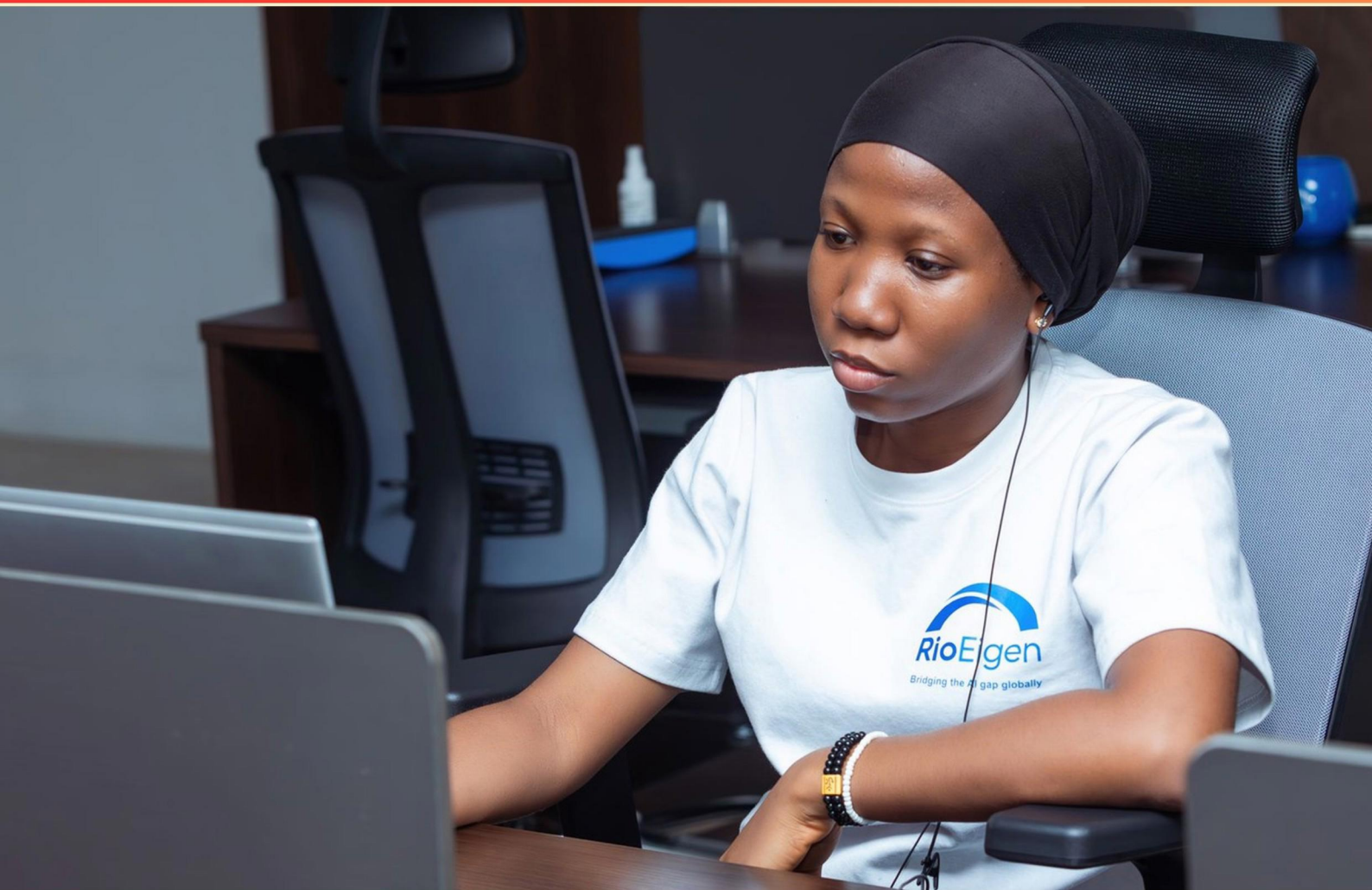


DSST COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



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. What term describes a set of protocols and standards to ensure appropriate online conduct?**
 - A. Netiquette
 - B. Privacy policy
 - C. Cybersecurity
 - D. Network protocol

- 2. A system's uptime is important for which reason?**
 - A. It indicates the security level of the system
 - B. It measures the system's performance speed
 - C. It shows the reliability and availability of services
 - D. It determines the amount of data processed

- 3. What are packets in terms of internet data?**
 - A. Compressed files for storage
 - B. Small units used in transferring data over the internet
 - C. Large data blocks for backups
 - D. Scripting languages for web development

- 4. What type of network is characterized by computers linked in a circular layout where information is sequentially passed?**
 - A. Star network
 - B. Token ring
 - C. Mesh network
 - D. Bus network

- 5. What does CISC stand for in computer architecture?**
 - A. Complex Instruction Set Computer
 - B. Common Integrated System Control
 - C. Central Instruction Set Computer
 - D. Clear Instruction Set Compiler

