

# Environmental Justice Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

**No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.**

**Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.**

**SAMPLE**

# Table of Contents

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Copyright</b> .....             | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Table of Contents</b> .....     | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Introduction</b> .....          | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>How to Use This Guide</b> ..... | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Questions</b> .....             | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Answers</b> .....               | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>Explanations</b> .....          | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Next Steps</b> .....            | <b>18</b> |

SAMPLE

# 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

SAMPLE

- 1. Which event is cited as illustrating ecological balance restoration?**
  - A. The Clean Water Act update in 1972**
  - B. The introduction of wolves to Yellowstone in 1995**
  - C. Reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone to restore ecological balance**
  - D. The Paris Agreement adoption**
  
- 2. Cumulative risk assessments in EJ policy are intended to evaluate what?**
  - A. Only single-factor risks**
  - B. Combined impacts from multiple stressors over time**
  - C. Economic costs of projects only**
  - D. Seasonal weather variations**
  
- 3. Alternative analyses in permitting decisions examine what?**
  - A. Only the cost**
  - B. Different project locations, designs, or methods to avoid or minimize adverse EJ impacts**
  - C. Only aesthetics**
  - D. Public relations outcomes**
  
- 4. Which concept emphasizes that environmental harm can undermine a people's ability to maintain their way of life across generations?**
  - A. Intergenerational justice**
  - B. Insidious loop**
  - C. Collective Continuance**
  - D. Vicious sedimentation**
  
- 5. Identify two pollutants frequently highlighted in urban environmental justice concerns and explain why.**
  - A. CO and O3**
  - B. PM2.5 and NO2**
  - C. Lead and Mercury**
  - D. Benzene and Naphthalene**

- 6. Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high or adverse environmental effects on which populations and to integrate EJ considerations into planning, programming, and decision-making?**
- A. It requires agencies to issue new environmental licenses for all projects within one year.**
  - B. It requires federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high or adverse environmental effects on minority and low-income populations and to integrate EJ considerations into planning, programming, and decision-making.**
  - C. It mandates reduction of all emissions only in urban areas.**
  - D. It mandates environmental justice training for federal employees but no planning integration.**
- 7. What is a common limitation of EJ Screen data?**
- A. It uses only local field measurements**
  - B. It guarantees up-to-date results for every neighborhood**
  - C. It requires no ground-truthing or local context**
  - D. It relies on modeled or aggregated data at census levels, masking local variations and recent changes**
- 8. An example of this term is Indigenous peoples being displaced to lands with oil or uranium mining, resulting in health harms across generations.**
- A. Intergenerational justice**
  - B. Insidious loop**
  - C. Collective Continuance**
  - D. Adaptive capacity**
- 9. Which concept is illustrated by current generations benefiting from fossil fuels while future generations bear costs such as rising sea levels and biodiversity loss?**
- A. Intergenerational justice**
  - B. Insidious loop**
  - C. Collective Continuance**
  - D. Vicious sedimentation**

**10. Which component is typically included in a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA)?**

- A. A negotiated agreement between developers and a community outlining benefits to promote equitable outcomes.**
- B. A zoning ordinance.**
- C. A regulatory permit for emissions.**
- D. A private financing agreement.**

**SAMPLE**

## Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

**1. Which event is cited as illustrating ecological balance restoration?**

**A. The Clean Water Act update in 1972**

**B. The introduction of wolves to Yellowstone in 1995**

**C. Reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone to restore ecological balance**

**D. The Paris Agreement adoption**

Restoring ecological balance often hinges on reestablishing a keystone predator and letting a cascade of effects ripple through the ecosystem. The reintroduction of wolves to Yellowstone in 1995 is the classic example of this. By bringing wolves back, predators once missing from the system began to regulate herbivore populations, especially elk. With fewer elk or altered grazing behavior, vegetation along streams and riparian zones could recover. That vegetation rebound reinforced habitat for beavers, songbirds, and other species, stabilized banks, and even subtly shifted river dynamics. This chain of changes illustrates how a single top predator can reset an ecosystem toward a more balanced state. The other events describe policy actions rather than direct ecological balance restoration within a specific ecosystem. The Clean Water Act update focuses on pollution control, and the Paris Agreement addresses international climate policy. The idea in the second option is the same event as the chosen one, but the phrasing “reintroduction to restore ecological balance” explicitly captures the restoration purpose that the question is asking about.

