

Geography Olympiad Level 1 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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1. How long is the Grand Canyon?

- A. 250 km**
- B. 152 km**
- C. 446 km**
- D. 305 km**

2. Which European country is notable for not having any McDonald's restaurants?

- A. Greece**
- B. Portugal**
- C. Albania**
- D. Hungary**

3. Which geographic feature exists in less than 20 places worldwide as of 2017?

- A. Mountains over 20,000 feet**
- B. Persistent lava lakes**
- C. Places where 3 countries' borders meet**
- D. River delta**

4. The San Andreas fault is an example of what kind of fault?

- A) Thrust Fault**
- B) Transform fault**
- C) Normal Fault**
- D) Reverse Fault**

5. Hurricane Iota, one of the strongest hurricanes of 2020, made landfall in which Central American country?

- A. Honduras**
- B. Nicaragua**
- C. Costa Rica**
- D. Panama**

6. What percentage of the world's fresh water is located in Antarctica?

- A. A) 3%**
- B. B) 50%**
- C. C) 70%**
- D. D) 95%**

7. What is the primary language spoken in Brazil?

- A. Spanish**
- B. Portuguese**
- C. English**
- D. French**

8. Which lake is known for experiencing the highest frequency of lightning strikes in the world?

- A. Lake Titicaca**
- B. Lake Maracaibo**
- C. Lake Baikal**
- D. Lake Victoria**

9. Which landlocked country shares a border with Ukraine?

- A. Moldova**
- B. Austria**
- C. Italy**
- D. Slovenia**

10. What was the highest temperature recorded in Canada, in Celsius, in Midale and Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan?

- A. 40**
- B. 43**
- C. 45**
- D. 48**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How long is the Grand Canyon?

- A. 250 km
- B. 152 km
- C. 446 km**
- D. 305 km

The Grand Canyon is approximately 446 kilometers (277 miles) long, making it one of the most iconic geological features in the United States and around the world. This impressive length is a result of millions of years of erosion by the Colorado River, carving through layers of rock, creating the spectacular and expansive canyon that we see today. The canyon varies in width and depth, but it is the longitudinal measurement that most accurately reflects its vast expanse across northern Arizona. The other options do not accurately represent the full extent of the Grand Canyon's length, as they fall short of this significant figure.

2. Which European country is notable for not having any McDonald's restaurants?

- A. Greece
- B. Portugal
- C. Albania**
- D. Hungary

Albania is notable for not having any McDonald's restaurants due to several factors that influence the presence of international franchises. The country underwent significant changes after the fall of communism in the early 1990s, transitioning toward a market economy. As of now, Albania has not yet seen the establishment of a McDonald's within its borders, primarily because of market-size considerations, socioeconomic factors, and the competitive landscape of fast food and local dining options. In contrast, Greece, Portugal, and Hungary have embraced the brand and have multiple McDonald's locations throughout their respective cities, reflecting a demand for fast food and international dining experiences. Each of these countries has a larger population and more economic stability, which makes it feasible for a franchise like McDonald's to thrive. Thus, Albania stands out in this context as a country that does not host this global fast food chain.

3. Which geographic feature exists in less than 20 places worldwide as of 2017?

- A. Mountains over 20,000 feet**
- B. Persistent lava lakes**
- C. Places where 3 countries' borders meet**
- D. River delta**

Mountains over 20,000 feet in elevation are indeed a rare geographic feature, with only a limited number of them found worldwide. As of 2017, there are fewer than 20 peaks that reach or exceed this height, primarily located within the Himalayas and the Andes. This elevation represents a specific climatic and geological condition that is not common globally, making these towering mountains stand out in the context of physical geography. Persistent lava lakes, while fascinating, are more widespread. They can be found in several volcanic regions around the world, thus exceeding the threshold of 20 locations. Similarly, places where three countries' borders meet occur in various locations worldwide, as there are multiple instances of such tripont formations due to the complex nature of international borders. River deltas are common geographical features formed at river mouths and can be found in many regions, indicating that they also do not fit the criterion of being limited to fewer than 20 examples globally. In summary, the rarity of mountains that rise above 20,000 feet uniquely qualifies them as a geographic feature that exists in less than 20 places worldwide.

4. The San Andreas fault is an example of what kind of fault?

- A) Thrust Fault**
- B. B) Transform fault**
- C) Normal Fault**
- D. D) Reverse Fault**

The San Andreas fault is classified as a transform fault, which is characterized by two tectonic plates sliding past one another horizontally. This type of fault primarily occurs at plate boundaries where the motion is lateral rather than vertical. Transform faults are critical in understanding the movement of tectonic plates and are often associated with earthquakes due to the build-up of stress from the friction between the sliding plates. The San Andreas fault specifically marks the boundary between the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate. Over time, the movement along this fault has led to significant geological activity, including numerous earthquakes, making it one of the most studied fault lines in the world. The classification as a transform fault helps geologists predict potential seismic activity and understand the tectonic dynamics of the region.

