

CST LEVEL 1 LAND SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION PRACTICE (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
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 type of maps are known for depicting continents and countries in a small-scale format?**
 - A. Aeronautical charts
 - B. Cadastral maps
 - C. Geographical maps
 - D. Nautical charts
- 2. What does the legend of a map explain?**
 - A. The symbols used on the map
 - B. The scale of the map
 - C. The geographical features depicted
 - D. The map's orientation
- 3. What does Louisiana utilize instead of Frauds document?**
 - A. Louisiana Civil Code Article 1839 for written contracts requirement
 - B. Louisiana Civil Law Article 2003 for verbal agreements
 - C. Louisiana Statute Article 692 regarding property rights
 - D. Louisiana Civil Code Article 1500 for family law
- 4. In trig leveling, what does 'ZA' stand for?**
 - A. Slope distance
 - B. Height of instrument
 - C. Zenith angle
 - D. Height of reflector
- 5. What is the primary purpose of a witness tree in land surveying?**
 - A. To mark a property line
 - B. As a reference for section corners
 - C. To indicate soil conditions
 - D. For aesthetic purposes
- 6. When measuring a line, the direction is described by which angle?**
 - A. Vertical angle
 - B. Horizontal angle
 - C. True north angle
 - D. Inclination angle

7. What is the definition of geographical maps?

- A. Maps showing land survey boundaries
- B. Maps depicting images of the earth's surface for specific purposes
- C. Maps focusing exclusively on climate zones
- D. Maps used for navigation at sea

8. What role does a stereoscope play in surveying?

- A. To measure angles between two points
- B. To adjust for perspective differences in 2D images
- C. To compute distances between surveyed points
- D. To act as a type of surveying instrument

9. What is the definition of accuracy in surveying?

- A. The consistency of repeated measurements
- B. The closeness of a measurement to the true value
- C. The error introduced by the measurement process
- D. The average of multiple measurements

10. What is one method used to establish vertical control?

- A. Differential Leveling
- B. Trilateration
- C. Triangulation
- D. GPS Tracking

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of maps are known for depicting continents and countries in a small-scale format?

- A. Aeronautical charts
- B. Cadastral maps
- C. Geographical maps**
- D. Nautical charts

Geographical maps are designed to represent large areas of the Earth's surface, such as continents and countries, in a small-scale format. These maps provide a broad overview of physical features, including landforms, vegetation, and bodies of water, along with political boundaries such as country borders. Small-scale maps allow for a more extensive view of the Earth, which is particularly useful for understanding the spatial relationships between different geographic features and regions. Aeronautical charts primarily serve the aviation industry, focusing on information important for flight navigation, such as airways, airports, and obstructions. Cadastral maps are used for property boundaries and land ownership, detailing smaller areas with high precision rather than providing an overview of large landmasses. Nautical charts concentrate on maritime navigation, detailing coastal areas, sea routes, and hazards in water bodies, again focusing on smaller scales than needed for representing continents and countries. Thus, geographical maps are specifically tailored for illustrating large-scale features and relationships on a broader level, making them the ideal choice for answering the question.

2. What does the legend of a map explain?

- A. The symbols used on the map**
- B. The scale of the map
- C. The geographical features depicted
- D. The map's orientation

The legend of a map, often referred to as the key, specifically serves to explain the symbols used on the map. It is an essential component that helps the reader interpret the various representations found on the map, such as different types of terrain, infrastructure, and landmarks. Each symbol will typically be defined with a corresponding label in the legend, allowing users to understand what each visual representation means. Without this crucial element, it would be difficult for someone to glean the necessary information from the map effectively, as the symbols may represent everything from roads and waterways to various types of land use. While other elements do play significant roles in understanding a map, such as the scale, which indicates the ratio of distance on the map to actual distances, and the orientation, which shows which direction is north, these are not the primary function of the legend. The geographical features depicted are also represented on the map itself, but the legend does not explain these features directly; rather, it provides context for the icons and symbols indicating those features. Thus, the primary purpose of the legend is to clarify what the symbols on the map signify.