**2. Cumulative risk assessments in EJ policy are intended to evaluate what?**

**A. Only single-factor risks**

**B. Combined impacts from multiple stressors over time**

**C. Economic costs of projects only**

**D. Seasonal weather variations**

Cumulative risk assessment in Environmental Justice policy focuses on how multiple environmental and social stressors accumulate and interact to affect health and well-being, especially over time and for vulnerable communities. Rather than looking at one pollutant in isolation, it weighs mixtures of exposures, different pathways, and nonchemical factors like housing quality, poverty, and access to care, considering how they combine and vary across populations and over years. This helps explain real-world burdens more accurately and guides equitable protections and interventions. So it captures combined impacts from multiple stressors over time. It’s not just about a single factor, nor about economic costs of projects, and while seasonal weather can influence exposures, the core aim is the cumulative burden from multiple stressors.

### 3. Alternative analyses in permitting decisions examine what?

- A. Only the cost
- B. Different project locations, designs, or methods to avoid or minimize adverse EJ impacts**
- C. Only aesthetics
- D. Public relations outcomes

In permitting analyses, the key idea is to compare ways to carry out a project that could reduce harms, especially to communities already bearing environmental burdens. This means examining different options for where the project could be located, how it would be designed, or what methods or technologies would be used, with the goal of avoiding or minimizing adverse environmental justice impacts. It's not just about cost, appearance, or public relations; the focus is on identifying feasible alternatives that lessen harm to EJ communities by adjusting siting, design, or operations.

### 4. Which concept emphasizes that environmental harm can undermine a people's ability to maintain their way of life across generations?

- A. Intergenerational justice
- B. Insidious loop
- C. Collective Continuance**
- D. Vicious sedimentation

Collective Continuance centers on whether a community can keep practicing its traditions, livelihoods, and social structures over time, even in the face of environmental change or harm. When the environment is damaged—whether through polluted resources, degraded ecosystems, or loss of access to sacred sites—it can disrupt the activities, spaces, and knowledge transmission that sustain a group's way of life across generations. This concept explicitly links environmental health to the ongoing ability of people to maintain their cultural practices and communal identity from one generation to the next. Intergenerational justice, by contrast, is about fairness and rights between generations rather than the practical continuity of a culture or way of life. The other two options aren't standard terms that capture this focus on sustained cultural and social continuity in the face of environmental harm.

**5. Identify two pollutants frequently highlighted in urban environmental justice concerns and explain why.**

**A. CO and O3**

**B. PM2.5 and NO2**

**C. Lead and Mercury**

**D. Benzene and Naphthalene**

The main idea here is that some pollutants create clear, measurable gradients in city environments that land near busy roads and industrial areas, leading to unequal exposure for communities that are often already vulnerable. PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) and NO2 (nitrogen dioxide) are the ones most consistently tied to traffic-related emissions and to health disparities in urban settings. PM2.5 consists of tiny particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream. They come from burning fuels in vehicles, power plants, and other sources. The health risks are substantial—cardiovascular events, asthma attacks, reduced lung function, and other serious outcomes. In cities, PM2.5 levels tend to be higher in neighborhoods with dense traffic or nearby industrial activity, and residents in lower-income or marginalized communities often experience greater exposure due to proximity to highways, ports, and industrial corridors. NO2 is a gaseous pollutant released directly from vehicle exhaust and other combustion processes. It irritates airways and is linked to respiratory problems, especially among children and people with asthma. NO2 also serves as a precursor to ozone and secondary particulate matter, amplifying urban air quality issues. Like PM2.5, NO2 concentrations are typically highest along major roads and in areas with heavy traffic, which disproportionately affects environmentally burdened communities. These two pollutants are emphasized in urban environmental justice because there is strong, consistent evidence of their health impacts and because their concentrations show clear neighborhood-level inequities tied to traffic and industrial proximity. While other pollutants such as lead, mercury, benzene, or benzene-related compounds are important for specific sources or contexts, PM2.5 and NO2 best capture the common urban exposure patterns and the resulting environmental justice concerns.

