

DSST ETHICS IN TECHNOLOGY PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

RESPECT

**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. What do most ethicists say about who owns personal data?**
 - A. The data subject owns it.
 - B. The data collector owns it.
 - C. The government owns it.
 - D. It is your information and you should decide what happens with it.
- 2. What does VPN stand for and what is its basic function?**
 - A. Public Private Network
 - B. Virtual Public Network
 - C. Virtual Private Network
 - D. Private Virtual Network
- 3. Moore's Law describes which trend in technology?**
 - A. The number of transistors in an integrated circuit doubles every two years, while price falls and devices shrink
 - B. Data storage capacity doubles every year
 - C. Processor speed doubles every five years
 - D. Memory capacity doubles every year
- 4. What ethical concern was raised by the Dolly the sheep cloning case?**
 - A. Whether Dolly was a real sheep
 - B. Whether Dolly would be suitable for meat production
 - C. Whether cloned animals can reproduce
 - D. Whether cloning is cost-effective
- 5. CISA is also known as which program?**
 - A. The Ammonium Nitrate Security Program.
 - B. The Environmental Protection Agency.
 - C. The National Security Agency.
 - D. The National Weather Service.
- 6. What is a bot (short for web robot)?**
 - A. A hardware device for network routing.
 - B. A cryptographic protocol used for secure communications.
 - C. A fairly simple software that runs on a network or social network.
 - D. A user who moderates online communities.

7. What risk do third-party cookies pose?

- A. They can limit data sharing with marketers.
- B. They prevent marketing data collection.
- C. They only work on one site.
- D. They can enable sharing and sale of your data to unknown marketers, reducing your control.

8. Which term defines the action of making something obscure, unclear, or unintelligible?

- A. Encryption
- B. Obfuscation
- C. Decryption
- D. Compression

9. Which act is designed to protect the privacy of students' education records and controls sharing with third parties?

- A. COPPA
- B. CAN-SPAM
- C. FERPA
- D. FACTA

10. Level 3 autonomy description?

- A. The vehicle handles all driving tasks with no driver.
- B. The driver manually controls steering at all times.
- C. The vehicle performs most actions, a driver is necessary, but not required to monitor the environment.
- D. The vehicle limits driving to parked areas.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What do most ethicists say about who owns personal data?

- A. The data subject owns it.
- B. The data collector owns it.
- C. The government owns it.
- D. It is your information and you should decide what happens with it.**

In ethics of technology, the focus is on autonomy and control over personal information. Most ethicists argue that individuals should have the final say over how their data is used because it concerns their privacy, dignity, and the ability to govern what happens to details about their lives. This view emphasizes data self-determination: you should be able to decide who can access your data, for what purposes, and under what conditions. It recognizes that even if data can be copied or analyzed by others, the ethical importance lies in giving people meaningful control and consent over their own information. Ownership in a strict property sense is tricky for digital data, and giving data collectors or the government blanket ownership would erode personal autonomy. So the best answer aligns with the idea that it is your information and you should decide what happens with it.

2. What does VPN stand for and what is its basic function?

- A. Public Private Network
- B. Virtual Public Network
- C. Virtual Private Network**
- D. Private Virtual Network

The basic idea behind a VPN is a secure, private connection that travels over a public network. VPN stands for Virtual Private Network, which highlights two things: it's not a physical separate network (virtual) and it's a private, secure connection (private). Its main function is to create an encrypted tunnel between your device and a VPN server or gateway, so data stays confidential and protected from tampering as it moves across networks like the internet. This lets you securely access a private network remotely—for example, a coworker connecting to their company's internal resources—or simply browse with greater privacy by routing traffic through the VPN server. Encryption and tunneling protocols such as IPSec, OpenVPN, TLS, or WireGuard make this protection possible. The other options don't match the standard terminology or convey the privacy aspect that the acronym represents.

3. Moore's Law describes which trend in technology?

- A. The number of transistors in an integrated circuit doubles every two years, while price falls and devices shrink**
- B. Data storage capacity doubles every year
- C. Processor speed doubles every five years
- D. Memory capacity doubles every year

Moore's Law is about exponential growth in how densely transistors can be packed on a single integrated circuit. The key idea is that the number of transistors doubles roughly every two years, and that this increase tends to be accompanied by lower costs and smaller device sizes. This relationship has driven the steady rise in computing power and the dropping cost per transistor, enabling more capable electronics over time. It isn't simply about storage capacity or clock speed, though those areas benefit from the same trend; the essence is the doubling of transistor density with corresponding price reductions and miniaturization. Other options mix in different trends. Data storage capacity growth follows separate advances in storage technology and density. Processor speed has not continued to double every few years in recent decades due to limits like heat and power, so that pattern isn't Moore's Law. Memory capacity grows along its own path as well, not strictly tied to the transistor-count doubling principle.

