

# Certiport ACA Photoshop Certification 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. Which of the following is a type of gradient in Photoshop?**
  - A. Radial**
  - B. Diamond**
  - C. Linear**
  - D. Angle**
  
- 2. The rulers must be visible in order to add grids or guides.**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Only when snapping is on**
  - D. It is not possible to add grids without rulers**
  
- 3. Which tool is used to darken areas of an image, based on increased exposure?**
  - A. Sponge**
  - B. Burn**
  - C. Blur**
  - D. Dodge**
  
- 4. Duplicating a custom brush automatically assigns a name to the duplicate.**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Not Sure**
  - D. It Depends**
  
- 5. When handling project scope creep, which factor should be considered by all parties involved?**
  - A. Budget increase**
  - B. New stakeholders**
  - C. Additional time**
  - D. Additional resources**

- 6. What typographic term refers to the space between a range of characters?**
- A. Kerning**
  - B. Tracking**
  - C. Leading**
  - D. Type Style**
- 7. What is the standard blank document size when creating a new Photoshop print project?**
- A. 8.5 x 11 in**
  - B. 11 x 17 in**
  - C. 8 x 10 in**
  - D. 4 x 6 in**
- 8. A layer mask is edited with painting or selection tools.**
- A. Eraser Tool**
  - B. Text Tool**
  - C. Painting Tools**
  - D. Clone Stamp**
- 9. Which tool paints with sampled pixels from an image and requires you to sample a source spot first?**
- A. Brush Tool**
  - B. Healing Brush Tool**
  - C. Dodge Tool**
  - D. Clone Stamp Tool**
- 10. An Adjustment layer can only be applied to a single layer.**
- A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. It depends**
  - D. Not applicable**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which of the following is a type of gradient in Photoshop?**

- A. Radial
- B. Diamond**
- C. Linear
- D. Angle

Photoshop offers several gradient styles you can choose from to shape how colors transition across a layer. Diamond is one of these styles. It produces a gradient that expands outward in a diamond-shaped pattern from the center, because it uses a distance metric that emphasizes diagonal directions. This is different from a linear gradient, which moves color along a straight line; a radial gradient, which forms a circular transition from the center outward; and an angle gradient, which creates color bands that rotate around the center. So Diamond is a valid type of gradient in Photoshop, alongside those other styles.

**2. The rulers must be visible in order to add grids or guides.**

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Only when snapping is on
- D. It is not possible to add grids without rulers

Rulers don't have to be visible to add grids or guides. You can place guides using View > New Guide (choose horizontal or vertical and set the position) and you can create a grid layout with View > New Guide Layout. If you just want to see a grid, turn on View > Show > Grid and adjust its spacing in the preferences. Snapping can help objects align to the grid or guides, but it isn't required to create them. So the statement is not correct.

**3. Which tool is used to darken areas of an image, based on increased exposure?**

- A. Sponge
- B. Burn**
- C. Blur
- D. Dodge

Localized tonal adjustment uses the Burn tool to darken areas by applying more exposure to those pixels, emulating the darkroom technique of burning, which increases exposure to a chosen area to deepen tones. You can choose which tonal range to affect—Shadows, Midtones, or Highlights—and set Exposure to control how strong the darkening is. The Dodge tool does the opposite and lightens areas; Blur softens details, and Sponge changes color saturation. Therefore, to darken areas based on increased exposure, the Burn tool is the correct choice.

**4. Duplicating a custom brush automatically assigns a name to the duplicate.**

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Not Sure
- D. It Depends

Duplicating a custom brush creates a copy with the same settings, but it does not automatically assign a distinct name to that copy. You'll usually want to rename the duplicate so you can tell it apart from the original, especially when you're building a library of brushes. This keeps your presets organized while you experiment with variations, since the duplicate shares the original's characteristics until you change them.

**5. When handling project scope creep, which factor should be considered by all parties involved?**

- A. Budget increase
- B. New stakeholders
- C. Additional time
- D. Additional resources**

When scope creep happens, the immediate practical question for everyone involved is whether there are enough resources to handle the extra work. The added tasks demand more people, tools, materials, or other support to complete them without sacrificing quality or timing. So, discussing and agreeing on additional resources is the most direct way to address the expanded scope and keep the project moving forward. While scope creep can also lead to a higher budget, longer timelines, or the need for new stakeholders, those are consequences that typically arise because the work has grown; the central, actionable factor to manage across all parties is whether more resources are available or needed to absorb the change.

