

ESRI ARCGIS DESKTOP CERTIFICATION PRACTICE TEST (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 should an ArcGIS user do to ensure the exact outline of all building and parcel features is visible?**
 - A. Spatially join features
 - B. Set transparency on buildings
 - C. Join buildings to parcels
 - D. Relate buildings to parcels
- 2. For analyzing survey results where each response is linked to a specific location, which type of association would best serve the data?**
 - A. A. Join
 - B. B. Relate
 - C. C. Spatial join
 - D. D. Relationship class
- 3. How should a user enter zoning information into a parcel's Attributes window that utilizes a coded value domain?**
 - A. Type in the zoning code
 - B. Type in the zoning description
 - C. Select the zoning code from a drop-down list
 - D. Select the zoning description from a drop-down list
- 4. What is the primary purpose of a geoprocessing model in ArcGIS?**
 - A. To visualize spatial data
 - B. To automate repetitive tasks
 - C. To create map layouts
 - D. To develop web applications
- 5. An organization manages multiple GIS projects and restricts data access to specific users. Which type of geodatabase should the organization use?**
 - A. Distributed geodatabase
 - B. Versioned geodatabase
 - C. Replica geodatabase
 - D. Modular geodatabase

- 6. By default, what type of features are created when a GIS analyst selects a line feature class in Create Features?**
- A. Points
 - B. Multipatch
 - C. Polygons
 - D. Polylines
- 7. How can a user export a map image that contains data from both data frames in ArcGIS?**
- A. Export map from ArcCatalog
 - B. Export map from Data view
 - C. Export map from Layout view
 - D. Export map from a Viewer window
- 8. What feature layer type is created when a zipped shapefile is added to ArcGIS Online using the Add > Add Layer From File option?**
- A. Feature Collection
 - B. Hosted view
 - C. Shapefile
 - D. Hosted Feature Layer
- 9. Which application is primarily designed to organize and manage various types of geographic information?**
- A. ArcMap
 - B. ArcGIS Pro
 - C. ArcGlobe
 - D. ArcCatalog
- 10. What is an advantage of using the Block Statistics geoprocessing tool in Spatial Analyst?**
- A. Calculates mean slope
 - B. Estimates watershed features
 - C. Generates raster datasets
 - D. Visualizes complex datasets

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should an ArcGIS user do to ensure the exact outline of all building and parcel features is visible?

- A. Spatially join features
- B. Set transparency on buildings**
- C. Join buildings to parcels
- D. Relate buildings to parcels

Setting transparency on buildings is the correct approach to ensure that the exact outline of all building and parcel features is visible. By adjusting the transparency settings, users can make the building polygons partially see-through, which allows the underlying parcel outlines to show through clearly. This is particularly useful in situations where the building features might otherwise obscure important details of the parcel boundaries. The other options do not effectively achieve the objective of visual clarity for both building and parcel outlines. Spatially joining features could create a new dataset that combines building and parcel information, but it would not necessarily enhance visibility; it could complicate the visual representation. Joining buildings to parcels may associate the attributes of buildings with parcels but does nothing to improve the visual clarity. Relating buildings to parcels provides a connection for data analysis purposes but does not impact how features are visually displayed on the map.

2. For analyzing survey results where each response is linked to a specific location, which type of association would best serve the data?

- A. A. Join
- B. B. Relate**
- C. C. Spatial join
- D. D. Relationship class

Using a relate for analyzing survey results linked to specific locations is advantageous because it allows for flexible connections between the survey responses and the geographic data. A relate enables you to establish a one-to-many or many-to-many relationship, making it possible to associate multiple survey responses with a single location or vice versa without duplicating data. This is particularly useful for survey data analysis where you may have numerous responses that correspond to various locations. In contrast, while a join merges two datasets based on a common attribute, it transforms the data into a single table which may not always be suitable if the relationships are complex or if the datasets are large. A spatial join specifically combines datasets based on their spatial relationship, which might be less relevant when focusing strictly on survey response associations. A relationship class provides an object-oriented approach to manage complex relationships between features and attributes, but might be more complex than necessary for straightforward survey analysis. Thus, using a relate provides the necessary structure to effectively analyze and manage survey responses linked to specific geographic locations, accommodating various analytical needs without compromising data integrity.