3. What does Louisiana utilize instead of Frauds document?

- A. Louisiana Civil Code Article 1839 for written contracts requirement**
- B. Louisiana Civil Law Article 2003 for verbal agreements
- C. Louisiana Statute Article 692 regarding property rights
- D. Louisiana Civil Code Article 1500 for family law

In Louisiana, the requirement for written contracts is primarily governed by Louisiana Civil Code Article 1839. This article establishes the necessity of a writing to prove certain types of contracts, establishing that in the absence of a written document, the agreement may not be enforceable. This provision is particularly relevant in the context of Louisiana law, which has its unique civil law system and frequently relies on codified statutes rather than common law principles prevalent in other states. The other options refer to different areas of law or types of agreements. For instance, Article 2003 addresses verbal agreements but does not replace the need for written contracts as stipulated in Article 1839. Article 692 concerns property rights and is unrelated to the requirement for contract documentation. Article 1500 deals with family law, particularly matters concerning the family, which is separate from the topic of contractual obligations. Therefore, the focus on Article 1839 is the best reflection of the legal framework utilized in Louisiana for written contracts.

4. In trig leveling, what does 'ZA' stand for?

- A. Slope distance
- B. Height of instrument
- C. Zenith angle**
- D. Height of reflector

In the context of trig leveling, 'ZA' refers to the zenith angle. The zenith angle is defined as the angle between the vertical direction and the line of sight to a point being observed, which is crucial in triangulation and determining the precise position of that point. Knowledge of the zenith angle allows surveyors to calculate distances and elevations accurately when using instruments for measurement. The zenith angle is vital in the trigonometric leveling process because it affects how you interpret the measurements taken from the instrument to the reflective target, enabling an understanding of the vertical and horizontal components of the distance to that target. Understanding zenith angles is a foundational element in trig leveling and essential for accurate survey data collection.

5. What is the primary purpose of a witness tree in land surveying?

- A. To mark a property line
- B. As a reference for section corners**
- C. To indicate soil conditions
- D. For aesthetic purposes

A witness tree serves a specific and crucial role in land surveying primarily as a reference for section corners. These trees are typically located near property corners and can assist surveyors in re-establishing a corner that may no longer be physically marked. The presence of a witness tree often provides valuable information regarding the location of the property line, as it serves as a physical landmark that can be observed and used during boundary retracement surveys. The connection to section corners is particularly important because sections often delineate land ownership and use, and having visible references aids in ensuring accuracy in surveying activities. The characteristics of the witness tree, such as its species, size, and position relative to the corner, can all contribute to verification and confirmation of the vertical and horizontal alignment of property boundaries. Being a stable and often long-lived marker, a witness tree enhances the reliability of land survey data. While marking property lines might seem relevant, it is the role of a witness tree as a reference point that is more precise. Indicating soil conditions and aesthetic purposes do not align with the functional duties attributed to witness trees in surveying contexts.

6. When measuring a line, the direction is described by which angle?

- A. Vertical angle
- B. Horizontal angle**
- C. True north angle
- D. Inclination angle

The direction of a line in land surveying is typically described by the horizontal angle. This angle is measured in a horizontal plane and is crucial for establishing the orientation of a line relative to a reference direction, such as true north or a local meridian. The horizontal angle allows surveyors to communicate the direction of the line in a way that can be universally understood and reproduced in the field. In surveying, horizontal angles are essential for triangulation and for establishing the positioning of points on a two-dimensional plane. They provide a clear indication of how a line is situated relative to the cardinal directions or to other lines, enabling accurate mapping and plotting of terrain features. Other angles mentioned, such as vertical angles, describe the angle above or below the horizontal plane and are primarily used for elevation measurements rather than determining direction. The true north angle refers specifically to the orientation relative to the geographical north pole, which may not be necessary when simply describing the direction of a line unless specified in that context. Inclination angles are associated with the slope or tilt of a line rather than its directional component, further distinguishing their purpose from that of horizontal angles in surveying.

