

ENVE URBAN SYSTEMS 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. A household earning less than 80% of the area's median income is considered...**
 - A. Middle income
 - B. Low income
 - C. Upper income
 - D. Very low income
- 2. COVID-19 lockdown effects: People in ~200 countries walked 27% fewer steps after lockdown. Which option reflects this change?**
 - A. 15% fewer steps
 - B. 5% fewer steps
 - C. 0% change
 - D. 27% fewer steps
- 3. What is a stated benefit of using multiple LID types?**
 - A. Combining them improves overall performance
 - B. They perform identically
 - C. They increase flood risk
 - D. They require more than one water source to function
- 4. What is the goal of low impact development (LID) BMPs?**
 - A. Increase runoff quantity.
 - B. Reduce runoff quantity and pollution.
 - C. Eliminate permits.
 - D. Address only nutrient pollution.
- 5. Approximately what percentage of global greenhouse gas emissions is produced by cities?**
 - A. 50%
 - B. 66%
 - C. 75%
 - D. 90%

- 6. Which practice contributes to a healthier indoor environment?**
- A. Use high-toxicity coatings.
 - B. Seal windows to reduce airflow.
 - C. Use low-toxicity materials.
 - D. Increase formaldehyde in interior finishes.
- 7. Some bodies of water do not have ___ clearly defined watersheds.**
- A. clearly defined watersheds
 - B. adequate rainfall
 - C. healthy fish populations
 - D. public access
- 8. Point sources refer to which of the following?**
- A. Groundwater infiltration
 - B. Air emissions from power plants
 - C. Diffuse urban runoff
 - D. Direct discharges from factories and wastewater plants
- 9. Growth of green buildings influences building codes in which state?**
- A. New York
 - B. California
 - C. Texas
 - D. Florida
- 10. What is the approximate U.S. per person daily waste generation?**
- A. 2.1 lbs per person per day
 - B. 6.2 lbs per person per day
 - C. 4.7 lbs per person per day
 - D. 8.0 lbs per person per day

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A household earning less than 80% of the area's median income is considered...

- A. Middle income
- B. Low income**
- C. Upper income
- D. Very low income

This question is about how incomes are categorized using area median income (AMI) thresholds for housing policy. AMI represents the middle point of the income distribution in a region, and programs use percentage cutoffs to define income levels. The category defined as low income typically includes households earning up to 80% of AMI. Since the statement is about earning less than 80% of AMI, the appropriate label is low income. Very low income is usually reserved for those earning up to 50% of AMI, so that would apply only if the threshold were 50% or less.

2. COVID-19 lockdown effects: People in ~200 countries walked 27% fewer steps after lockdown. Which option reflects this change?

- A. 15% fewer steps
- B. 5% fewer steps
- C. 0% change
- D. 27% fewer steps**

This question focuses on interpreting percent change relative to a baseline. When it says people walked 27% fewer steps after lockdown, it means the average steps dropped by 27% compared with what they walked before lockdown. That exact figure matches the described effect, so it's the best choice. For context, if the pre-lockdown average was 10,000 steps, the post-lockdown average would be $10,000 \times (1 - 0.27) = 7,300$ steps. The other options describe smaller decreases or no change, which do not reflect the reported 27% drop.

3. What is a stated benefit of using multiple LID types?

- A. Combining them improves overall performance**
- B. They perform identically
- C. They increase flood risk
- D. They require more than one water source to function

Using multiple LID types leverages different stormwater processes to improve overall performance. Each LID type excels at certain tasks—some promote infiltration and groundwater recharge, others detain and slowly release runoff, some filter pollutants, and others boost evapotranspiration. When you combine them, the system can handle a wider range of rainfall events, adapt to varying soil conditions, and provide redundancy if one element underperforms. The result is better control of peak flows, reduced runoff volume, and enhanced water quality compared to relying on a single practice. They don't perform identically, and properly designed LID reduces flood risk rather than increasing it, since it spreads and slows runoff on-site using the existing rainfall and runoff, not multiple external water sources.

4. What is the goal of low impact development (LID) BMPs?

- A. Increase runoff quantity.
- B. Reduce runoff quantity and pollution.**
- C. Eliminate permits.
- D. Address only nutrient pollution.

LID BMPs aim to manage stormwater close to where it falls by mimicking natural hydrology, which means keeping water on the site, letting it infiltrate, evapotranspire, or be treated before it leaves. The goal is to reduce both the amount of runoff (its quantity) and the pollutants it carries, so downstream flows are less flashy and cleaner. Techniques like rain gardens, bioswales, permeable pavement, green roofs, and rain barrels put water back into the ground or atmosphere rather than sending it straight to streams. This is why the best choice is to reduce runoff quantity and pollution. The other options don't fit because increasing runoff harms systems, eliminating permits isn't a BMP goal, and focusing only on nutrients ignores the broader pollution and flooding issues LID addresses.

