

COGNITIVE ABILITIES TEST (CAT4) 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 type of inference helps Chaz understand that his grandma listened to a radio rather than a CD based on her description?**
 - A. Instrument inference
 - B. Contextual inference
 - C. Causal inference
 - D. Structural inference

- 2. When is a syllogism considered valid?**
 - A. If the premises are true
 - B. If the conclusion follows logically from the premises
 - C. If it contains at least two premises
 - D. If it has a universal quantifier

- 3. When solving problems, what type of features do people focus on to notice analogous relationships?**
 - A. Surface features
 - B. Structural features
 - C. Functional features
 - D. Contextual features

- 4. Which approach to parsing suggests that syntax is the main factor in sentence interpretation?**
 - A. Interactionist approach
 - B. Syntax-first approach
 - C. Semantics-first approach
 - D. Immediate-response approach

- 5. What does latent inhibition refer to in the context of creativity?**
 - A. The tendency to dismiss familiar stimuli
 - B. The ability to easily adapt to new situations
 - C. The inclination to focus on unimportant details
 - D. The skill of enhancing memory through repetition

- 6. What task do participants complete in the lexical decision task?**
- A. Decide if a string of letters is a word or a nonword
 - B. Count the number of words in a sentence
 - C. Repeat words after hearing them
 - D. Identify synonyms for given words
- 7. What does the evolutionary approach suggest about the Wason problem?**
- A. It involves complex mathematical calculations
 - B. It relates to detecting cheating behavior
 - C. It focuses on memory capacity
 - D. It highlights social interactions
- 8. Which cognitive concept assesses how people retrieve memories?**
- A. Heuristic evaluation
 - B. Memory reconstruction
 - C. Semantic processing
 - D. Contextual retrieval
- 9. In a lexical decision task, which word would participants likely take the longest to respond to after hearing the term "bugs"?**
- A. Insect
 - B. Sky
 - C. Spider
 - D. Critter
- 10. What does a phoneme refer to?**
- A. The smallest unit of meaning
 - B. The shortest segment of speech that changes meaning
 - C. A combination of words
 - D. The structure of a sentence

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of inference helps Chaz understand that his grandma listened to a radio rather than a CD based on her description?

- A. Instrument inference**
- B. Contextual inference
- C. Causal inference
- D. Structural inference

The correct choice is that Chaz uses an instrument inference to understand that his grandma listened to a radio rather than a CD based on her description. Instrument inference refers to the ability to deduce which tools or instruments are being used in a situation based on contextual clues or descriptions. In this case, if his grandma described listening to a specific type of broadcast or the way the music played (for example, referring to a station or the way the sound carried), those details would suggest the use of a radio instead of a CD player, which operates differently and has distinct characteristics. By interpreting these contextual hints about how the music was accessed or experienced, Chaz can reasonably conclude what instrument was in use. Contextual inference involves understanding meaning based on the surrounding context but does not specifically target the instruments involved. Causal inference relates to understanding cause-and-effect relationships rather than identifying sources of sound. Structural inference focuses on the arrangement or organization of elements rather than their function. Thus, instrument inference is most relevant to Chaz's reasoning in this scenario.

2. When is a syllogism considered valid?

- A. If the premises are true
- B. If the conclusion follows logically from the premises**
- C. If it contains at least two premises
- D. If it has a universal quantifier

A syllogism is considered valid when the conclusion follows logically from the premises. This means that if the premises are true, the conclusion must also be true as a result of the logical structure of the argument. Validity is about the form of the argument, not the actual truth of the premises. If the structure is such that the conclusion can be deduced from the premises, then the syllogism holds as valid. Regarding the other options, while having true premises is important for the argument's soundness, validity alone does not require the premises to be true. The number of premises is not a determining factor for validity; a syllogism can be valid regardless of whether it has two or more premises, as long as the logical connection between the premises and the conclusion is maintained. Similarly, a universal quantifier may enhance the precision of the argument, but it isn't a necessary condition for validity.

3. When solving problems, what type of features do people focus on to notice analogous relationships?

- A. Surface features
- B. Structural features**
- C. Functional features
- D. Contextual features

Focusing on structural features when identifying analogous relationships is crucial because this approach emphasizes the underlying principles and relationships that govern how different scenarios are connected, rather than their superficial attributes. Structural features allow individuals to draw parallels between situations based on the broader framework or concept they share, fostering more profound insights and solutions. In contrast, while surface features may involve easily observable attributes or specific details of the problems, they can often lead to a superficial understanding lacking the depth necessary for effective problem-solving. Functional features emphasize the role that components play, which, although important, might miss the relationships that exist between different elements. Contextual features pertain to the situational aspects surrounding a problem, which can vary widely and may distract from the essential structures that facilitate analogy-making. By attending to structural features, problem solvers can transfer knowledge and strategies from one context to another more effectively, leading to a stronger ability to recognize similarities and apply learned solutions to new challenges.

4. Which approach to parsing suggests that syntax is the main factor in sentence interpretation?

- A. Interactionist approach
- B. Syntax-first approach**
- C. Semantics-first approach
- D. Immediate-response approach

The syntax-first approach proposes that the structure of a sentence plays a crucial role in how we interpret its meaning. According to this perspective, when processing a sentence, individuals initially focus on its grammatical structure to construct an understanding of the sentence. This means that the interpretations made during parsing are primarily shaped by the syntactic rules and relationships evident in the sentence rather than by semantic cues or meanings derived from words in isolation. This approach is based on the idea that the human cognitive system prioritizes syntax in determining the correct parsing of a sentence, which can lead to certain interpretations being favored over others, especially in ambiguous sentences. By following syntactic rules, the brain can more quickly and efficiently navigate through complex constructions, enabling a clearer understanding of how components of the sentence relate to each other functionally. In contrast, other approaches place emphasis on different aspects such as semantics or real-time interaction between semantic and syntactic processes, highlighting the different ways these theories interpret the competence of sentence comprehension in the human mind.

