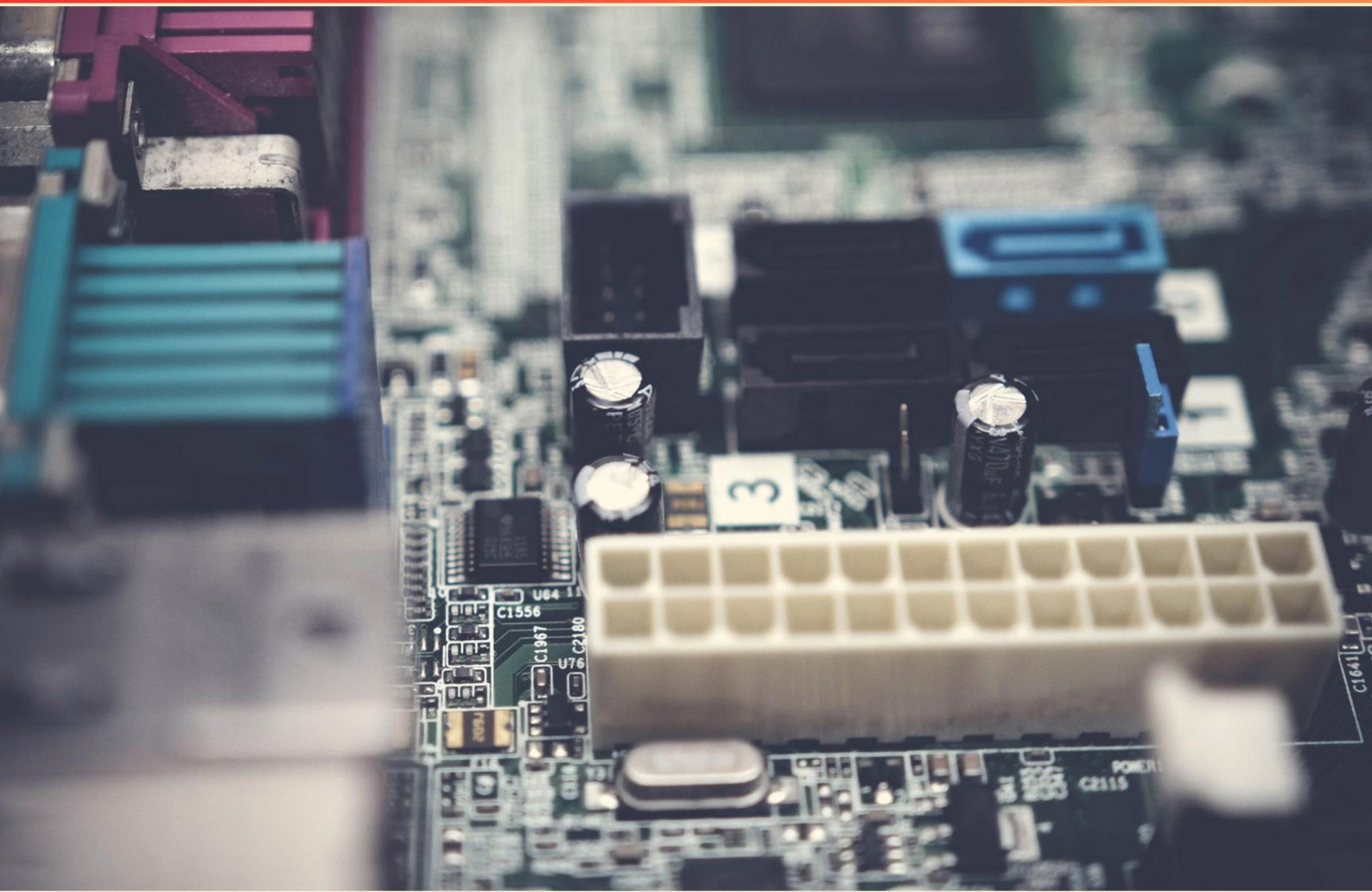


COMPTIA A+ CORE 1 (220-1101) CERTIFICATION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 characteristic of optical drives?**
 - A. Includes spinning platters
 - B. Reads small bumps with a laser beam
 - C. Uses flash memory
 - D. Requires an M.2 interface
- 2. How many bits does an IPv6 address consist of?**
 - A. 64 bits
 - B. 128 bits
 - C. 256 bits
 - D. 32 bits
- 3. What is the purpose of SNMP, which utilizes ports 161 and 162?**
 - A. Receive emails
 - B. Manage directory information
 - C. Query devices for performance statistics
 - D. Send emails
- 4. What is the function of an Optical Network Terminal (ONT)?**
 - A. To filter wireless network traffic
 - B. To convert fiber optic signals for home use
 - C. To manage Ethernet connections
 - D. To connect devices through DSL
- 5. What is the primary purpose of a VLAN (Virtual Local Area Network)?**
 - A. To provide physical separation of networks
 - B. To reduce the number of switches needed
 - C. To separate devices logically instead of physically
 - D. To increase the range of broadcast domains
- 6. What is one of the main disadvantages of an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display)?**
 - A. High cost
 - B. Poor black levels
 - C. Thicker design
 - D. Limited viewing angles

