

# Certified Utility Safety Professional (CUSP) 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. If equipment contacts an energized line, which of the following techniques are included as measures of protection?**
  - A. Use best ground to minimize exposure to energized line, bond to maintain equi-potential. Use ground mats, use insulating protective equipment or barricades.**
  - B. Only use insulating protective equipment.**
  - C. Barricades alone are sufficient.**
  - D. Ground mats are unnecessary.**
  
- 2. A willful OSHA violation occurs when you knowingly and intentionally commit a violation. What is the maximum penalty?**
  - A. Up to 70,000**
  - B. Up to 7,000**
  - C. Up to 700,000**
  - D. Up to 50,000**
  
- 3. The OSHA definition is criteria for what? "One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate"**
  - A. A competent person**
  - B. A safety officer**
  - C. A supervisor**
  - D. A lead worker**
  
- 4. Which color is associated with Class 3 gloves?**
  - A. Red**
  - B. Green**
  - C. Blue**
  - D. Yellow**

- 5. What is the 4:1 ladder angle rule often cited as?**
- A. 4:1 with the ladder at 75 degrees**
  - B. 3:1 with the ladder at 71 degrees**
  - C. 4:1 ex. 16' ladder 4' from wall**
  - D. 2:1 with the ladder at 60 degrees**
- 6. What is a fall restraint by definition?**
- A. Fall Arrest Allows a Controlled Fall**
  - B. Fall Restraint Prevents You From Falling whatsoever. You Can't Fall From Any Level and Are Tied Off Regardless.**
  - C. It Uses a Harness to Limit Fall Distance**
  - D. It Is the Same as a Guardrail**
- 7. Which leadership style relies on personality and inspiration to influence others?**
- A. Democratic Participative**
  - B. Transformational**
  - C. Servant**
  - D. Charismatic**
- 8. Which C relates to dedication and staying the course?**
- A. Competent**
  - B. Commitment**
  - C. Courage**
  - D. Compassion**
- 9. OSHA's general duty clause 5-a-1 who is held accountable when hazards are involved?**
- A. The employee**
  - B. The supervisor**
  - C. The employer of the employee**
  - D. The safety committee**

**10. Which safety practice is described with the disconnecting means regarding operation and personnel presence?**

- A. Prohibit operation and indicate that personnel are at work.**
- B. Allow operation with caution.**
- C. Bypass safety features.**
- D. No safety action required.**

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## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. If equipment contacts an energized line, which of the following techniques are included as measures of protection?**

**A. Use best ground to minimize exposure to energized line, bond to maintain equi-potential. Use ground mats, use insulating protective equipment or barricades.**

**B. Only use insulating protective equipment.**

**C. Barricades alone are sufficient.**

**D. Ground mats are unnecessary.**

When equipment touches an energized line, the goal is to minimize a worker's exposure by creating an equipotential scenario and providing barriers and protective gear. The best protection comes from combining several measures: establishing a solid grounding path to keep the potential of exposed conductive parts aligned with the system ground, bonding all exposed conductive surfaces so they share the same potential, and using ground mats to reduce surface and step potential around the work area. Adding insulating protective equipment provides personal protection against contact or arcing, and barricades help keep unauthorized personnel away from the hazard. Relying on insulating gear alone doesn't address potential differences or the paths current can take if a fault occurs. Barricades without a grounded, equi-potential environment don't reduce the electrical risk if someone inadvertently contacts a live surface. Ground mats or bonding without other protections also leaves gaps. By layering these measures—grounding, bonding, mats, insulating PPE, and barricades—the worker's exposure to hazardous voltages is minimized in multiple ways, making the approach much more robust.

**2. A willful OSHA violation occurs when you knowingly and intentionally commit a violation. What is the maximum penalty?**

**A. Up to 70,000**

**B. Up to 7,000**

**C. Up to 700,000**

**D. Up to 50,000**

A willful violation is when someone knowingly and intentionally disregards OSHA standards, making it the most serious type of citation. Because the violation is intentional, OSHA assigns the highest penalty level to deter this behavior. In the context of this exam material, the maximum penalty for a willful violation is up to 70,000 per violation. This upper limit is higher than penalties for serious or other-than-serious violations, which helps illustrate why intent matters. Penalties can apply to each distinct violation and, in some cases, for each day the violation continues, potentially increasing the total. So the option stating up to 70,000 best reflects the maximum for a willful violation in this framework.

**3. The OSHA definition is criteria for what? "One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate"**

**A. A competent person**

**B. A safety officer**

**C. A supervisor**

**D. A lead worker**

OSHA's criteria describe a competent person: someone on site who can identify existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has the authority to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them. This role isn't just about knowing hazards; it requires the authority to act immediately to fix or remove them. A safety officer, while focusing on safety programs and policy, isn't necessarily on the job site with the authority to make real-time changes. Supervisors and lead workers may have some authority, but the definition centers on being on-site, capable of hazard recognition, and empowered to take prompt corrective action, which is the essence of a competent person.

