

CompTIA A+ Core 1 (220-1201) 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

- 1. Which USB version is NOT known for high-speed data transfer?**
 - A. USB 4.0**
 - B. USB 3.0**
 - C. USB 2.0**
 - D. USB 3.1 Gen 2**
- 2. Which device helps technicians trace cables through walls or ceilings?**
 - A. Punchdown tool**
 - B. Loopback plugs**
 - C. Toner / Probe**
 - D. Wi-Fi Analyzer**
- 3. Which term describes the condition of maintaining even print quality in an inkjet printer?**
 - A. Uniformity**
 - B. Consistency**
 - C. Stability**
 - D. Equilibrium**
- 4. Which type of cloud service model gives users the least amount of control over underlying infrastructure?**
 - A. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)**
 - B. Platform as a Service (PaaS)**
 - C. Software as a Service (SaaS)**
 - D. Community Cloud**
- 5. Which protocol specifies how emails should be delivered from one mail domain to another and operates over port 25?**
 - A. Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP)**
 - B. Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)**
 - C. Post Office Protocol (POP)**
 - D. Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)**

- 6. What is the term for the individual elements that make up a picture on a digital display?**
- A. Color Bit**
 - B. Pixel**
 - C. Color Palette**
 - D. Resolution**
- 7. Which cloud model combines benefits of both private and public clouds?**
- A. Hybrid Cloud**
 - B. Community Cloud**
 - C. Private Cloud**
 - D. Public Cloud**
- 8. Which wireless technology is commonly used for point-to-point connections?**
- A. Wi-Fi/802.11**
 - B. Bluetooth**
 - C. Near Field Communication (NFC)**
 - D. Zigbee**
- 9. Which type of IP addresses are not globally unique and cannot communicate over the internet?**
- A. Public IP addresses**
 - B. Private IP addresses**
 - C. Class A addresses**
 - D. Static IP addresses**
- 10. What speed is typical for uploads using Asymmetric DSL (ADSL)?**
- A. 8 Mbps**
 - B. 1.5 Mbps**
 - C. 50 Mbps**
 - D. 6 Gbps**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which USB version is NOT known for high-speed data transfer?

- A. USB 4.0**
- B. USB 3.0**
- C. USB 2.0**
- D. USB 3.1 Gen 2**

USB 2.0 is indeed the version that is not known for high-speed data transfer compared to the others listed. When USB 2.0 was introduced, it could support a maximum data transfer rate of 480 Mbps, which was significantly faster than its predecessor but far slower than the rates offered by later versions. In contrast, USB 3.0 introduced a considerable upgrade with a maximum data transfer rate of 5 Gbps, while USB 3.1 Gen 2 further enhanced this with speeds up to 10 Gbps. USB 4.0 has advanced capabilities, allowing for even higher speeds and better efficiency through support for multiple data protocols. Therefore, while USB 2.0 represented a milestone in connectivity, it does not match the high-speed data transfer capabilities of USB 3.0, 3.1 Gen 2, or USB 4.0.

2. Which device helps technicians trace cables through walls or ceilings?

- A. Punchdown tool**
- B. Loopback plugs**
- C. Toner / Probe**
- D. Wi-Fi Analyzer**

The device that helps technicians trace cables through walls or ceilings is a toner/probe. This tool set works by sending a tone along the cable, which can then be detected with a probe. When the toner is connected to one end of the cable, it emits a signal that travels down the cable, allowing the technician to locate the cable by hearing the tone through walls or ceilings with the probe. This is particularly useful for identifying and organizing the large number of cables often found in networking environments. In contrast, a punchdown tool is primarily used for terminating and connecting wires to a punch-down block or a patch panel, and does not have capabilities to trace cables. Loopback plugs are used for testing network ports by creating a loop for signals but are not meant for tracing cables. A Wi-Fi analyzer is designed to analyze wireless networks, but it does not assist in locating or tracing physical network cables. Therefore, the toner/probe is the most appropriate choice for tracing cables.