5. What does latent inhibition refer to in the context of creativity?

- A. The tendency to dismiss familiar stimuli**
- B. The ability to easily adapt to new situations
- C. The inclination to focus on unimportant details
- D. The skill of enhancing memory through repetition

Latent inhibition refers to the cognitive process where an individual tends to ignore or filter out familiar stimuli that are not deemed interesting or relevant. In the context of creativity, this trait allows a person to break away from conventional patterns of thinking, as they do not become overly reliant on familiar frameworks. By dismissing these familiar stimuli, individuals can make novel connections and explore new ideas that are not constrained by traditional associations or previous experiences. This capacity to overlook the mundane opens the door to innovative thoughts and original concepts, which are essential components of creativity. The other options refer to different cognitive functions that do not align with the concept of latent inhibition. Adapting to new situations pertains more to flexibility rather than the filtering mechanism of latent inhibition. Focusing on unimportant details relates to attention and concentration biases rather than the ability to disregard familiar stimuli. Finally, enhancing memory through repetition relates to learning processes, which do not connect to the creativity framework defined by latent inhibition.

6. What task do participants complete in the lexical decision task?

- A. Decide if a string of letters is a word or a nonword**
- B. Count the number of words in a sentence
- C. Repeat words after hearing them
- D. Identify synonyms for given words

In the lexical decision task, participants are presented with a string of letters and must determine whether it forms a real word or a nonword. This task is designed to assess cognitive processes related to language and word recognition. By deciding if the string is meaningful or not, participants engage their vocabulary knowledge and semantic processing abilities. The other choices involve different cognitive functions that do not reflect the specific goal of the lexical decision task. Counting words in a sentence focuses on numerical processing and comprehension, repeating words emphasizes auditory memory and speech production, while identifying synonyms tests vocabulary breadth and semantic knowledge rather than the fundamental ability to differentiate between words and nonwords.

7. What does the evolutionary approach suggest about the Wason problem?

- A. It involves complex mathematical calculations
- B. It relates to detecting cheating behavior**
- C. It focuses on memory capacity
- D. It highlights social interactions

The evolutionary approach to cognitive psychology posits that certain cognitive abilities have developed as adaptations to solve specific problems related to survival and reproduction. In the context of the Wason problem, which involves determining the validity of conditional statements, this approach suggests that these reasoning tasks may have evolved from the necessity to detect cheating or dishonest behavior within social groups. Being able to identify who is abiding by social contracts and who is violating them would directly impact survival and reproductive success. Thus, the Wason problem aligns with social dynamics, indicating that our cognitive faculties may be finely tuned to navigate interpersonal relationships and detect when someone is not being truthful or fair. While mathematical calculations, memory capacity, and social interactions are all important aspects of cognitive functioning, they do not specifically tie back to the core evolutionary reasoning presented by the Wason problem as effectively as the detection of cheating behavior does.

8. Which cognitive concept assesses how people retrieve memories?

- A. Heuristic evaluation
- B. Memory reconstruction
- C. Semantic processing**
- D. Contextual retrieval

The concept that assesses how people retrieve memories is best captured by semantic processing. This cognitive process involves understanding and working with the meanings of words and concepts, which is crucial in the retrieval of memories associated with those meanings. When individuals recall memories, they often do so by accessing the semantic associations tied to them, allowing for a more efficient retrieval process based on the contextual relevance of the information. Memory reconstruction involves the idea that memories can be influenced and altered upon retrieval, which means it focuses more on the accuracy and integrity of the recalled information rather than the means of retrieval itself. Heuristic evaluation pertains to cognitive shortcuts used in decision-making and does not specifically relate to memory retrieval processes. Contextual retrieval emphasizes the context in which memories are stored and retrieved but does not encompass the broader concept of semantic processing and its influence on memory recall.

9. In a lexical decision task, which word would participants likely take the longest to respond to after hearing the term "bugs"?

- A. Insect
- B. Sky**
- C. Spider
- D. Critter

In a lexical decision task, participants respond to words based on how quickly they can associate them with a preceding term, in this case, "bugs." The correct answer indicates the word that would likely take the longest to respond to, which is "sky." The reasoning behind this lies in the semantic relationship between the words. "Bugs" is commonly associated with small creatures, particularly insects. Therefore, options like "insect," "spider," and "critter" are all closely related to "bugs" and typically evoke immediate associations in the context of living creatures. This close semantic connection would allow participants to recognize and respond to these words relatively quickly. On the other hand, "sky" has no direct connection to the concept of "bugs." It belongs to a completely different category—referring to the atmosphere rather than any living creature. Thus, participants would likely need more time to process and decide that "sky" does not fit with "bugs," resulting in a longer response time compared to the other options.

10. What does a phoneme refer to?

- A. The smallest unit of meaning
- B. The shortest segment of speech that changes meaning**
- C. A combination of words
- D. The structure of a sentence

A phoneme refers to the shortest segment of speech that can differentiate meaning in a language. It is an individual sound that, when altered, can change the meaning of a word. For example, changing the initial sound in the word "bat" (which has the phoneme /b/) to the sound in "cat" (which has the phoneme /k/) results in two words with entirely different meanings. The other options do not accurately describe a phoneme. The smallest unit of meaning refers to a morpheme, which can be a word or a part of a word that conveys semantic content. A combination of words pertains to phrases or sentences and does not address individual sounds. The structure of a sentence relates to grammar and syntax, which are broader aspects of language that do not focus solely on the individual speech sounds that phonemes represent.

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://cat-4.examzify.com>

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

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