches and feet in a way that is beneficial for illustrating building designs. The metric scale, while useful in certain contexts, is less commonly applied in the US for surveying purposes. Similarly, the geographic scale focuses on the larger context of land measurements but does not provide the precision that an engineering scale does for specific surveying tasks. Thus, the engineering scale is recognized for its practical application in the precise measurement and documentation of land and infrastructure in surveying.

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://surveytechlvl1.examzify.com>

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

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