5. Approximately what percentage of global greenhouse gas emissions is produced by cities?

- A. 50%
- B. 66%**
- C. 75%
- D. 90%

Cities drive around two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions. This happens because urban areas concentrate energy use for buildings, heating and cooling, lighting, transport, and industrial activity, all of which consume large amounts of energy in a relatively small area. The high density of people and infrastructure means emissions per area tend to be high, and urban systems are the backbone of economic activity, which further concentrates energy demand. Because of how we measure emissions – production-based within city boundaries or consumption-based accounting that includes energy embedded in goods and services consumed by city residents – the number commonly cited sits around 66%, a reasonable and widely used approximation. It's larger than half and smaller than three-quarters or more, and figures like 75% or 90% reflect different definitions or methods rather than a single standard.

6. Which practice contributes to a healthier indoor environment?

- A. Use high-toxicity coatings.
- B. Seal windows to reduce airflow.
- C. Use low-toxicity materials.**
- D. Increase formaldehyde in interior finishes.

Minimizing emissions from building materials is essential for a healthier indoor environment. Materials can release VOCs and other contaminants that accumulate indoors, affecting air quality and occupant comfort. Using low-toxicity materials reduces these emissions, leading to cleaner air and fewer irritations or health concerns for people inside. In contrast, high-toxicity coatings release more harmful volatile compounds, sealing windows limits ventilation and can trap pollutants and moisture, and increasing formaldehyde in interior finishes adds a strong irritant and exposure risk. Because lowering emissions from materials directly improves indoor air quality, using low-toxicity materials is the best practice for a healthier indoor environment.

7. Some bodies of water do not have ____ clearly defined watersheds.

A. clearly defined watersheds

B. adequate rainfall

C. healthy fish populations

D. public access

Watershed boundaries aren't always easy to map. Some bodies of water get water from sources that aren't tied to a single, obvious surface divide—groundwater flowing in from multiple directions, underground drainage, or complex hydrology in karst or fractured basins can blur where one watershed ends and another begins. That's why the statement fits best when it points to watersheds that are not clearly defined. The other options describe conditions like rainfall, ecological health, or access, which influence water quality or use but don't address how clearly a watershed boundary can be drawn.

8. Point sources refer to which of the following?

A. Groundwater infiltration

B. Air emissions from power plants

C. Diffuse urban runoff

D. Direct discharges from factories and wastewater plants

Point sources are identifiable, discrete outlets that discharge pollutants directly into a water body. The best example is direct discharges from factories and wastewater plants, because these have a specific outlet—like a pipe or outfall—where effluent is released in a controlled, trackable way. Groundwater infiltration isn't a single, defined outlet into surface water; it's water entering the system through the ground and can affect the water body over time. Air emissions from power plants pertain to pollutants released into the air, not directly into the water at a single discharge point. Diffuse urban runoff originates from many places across a watershed, lacking a single point of discharge, so it's considered a nonpoint source.

9. Growth of green buildings influences building codes in which state?

A. New York

B. California

C. Texas

D. Florida

Growth of green buildings drives changes in a state's building codes because regulators codify the practices and standards that developers and builders are increasingly required to meet. California is the standout example: it pioneered mandatory green requirements through CALGreen, the California Green Building Standards Code, which sets sustainability targets for new construction and renovations in areas like energy efficiency, water use, waste management, and indoor environmental quality. These codified green practices push the state to continually update its codes, and California's stringent standards often influence national code updates and inspire similar measures in other states. The scale of California's market and its leadership in sustainable design make it the state where growth in green buildings most directly shapes building codes.

10. What is the approximate U.S. per person daily waste generation?

- A. 2.1 lbs per person per day
- B. 6.2 lbs per person per day
- C. 4.7 lbs per person per day
- D. 8.0 lbs per person per day

Per-person daily waste generation in the U.S. is typically around 4 to 5 pounds, which is why 4.7 pounds per person per day is the best approximation. This figure aligns with widely cited data on municipal solid waste generated per capita and serves as a practical estimate for planning trash collection, recycling programs, and landfill needs. The amount can vary by year, region, and waste composition, but it generally sits in the 4–5 pound range. The other options fall outside the common range: 2.1 pounds is too low for U.S. household and business waste, while 6.2 and 8.0 pounds exceed typical estimates.

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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://enveurbansystems.examzify.com>

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

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