3. Which term describes the condition of maintaining even print quality in an inkjet printer?

- A. Uniformity**
- B. Consistency**
- C. Stability**
- D. Equilibrium**

The term that describes the condition of maintaining even print quality in an inkjet printer is consistency. In the context of inkjet printing, consistency refers to the printer's ability to produce outputs that are uniform in color, density, and quality across multiple prints. This ensures that regardless of when or how many times printing occurs, the output retains a reliable and predictable quality. Consistency is essential for professionals or businesses that rely on printed materials, as it affects both the visual presentation and overall impression of the printed work. When inkjet printers are able to maintain consistency, it leads to fewer variations and defects, ultimately resulting in a higher standard of print production. Other options like uniformity, stability, and equilibrium may describe certain aspects related to printing but do not encompass the broad integrity and performance of print outputs in the same way that consistency does. Uniformity might imply a singular attribute of equal color or quality but does not necessarily address variations over time or different print jobs. Stability could indicate a printer's operational reliability rather than the quality of output over time. Equilibrium tends to refer to balance in broader contexts, thus not specifically addressing the quality of printed materials directly.

4. Which type of cloud service model gives users the least amount of control over underlying infrastructure?

- A. Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)**
- B. Platform as a Service (PaaS)**
- C. Software as a Service (SaaS)**
- D. Community Cloud**

Software as a Service (SaaS) offers users the least amount of control over the underlying infrastructure because it delivers software applications through the internet on a subscription basis. Users access SaaS applications via a web browser, and the service provider manages all aspects of the underlying architecture, including servers, storage, networking, and the software itself. This means users do not have direct control over the infrastructure or the application implementation; they simply use the provided services as-is. In contrast, Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) allows users to manage and configure virtualized computing resources directly, giving them more control over the infrastructure. Platform as a Service (PaaS) offers a middle ground, allowing users to manage applications and services while the provider maintains the underlying hardware and software environment. The Community Cloud model involves sharing infrastructure between several organizations, but in the case of SaaS, users have no control over how the infrastructure is configured or managed, emphasizing the level of abstraction and management taken on by the service provider.

5. Which protocol specifies how emails should be delivered from one mail domain to another and operates over port 25?

A. Internet Message Access Protocol (IMAP)

B. Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP)

C. Post Office Protocol (POP)

D. Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)

The Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) is the protocol responsible for the transmission of email messages between servers. It operates primarily on port 25, which is the designated port for email delivery between mail transfer agents (MTAs). When an email is sent from one domain to another, SMTP governs the process of how that email is relayed and delivered to its destination. SMTP works as a push protocol, meaning that it is used to send messages to recipients' mail servers. It establishes a connection between the sending server and the receiving server, ensuring that emails are transmitted accurately and in a sequence. This is essential for the overall functionality of email communications on the internet, making SMTP a fundamental component of email delivery systems. In contrast, other protocols listed serve different roles in the email ecosystem. For instance, IMAP and POP are protocols used for retrieving emails from a mail server, not for sending them. IMAP allows users to access and manage their emails on a remote mail server, while POP is used to download emails for local storage. HTTP is a protocol for transfer of web pages and does not relate to email transmission.

6. What is the term for the individual elements that make up a picture on a digital display?

A. Color Bit

B. Pixel

C. Color Palette

D. Resolution

The term for the individual elements that make up a picture on a digital display is "Pixel." Pixels are the smallest units that compose an image; they are tiny squares or dots that, when combined in a grid, create the images you see on screens. Each pixel can display a specific color, and the total number of pixels in a display determines its overall clarity and detail, often referred to as resolution. In contrast, a color bit refers to the amount of data used to represent color in a pixel, essentially determining how many different colors can be displayed. A color palette, meanwhile, is a collection of colors that can be used in an image but does not pertain to individual image elements. Lastly, resolution defines the overall clarity of the display by indicating the total number of pixels in width and height, but it does not reference the individual components themselves. Thus, "Pixel" is the appropriate term when discussing the basic elements that form a digital image.

