General Knowledge (GK) Reading 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

1. Which famous scientist developed the laws of motion?

- **A. Marie Curie**
- **B. Isaac Newton**
- **C. Stephen Hawking**
- **D. Niels Bohr**

2. What is the main currency used in Japan?

- **A. Dollar**
- **B. Pound**
- **C. Yen**
- **D. Euro**

3. What is the connotation of the word "accorded" in context?

- **A. Granted**
- **B. Denied**
- **C. Bestowed**
- **D. Resisted**

4. Which gas do plants absorb from the atmosphere?

- **A. Oxygen**
- **B. Carbon monoxide**
- **C. Carbon dioxide**
- **D. Nitrogen**

5. What is highlighted as evidence of Eads being a prominent marine engineer?

- **A. The innovation of steel structures**
- **B. The design of the first bridge across the Father of Waters**
- **C. His use of eco-friendly materials**
- **D. The speed of construction**

6. Which caption best describes the completion of Eads Bridge?

- **A. Engineering disaster**
- **B. Completion of a city infrastructure**
- **C. Eads bridge completion is an engineering marvel**
- **D. Temporary structure inspection**

7. What is one of the positive reasons for using food additives as mentioned in the passages?

A. To enhance flavor and appearance of food

B. To preserve food indefinitely

C. To increase food weight

D. To add unnatural colors

8. How did public perception affect Eads' work?

A. Public skepticism led to increased regulations

B. His innovations were frequently celebrated

C. Public interest diminished over time

D. He faced little scrutiny from the media

9. Which theme is presented with a more cautious viewpoint by the author of Passage 1 compared to the author of Passage 2?

A. The advantages of modern technology.

B. The role of science and technology in advancing health care.

C. Historical developments in agriculture.

D. Philosophical approaches to medicine.

10. What is the largest continent by land area?

A. Africa

B. Asia

C. North America

D. Europe

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which famous scientist developed the laws of motion?

A. Marie Curie

B. Isaac Newton

C. Stephen Hawking

D. Niels Bohr

The correct answer is Isaac Newton, who is renowned for formulating the three fundamental laws of motion that describe the relationship between a body and the forces acting upon it. These laws laid the groundwork for classical mechanics and have been pivotal in understanding the movement of objects and the principles of physics. Newton's first law, the law of inertia, states that an object at rest will remain at rest, and an object in motion will remain in motion unless acted upon by a net external force. His second law provides the famous equation F=ma, relating force, mass, and acceleration. The third law asserts that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Marie Curie is celebrated for her pioneering research on radioactivity, but she did not develop the laws of motion. Stephen Hawking is well-known for his work in theoretical physics and cosmology, particularly regarding black holes and the nature of the universe, which is distinct from the foundational laws of motion established by Newton. Niels Bohr significantly contributed to our understanding of atomic structure and quantum theory, but again, this is separate from the principles of motion that Newton articulated. Thus, Newton's contributions define the core concepts of motion in physics, making him the correct answer to this question.

2. What is the main currency used in Japan?

A. Dollar

B. Pound

C. Yen

D. Euro

The main currency used in Japan is the yen. It is the official currency of the country and is symbolized by the sign "¥." The yen is one of the most traded currencies globally and plays a significant role in international finance. In Japan, prices for goods and services are generally quoted in yen, making it the primary medium of exchange for everyday transactions. Understanding the yen is essential for anyone visiting or doing business in Japan, as it directly affects purchasing power and economic interactions within the country. Other currencies listed, such as the dollar, pound, and euro, are used in different countries and regions, but they do not serve as Japan's main currency.

3. What is the connotation of the word "accorded" in context?

A. Granted

B. Denied

C. Bestowed

D. Resisted

The word "accorded" generally carries a positive connotation, suggesting that something is given or granted, often with an implied respect or honor. In the context of the choices provided, "bestowed" is the most fitting term, as it also conveys the idea of giving something valuable or important, typically with a sense of honor or privilege. "Bestowed" emphasizes the act of granting something meaningful, aligning closely with the notion of "accorded," which often suggests an intentional or respectful giving. Therefore, understanding that both words are associated with the act of giving in a positive light helps clarify why "bestowed" is the appropriate choice in this context.

4. Which gas do plants absorb from the atmosphere?

A. Oxygen

B. Carbon monoxide

C. Carbon dioxide

D. Nitrogen

Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, which is essential for the process of photosynthesis. During photosynthesis, plants take in carbon dioxide through small openings in their leaves called stomata. This gas is then used, along with sunlight and water, to produce glucose and oxygen. Glucose serves as a vital source of energy for the plant, while the oxygen generated is released back into the atmosphere, contributing to the air we breathe. Oxygen, although produced by plants during photosynthesis, is not absorbed by them. Carbon monoxide, while it can be present in the atmosphere, is a harmful gas and does not play a role in photosynthesis. Nitrogen is essential for plant growth, but it is typically absorbed in a different form, such as nitrates, rather than directly from the atmosphere in its gaseous state. Thus, carbon dioxide is the key gas that plants need for their survival and energy production.