5. Hurricane Iota, one of the strongest hurricanes of 2020, made landfall in which Central American country?

- A. Honduras**
- B. Nicaragua**
- C. Costa Rica**
- D. Panama**

Hurricane Iota made landfall in Nicaragua on November 16, 2020, as a Category 4 hurricane, only two weeks after Hurricane Eta struck the same region. Nicaragua is particularly vulnerable to tropical storms due to its geographical location and climate, which contribute to the intensity and frequency of hurricanes in this area. The impact of Hurricane Iota was devastating for Nicaragua, with heavy rainfall and strong winds exacerbating the damage already caused by Hurricane Eta. While other countries like Honduras, Costa Rica, and Panama may experience effects from hurricanes, Iota's landfall specifically occurred in Nicaragua, solidifying its place in the historical records of severe weather events in Central America.

6. What percentage of the world's fresh water is located in Antarctica?

- A. A) 3%**
- B. B) 50%**
- C. C) 70%**
- D. D) 95%**

Antarctica contains approximately 70% of the world's fresh water, primarily in the form of ice. This vast amount of frozen water is stored in the Antarctic ice sheet, which is the largest single mass of ice on the planet. This significant percentage highlights the continent's crucial role in the global water supply and climate regulation. The ice sheet is estimated to hold about 30 million cubic kilometers of ice, which, if melted, could substantially raise sea levels. Given the global distribution of fresh water, it is crucial to recognize that while other regions contain less overall fresh water, Antarctica's contribution is overwhelmingly large due to its ice reserves. Understanding Antarctica's ice is essential not only for gauging fresh water availability but also for climate science, as changes in these ice reserves can have far-reaching implications for global sea levels and climate patterns.

7. What is the primary language spoken in Brazil?

- A. Spanish**
- B. Portuguese**
- C. English**
- D. French**

Brazil's primary language is Portuguese, a result of the country's colonial history. When Brazil was colonized by Portugal in the early 16th century, the Portuguese language became the dominant means of communication. Unlike many other countries in South America that were colonized by Spain and primarily speak Spanish, Brazil maintained its cultural and linguistic ties to Portugal. Today, Portuguese is spoken by the vast majority of the population and serves as an essential aspect of the nation's identity and heritage. The presence of other languages such as Spanish, English, and French is limited; while Spanish is widely understood in many parts of South America, including Brazil, it is not the primary language. English and French are also not commonly spoken among the general population, making Portuguese the clear and dominant language in Brazil.

8. Which lake is known for experiencing the highest frequency of lightning strikes in the world?

- A. Lake Titicaca**
- B. Lake Maracaibo**
- C. Lake Baikal**
- D. Lake Victoria**

Lake Maracaibo, located in Venezuela, is famous for its unique weather phenomenon that results in the highest frequency of lightning strikes in the world. The region experiences a meteorological occurrence known as "Catatumbo Lightning," where warm, moist air from the Caribbean meets the cooler air over the Andes mountains. This interaction produces an extraordinary amount of thunderstorms that can occur for up to 260 nights a year, with up to 28 lightning strikes per minute at peak times. The geographical features surrounding Lake Maracaibo, including its location in a low-lying basin and its proximity to mountains, play a crucial role in maintaining the conditions that lead to such frequent thunderstorms. These characteristics make Lake Maracaibo not just notable for its size or beauty but specifically recognized for its intense and unique electrical activity, distinguishing it from other lakes around the world.

9. Which landlocked country shares a border with Ukraine?

- A. Moldova**
- B. Austria**
- C. Italy**
- D. Slovenia**

Moldova is the correct answer because it is a landlocked country located in Eastern Europe, bordered to the north, west, and south by Ukraine. Its geographical position places it directly adjacent to Ukraine, making it one of the few landlocked countries that share this type of border. The other options do not fit the criteria. Austria, while being a landlocked country in Central Europe, does not share a border with Ukraine; instead, it is bordered by several other countries to the west and south. Italy and Slovenia are both located in Southern Europe and share borders with countries further from Ukraine, such as Slovenia with Italy and Austria rather than directly to Ukraine. Therefore, Moldova is unique among the options provided as the only landlocked country sharing a border with Ukraine.

10. What was the highest temperature recorded in Canada, in Celsius, in Midale and Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan?

- A. 40**
- B. 43**
- C. 45**
- D. 48**

The highest temperature recorded in Canada, specifically in Midale and Yellow Grass, Saskatchewan, was 45 degrees Celsius. This remarkable temperature was registered on July 5, 1937, during an exceptionally hot summer. This record is significant not just for its numerical value but also for what it represents in terms of climate records in Canada. The extreme weather conditions leading to this temperature were influenced by a combination of geographical factors, including flat terrain, which allows for heat to build up, and climatic patterns that can lead to prolonged warm spells in the region. Saskatchewan, being part of the prairie provinces, experiences sharp temperature variations, and this record-setting heat remains a notable point in Canadian meteorological history. The other temperature options, while still high, do not reflect the actual record held at these locations. Thus, the choice of 45 degrees Celsius accurately captures the highest recorded temperature in Canada, underscoring the extreme weather phenomena that can occur, particularly in prairie regions.

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://geoolympiadlvl1.examzify.com>

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

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