**4. Which color is associated with Class 3 gloves?**

**A. Red**

**B. Green**

**C. Blue**

**D. Yellow**

Color coding helps you quickly identify the voltage rating of insulating gloves. The green color is used to designate Class 3 gloves, which means these gloves are suited for higher voltage protection than the lower classes. This quick visual cue helps prevent using underprotective gloves on energized work. Always verify the glove rating on its label and inspect for damage before use, and remember that other colors correspond to other classes, not Class 3.

**5. What is the 4:1 ladder angle rule often cited as?**

**A. 4:1 with the ladder at 75 degrees**

**B. 3:1 with the ladder at 71 degrees**

**C. 4:1 ex. 16' ladder 4' from wall**

**D. 2:1 with the ladder at 60 degrees**

The main idea being tested is safe ladder setup through a simple ratio. The 4:1 rule means for every 4 feet of vertical reach, the base of the ladder should be set 1 foot away from the wall. This ratio keeps the ladder at a stable angle, roughly around 75 degrees to the ground. For example, a 16-foot ladder with its base 4 feet from the wall follows the 4:1 rule and results in about a 75-degree angle, giving a stable, safe position. The ratio is the key point because it ties the ladder length, how high you can reach, and how far you move the base from the wall into a single guideline.

## 6. What is a fall restraint by definition?

- A. Fall Arrest Allows a Controlled Fall
- B. Fall Restraint Prevents You From Falling whatsoever. You Can't Fall From Any Level and Are Tied Off Regardless.**
- C. It Uses a Harness to Limit Fall Distance
- D. It Is the Same as a Guardrail

Fall restraint is a protection approach that prevents a fall by limiting your movement so you cannot reach a fall hazard in the first place. In practice, you're tied off to a secure anchor, and your movements are constrained enough that you can't get to the edge or another point where a fall could start. This is different from fall arrest, which is about stopping a fall after it has begun and often involves energy-absorbing devices and clearance considerations. A harness that merely limits how far you might fall still relies on the fall hazard existing; restraint, by design, keeps you from encountering that hazard at all. Guardrails serve as a barrier, not a personal restraint system, so they aren't the same concept as fall restraint.

## 7. Which leadership style relies on personality and inspiration to influence others?

- A. Democratic Participative
- B. Transformational
- C. Servant
- D. Charismatic**

Charismatic leadership relies on the leader's personal charm, confidence, and emotional appeal to influence others. A charismatic leader envisions a compelling future, communicates it with energy, and uses their presence to motivate people to identify with the vision and go beyond usual efforts. The influence comes from the leader's personality and the emotional connection followers feel, rather than from formal authority or routine processes. Democratic participative focuses on gathering input and sharing decision-making, so influence grows through collaboration rather than personal magnetism. Servant leadership centers on serving others and prioritizing their needs, with influence built through trust, ethics, and service. Transformational leadership involves elevating and transforming followers through vision and inspiration, along with development and change-focused motivation; it can involve inspiration, but its primary mechanism isn't the leader's personal magnetism in the same direct way as charismatic leadership.

## 8. Which C relates to dedication and staying the course?

- A. Competent
- B. Commitment**
- C. Courage
- D. Compassion

Dedication and staying the course are about commitment—the steady, long-term resolve to pursue a goal and follow through on plans, even when progress slows or obstacles appear. Commitment keeps a safety program moving forward, from setting priorities to maintaining discipline in training, audits, and corrective actions until goals are met. While competence relates to having the necessary skills, courage involves facing danger or taking bold steps, and compassion centers on concern for others. These other traits support safety work, but commitment is what sustains effort and reliability over time.

**9. OSHA's general duty clause 5-a-1 who is held accountable when hazards are involved?**

- A. The employee**
- B. The supervisor**
- C. The employer of the employee**
- D. The safety committee**

The main concept is that OSHA's general duty clause assigns the primary responsibility for a safe workplace to the employer. This clause requires the employer to provide a workplace free from recognized hazards and to correct conditions that could cause death or serious physical harm. Because the employer controls the conditions, resources, and safety programs in the workplace, they are the party held accountable when hazards are involved. Employees must follow safety rules and report hazards, and supervisors focus on enforcing safety in their area, while a safety committee aids in implementing safety programs. But the formal accountability for hazards under this clause rests with the employer.

**10. Which safety practice is described with the disconnecting means regarding operation and personnel presence?**

- A. Prohibit operation and indicate that personnel are at work.**
- B. Allow operation with caution.**
- C. Bypass safety features.**
- D. No safety action required.**

When a worker is at the equipment or performing maintenance, the energy sources must be isolated and protected from being re-energized. The safest and most appropriate practice is to prohibit operation and clearly indicate that personnel are at work by locking out and tagging the disconnecting means. This creates a physical barrier to startup and provides a visible warning that maintenance is in progress, so no one can accidentally energize the equipment. Allowing operation with caution or bypassing safety features does not truly prevent unexpected energization, and saying no safety action is required ignores the clear risk to workers.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://cusp.examzify.com>**

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

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