5. What is highlighted as evidence of Eads being a prominent marine engineer?

A. The innovation of steel structures

B. The design of the first bridge across the Father of Waters

C. His use of eco-friendly materials

D. The speed of construction

The design of the first bridge across the Father of Waters serves as crucial evidence of Eads being a prominent marine engineer because it demonstrates his ability to tackle significant engineering challenges and successfully create infrastructure that was innovative for its time. This particular achievement highlights his expertise in both marine engineering and structural design, showcasing his advanced understanding of engineering principles and his capability to apply them in complex scenarios. The bridge not only connected vital regions but also represented an important evolution in engineering practices, setting a benchmark for future projects. Through this accomplishment, Eads earned recognition and respect in the field, marking his contributions as foundational in the area of marine engineering.

6. Which caption best describes the completion of Eads Bridge?

A. Engineering disaster

B. Completion of a city infrastructure

C. Eads bridge completion is an engineering marvel

D. Temporary structure inspection

The completion of the Eads Bridge is best described as an engineering marvel because it was a groundbreaking achievement in civil engineering at the time of its construction. Completed in 1874, it was the first all-metal bridge to be built with a cantilever design, utilizing wrought iron in a way that had never been done before. The bridge connected St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois, over the Mississippi River, showcasing innovative engineering techniques that allowed larger spans and greater durability compared to previous structures. Its design not only addressed the practical need for better infrastructure but also demonstrated the capabilities of modern engineering, significantly impacting bridge construction for future generations. This context positions the Eads Bridge as a notable landmark and an extraordinary feat of engineering, rather than simply a construction project or a failure, which is why it is fittingly described as an engineering marvel.

7. What is one of the positive reasons for using food additives as mentioned in the passages?

A. To enhance flavor and appearance of food

B. To preserve food indefinitely

C. To increase food weight

D. To add unnatural colors

Using food additives to enhance the flavor and appearance of food is a widely recognized benefit. Food additives can significantly improve the sensory qualities of products, making them more appealing to consumers. These enhancements can include flavorings that improve taste, colorings that make food visually attractive, and texturizers that provide a more enjoyable mouthfeel. These attributes can enhance the overall eating experience and help food manufacturers meet consumer preferences for taste and aesthetic appeal. The other options mentioned, while they touch on aspects of food additives, do not reflect the core positive impact of these substances in the context of consumer satisfaction and enjoyment. For instance, while preservation is essential, it's not accurate to state that food can be preserved indefinitely, and adding unnatural colors would not be a positive reason in the context of health concerns.

8. How did public perception affect Eads' work?

A. Public skepticism led to increased regulations

B. His innovations were frequently celebrated

C. Public interest diminished over time

D. He faced little scrutiny from the media

The answer indicating that his innovations were frequently celebrated highlights the positive impact of public perception on Eads' work. Eads was an innovative engineer known for his significant contributions to the field, such as the construction of the first steel bridge over the Mississippi River and his work on the design of the jetty system for the Mississippi River. When the public recognized the importance and brilliance of his engineering solutions, it not only boosted his reputation but also garnered support for his projects. This appreciation often translated into funding, support from investors, and the collaboration of other professionals in the industry, which allowed him to continue and expand his innovative work. Celebrating innovations rather than skepticism or media scrutiny fosters an environment where creative engineers can thrive, creating a positive feedback loop that benefits the field of engineering and society at large.

9. Which theme is presented with a more cautious viewpoint by the author of Passage 1 compared to the author of Passage 2?

A. The advantages of modern technology.

B. The role of science and technology in advancing health care.

C. Historical developments in agriculture.

D. Philosophical approaches to medicine.

The theme of the role of science and technology in advancing health care is presented with a more cautious viewpoint in Passage 1 compared to Passage 2 because the author of Passage 1 emphasizes potential drawbacks, ethical concerns, or limitations associated with technological advancements in the medical field. This perspective invites readers to consider not just the benefits, but also the implications of over-reliance on technology in healthcare settings. In contrast, the author of Passage 2 likely presents a more optimistic view of how science and technology contribute significantly to improvements in health care, highlighting advancements and their positive outcomes without as much emphasis on caution or skepticism. This distinction in the authors' approaches illustrates the varying perspectives on how health care evolves through technological means, making the cautious viewpoint in Passage 1 noteworthy. The other themes, while important, do not reflect the specific focus on health care that distinguishes this comparison, leading to a clearer understanding of how each author views the intersection of technology and medicine.

10. What is the largest continent by land area?

A. Africa

B. Asia

C. North America

D. Europe

Asia is the largest continent by land area, covering approximately 44.58 million square kilometers (17.21 million square miles). It comprises a diverse range of countries, cultures, and geographical features, including mountains, deserts, and vast plains. Its extensive size contributes to its significant population, economy, and cultural influence globally. This immense land area allows Asia to host some of the world's largest countries, such as Russia, China, and India, each contributing to its ranking as the largest continent. The other continents, while sizable in their own right, do not match Asia's area. Africa is notably large, but it ranks second, while North America and Europe are considerably smaller than both Africa and Asia.

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://gkreading.examzify.com

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