

COMMERCIAL FOOD EQUIPMENT SERVICE ASSOCIATION (CFESA) REFRIGERATION CERTIFICATION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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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. Excessive moisture in a reach-in cooler typically suggests what issue?**
 - A. A possible clogged evaporator drain pan
 - B. A malfunctioning compressor
 - C. High ambient temperatures
 - D. Poor insulation in the cooler
- 2. Why is a proper refrigerant charge critical in refrigeration systems?**
 - A. It affects system performance and efficiency.
 - B. It increases the noise level of the equipment.
 - C. It reduces the effectiveness of insulation.
 - D. It prolongs compressor life only.
- 3. If a start capacitor rated at 240 uf and 225 volts is faulty, which capacitor can be used instead?**
 - A. Only rated at 150 uf
 - B. Any capacitor over 225 volts
 - C. A or C
 - D. Only rated at 300 uf
- 4. What should be done if an evaporator has an external equalized TEV, but only an internal equalized valve is available?**
 - A. temporarily install the internal valve until the correct valve can be obtained and adjust the superheat normally
 - B. do nothing and wait for the correct valve to arrive
 - C. replace the evaporator entirely
 - D. run the system without a TEV
- 5. How should R404A be charged into a refrigeration system?**
 - A. In a gaseous state
 - B. In a liquid state
 - C. Both liquid and gaseous forms
 - D. Only during cold weather

- 6. Which phrase best describes the proper use for a refrigerated box using a cap tube system?**
- A. Display fridge
 - B. Storage freezer
 - C. Blast chiller
 - D. Cold room
- 7. Which type of cleaner is most effective for cleaning greasy condenser coils?**
- A. Alcohol based
 - B. Acid based
 - C. Detergent based
 - D. Solvent based
- 8. Where is the best location to remove acid from a refrigerant system?**
- A. The liquid line
 - B. The condenser
 - C. The suction line
 - D. The expansion valve
- 9. What equipment should be installed to handle the system for newer refrigerants?**
- A. Driers that are one size smaller than previous ones
 - B. Driers compatible with POE oil only
 - C. Driers that are one size larger than previous ones
 - D. Standard size driers for all refrigerants
- 10. How does a compressor function within a refrigeration system?**
- A. It evaporates the refrigerant
 - B. It cools the food directly
 - C. It compresses refrigerant gas and raises its pressure
 - D. It condenses vapor refrigerant into liquid

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Excessive moisture in a reach-in cooler typically suggests what issue?

A. A possible clogged evaporator drain pan

B. A malfunctioning compressor

C. High ambient temperatures

D. Poor insulation in the cooler

Excessive moisture in a reach-in cooler often indicates a potential issue with a clogged evaporator drain pan. When the evaporator drain pan is functioning correctly, it allows condensate to properly drain away from the evaporator coil. If the drain becomes clogged, water can accumulate within the unit, leading to higher humidity and moisture levels. This excess moisture can cause various operational problems like increased frost build-up on the coils, which can eventually affect the cooling performance and lead to potential food safety concerns. Understanding the dynamics of how moisture accumulates helps operators to maintain the appliance and troubleshoot issues more effectively, ensuring optimal preservation of perishable items. In contrast, while other listed options might suggest various problems related to refrigeration systems, they do not pinpoint the direct cause of excessive moisture as accurately as a clogged evaporator drain pan does.

2. Why is a proper refrigerant charge critical in refrigeration systems?

A. It affects system performance and efficiency.

B. It increases the noise level of the equipment.

C. It reduces the effectiveness of insulation.

D. It prolongs compressor life only.

A proper refrigerant charge is critical in refrigeration systems primarily because it significantly affects system performance and efficiency. An accurate refrigerant charge ensures that the system operates within its designed parameters, which is essential for optimal heat exchange and cooling capabilities. If the refrigerant levels are too low or too high, it can lead to poor performance, causing the system to work harder to achieve the desired temperature, resulting in increased energy consumption and potentially leading to mechanical failure over time. Maintaining the correct refrigerant charge also ensures that the compressor, evaporator, and condenser functions effectively, which is vital for maintaining consistent cooling and preventing complications such as freezing or overheating within the system. This balance is crucial not only for energy efficiency but also for prolonging the lifespan of the equipment, as systems operating under improper conditions are more prone to wear and damage. Understanding the importance of refrigerant charge is essential for technicians tasked with maintaining refrigeration equipment, as getting the charge right is one of the fundamental steps in servicing these systems effectively.