7. What type of data handling does RAID 5 use?

- A. Striping only
- B. Mirroring only
- C. Striping with parity
- D. Simple disk access

8. Which type of modem uses ADSL technology?

- A. Cable modem
- B. Wireless modem
- C. DSL modem
- D. Satellite modem

9. What distinguishes a physical tap from a port mirror?

- A. Physical taps are software-based while port mirrors are hardware-based
- B. Physical taps physically intercept links, while port mirrors are software-based taps
- C. Port mirrors require more bandwidth than physical taps
- D. Physical taps do not require power

10. What is the primary use of a Molex connector?

- A. Powering USB devices
- B. Connecting network cables
- C. Providing power to optical drives, hard drives, and case fans
- D. Transmitting audio signals

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a characteristic of optical drives?

- A. Includes spinning platters
- B. Reads small bumps with a laser beam**
- C. Uses flash memory
- D. Requires an M.2 interface

The characteristic of optical drives is that they read small bumps with a laser beam. Optical drives, such as CD, DVD, and Blu-ray players, utilize laser technology to read and write data stored on optical discs. The data on these discs is encoded in the form of tiny bumps and flat areas, known as pits and lands, which the laser can detect as it scans the surface of the disc. This process enables the drive to retrieve the stored information accurately. The other options do not accurately describe the features of optical drives. Spinning platters are associated with traditional hard disk drives rather than optical drives. Flash memory is used in solid-state drives (SSDs) and USB flash drives, not in optical disk technology. Additionally, the M.2 interface is relevant for connecting certain types of solid-state drives to a motherboard, which is not applicable to optical drives.

2. How many bits does an IPv6 address consist of?

- A. 64 bits
- B. 128 bits**
- C. 256 bits
- D. 32 bits

An IPv6 address consists of 128 bits. This is a significant increase from the previous version, IPv4, which uses 32 bits for its addresses. The larger address space provided by IPv6 is necessary to accommodate the growing number of devices connected to the internet, ensuring there are enough unique addresses available for all devices. IPv6 addresses are typically expressed in hexadecimal format and are divided into eight groups of four hexadecimal digits, separated by colons. This structure accommodates an enormous number of unique addresses, enabling the future scalability of network architecture as more devices come online. Understanding the size of an IPv6 address is crucial for various aspects of networking, including address allocation, routing, and security protocols.

3. What is the purpose of SNMP, which utilizes ports 161 and 162?

- A. Receive emails
- B. Manage directory information
- C. Query devices for performance statistics**
- D. Send emails

The purpose of SNMP, or Simple Network Management Protocol, is to query devices for performance statistics, making it a vital tool for monitoring and managing networked devices. It operates using two primary port numbers: 161, which is used for sending requests and receiving responses, and 162, which is designated for receiving traps or notifications from devices. SNMP allows network administrators to retrieve information such as device status, performance metrics, and various configurable parameters. This capability is crucial for maintaining the health of the network, diagnosing potential issues, and optimizing performance by providing insight into how devices are operating. In contrast, the other options do not relate to SNMP. Email operations utilize different protocols such as SMTP for sending emails and POP3 or IMAP for receiving them. Managing directory information typically involves protocols like LDAP. Therefore, these activities fall outside the scope of what SNMP is designed to accomplish.

4. What is the function of an Optical Network Terminal (ONT)?

- A. To filter wireless network traffic
- B. To convert fiber optic signals for home use**
- C. To manage Ethernet connections
- D. To connect devices through DSL

The function of an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) is to convert fiber optic signals for home use. An ONT serves as the interface between the fiber optic network provided by the service provider and the customer's local area network. It takes the optical signals transmitted over the fiber cables and converts them into electrical signals that can be used by standard networking equipment, such as routers and computers. This conversion is crucial because it enables users to access internet services using traditional networking technologies over their home or business networks. Understanding the operation of an ONT is vital, as it plays a key role in fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) deployments. It allows for high-speed internet access, supports multiple devices, and ensures efficient communication between the provider's network and the subscriber's equipment.

5. What is the primary purpose of a VLAN (Virtual Local Area Network)?

- A. To provide physical separation of networks
- B. To reduce the number of switches needed
- C. To separate devices logically instead of physically**
- D. To increase the range of broadcast domains

The primary purpose of a VLAN (Virtual Local Area Network) is to separate devices logically instead of physically. A VLAN allows network administrators to group devices that are on different physical networks into the same logical network. This logical separation allows for improved organization, security, and management of network resources without needing to change the physical layout of the network. Devices in the same VLAN can communicate with each other as if they were on the same physical network, regardless of their actual physical locations, allowing for greater flexibility in network design. This logical segmentation helps in limiting broadcast traffic, enhancing security by isolating sensitive data, and making it easier to manage different departments or functions within an organization. By using VLANs, organizations can create a more efficient network while maintaining control over communications and access. The other options do not accurately reflect the core functionality of VLANs. Physical separation of networks refers to the use of distinct physical infrastructure rather than logical segmentation. VLANs do not necessarily reduce the number of switches needed; rather, they can exist on the same switch. The assertion that VLANs increase the range of broadcast domains is also misleading, as VLANs are designed to limit broadcasts, not expand their range.