3. How should a user enter zoning information into a parcel's Attributes window that utilizes a coded value domain?

- A. Type in the zoning code
- B. Type in the zoning description
- C. Select the zoning code from a drop-down list
- D. Select the zoning description from a drop-down list**

When entering zoning information into a parcel's Attributes window that utilizes a coded value domain, selecting the zoning description from a drop-down list is the appropriate method. A coded value domain is designed to restrict the values that can be inputted for a certain attribute to a predefined set of valid entries. In this case, the drop-down list provides users with the available zoning descriptions, ensuring that they select a valid entry that corresponds to the zoning codes defined in the database. This approach helps maintain data integrity and consistency throughout the dataset, as users are less likely to make typographical errors or input invalid zoning codes. Using the drop-down list also enhances the user experience by providing clear, descriptive choices, making it easier for users to understand the zoning options available to them without needing to remember specific codes. Thus, the selection process fosters accuracy and minimizes the risk of data entry errors, which is crucial when working with zoning information that may have legal implications.

4. What is the primary purpose of a geoprocessing model in ArcGIS?

- A. To visualize spatial data
- B. To automate repetitive tasks**
- C. To create map layouts
- D. To develop web applications

The primary purpose of a geoprocessing model in ArcGIS is to automate repetitive tasks. Geoprocessing models allow users to string together multiple geoprocessing tools into a sequence, enabling the execution of complex workflows with just a few clicks. By automating these tasks, users can save time, reduce the potential for errors, and enhance productivity, especially when dealing with large datasets or when a process needs to be repeated multiple times. In a geoprocessing model, users can define inputs, specify processing steps, and manage outputs efficiently. This functionality is particularly beneficial in scenarios where the same analysis is required across different datasets or time periods. By creating a model, users can ensure consistent results and easier adjustments when needed. The other options presented, while related to the GIS environment, serve different purposes. Visualizing spatial data focuses on representing data effectively through maps, creating map layouts involves designing finished cartographic products for presentation, and developing web applications pertains to creating interactive content for users to engage with geographic information online. These tasks do not encompass the primary function of model automation, which is the essence of what geoprocessing models contribute to ArcGIS workflows.

5. An organization manages multiple GIS projects and restricts data access to specific users. Which type of geodatabase should the organization use?

- A. Distributed geodatabase
- B. Versioned geodatabase**
- C. Replica geodatabase
- D. Modular geodatabase

The most suitable choice for managing multiple GIS projects with restricted data access is a versioned geodatabase. This type of geodatabase allows an organization to implement version control, meaning that users can edit and manage different versions of the same data without affecting others' work until a specific version is reconciled and posted. The versioned geodatabase allows for multiple users to work concurrently on the same datasets while maintaining data integrity and security. This is particularly useful in environments where data access needs to be controlled, as it helps in tracking changes made by various users and allows for permissions to be set at various levels. In a versioned setup, users can also work offline and later integrate their changes back into the central database without risking conflicts. This makes it an effective solution for organizations managing multiple projects with different user roles and access requirements, ensuring that only authorized users can see or edit specific datasets. Other types of geodatabases, such as distributed, replica, and modular geodatabases, do not offer the same level of control over user access and versioning, making them less suitable for this specific need.

6. By default, what type of features are created when a GIS analyst selects a line feature class in Create Features?

- A. Points
- B. Multipatch
- C. Polygons
- D. Polylines**

When a GIS analyst selects a line feature class in the Create Features window, the default type of features that are created is polylines. Polygons are used to represent linear features in a geographic information system, and they are defined by a series of connected points. This makes them suitable for depicting features such as roads, rivers, and trails within a GIS framework. Choosing a polyline feature class specifically allows for the creation of features that encapsulate the necessary linear properties, which are essential for accurately representing and analyzing linear phenomena on a map. While other feature types such as points, polygons, and multipatch exist within GIS, they serve different purposes that do not align with the selection of a line feature class. Therefore, when working with a line feature class, using polylines is the correct and most effective choice for maintaining data integrity and achieving accurate geographic representations.