3. If a start capacitor rated at 240 uf and 225 volts is faulty, which capacitor can be used instead?

- A. Only rated at 150 uf
- B. Any capacitor over 225 volts

C. A or C

- D. Only rated at 300 uf

The proper replacement for a start capacitor should match certain key specifications, including voltage rating and capacitance. In this case, while the original capacitor is rated at 240 microfarads (uf) and 225 volts, the most critical aspects of a replacement are the voltage rating's sufficiency and capacitance's proximity to the original value. A capacitor rated higher than 225 volts is essential because it ensures that the capacitor can handle the electrical load without risk of failure due to voltage stress. Since capacitors rated at higher voltages maintain their performance without compromising safety, any capacitor exceeding 225 volts would be acceptable. Capacitance is also crucial; although the starting capacitor's function can often accommodate slight variations in capacitance, it is ideal to stay close to the original value of 240 uf. Thus, while using a capacitor rated at only 150 uf may not provide the necessary starting torque for the motor, a capacitor rated at 300 uf would also work, as long as it can handle the voltage and the application can accommodate the increased capacitance. This rationale indicates that a capacitor rated at both higher voltage and closer to the original capacitance can be used, aligning with choosing options that cover those requirements. As such, both having any capacitor

4. What should be done if an evaporator has an external equalized TEV, but only an internal equalized valve is available?

A. temporarily install the internal valve until the correct valve can be obtained and adjust the superheat normally

- B. do nothing and wait for the correct valve to arrive
- C. replace the evaporator entirely
- D. run the system without a TEV

When faced with a situation where only an internal equalized thermostatic expansion valve (TEV) is available for an evaporator designed for external equalization, the most practical approach is to temporarily install the internal valve until the correct one can be obtained. This allows the system to continue functioning rather than waiting idly for the correct components, which could lead to food spoilage or equipment failure due to the refrigeration system being inoperative. Adjusting the superheat normally with the internal equalized valve is crucial because it allows for some level of control over the refrigerant flow to the evaporator. Even though the internal equalized valve is not ideal and operates differently from an external equalized valve, this temporary installation helps maintain refrigeration and operational integrity in the system. It essentially acts as a stopgap measure to ensure that food and products remain at safe temperatures while waiting for the correct part, which is important in commercial settings. Other options, like doing nothing or replacing the evaporator entirely, would result in unnecessary downtime and potential losses. Running the system without a TEV could cause severe damage and inefficiencies, leading to compressor failure and other related issues, which makes the first option the best action to take in this scenario.

5. How should R404A be charged into a refrigeration system?

- A. In a gaseous state
- B. In a liquid state**
- C. Both liquid and gaseous forms
- D. Only during cold weather

Charging R404A into a refrigeration system in a liquid state is the preferred method because it ensures accurate control over the refrigerant's quantity and minimizes potential issues that can arise from charging in a gaseous form. When a refrigerant is charged as a liquid, it directly enters the low side of the system, allowing for a more efficient and effective process in achieving the desired operating pressures and temperatures. Charging in a liquid state also helps to prevent the refrigerant from traveling too far through the system before it evaporates. This minimizes the risk of liquid refrigerant entering the compressor, which could lead to compressor damage—a situation that might occur if the refrigerant were introduced as a gas and was not properly managed. In contrast, charging in a gaseous state may lead to difficulties in maintaining the necessary refrigerant levels in the system, as gases are less dense and require more volume to achieve the correct charge. Additionally, charging in colder weather doesn't directly relate to how R404A should be charged, as it is more important to follow proper methods regardless of external temperatures.

6. Which phrase best describes the proper use for a refrigerated box using a cap tube system?

- A. Display fridge**
- B. Storage freezer
- C. Blast chiller
- D. Cold room

The phrase that best describes the proper use for a refrigerated box using a cap tube system is "display fridge." Capillary tube systems are commonly utilized in lower capacity refrigeration applications, particularly for display cases that require precise temperature control to maintain the quality and safety of perishable items. Display fridges are designed to keep food products at optimal temperatures while also being visible to customers, thereby enhancing merchandising. The capillary tube system is suitable for these applications due to its simplicity, efficiency, and ability to maintain stable cooling in a display environment where continuous access to the stored items is expected. In contrast, storage freezers and blast chillers require more robust and complex systems to handle the demands of freezing products quickly and maintaining lower temperatures for longer periods. Cold rooms, while they utilize refrigeration systems, often require larger capacity units or more complex systems than what a capillary tube can provide effectively. Therefore, the characteristics of a display fridge align perfectly with the capabilities of a refrigeration system utilizing a capillary tube.

