

# GENERAL KNOWLEDGE (GK) READING PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE  
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://gkreading.examzify.com>



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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 is the capital of Canada?**

- A. Toronto
- B. Vancouver
- C. Ottawa
- D. Montreal

**2. What is the currency used in Japan?**

- A. Dollar
- B. Yen
- C. Won
- D. Euro

**3. Which element has the chemical symbol 'O'?**

- A. Osmium
- B. Gold
- C. Oxygen
- D. Oganesson

**4. What is the largest ocean on Earth?**

- A. Atlantic Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Pacific Ocean
- D. Arctic Ocean

**5. What distinguished Eads' experience as a steamboat clerk from his government work?**

- A. He had more support as a clerk
- B. He independently innovated solutions as a clerk
- C. He received formal training as a clerk
- D. He was less motivated as a clerk

**6. What was the impact of Einstein's theory on the field of physics?**

- A. No significant impact
- B. It confirmed classical mechanics
- C. It introduced radical new concepts in physics
- D. It led to the rejection of all previous theories



**7. Which element has the atomic number 1?**

- A. Oxygen
- B. Hydrogen
- C. Carbon
- D. Nitrogen

**8. Which ancient civilization built the pyramids?**

- A. Romans
- B. Greeks
- C. Egyptians
- D. Babylonians

**9. What celestial body is at the center of our solar system?**

- A. The Earth
- B. The Moon
- C. The Sun
- D. Jupiter

**10. Who discovered penicillin?**

- A. Louis Pasteur
- B. Marie Curie
- C. Alexander Fleming
- D. Albert Einstein



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What is the capital of Canada?

- A. Toronto
- B. Vancouver
- C. Ottawa**
- D. Montreal

Ottawa is the capital of Canada, making it the correct answer to this question. As the capital, Ottawa is the center of Canadian government and home to important national institutions, including the Parliament of Canada and the official residences of the Prime Minister and the Governor General. Ottawa is located in the province of Ontario, along the Ottawa River, and is known for its historic architecture, vibrant cultural scene, and numerous national museums. While cities like Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal are significant in their own right, hosting large populations and economic activities, none of them serves as the capital of the country. Toronto is the largest city in Canada, Vancouver is a major port city on the west coast, and Montreal is known for its rich history and cultural diversity; however, Ottawa holds the unique role of being the political capital.

## 2. What is the currency used in Japan?

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

The currency used in Japan is the Yen. The Yen is the official currency of Japan and is represented by the symbol "¥" and the currency code "JPY." It has been in use since the late 19th century and is one of the most traded currencies in the world. The Yen is known for its stability and is a key player in global markets, often serving as a safe haven during times of economic uncertainty. Other options do not represent Japan's currency. The Dollar is the currency of the United States and several other countries, the Won is the currency of South Korea, and the Euro is used by many European countries, but none of these apply to Japan.

## 3. Which element has the chemical symbol 'O'?

- A. Osmium
- B. Gold
- C. Oxygen**
- D. Oganesson

The chemical symbol 'O' represents Oxygen, which is a vital element for life on Earth. Oxygen is a colorless, odorless gas that makes up about 21% of the Earth's atmosphere, and it plays a crucial role in respiration for many living organisms. It is a member of the chalcogen group in the periodic table and is essential for combustion processes as well. Osmium is represented by the symbol 'Os,' which is not the correct choice here. Gold is symbolized by 'Au,' derived from its Latin name 'Aurum.' Oganesson, a synthetic element, is denoted by 'Og.' Therefore, Oxygen stands out as the only element among the provided choices that correctly matches the symbol 'O.'

#### 4. What is the largest ocean on Earth?

- A. Atlantic Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. Pacific Ocean**
- D. Arctic Ocean

*The Pacific Ocean holds the title of the largest ocean on Earth, covering more area than all of the landmasses combined. It spans approximately 63 million square miles (165 million square kilometers) and reaches from the Arctic in the north to the Southern Ocean in the south. The vastness of the Pacific Ocean is significant not only in terms of size but also in its depth, with the Mariana Trench being the deepest part of any ocean. In contrast, the Atlantic Ocean, while substantial in its own right, is the second-largest ocean, covering about 41 million square miles (106 million square kilometers). The Indian Ocean, the third-largest, covers about 27 million square miles (70 million square kilometers), and the Arctic Ocean, though important for its ecological significance, is the smallest of the four major oceans, covering roughly 5.4 million square miles (14 million square kilometers). Thus, the Pacific Ocean's immense size and volume establish it as the largest ocean on Earth.*

#### 5. What distinguished Eads' experience as a steamboat clerk from his government work?

- A. He had more support as a clerk
- B. He independently innovated solutions as a clerk**
- C. He received formal training as a clerk
- D. He was less motivated as a clerk

*The distinction in Eads' experience as a steamboat clerk lies in his capacity for independent innovation during that time. While serving as a clerk, he was exposed to the practical workings of the steamboat industry, which enabled him to identify problems and conceive innovative solutions on his own. This hands-on experience contrasted with his government work, which likely involved more bureaucratic processes and less scope for personal initiative. His tenure as a clerk allowed him to apply his creativity and problem-solving skills directly to the challenges he encountered, leading to advancements that might not have been possible in a more structured government role. This independent approach fostered a mindset of innovation that became central to his later achievements in engineering and construction projects, particularly in the development of bridges and other infrastructure.*