7. How can a user export a map image that contains data from both data frames in ArcGIS?

- A. Export map from ArcCatalog
- B. Export map from Data view
- C. Export map from Layout view**
- D. Export map from a Viewer window

Exporting a map image that integrates data from multiple data frames in ArcGIS is effectively accomplished through Layout view. In Layout view, the user has the capability to arrange and visualize the various elements of the map, including multiple data frames, titles, legends, and other map annotations. This view is specifically designed to set up the final appearance of the map before exporting it to an image format. When using Layout view, the user can select and export the entire composition of the map as it is designed for presentation, capturing all data frames, their contents, and any additional components. This is essential for ensuring that the output map maintains the intended layout and conveys the information in a coherent way. The other methods mentioned do not serve this purpose as effectively. For instance, data frames can only be viewed in Data view, which focuses on the spatial data and lacks the design-oriented layout features necessary for creating a comprehensive map image. Exporting from ArcCatalog generally focuses on managing datasets rather than creating map visualizations. The Viewer window does not facilitate the full capabilities of layout design required for effective map output. Thus, Layout view is the appropriate option for exporting a map image that includes multiple data frames.

8. What feature layer type is created when a zipped shapefile is added to ArcGIS Online using the Add > Add Layer From File option?

- A. Feature Collection
- B. Hosted view
- C. Shapefile**
- D. Hosted Feature Layer

When a zipped shapefile is added to ArcGIS Online using the Add > Add Layer From File option, it is processed and converted into a feature layer that allows for interaction and analysis in the web environment. The resulting layer is referred to as a shapefile layer. This is a simpler representation of the data structure, allowing users to visualize the geographical features without the additional capabilities that can be found in hosted feature layers. A shapefile layer retains the initial attributes and geometry of the original shapefile but does not necessarily include the additional functionality or editing capabilities associated with hosted feature layers, which are made specifically for editing and complex interactions. Unlike hosted feature layers, which may require additional steps for publishing from ArcGIS Pro or other applications, the shapefile is immediately and simply represented upon upload. Consequently, while other layer types like hosted view or hosted feature layers facilitate more advanced use cases, they do not directly result from the process of uploading a zipped shapefile in the manner described. Thus, the designation of the layer created in this scenario aligns specifically with the characteristics of a shapefile layer.

9. Which application is primarily designed to organize and manage various types of geographic information?

- A. ArcMap
- B. ArcGIS Pro
- C. ArcGlobe
- D. ArcCatalog**

The choice of ArcCatalog is indeed the most appropriate for the question regarding the application designed to organize and manage various types of geographic information. ArcCatalog serves as a standalone application that provides a user-friendly interface for browsing, managing, and organizing geographic data and resources. It allows users to access and organize their spatial data through a file directory structure, making it easier to view metadata, manage datasets, and create a database structure for geographic information systems (GIS). ArcCatalog also facilitates the discovery of data through its robust search capabilities, helping users quickly find the geographic data they need for their projects. This capability to help organize and manage various types of geographic information is its primary function, distinguishing it from other applications in the ArcGIS suite. In contrast, while ArcMap and ArcGIS Pro are powerful tools for analyzing and visualizing geographic data, they focus more on the map-making and spatial analysis functionalities rather than on data management. ArcGlobe is specifically designed for visualizing and working with 3D geospatial data, thus also lacking the central data management features that ArcCatalog offers.

10. What is an advantage of using the Block Statistics geoprocessing tool in Spatial Analyst?

- A. Calculates mean slope**
- B. Estimates watershed features
- C. Generates raster datasets
- D. Visualizes complex datasets

Using the Block Statistics geoprocessing tool in Spatial Analyst primarily focuses on summarizing the attributes of raster data within specified blocks or zones. The tool computes statistics, like the mean, median, or sum, for the raster values within each block, which is instrumental in analyzing spatial patterns and trends. Calculating the mean slope specifically highlights how this tool can be applied to derive simplified statistical summaries of larger datasets, making it easier to analyze terrain and other continuous variables. Understanding the mean slope is important in various applications, such as hydrology, urban planning, and environmental management, where understanding terrain can influence decision-making. The other options do not directly connect to the primary functionality of the Block Statistics tool. While estimating watershed features, generating raster datasets, and visualizing complex datasets are important aspects of GIS analysis, they pertain to other tools and functionalities within ArcGIS that serve different purposes. Thus, focusing on how Block Statistics offers specific statistical outputs like mean slope captures the true advantage of this geoprocessing tool.

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://esriarcgisdesktop.examzify.com>

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

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