6. What is one of the main disadvantages of an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display)?

- A. High cost
- B. Poor black levels**
- C. Thicker design
- D. Limited viewing angles

One of the main disadvantages of an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) is indeed poor black levels. This is primarily due to the technology used in LCDs, which relies on a backlight illuminating the pixels. When the content displayed requires black, the liquid crystals in the display do not completely block the backlight, resulting in dark grays instead of true black. This can lead to lower contrast ratios and less vibrant colors, significantly impacting the overall viewing experience, particularly in darker scenes or images. While the other aspects of LCDs, such as cost or design, might also be relevant, they do not impact the display quality as directly as black levels do. For instance, newer LCD technologies may mitigate viewing angle limitations or thickness, and costs can vary widely based on build quality and brand, so they are less universally applicable disadvantages compared to the inherent limitations in achieving true blacks in the display.

7. What type of data handling does RAID 5 use?

- A. Striping only
- B. Mirroring only
- C. Striping with parity**
- D. Simple disk access

RAID 5 employs a method known as striping with parity, which is key to how it manages data for both performance and redundancy. In this configuration, data blocks are distributed across multiple drives, and for every set of data written, parity information is also created. This parity is stored on the different disks in the array, which allows RAID 5 to sum up the data across the drives and reconstruct it if one drive fails. This capability of RAID 5 to tolerate the failure of a single drive while still maintaining data integrity is a primary benefit of this approach. The striping aspect contributes to improved read performance, as data can be read from multiple disks simultaneously. The inclusion of parity means that while there is a slight overhead in writing data (because the parity must be calculated and written), it provides a crucial safety net against data loss. In contrast, the options related to mirroring, simple disk access, or striping only each lack the important redundancy aspect provided by parity, which is fundamental to the operation of RAID 5.

8. Which type of modem uses ADSL technology?

- A. Cable modem
- B. Wireless modem
- C. DSL modem**
- D. Satellite modem

A DSL modem is the correct choice because it is specifically designed to use Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) technology. ADSL is a type of DSL technology that allows for high-speed internet access over traditional copper telephone lines while enabling simultaneous voice and data transmission. The modem modulates and demodulates the signals to facilitate this process, converting digital data from a computer into analog for transmission over the telephone lines and vice versa. In contrast, cable modems utilize coaxial cables to connect to internet service provided by cable television companies, which is fundamentally different from the ADSL approach. Wireless modems typically refer to devices that provide wireless connectivity and may use various technologies, including cellular data, but do not specifically implement ADSL. Satellite modems operate using satellite connections, providing internet access via satellite communication, which is also unrelated to ADSL technology. Thus, a DSL modem is uniquely suited for operating on ADSL lines, making it the definitive answer.

9. What distinguishes a physical tap from a port mirror?

- A. Physical taps are software-based while port mirrors are hardware-based
- B. Physical taps physically intercept links, while port mirrors are software-based taps**
- C. Port mirrors require more bandwidth than physical taps
- D. Physical taps do not require power

The distinction between a physical tap and a port mirror primarily revolves around how data is accessed and captured from a network link. A physical tap, or network tap, is a device that connects to the physical network medium and intercepts the data in transit. It captures all packets that pass through the link without affecting the actual traffic flow. This means that it does not introduce any load on the network while it provides a complete and uninterrupted view of the data stream. On the other hand, a port mirror, also known as a SPAN (Switch Port Analyzer), is a function that is configured on network switches to replicate the traffic from one port (or more) to another designated port for monitoring purposes. This process relies on the switch's software capabilities to direct traffic to the mirror port and may have limitations such as not capturing all packets (due to possible overload) during peak traffic, since it utilizes switch resources to perform the mirroring. In summary, the correct answer emphasizes that physical taps intercept the data physically via direct connection, ensuring a complete and unaltered capture of network traffic, whereas port mirrors rely on software configurations and can introduce some limitations in high-traffic situations.

10. What is the primary use of a Molex connector?

- A. Powering USB devices
- B. Connecting network cables
- C. Providing power to optical drives, hard drives, and case fans**
- D. Transmitting audio signals

The primary use of a Molex connector is to provide power to various internal components of a computer, specifically optical drives, hard drives, and case fans. This connector features a distinct design with four pins that deliver both 5V and 12V power, making it essential for powering older types of hard drives and optical drives that do not use SATA power connections. Additionally, many case fans also utilize Molex connectors for power, further solidifying its role in supplying electrical energy to critical hardware components within a computer system. This versatility in powering essential parts of a computer highlights the Molex connector's integral function within PC construction and maintenance.

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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