4. What ethical concern was raised by the Dolly the sheep cloning case?

- A. Whether Dolly was a real sheep
- B. Whether Dolly would be suitable for meat production
- C. Whether cloned animals can reproduce
- D. Whether cloning is cost-effective

Cloning Dolly brought to light questions about identity and what counts as a genuine animal. The ethical concern centers on whether a clone can be considered a real, autonomous sheep with its own life and welfare rights, or merely a copy of another. This tension about authenticity and moral status in cloned beings invites us to think about how we value, treat, and make decisions for clones. The other possibilities focus more on practical or economic aspects rather than the deeper issue of whether a cloned animal should be regarded as a true, individual animal deserving ethical consideration.

5. CISA is also known as which program?

- A. The Ammonium Nitrate Security Program.
- B. The Environmental Protection Agency.
- C. The National Security Agency.
- D. The National Weather Service.

The concept being tested is identifying what the acronym CISA refers to within this context, specifically a security-focused program rather than a government agency. The Ammonium Nitrate Security Program is the correct match because it names a targeted initiative aimed at safeguarding a chemical that could be misused as an explosive. This program would cover measures like secure storage, inventory controls, transfers, and reporting to prevent theft or illicit use, which is the kind of security-focused scope implied by the acronym in this material. The other options represent broad agencies or unrelated programs rather than a specific security program tied to ammonium nitrate, so they don't align with how CISA is defined here.

6. What is a bot (short for web robot)?

- A. A hardware device for network routing.
- B. A cryptographic protocol used for secure communications.
- C. A fairly simple software that runs on a network or social network.
- D. A user who moderates online communities.

A bot is an automated software agent that carries out tasks on the internet with little or no human input. It runs on networks, including social networks, to perform actions such as collecting data, posting updates, liking or following, or monitoring activity. This distinguishes it from physical hardware devices, cryptographic protocols, or people who moderate online communities. Bots are essentially programs designed to operate autonomously or semi-autonomously to handle repetitive or scalable online tasks. In practice, you'll see web crawlers indexing pages, chatbots replying to users, or automation tools that manage routine social media actions. Understanding this helps you think about both the capabilities and the ethical considerations of automation online, such as transparency about when you're interacting with a bot and the potential for manipulation or privacy concerns.

7. What risk do third-party cookies pose?

- A. They can limit data sharing with marketers.
- B. They prevent marketing data collection.
- C. They only work on one site.
- D. They can enable sharing and sale of your data to unknown marketers, reducing your control.**

Third-party cookies are saved by sites other than the one you're visiting, and they let advertisers and data brokers follow your activity across multiple sites. This cross-site tracking builds a broad picture of your interests and behavior, which can then be shared or sold to unknown marketers. Because you didn't authorize all these actors or specify who can see your data, you end up with much less control over how it's used. That loss of control and potential misuse is the primary risk. The other options don't reflect how third-party cookies work: they don't limit data sharing, they don't prevent marketing data collection, and they aren't confined to a single site.

8. Which term defines the action of making something obscure, unclear, or unintelligible?

- A. Encryption
- B. Obfuscation**
- C. Decryption
- D. Compression

Obfuscation is the deliberate act of making something obscure, unclear, or unintelligible. In technology, this often means transforming code or data so its purpose and logic aren't easy to understand, even though it still functions. The goal is to deter easy analysis, protect intellectual property, or hide behavior from casual inspection. This matches the description precisely because it centers on obscuring readability rather than changing the data's usability. Encryption, by contrast, turns information into ciphertext that can't be understood without a key, and decryption reverses that to recover the original data. Compression aims to reduce size and, after decompressing, returns to a readable form, not to obscure meaning.

9. Which act is designed to protect the privacy of students' education records and controls sharing with third parties?

- A. COPPA
- B. CAN-SPAM
- C. FERPA**
- D. FACTA

FERPA governs the privacy of students' education records and sets rules about who can see them. It gives parents and eligible students the right to inspect and request amendments to records, and it generally requires written consent before a school can disclose those records to third parties, with specific exceptions for things like disclosures to school officials with a legitimate educational interest or when transferring records to another school. It also allows schools to designate certain information as directory information unless a family opts out. This framework ensures student information isn't shared without permission, balancing privacy with legitimate educational needs. COPPA, CAN-SPAM, and FACTA address different privacy areas—COPPA covers online data collection from young children, CAN-SPAM regulates commercial email, and FACTA relates to consumer credit information.

10. Level 3 autonomy description?

- A. The vehicle handles all driving tasks with no driver.
- B. The driver manually controls steering at all times.
- C. The vehicle performs most actions, a driver is necessary, but not required to monitor the environment.
- D. The vehicle limits driving to parked areas.

Level 3 autonomy, or conditional automation, means the vehicle can handle most driving tasks on its own, but a human driver must be ready to take over when the system requests. It's the middle ground between full automation and manual control: the car steers, accelerates, brakes, and stays in its lane under appropriate conditions, while the human supervisor is still needed to intervene if a situation falls outside what the system can manage. The idea is that driving is largely automated, and the driver isn't required to monitor every moment of the environment, but they must be available to take control when the system asks. That distinguishes it from full automation (no driver needed) and from manual driving (no automation at all).

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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://dsstethicsintech.examzify.com>

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

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