

Gary Paulsen's Hatchet Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. In Brian's bear encounter, what was the bear's behavior toward him?**
 - A. The bear didn't care about him.**
 - B. The bear attacked him.**
 - C. The bear ran away.**
 - D. The bear stole his food.**

- 2. Who found Brian during the rescue?**
 - A. A fur buyer.**
 - B. A pilot.**
 - C. A fisherman.**
 - D. A neighbor.**

- 3. What might the hatchet's physical design symbolize?**
 - A. Its ornate decoration and theatricality.**
 - B. Its fragility and dependence on weather.**
 - C. Its practicality, simplicity, and reliability.**
 - D. Its symbolism as a weapon alone.**

- 4. What word completes the greeting 'Hello, ___'?**
 - A. Water**
 - B. Fire**
 - C. Wind**
 - D. Earth**

- 5. What contrast does the wilderness present?**
 - A. Beauty and danger coexist**
 - B. Only danger**
 - C. Beauty but no danger**
 - D. Only beauty**

- 6. How does the setting influence Brian's coping strategies?**
- A. It encourages him to seek emotional consolation before taking action.**
 - B. It makes him rely on others for rescue.**
 - C. It leads him to rely on luck rather than planning.**
 - D. It demands practical, incremental actions rather than emotional solutions.**
- 7. Why did it surprise him so much?**
- A. You never saw mosquitos in the survival shows.**
 - B. He expected mosquitoes to be common.**
 - C. The survival shows warned of mosquitoes.**
 - D. Mosquitoes were loud at night.**
- 8. What did Brian do after his illness from the gut cherries?**
- A. He threw them away.**
 - B. He ate all at once.**
 - C. He took a handful of washed ripe ones and he had to eat a little at a time; he made two piles of them.**
 - D. He boiled them to make juice.**
- 9. Which description best fits Brian's physical state after the changes?**
- A. Very skinny and tan, skin leathery.**
 - B. Healthy and muscular.**
 - C. Pale and weak.**
 - D. Taller and hairier.**
- 10. What action did Brian take to get to the plane?**
- A. He signaled rescuers with smoke**
 - B. He built a raft called Brush Pile 1**
 - C. He constructed a shelter near the shore**
 - D. He fashioned a spear to fish**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In Brian's bear encounter, what was the bear's behavior toward him?

- A. The bear didn't care about him.**
- B. The bear attacked him.**
- C. The bear ran away.**
- D. The bear stole his food.**

The main idea here is how to interpret a wildlife encounter and what the bear's behavior communicates about its mood. In this moment, the bear moves through the area without showing aggression or intent to attack. It sniffs and goes about its business, but it doesn't fix on Brian or threaten him. That kind of calm, nonconfrontational presence suggests the bear isn't aiming to hurt or chase him; it's simply indifferent to his presence. So, the best reading is that the bear didn't care about him. The other possibilities—an attack, a chase, or stealing his food—don't match what the scene describes, which is a brief, uneventful or minimally threatening encounter rather than a confrontation.

2. Who found Brian during the rescue?

- A. A fur buyer.**
- B. A pilot.**
- C. A fisherman.**
- D. A neighbor.**

The moment being tested is recalling who actually encounters Brian and helps him get back to civilization after his time in the wild. In the story, a fur buyer—someone who travels by small plane to check traps and buy furs—stumbles upon Brian signaling for help. He lands and takes Brian with him, ending the long ordeal in the wilderness. This fits the setting, where remote traders move through the area and can be the ones to notice a signal fire or a survivor. The other possibilities don't align with how the rescue unfolds. A neighbor or a fisherman isn't described as the person who finds him in this remote wilderness, and while a pilot might be involved in bush travel, the text presents the fur buyer as the rescuer who locates Brian in that moment.

3. What might the hatchet's physical design symbolize?

- A. Its ornate decoration and theatricality.**
- B. Its fragility and dependence on weather.**
- C. Its practicality, simplicity, and reliability.**
- D. Its symbolism as a weapon alone.**

The hatchet's design is a symbol of practicality and reliability, which fits the survival focus of the story. Its simple, sturdy build—short handle, solid blade—speaks to what Brian needs most: a dependable tool he can count on to cut wood, shape shelter, and make kindling. In the wild, flashy or ornate gear is useless; what matters is how well a tool works, not how it looks. That practicality mirrors Brian's growing resourcefulness and self-reliance as he learns to rely on basic skills and whatever the environment provides. If you think about the other options, they don't match the way the hatchet actually functions in the story. Decorations and theatrics would pull attention away from usefulness. Fragility and weather dependence would undermine the tool's reliability, which is essential to survival. Seeing the hatchet as merely a weapon ignores all the everyday tasks it enables. The strongest idea is that the hatchet represents doing the job with what's available, simply and effectively.

4. What word completes the greeting 'Hello, ___'?

- A. Water
- B. Fire**
- C. Wind
- D. Earth

Understanding how a survivor interacts with the world helps us see why this word fits naturally. In *Hatchet*, fire becomes a lifeline—something Brian actively creates, tends, and relies on for warmth, cooking, and signaling. Greeting fire as a companion fits the practical, personal relationship a person develops with the tool that keeps them alive. Water, wind, and earth are part of the environment, but they aren't engaged with in the same immediate, interactive way. So, the best completion is fire.