**6. What typographic term refers to the space between a range of characters?**

- A. Kerning
- B. Tracking**
- C. Leading
- D. Type Style

Tracking is the spacing applied across a range of characters, adjusting the distance between all characters in a selection uniformly. This helps control how dense or airy the text block feels and can improve readability or fit text to a specific width. Kerning, by contrast, is about the space between two specific characters to balance their shapes for optical harmony. Leading refers to vertical space between lines of text, not horizontal character spacing. Type Style describes the appearance of the characters (like bold or italic) rather than spacing. So for the space between a range of characters, tracking is the best term.

**7. What is the standard blank document size when creating a new Photoshop print project?**

- A. 8.5 x 11 in**
- B. 11 x 17 in**
- C. 8 x 10 in**
- D. 4 x 6 in**

Starting a Photoshop print project, you typically begin with a size that matches common paper used for general documents. 8.5 by 11 inches is the standard blank canvas because it mirrors US Letter paper, the most widely used size for everyday prints like documents, drafts, and layouts. It's a practical default when you don't have a specific final size, making it easy to print on standard office printers and share with others. The other sizes shown are more specialized: 11 x 17 is a larger tabloid size often used for posters or spreads, 8 x 10 is a common photo print size, and 4 x 6 is a small portrait photo size. You can always adjust the dimensions and resolution later to match the exact print requirements.

**8. A layer mask is edited with painting or selection tools.**

- A. Eraser Tool**
- B. Text Tool**
- C. Painting Tools**
- D. Clone Stamp**

Layer masks control a layer's transparency using grayscale values, where white shows the layer, Black hides it, and gray partially reveals it. To change how much of the layer is visible, you edit the mask itself by painting on it. Painting tools directly apply grayscale values to the mask, giving precise control over edges and transitions. Using a brush with white can reveal more, black can hide more, and gray tones can create smooth, feathered blends. Adjusting the brush's size, hardness, opacity, and flow lets you tailor the effect from hard, defined edges to soft, gradual ones. The Eraser tool works on the image pixels themselves rather than the mask, so it isn't the standard way to modify a mask. The Text tool isn't relevant to masking, and while the Clone Stamp can be used in mask editing, painting tools are the typical and most straightforward method for sculpting what's visible through a mask.

**9. Which tool paints with sampled pixels from an image and requires you to sample a source spot first?**

**A. Brush Tool**

**B. Healing Brush Tool**

**C. Dodge Tool**

**D. Clone Stamp Tool**

The main idea here is painting with pixels that you sample from the image itself and then blending those pixels into the area you're fixing. You begin by choosing a source spot to sample from (Alt-click or Option-click on Mac) and then paint over the flaw. The sampled pixels are blended with the surrounding pixels, so the correction matches texture and tone for a natural look. This blending behavior is what sets it apart from tools that rely on a chosen color or that copy pixels exactly. The Brush Tool uses the current foreground color, not sampled image pixels. The Dodge Tool changes brightness rather than sampling. The Clone Stamp Tool also uses sampled pixels but copies them directly without blending, which is why it doesn't give the same seamless result as the healing counterpart. So, the Healing Brush Tool best fits the description.

**10. An Adjustment layer can only be applied to a single layer.**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. It depends**

**D. Not applicable**

Adjustment layers are non-destructive edits that sit above your artwork and affect the appearance of layers beneath them. By default, the effect applies to every visible layer below in the stack, so a single adjustment layer can modify multiple layers simultaneously. If you want the adjustment to affect only one layer, clip the adjustment layer to that layer (place it directly above the target layer and choose Create Clipping Mask or Alt/Option-click between the two layers). When clipped, the adjustment's effect is limited to that layer, leaving others unchanged. You can remove the clipping mask to restore the broader effect or reposition the adjustment to affect more layers. This flexibility is what makes adjustment layers versatile for non-destructive editing.

## 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://certiportacaphotoshop.examzify.com>**

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

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