- 6. Which format is commonly associated with image files?**
- A. JPEG
 - B. TXT
 - C. HTML
 - D. XML
- 7. Which of the following is most commonly associated with the concept of downtime?**
- A. Increased productivity
 - B. System maintenance
 - C. Data mining
 - D. Network security
- 8. What is a computer virus?**
- A. A self-updating software application
 - B. A malicious software program designed to replicate itself
 - C. A type of hardware component in a computer
 - D. An operating system feature for security
- 9. What is classified as a storage device in computing?**
- A. A program that manages system resources
 - B. An application that helps users perform tasks
 - C. The hard drive or RAM of a computer
 - D. A firewall that protects against hackers
- 10. What does SSD stand for in computer storage technologies?**
- A. Solid-State Drive
 - B. Standard Storage Device
 - C. Secure Storage Disk
 - D. Solid-State Data

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What term describes a set of protocols and standards to ensure appropriate online conduct?

- A. Netiquette**
- B. Privacy policy
- C. Cybersecurity
- D. Network protocol

The term that describes a set of protocols and standards to ensure appropriate online conduct is netiquette. Netiquette refers to the guidelines and conventions that people are expected to follow when communicating online, encompassing respectful interaction, proper language use, and consideration for others in digital spaces. It aims to promote positive behaviors in various online platforms, including forums, social media, and email, thus helping to create a more respectful and effective means of communication. In contrast, a privacy policy is a document that outlines how a company collects, uses, and protects personal information; it does not specifically address online conduct. Cybersecurity refers to practices and technologies used to protect systems, networks, and data from digital attacks, which doesn't directly involve conduct guidelines. Network protocol refers to a set of rules that determine how data is transmitted across a network, focusing more on technical specifications than on behavior.

2. A system's uptime is important for which reason?

- A. It indicates the security level of the system
- B. It measures the system's performance speed
- C. It shows the reliability and availability of services**
- D. It determines the amount of data processed

A system's uptime refers to the duration that a system is operational and accessible to users without any interruptions. This metric is directly related to the reliability and availability of services provided by that system. High uptime indicates that the system is dependable, consistently delivering services as expected, and minimizes downtime, which can lead to frustration for users and lost productivity for businesses. By showing how often a service is available, a high uptime percentage contributes to user trust and confidence. Organizations often aim for high uptime targets (such as 99.9% or higher) because this not only demonstrates the system's ability to function without failure but also reflects positively on the organization's commitment to maintaining quality service. The other options focus on aspects that do not accurately represent the concept of uptime. Security levels are associated with protective measures, performance speed pertains to how quickly tasks are completed, and the amount of data processed is related to throughput rather than service availability. Thus, the emphasis on uptime is primarily about reliability and the continuous availability of services to users.

3. What are packets in terms of internet data?

- A. Compressed files for storage
- B. Small units used in transferring data over the internet**
- C. Large data blocks for backups
- D. Scripting languages for web development

Packets are essentially small units used in transferring data over the internet. When data is sent over a network, it's divided into smaller, manageable pieces known as packets. This segmentation enables more efficient transmission because each packet can take a different route through the network to reach its destination, where they are reassembled in the correct order. Using packets enhances the reliability and speed of data transmission. For example, if one packet encounters a problem on its route, only that packet needs to be resent, rather than the entire data set. This method also allows for better utilization of available bandwidth, helping to avoid congestion and optimizing network performance. The other options describe concepts that do not align with the notion of packets in data transmission. Compressed files for storage might refer to how files can be optimized to save space, while large data blocks for backups pertain to how data is handled for redundancy or storage purposes. Scripting languages for web development relate to programming used to create dynamic web pages, and do not have a direct connection to how data is transmitted over networks.

4. What type of network is characterized by computers linked in a circular layout where information is sequentially passed?

- A. Star network
- B. Token ring**
- C. Mesh network
- D. Bus network

The network characterized by computers linked in a circular layout, where information is sequentially passed, is known as a token ring. In a token ring network, each device is connected in a ring configuration. This means that data travels in one direction around the ring until it reaches its destination. The unique aspect of a token ring network is the use of a token – a small data packet – that circulates around the network. A device must possess the token in order to send data, which helps to prevent collisions and ensures orderly communication among the devices. This method of managing access to the network enhances efficiency and reliability, making it distinct from other network types. In contrast, a star network features a central hub or switch that connects all devices independently, and communication occurs through this central point. A mesh network involves multiple interconnected devices, allowing for multiple pathways for data, increasing redundancy. A bus network has all devices connected along a single cable, and data is broadcast to all devices on that cable. Therefore, the defining feature of a token ring network – its circular connection and the use of a token to manage communication, makes it the correct answer.