5. What contrast does the wilderness present?

- A. Beauty and danger coexist**
- B. Only danger
- C. Beauty but no danger
- D. Only beauty

This item tests understanding of how the wilderness is portrayed as a contrast—something that can be beautiful and dangerous at the same time. In *Hatchet*, the natural world is filled with stunning scenes—the quiet beauty of a lake, soaring skies, and the lush stiffness of the forest—moments that stir awe. at the same time, Brian faces real threats: injuries from the crash, extreme hunger, cold, and unpredictable wildlife. That mix of wonder and threat shows that nature isn't only one thing; it can be breathtaking and perilous in equal measure. The best choice captures this dual feel by stating that beauty and danger coexist. It reflects the way Brian's experiences weave together awe-inspiring moments with survival challenges, making the wilderness feel alive and real rather than purely charming or purely menacing. The other options lean toward only danger, or only beauty, which misses how the setting shapes Brian's understanding and survival: he learns to respect nature's power while still appreciating its beauty.

6. How does the setting influence Brian's coping strategies?

- A. It encourages him to seek emotional consolation before taking action.**
- B. It makes him rely on others for rescue.**
- C. It leads him to rely on luck rather than planning.**
- D. It demands practical, incremental actions rather than emotional solutions.**

The setting places Brian in a harsh, isolated wilderness where immediate danger and limited resources require steady, concrete steps. Because he can't rely on others or on quick emotional comfort to solve problems, his coping becomes action-focused: he tests conditions, builds shelter, finds water, starts fires, and plans meals and routines. This practical, incremental approach gives him control over his situation and steadily increases his safety and chances of survival. Emotional consolation, while natural, can't move him forward fast enough in the woods, where delays can be fatal. The idea of counting on others for rescue doesn't capture the day-to-day reality he faces, since help is uncertain and not always nearby. And relying on luck conflicts with the survival mindset the setting demands; luck is unpredictable, whereas the story emphasizes careful planning and deliberate steps. So the setting shapes his coping to be practical, incremental actions rather than seeking emotional solutions.

7. Why did it surprise him so much?

- A. You never saw mosquitos in the survival shows.**
- B. He expected mosquitoes to be common.**
- C. The survival shows warned of mosquitoes.**
- D. Mosquitoes were loud at night.**

The surprise comes from how his expectations were shaped by media. He'd watched survival shows that almost never featured mosquitoes, so he didn't anticipate encountering them in the real wilderness. When reality included these biting insects, it stood in stark contrast to what those shows suggested, making the moment feel unexpected. This demonstrates how media representations can set up false or incomplete ideas of what the environment is like, leading to reactions when real conditions don't match those depictions. The other ideas don't fit as well because they would imply that he expected mosquitoes to be a normal, non-surprising part of the scene, or that the shows themselves warned about them, or that the noise alone was the source of his reaction. But the core reason his reaction was so strong is the mismatch between the absence of mosquitoes in the survival shows and their real presence in the wilderness.

8. What did Brian do after his illness from the gut cherries?

- A. He threw them away.
- B. He ate all at once.
- C. He took a handful of washed ripe ones and he had to eat a little at a time; he made two piles of them.**
- D. He boiled them to make juice.

The main idea here is how Brian learns to handle food safely after a stomach upset by testing foods in small, controlled amounts and staying organized. After his illness from gut cherries, he doesn't just rush to eat everything. He chooses ripe, washed berries, but instead of gobbling them all, he takes a handful and eats a little at a time, even sorting them into two piles. This careful approach shows his growing survival skill: he's cautious, observes how his body reacts, and plans his meals to avoid another bad reaction. The other options don't fit because discarding all the berries would waste food, eating everything at once would risk another illness, and boiling them for juice isn't what he does in this moment.

9. Which description best fits Brian's physical state after the changes?

- A. Very skinny and tan, skin leathery.**
- B. Healthy and muscular.
- C. Pale and weak.
- D. Taller and hairier.

The main idea is how harsh survival conditions reshape Brian's body: he becomes lean from limited food, and his skin darkens and toughens from constant sun and exposure. In the wilderness, calories are scarce and effort is constant, so weight drops and the body becomes wiry. Sun and wind dry and roughen the skin, giving it a leathery feel. That combination—extreme thinness plus sun-kissed, weathered skin—fits the description described in the text. The other states don't match what happens in this situation. Being healthy and muscular would require steady nourishment and regular exertion beyond what survival allows; being pale and weak suggests illness more than adaptation to the outdoors; becoming taller and hairier isn't a typical outcome of severe, long-term exposure and scarcity.

10. What action did Brian take to get to the plane?

- A. He signaled rescuers with smoke
- B. He built a raft called Brush Pile 1**
- C. He constructed a shelter near the shore
- D. He fashioned a spear to fish

The main idea here is how Brian uses resourcefulness to move toward a goal. He takes available materials and turns them into a tool that lets him cover distance and reach something important—the plane. By building a raft from brush and logs, which he names Brush Pile 1, he creates a means to travel across the lake to the downed plane. This action directly advances his goal of reaching the plane, which could bring supplies or signs of rescue. The other tasks—signaling for help, building a shelter, or fishing—are important for survival in general, but they don't accomplish the specific objective of getting to the plane the way making and using the raft does.

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://paulsenhatchet.examzify.com>

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

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