

FLORIDA STATEWIDE SCIENCE ASSESSMENT (SSA) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. Which term refers to the property that measures how dense a material is, mass per unit volume?**
 - A. Conductivity
 - B. Density
 - C. Volume
 - D. Solubility
- 2. Which term contains the cell's genetic material and acts as the control center?**
 - A. Cytoplasm
 - B. Nucleus
 - C. Endoplasmic reticulum
 - D. Ribosome
- 3. What is the average distance between Earth and the Sun, about 150 million kilometers?**
 - A. Light year
 - B. Absolute brightness
 - C. Apparent magnitude
 - D. Astronomical Unit (AU)
- 4. What term describes the dense sphere of solid iron and nickel at Earth's center?**
 - A. Crust
 - B. Mantle
 - C. Outer Core
 - D. Inner Core
- 5. Preserved remains of once-living organisms are called what?**
 - A. Atmosphere
 - B. Absolute dating
 - C. Fossils
 - D. Law of Superposition

- 6. Which term describes a change in matter that produces one or more new substances?**
- A. Physical change
 - B. Chemical change
 - C. Phase change
 - D. Reversible change
- 7. Which component serves as the flexible boundary surrounding the cell and controls substance flow?**
- A. Cell wall
 - B. Cell membrane
 - C. Cytoplasm
 - D. Nucleus
- 8. Which layer is a layer of molten iron and nickel that surrounds the inner core of Earth?**
- A. Inner Core
 - B. Mantle
 - C. Outer Core
 - D. Crust
- 9. What is the thin and solid outermost layer of the Earth called?**
- A. Crust
 - B. Mantle
 - C. Inner Core
 - D. Outer Core
- 10. Which layer lies between Earth's crust and core and is composed of hot, solid rock?**
- A. Crust
 - B. Outer Core
 - C. Mantle
 - D. Inner Core

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which term refers to the property that measures how dense a material is, mass per unit volume?

- A. Conductivity
- B. Density**
- C. Volume
- D. Solubility

Density is the property that measures how much matter is packed into a given amount of space, expressed as mass per unit volume. Think of it as how tightly the material's particles are packed together. When the same volume holds more mass, the material is denser; when it holds less mass, it's less dense. Common units are grams per cubic centimeter (g/cm^3) or kilograms per cubic meter (kg/m^3). This explains everyday observations like why a metal block feels heavier than a wooden block of the same size—the metal has a higher density because more mass fits into the same volume. By contrast, volume describes how much space an object occupies, not how much matter is packed inside. Conductivity is about how well a material transfers heat or electricity. Solubility is about how much of a substance can dissolve in a solvent.

2. Which term contains the cell's genetic material and acts as the control center?

- A. Cytoplasm
- B. Nucleus**
- C. Endoplasmic reticulum
- D. Ribosome

The nucleus holds the cell's genetic material and acts as the control center by directing which genes are read and when, guiding the production of proteins that determine the cell's activities. In eukaryotic cells, DNA is stored inside the nucleus, organized into chromosomes, and the nucleus regulates gene expression to keep the cell functioning properly. The cytoplasm is the surrounding area where many processes happen, but it doesn't house the genetic material. The endoplasmic reticulum handles making and modifying proteins and lipids. The ribosome builds proteins based on messages from the DNA but doesn't contain genetic material itself. So the term that fits both storing genetic material and serving as the control center is the nucleus.

3. What is the average distance between Earth and the Sun, about 150 million kilometers?

- A. Light year
- B. Absolute brightness
- C. Apparent magnitude
- D. Astronomical Unit (AU)**

Astronomical Unit is the standard measure for distances within our solar system. It represents the mean distance from the Sun to the Earth, which is about 149.6 million kilometers. Because Earth's orbit is an ellipse, the distance varies over the year, but the average distance—often approximated as about 150 million kilometers—is what the AU conveys. The other terms describe different ideas: a light year is the distance light travels in a year (much larger, used for stars and galaxies); absolute brightness measures intrinsic luminosity; apparent magnitude is how bright an object looks from Earth, depending on both distance and intrinsic brightness.

4. What term describes the dense sphere of solid iron and nickel at Earth's center?

- A. Crust
- B. Mantle
- C. Outer Core
- D. Inner Core**

Earth's center contains two distinct core regions, with the solid ball at the very center being the inner core. This inner core is a dense sphere made mainly of iron and some nickel, and it stays solid because the immense pressures at Earth's center keep iron in a solid state even though temperatures there are extremely high. Surrounding it is the outer core, which is molten iron-nickel that can flow and generate Earth's magnetic field. So the dense, solid sphere at the center is the inner core.