5. What does CISC stand for in computer architecture?

- A. Complex Instruction Set Computer**
- B. Common Integrated System Control
- C. Central Instruction Set Computer
- D. Clear Instruction Set Compiler

CISC stands for Complex Instruction Set Computer. This term refers to a type of computer architecture that is designed to execute a wide variety of instructions, or commands, that can perform complex operations in a single instruction cycle. The fundamental idea behind CISC is to reduce the number of instructions per program, which can make programs shorter and potentially more efficient in terms of memory usage. CISC architectures are characterized by their ability to handle complex instructions, which can perform multiple operations or manipulate different types of data within a single command. This is in contrast to RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) architectures, which focus on a smaller set of simple instructions that can be executed at high speeds. The other options do not represent the concept correctly. Common Integrated System Control, Central Instruction Set Computer, and Clear Instruction Set Compiler do not align with established definitions in computer architecture, making them incorrect choices in this context.

6. Which format is commonly associated with image files?

- A. JPEG**
- B. TXT
- C. HTML
- D. XML

The JPEG format is widely recognized as a standard for image files, primarily due to its efficient compression capabilities that significantly reduce file sizes while preserving image quality. This format is particularly beneficial for photographs and images with gradients, as it utilizes lossy compression, meaning some data is lost during the compression process to achieve smaller file sizes. This makes JPEG an ideal choice for web usage and digital photography, where balance between quality and file size is crucial. The other formats mentioned serve different purposes: TXT is a plain text format used for unformatted text files; HTML is the markup language used for creating web pages and includes elements where images can be embedded, but it does not represent image data itself; XML is a markup language designed to store and transport data, which is not specifically tied to images. Thus, JPEG stands out clearly as the appropriate choice for image file formats.

7. Which of the following is most commonly associated with the concept of downtime?

- A. Increased productivity
- B. System maintenance**
- C. Data mining
- D. Network security

The concept of downtime is most commonly associated with system maintenance because downtime refers to periods when a system is unavailable for use. This can occur because of routine maintenance activities, updates, or repairs being performed on hardware or software components. During this time, users cannot access the system, which can lead to disruptions in operations and a halt in productivity. In contrast, increased productivity would generally be expected when systems are operational and functioning optimally, not during downtime. Data mining relates to analyzing data for patterns and insights and does not directly connect to system availability. Network security focuses on protecting systems from theft or damage but doesn't inherently involve the unavailability of systems like downtime does. Therefore, the link between system maintenance and downtime makes it the most appropriate association.

8. What is a computer virus?

- A. A self-updating software application
- B. A malicious software program designed to replicate itself**
- C. A type of hardware component in a computer
- D. An operating system feature for security

A computer virus is defined as a malicious software program designed to replicate itself. This means that when a virus infects a host computer, it attaches itself to legitimate programs or files and then spreads to other systems when those programs are executed or shared. Viruses can cause various types of damage, including corrupting data, stealing personal information, or causing system crashes. Their self-replicating nature is what distinguishes them from other types of malware, as they can create multiple copies of themselves and spread through networks, email attachments, or infected downloads. Understanding the characteristics of a virus is crucial for both users and IT professionals in order to implement effective security measures, such as antivirus software and safe browsing practices, to prevent infection and mitigate potential damage.

9. What is classified as a storage device in computing?

- A. A program that manages system resources
- B. An application that helps users perform tasks
- C. The hard drive or RAM of a computer**
- D. A firewall that protects against hackers

The correct choice refers to components that are integral to the storage and retrieval of data within a computer system. A hard drive stores data permanently, while RAM (Random Access Memory) serves as temporary storage that allows data to be accessed quickly while a computer is in use. Both are essential elements in a computer's architecture, enabling the system to save files, run applications, and manage active processes. In contrast, the other options relate to different aspects of computing. Programs or software manage system resources (the first choice) typically refer to system software, such as operating systems, which orchestrate hardware functionality rather than serve as data storage. Applications (the second choice) perform specific user-focused tasks but are not storage devices themselves. Firewalls (the fourth choice) are security utilities designed to protect systems from unauthorized access but do not store data. Therefore, the emphasis on the hard drive and RAM as integral storage solutions makes the correct answer recognizable within the context of a discussion about data management in computing.

10. What does SSD stand for in computer storage technologies?

- A. Solid-State Drive**
- B. Standard Storage Device
- C. Secure Storage Disk
- D. Solid-State Data

The term SSD stands for Solid-State Drive, which refers to a type of data storage device that uses flash memory to store data, unlike traditional hard drives that use spinning disks. Solid-State Drives are known for their faster read and write speeds, increased reliability, and less susceptibility to physical shock due to the absence of moving parts. This makes them an attractive choice for both personal computers and enterprise storage solutions. The other options do not accurately reflect the commonly accepted terminology used in the computing industry. Standard Storage Device would imply a general category rather than a specific technology, while Secure Storage Disk suggests a focus on security features rather than the core functionality. Solid-State Data also does not align with conventional nomenclature, as it does not specify that the terms relate to a drive or storage device. Thus, Solid-State Drive is the correct answer, emphasizing the specific technology that SSD refers to.

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://dsstcomputingit.examzify.com>

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

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