7. Which type of cleaner is most effective for cleaning greasy condenser coils?

- A. Alcohol based
- B. Acid based
- C. Detergent based**
- D. Solvent based

Detergent-based cleaners are specifically formulated to break down and remove greasy residues, making them the most effective option for cleaning greasy condenser coils. These cleaners work through a combination of surfactants that penetrate and emulsify grease and grime, allowing for easier removal. Detergent-based cleaners are also generally safe for use on a variety of surfaces, which is crucial in refrigeration applications where materials need to be preserved while ensuring effective cleaning. The effectiveness of detergent-based cleaners is evident in their ability to lift and suspend dirt so that it can be rinsed away, ensuring that the coils are not only clean but also can function optimally. This is particularly important in refrigeration systems, where clean coils enhance efficiency and prolong equipment life. Other types of cleaners, while effective for specific applications, do not have the same efficacy against grease. Acid-based cleaners can be effective for mineral buildup but may not adequately address greasy residues. Alcohol-based cleaners tend to evaporate quickly and may not provide sufficient cleaning power for heavy grease. Solvent-based cleaners can be potent but might not be compatible with all surfaces, risking damage to the coils or other components. Therefore, detergent-based cleaners are the best choice for addressing the specific challenge of greasy condenser coils.

8. Where is the best location to remove acid from a refrigerant system?

- A. The liquid line
- B. The condenser
- C. The suction line**
- D. The expansion valve

Removing acid from a refrigerant system is best done at the suction line, as this area typically allows for more efficient purification. The suction line carries the refrigerant vapor back to the compressor, and any acid present in the system would be in a gaseous state during this part of the refrigeration cycle. Addressing acid issues in the suction line helps prevent damage to critical components like the compressor, as acid can cause significant wear and corrosion. Since the compressor operates on the refrigerant vapor, capturing any contaminants at this stage helps ensure the overall integrity and longevity of the system. Additionally, servicing the suction line allows technicians to monitor the quality of the refrigerant before it enters the compressor itself. Other locations, such as the liquid line, condenser, or expansion valve, are not as effective for acid removal because these components handle refrigerant in its liquid form or at different pressures, where acid or other contaminants may not be as readily accessible or may not present in the same way as in the vapor phase found in the suction line.

9. What equipment should be installed to handle the system for newer refrigerants?

- A. Driers that are one size smaller than previous ones
- B. Driers compatible with POE oil only
- C. Driers that are one size larger than previous ones**
- D. Standard size driers for all refrigerants

Choosing a larger dryer for systems using newer refrigerants is essential due to the properties of these refrigerants and their corresponding oils. Newer refrigerants, particularly those classified as low-GWP (global warming potential), often require different handling characteristics compared to older refrigerants such as R-22. Using a larger drier allows for better moisture removal and filtration, which is critical as newer refrigerants can be more sensitive to contaminants and moisture. A dryer that is appropriately sized ensures that the refrigerant maintains its efficiency and effectiveness in the system. Additionally, a larger drier can accommodate the changes in flow rates and pressures that may come with the use of newer refrigerants, thereby helping to prevent operational issues such as slugging and inadequate refrigerant circulation. Other options do not provide the necessary capacity or compatibility for handling the nuances of newer refrigerants effectively. Standard size driers may not address the higher demands for moisture removal, and smaller driers could lead to insufficient capacity, risking system efficiency and longevity. Therefore, opting for a larger drier is the best practice in ensuring the reliability and performance of refrigeration systems using modern refrigerants.

10. How does a compressor function within a refrigeration system?

- A. It evaporates the refrigerant
- B. It cools the food directly
- C. It compresses refrigerant gas and raises its pressure**
- D. It condenses vapor refrigerant into liquid

The function of a compressor in a refrigeration system is to compress refrigerant gas, which significantly raises its pressure and temperature. This is a critical step in the refrigeration cycle. Once the refrigerant gas enters the compressor, it is subjected to mechanical energy, which forces the refrigerant into a smaller volume. As the gas is compressed, its pressure increases, making it capable of moving through the system into the condenser. The high-pressure gas is then expelled from the compressor and flows into the condenser, where it will ultimately lose heat and condense back into a liquid state. Understanding this function is vital, as the compressor plays a pivotal role in maintaining the flow and effectiveness of the refrigeration cycle by enabling the refrigerant to absorb heat in the evaporator and release it in the condenser. This sequential process is what allows refrigeration systems to cool areas or preserve food items effectively.

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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