7. What is the definition of geographical maps?

- A. Maps showing land survey boundaries
- B. Maps depicting images of the earth's surface for specific purposes**
- C. Maps focusing exclusively on climate zones
- D. Maps used for navigation at sea

The definition of geographical maps encompasses a broad range of representations of the Earth's surface, specifically designed to convey information about various physical and cultural features. The correct choice highlights that these maps depict images of the earth's surface for specific purposes. This can include anything from topographical details, natural resources, human activities, and more. Such maps serve informative roles, providing context about the physical terrain, environment, land usage, and other essential elements that contribute to understanding geographical features and relationships. Other options focus too narrowly on specific types of maps or usages. For example, maps showing land survey boundaries are only a subset of geographical maps that specifically represent ownership and property lines. Likewise, climate zone maps and navigational maps at sea serve particular functions, but they do not encompass the full scope of what geographical maps can represent. Therefore, the chosen definition effectively captures the diverse applications and representations that geographical maps can convey.

8. What role does a stereoscope play in surveying?

- A. To measure angles between two points
- B. To adjust for perspective differences in 2D images**
- C. To compute distances between surveyed points
- D. To act as a type of surveying instrument

A stereoscope is utilized in surveying primarily to adjust for perspective differences in two-dimensional images. This instrument allows surveyors to view two slightly different images side by side, creating a three-dimensional effect. By providing depth perception, a stereoscope helps surveyors better analyze topographical features, elevations, and spatial relationships between various points on a map or image. This adjustment for perspective differences is particularly important when interpreting aerial photographs or other forms of imagery used in surveying. The ability to visualize terrain in three dimensions can lead to more accurate assessments of land features, which is essential for effective planning and decision-making in land development projects. While measuring angles, computing distances, and other functions are vital to surveying, those tasks typically involve different instruments, such as theodolites or total stations. Therefore, while those functions are important in surveying, they are not the primary function of a stereoscope.

9. What is the definition of accuracy in surveying?

- A. The consistency of repeated measurements
- B. The closeness of a measurement to the true value**
- C. The error introduced by the measurement process
- D. The average of multiple measurements

In surveying, accuracy is defined as the closeness of a measurement to the true value. This means that accuracy is concerned with how well a measured value reflects the actual or real-world value. High accuracy indicates that the measurements you take are very close to the actual value you are trying to determine, which is crucial in surveying for ensuring reliable and valid results. Understanding accuracy is essential because it directly impacts the quality of surveys and the decisions made based on those surveys. Surveyors aim to minimize discrepancies between the measurements they take and the true values, applying techniques such as calibration of instruments and careful measurement practices to enhance accuracy. The other definitions relate to different concepts within surveying: while consistency of repeated measurements touches on precision, errors in measurement processes indicate uncertainties that can affect both accuracy and precision. The average of multiple measurements can provide a more reliable estimate of a value but does not define accuracy itself.

10. What is one method used to establish vertical control?

A. Differential Leveling

B. Trilateration

C. Triangulation

D. GPS Tracking

Differential leveling is a fundamental method used to establish vertical control in surveying. This technique involves measuring the difference in elevation between two or more points. By using a leveling instrument, such as a dumpy level or an automatic level, surveyors can accurately determine the height of one point relative to another based on a common reference, usually a benchmark or a known elevation point. This method works by creating a series of level readings taken over specific distances, allowing for precise calculations of elevation changes. It is particularly essential for aligning construction projects, flood plain mapping, and various civil engineering tasks where accurately knowing the elevation is critical. Other methods, such as trilateration and triangulation, primarily focus on horizontal measurements and position fixing rather than directly determining vertical control. GPS tracking, while valuable for establishing position, may not provide the same level of accuracy in elevation as differential leveling, especially in areas with poor satellite reception or when precise elevation data is essential. Thus, differential leveling remains the preferred choice for establishing reliable vertical control in surveying practices.

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://cstlevel1landsurveyor.examzify.com>

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

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