**6. Executive Order 12898 requires federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high or adverse environmental effects on which populations and to integrate EJ considerations into planning, programming, and decision-making?**

**A. It requires agencies to issue new environmental licenses for all projects within one year.**

**B. It requires federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high or adverse environmental effects on minority and low-income populations and to integrate EJ considerations into planning, programming, and decision-making.**

**C. It mandates reduction of all emissions only in urban areas.**

**D. It mandates environmental justice training for federal employees but no planning integration.**

Executive Order 12898 centers on environmental justice by requiring federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high or adverse environmental effects on minority and low-income populations, and to integrate EJ considerations into planning, programming, and decision-making. This means agencies must assess how proposed actions affect these communities and weave EJ into the development and implementation of policies, programs, and projects. The correct statement captures both parts: identifying and addressing adverse effects on minority and low-income populations and incorporating EJ into planning, programming, and decision-making. The other options miss this combination—one talks about issuing licenses within a year, another about emissions reductions only in urban areas, and another about training without planning integration.

**7. What is a common limitation of EJ Screen data?**

**A. It uses only local field measurements**

**B. It guarantees up-to-date results for every neighborhood**

**C. It requires no ground-truthing or local context**

**D. It relies on modeled or aggregated data at census levels, masking local variations and recent changes**

EJ Screen draws on modeled and aggregated data at census-level geography, not on precise, neighborhood-scale measurements. Because the results are averaged across tracts or block groups and often come from models, they can hide variation within a neighborhood and miss recent changes in pollution sources or land use. This means a local hotspot or a new exposure could be overlooked if you rely solely on EJ Screen. It's best used as a screening tool to identify areas for closer, ground-truthing analysis with more current, fine-grained data and local context.

**8. An example of this term is Indigenous peoples being displaced to lands with oil or uranium mining, resulting in health harms across generations.**

**A. Intergenerational justice**

**B. Insidious loop**

**C. Collective Continuance**

**D. Adaptive capacity**

Intergenerational justice is the concept being tested. An example where Indigenous peoples are displaced to lands tied to oil or uranium mining, resulting in health harms that span generations, illustrates how the burdens of today's activities can be unfairly handed down to descendants. This framing focuses on fairness across generations and the responsibility of the present to avoid imposing avoidable harms on future communities while sharing benefits more equitably. It isn't about how a system adapts or about hidden feedback loops; those terms describe other ideas. The notion of a system's adaptive capacity or an insidious loop doesn't capture the ethical obligation to prevent harm that affects future generations in the way intergenerational justice does. Collective Continuance isn't a standard EJ term in this context, whereas intergenerational justice directly addresses the fairness and duties across generations in environmental health and environmental burdens.

**9. Which concept is illustrated by current generations benefiting from fossil fuels while future generations bear costs such as rising sea levels and biodiversity loss?**

**A. Intergenerational justice**

**B. Insidious loop**

**C. Collective Continuance**

**D. Vicious sedimentation**

Fairness across generations is being tested here—the idea that today's choices and benefits should not impose unacceptable harms on people in the future. When current generations profit from fossil fuels, later generations may pay with higher sea levels, biodiversity loss, and other climate-related costs. Intergenerational justice asks whether that distribution of benefits and burdens is fair and what responsibilities the present has to avoid or mitigate harm for those who come after us. That's why this concept fits best: it centers on ethical obligations to future people and the idea that we should not shift the costs of today's actions onto tomorrow's generations. The other terms don't capture this ethical time-based fairness. They don't specifically address justice between generations, even if they might imply cycles, continuity, or gradual accumulation.

**10. Which component is typically included in a Community Benefits Agreement (CBA)?**

- A. A negotiated agreement between developers and a community outlining benefits to promote equitable outcomes.**
- B. A zoning ordinance.**
- C. A regulatory permit for emissions.**
- D. A private financing agreement.**

Community Benefits Agreements are negotiated between developers and the affected community to secure concrete benefits that promote equitable outcomes from a project. They typically spell out commitments like local hiring and training, opportunities for minority- and locally owned businesses, funding for community services, environmental protections, and ongoing monitoring. This makes the agreement a direct, voluntary agreement aimed at sharing project benefits with the community. In contrast, a zoning ordinance sets land-use rules, a regulatory permit for emissions authorizes pollution controls, and a private financing agreement is about funding terms between private parties, not a community-centered benefit package.

SAMPLE

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://environmentaljustice.examzify.com>**

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

SAMPLE