## 6. What was the impact of Einstein's theory on the field of physics?

- A. No significant impact
- B. It confirmed classical mechanics
- C. It introduced radical new concepts in physics**
- D. It led to the rejection of all previous theories

Einstein's theory had a profound influence on physics by introducing radical new concepts that reshaped our understanding of space, time, and gravity. His theories, particularly the theory of relativity, revolutionized the way scientists viewed these fundamental aspects of the universe. For instance, the idea that time is not absolute and can vary depending on the observer's velocity challenged long-held perceptions from classical mechanics. The theory of relativity also led to groundbreaking implications, such as the relationship between mass and energy, expressed in the famous equation  $E=mc^2$ . This not only influenced theoretical physics but also had practical applications that contributed to advancements in technology and understanding of the universe, such as in the development of nuclear energy. In contrast, the other options do not accurately reflect the historical significance of Einstein's contributions. The assertion that there was no significant impact is contrary to the widespread recognition of his work's importance. Similarly, claiming that his theory confirmed classical mechanics contradicts the nature of his findings, which showed limitations in classical views. Lastly, the idea that his work led to the total rejection of all previous theories is inaccurate; rather, it built upon and extended existing theories, highlighting their inadequacies in certain contexts without completely discarding them. Thus, option C is the

## 7. Which element has the atomic number 1?

- A. Oxygen
- B. Hydrogen**
- C. Carbon
- D. Nitrogen

Hydrogen is the element with atomic number 1, which means it is the simplest and lightest element in the periodic table. It consists of only one proton in its nucleus, which defines its identity as hydrogen. This unique characteristic places it at the beginning of the periodic table and makes it fundamental to the structure of all matter in the universe. In the context of the other elements listed, oxygen, carbon, and nitrogen have higher atomic numbers. Oxygen has an atomic number of 8, carbon is 6, and nitrogen is 7, which indicates that they each have more protons in their nuclei compared to hydrogen. Thus, the distinction of hydrogen as the first element not only establishes its place in the periodic table but also underscores its importance in chemistry, including its role in forming water and organic compounds.

## 8. Which ancient civilization built the pyramids?

- A. Romans
- B. Greeks
- C. Egyptians**
- D. Babylonians

*The pyramids, particularly the most famous ones located at Giza, were built by the ancient Egyptians during the period of the Old Kingdom, around 2600 to 2500 BCE. This civilization is renowned for its remarkable architectural accomplishments, particularly their mastery in constructing monumental structures. The pyramids served as elaborate tombs for the pharaohs, who were considered divine rulers, and they demonstrated the Egyptians' belief in the afterlife and the importance of burial practices. The building of these pyramids required advanced engineering skills, a well-organized labor force, and a deep understanding of mathematics and astronomy. It is widely accepted that the construction involved thousands of workers over several decades, utilizing techniques that reflect their remarkable ingenuity and social organization. Each pyramid was also aligned with incredible precision to the cardinal points, showcasing their keen knowledge of geometry. In contrast, while the Romans, Greeks, and Babylonians were also significant ancient civilizations, they did not construct the pyramids in Egypt. The Romans were more known for their arches, aqueducts, and monumental buildings like the Colosseum; the Greeks made significant contributions to philosophy, art, and architecture, including their temples; and the Babylonians are best known for their influence in areas such as*

## 9. What celestial body is at the center of our solar system?

- A. The Earth
- B. The Moon
- C. The Sun**
- D. Jupiter

*The Sun is the central celestial body of our solar system, and it plays a crucial role in the solar system's structure and dynamics. It is a massive star that contains over 99% of the total mass of the solar system, which is why it exerts a strong gravitational pull that keeps all the planets, including Earth, in orbit around it. The energy produced by the Sun through the process of nuclear fusion provides the necessary light and heat that sustain life on Earth and influence various phenomena in space. The Earth, the Moon, and Jupiter, although important celestial entities within the solar system, do not hold the central position or serve as the gravitational pivot for the orbits of other bodies in the same way the Sun does. The Earth is one of the planets orbiting the Sun, the Moon is a natural satellite of Earth, and Jupiter, while it is the largest planet in the solar system, is still just one of the many planets orbiting the Sun. Thus, the Sun is correctly identified as the center of our solar system.*



## 10. Who discovered penicillin?

- A. Louis Pasteur
- B. Marie Curie
- C. Alexander Fleming
- D. Albert Einstein

*Penicillin was discovered by Alexander Fleming in 1928. He was a Scottish bacteriologist who made this groundbreaking discovery while working at St. Mary's Hospital in London. Fleming observed that a mold called *Penicillium notatum* had contaminated one of his Petri dishes and was killing the surrounding bacteria. This accidental observation led to the development of penicillin, which became the first widely used antibiotic and revolutionized the treatment of bacterial infections. Fleming's work laid the foundation for modern antibiotics, making a significant impact on medical science and public health. His discovery highlighted the potential of natural products for therapeutic use and has saved countless lives since its introduction into medical practice. The other individuals listed have made significant contributions to science but are associated with different fields; for example, Louis Pasteur is renowned for his work in microbiology and the germ theory of disease, Marie Curie is famous for her groundbreaking research on radioactivity, and Albert Einstein is celebrated for his contributions to theoretical physics, particularly the theory of relativity.*

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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](mailto: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!

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