5. Preserved remains of once-living organisms are called what?

- A. Atmosphere
- B. Absolute dating
- C. Fossils**
- D. Law of Superposition

Fossils are the preserved remains or traces of once-living organisms. They can be actual bones, teeth, shells, or imprints of leaves and shells, as well as tracks or other signs that life existed in a place. Preservation happens in various ways: minerals can replace the original material to turn it into rock, or organisms can be trapped in substances like amber, tar, or ice that protect them from decay. Fossils let scientists study ancient life, evolution, and past environments. Atmosphere is the layer of gases surrounding Earth, which has nothing to do with preserved organisms. Absolute dating is a method used to determine the age of rocks or fossils, not the preserved remains themselves. The Law of Superposition is a dating principle about the order of rock layers—older layers are below younger ones—rather than describing what fossils are.

6. Which term describes a change in matter that produces one or more new substances?

- A. Physical change
- B. Chemical change**
- C. Phase change
- D. Reversible change

A change that results in new substances forming is a chemical change. This happens when bonds break and new bonds form, reconfiguring the atoms into substances with different properties. Examples include burning wood, which turns into ash and gases, or iron rusting to form iron oxide. In contrast, a physical change only alters form, size, or state without changing the actual substance. Melting ice to liquid water changes appearance and state, but still results in water molecules; no new substance is created. A phase change is a type of physical change focused specifically on changing state (solid, liquid, gas) rather than composition. Reversibility describes whether a change can be undone, and while some physical changes are reversible and some chemical changes can be reversed under certain conditions, reversibility by itself does not define whether new substances are produced.

7. Which component serves as the flexible boundary surrounding the cell and controls substance flow?

- A. Cell wall
- B. Cell membrane**
- C. Cytoplasm
- D. Nucleus

The cell membrane acts as the flexible boundary around the cell and regulates what moves in and out. It's a phospholipid bilayer with proteins that provide selective channels and transport mechanisms, allowing essential substances to enter while keeping harmful ones out. Its fluid nature lets the boundary bend and adapt as the cell changes shape or engulfs material. The cell wall is a rigid outer layer that offers support and protection rather than controlling traffic across the boundary. The cytoplasm fills the interior where most metabolic processes occur, and the nucleus houses genetic material. The membrane is the specific structure that both forms the boundary and controls substance flow.

8. Which layer is a layer of molten iron and nickel that surrounds the inner core of Earth?

- A. Inner Core
- B. Mantle
- C. Outer Core**
- D. Crust

The layer in question is the molten iron-nickel region that surrounds the inner core. This is the outer core. The outer core is liquid, made primarily of iron and nickel, and its motion of molten metal drives Earth's magnetic field. By contrast, the inner core is a solid sphere of iron-nickel, kept solid by immense pressures. The mantle and crust are rocky, silicate layers above the core, not molten metal. So the description of a molten iron-nickel layer surrounding the inner core identifies the outer core.

9. What is the thin and solid outermost layer of the Earth called?

- A. Crust**
- B. Mantle
- C. Inner Core
- D. Outer Core

The outermost solid layer of Earth is the crust. It sits on top of the mantle and is much thinner than the other layers, which is why the clue calls it "thin and solid." There are two main types: continental crust, which is thicker and lighter, and oceanic crust, which is thinner and denser. Below the crust lies the mantle, which is thick and more ductile, while the inner core is a solid sphere at the center and the outer core is a surrounding liquid layer. So the crust is the correct answer because it is the thin, solid shell that forms Earth's surface.

10. Which layer lies between Earth's crust and core and is composed of hot, solid rock?

- A. Crust
- B. Outer Core
- C. Mantle**
- D. Inner Core

The layer between the crust and the core is the mantle. It is made of hot rock that behaves as a solid, though it can flow very slowly over long timescales. This gentle, plastic flow drives convection currents that move Earth's tectonic plates, which rest on top of it. The outer core is liquid iron-nickel, not solid rock, and lies below the mantle, while the inner core is a solid sphere at the center. The crust sits on top of the mantle. So, the described layer is the mantle.

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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://floridassa.examzify.com>

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

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