7. Which cloud model combines benefits of both private and public clouds?

A. Hybrid Cloud

B. Community Cloud

C. Private Cloud

D. Public Cloud

The hybrid cloud model integrates the advantages of both private and public clouds, allowing organizations to use them in tandem. This setup enables a business to keep sensitive data and tasks within a private cloud while taking advantage of the scalability and cost-effectiveness of public cloud services for less critical operations. Consequently, an organization can maintain control and privacy where necessary, while also flexibly utilizing resources from a public cloud when demands or workloads increase. This model is particularly appealing because it offers flexibility. For instance, during peak usage times, additional resources from the public cloud can be seamlessly accessed, providing a robust solution that can adjust to varying business needs without compromising security for sensitive data. This characteristic makes the hybrid cloud ideal for companies looking to optimize both performance and security. Other cloud models, such as community, private, and public clouds, serve specific use cases but do not combine the functionality offered by both private and public clouds.

8. Which wireless technology is commonly used for point-to-point connections?

A. Wi-Fi/802.11

B. Bluetooth

C. Near Field Communication (NFC)

D. Zigbee

The correct choice for wireless technology commonly used for point-to-point connections is Wi-Fi/802.11. Wi-Fi technology is designed for both personal and enterprise networking and allows devices to connect directly to each other over a wireless network, which facilitates point-to-point connections in a variety of environments. This capability enables devices such as laptops, smartphones, and printers to communicate directly without the need for physical cables, making it suitable for applications where reliable and high-speed data transfer is required. Wi-Fi technology supports a range of standards under the 802.11 family, which offer varying speeds and distances, and it is commonly utilized in home, office, and outdoor connectivity solutions. This versatility and robustness make Wi-Fi the go-to technology for establishing connections between two distinct devices or a device and an access point in point-to-point scenarios. In contrast, other technologies like Bluetooth are primarily designed for short-range communication between devices, such as connecting peripherals like headsets or mice to computers but are not typically optimized for point-to-point networking on a larger scale. Near Field Communication (NFC) operates over very short distances, usually within a few centimeters, making it unsuitable for broader point-to-point connections. Zigbee focuses on low-power, short-range communication commonly used in Io

9. Which type of IP addresses are not globally unique and cannot communicate over the internet?

- A. Public IP addresses**
- B. Private IP addresses**
- C. Class A addresses**
- D. Static IP addresses**

Private IP addresses are designated for use within local networks and are not routable over the internet. This means that any network device assigned a private IP address can communicate freely with other devices on the same local network but cannot directly send data to or receive data from the outside internet. Private IP address ranges are defined by specific blocks within the IP addressing scheme specified in RFC 1918. These ranges include 10.0.0.0 to 10.255.255.255, 172.16.0.0 to 172.31.255.255, and 192.168.0.0 to 192.168.255.255. Because they are not globally unique, multiple networks can use the same private IP addresses without conflict. To communicate with the internet, devices using private IP addresses must go through a mechanism like Network Address Translation (NAT), which translates private IP addresses to a public IP address that can be used for internet communication. Understanding the distinction between private and public IP addresses is crucial for networking, as it helps in designing and managing local networks while ensuring proper connectivity to the internet when needed.

10. What speed is typical for uploads using Asymmetric DSL (ADSL)?

- A. 8 Mbps**
- B. 1.5 Mbps**
- C. 50 Mbps**
- D. 6 Gbps**

Asymmetric DSL (ADSL) is designed to provide higher download speeds than upload speeds, reflecting the common usage patterns of residential internet users who typically download more data than they upload. In a typical ADSL setup, the most common upload speed is around 1.5 Mbps. This aligns with the built-in asymmetry of ADSL technology, which prioritizes the downstream bandwidth for activities such as streaming, browsing, and downloading while maintaining sufficient, but lower, upstream capacity for tasks like web browsing and email. Other speeds listed in the choices either represent higher capacities that are characteristic of more advanced technologies or are simply not feasible for ADSL connection types. For example, 8 Mbps can be more aligned with some higher-tier DSL variants or other broadband technologies, while 50 Mbps and 6 Gbps are far beyond ADSL capabilities and represent much more advanced forms of internet connection like VDSL or fiber optic services. Thus, the typical upload speed of 1.5 Mbps best characterizes ADSL capabilities.

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://comptiaapluscore12201201.examzify.com>

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