

GRE BASIC VOCABULARY 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. What does "condemn" mean?

- A. To ignore critical feedback
- B. To express strong disapproval of
- C. To celebrate success
- D. To support a position

2. What can be inferred about a situation that is described as 'ominous'?

- A. It is expected to have positive outcomes
- B. It is likely to lead to unfortunate events
- C. It is unrelated to any significant developments
- D. It indicates a boring series of events

3. Which word means having a natural inclination toward something?

- A. Tendency
- B. Proneness
- C. Propensity
- D. Disposition

4. How is something that is 'flamboyant' best characterized?

- A. Subtle and understated
- B. Ordinary and modest
- C. Elaborately ornamented
- D. Simple and plain

5. Which term describes something that occurs in scattered and irregular or unpredictable instances?

- A. Sporadic
- B. Monotonous
- C. Superfluous
- D. Imperturbable

6. What does "amorphous" indicate?

- A. Having a clear structure
- B. Having no definite form or distinct shape
- C. Consisting of solid matter
- D. Being rigid and fixed

- 7. How would you describe someone who is "irascible"?**
- A. Quickly aroused to anger
 - B. Calm and composed
 - C. Patient and understanding
 - D. Indifferent to emotions
- 8. Which of the following actions does "prune" best describe?**
- A. To weed out unnecessary things
 - B. To cut off from a whole
 - C. To move more slowly
 - D. To refine and enhance
- 9. To describe someone's agreement as acquiescing indicates:**
- A. A total rejection of the proposal
 - B. A passive acceptance of an idea
 - C. A loud opposition to change
 - D. An enthusiastic endorsement
- 10. What term is used to describe something lacking interest or significance?**
- A. Frugality
 - B. Insipid
 - C. Inured
 - D. Nonplused

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does "condemn" mean?

- A. To ignore critical feedback
- B. To express strong disapproval of**
- C. To celebrate success
- D. To support a position

The term "condemn" is defined as to express strong disapproval of something or someone, often in a moral or ethical context. It conveys a serious critique or denunciation, implying that the action, behavior, or situation being condemned is seen as wrong or unacceptable. This aligns perfectly with the notion of expressing disapproval, highlighting a clear and forceful rejection. In contrast, the other choices do not capture the essence of the word. Ignoring critical feedback suggests a lack of engagement or response rather than expressing a disapproving stance. Celebrating success denotes a positive acknowledgment, which is the opposite of condemnation. Supporting a position indicates agreement or endorsement, which again contradicts the idea of disapproval associated with "condemn."

2. What can be inferred about a situation that is described as 'ominous'?

- A. It is expected to have positive outcomes
- B. It is likely to lead to unfortunate events**
- C. It is unrelated to any significant developments
- D. It indicates a boring series of events

The term "ominous" is used to describe situations or signs that suggest something bad or unpleasant is likely to happen. When a situation is labeled as ominous, it generally evokes a sense of foreboding or impending trouble. Therefore, the inference that it is likely to lead to unfortunate events aligns perfectly with the connotation of the word. The usage of "ominous" typically involves an atmosphere charged with anxiety, indicating that caution or concern is warranted. The other options do not align with this interpretation; for instance, a situation that has positive outcomes contradicts the inherent negativity of being ominous, while being unrelated to significant developments would imply a neutrality that undermines the term's typical implications. Lastly, labeling a situation as boring directly opposes the notion that it carries weighty foreboding potential.

3. Which word means having a natural inclination toward something?

- A. Tendency
- B. Proneness
- C. Propensity**
- D. Disposition

The word "propensity" refers to a natural inclination or tendency to behave in a certain way or to have a particular characteristic. When someone has a propensity for something, it suggests that they are predisposed or have an innate inclination toward it, making it a strong representative of the idea of a natural inclination. In the context of the other choices, while "tendency," "proneness," and "disposition" also convey aspects of inclination, "propensity" specifically highlights that natural, often habitual inclination in a more pronounced manner. "Tendency" may refer to a general direction or regular pattern but can lack the nuance of natural inclination. "Proneness" often has a connotation of vulnerability or susceptibility, which may not capture the same level of innate inclination. "Disposition" typically refers to a person's inherent qualities of mind and character but may not explicitly denote inclination toward an action or behavior as strongly as "propensity" does. Thus, "propensity" stands out as the most accurate term for having a natural inclination toward something.

4. How is something that is 'flamboyant' best characterized?

- A. Subtle and understated
- B. Ordinary and modest
- C. Elaborately ornamented**
- D. Simple and plain

The term "flamboyant" is best characterized by being elaborately ornamented. It conveys a sense of boldness, showiness, and extravagance, often associated with vivid colors, elaborate designs, or striking appearances. When something is described as flamboyant, it suggests that it stands out and draws attention due to its flashy and ornate qualities. The other options do not align with this definition; for instance, subtle, ordinary, modest, simple, and plain all indicate a lack of ostentation, which is antithetical to the essence of flamboyance. Thus, the correct characterization highlights the vivid and ornate nature that defines flamboyant expressions or styles.

5. Which term describes something that occurs in scattered and irregular or unpredictable instances?

- A. Sporadic**
- B. Monotonous
- C. Superfluous
- D. Imperturbable

The term that describes something occurring in scattered and irregular or unpredictable instances is "sporadic." This word is derived from the Greek word "sporadikos," meaning "scattered," and it signifies occurrences that do not happen consistently or regularly. In various contexts, such as weather patterns, health events, or even attendance at an event, "sporadic" effectively communicates the idea of infrequent and erratic manifestations. For instance, one might refer to sporadic rain showers that are unpredictable and happen at irregular intervals throughout the day. The essence of the term captures the unpredictability and lack of a steady pattern in the occurrences described.

6. What does "amorphous" indicate?

- A. Having a clear structure
- B. Having no definite form or distinct shape**
- C. Consisting of solid matter
- D. Being rigid and fixed

The term "amorphous" refers to something that lacks a definite form or specific shape. This could apply to various contexts, such as materials that do not have a crystalline structure, like certain types of glass or gels which flow and mold into any shape. The word itself derives from the Greek "a-" meaning "without" and "morphe" meaning "form." In contrast to options that describe having clarity in structure, being solid, or being rigid, "amorphous" captures the essence of being indistinct and formless. For instance, liquids and gases are often described as amorphous because they take the shape of their containers without a fixed volume or shape, distinguishing them from structured solids. Therefore, recognizing that "amorphous" signifies the absence of defined physical characteristics is key to understanding its proper usage in various contexts.

7. How would you describe someone who is "irascible"?

- A. Quickly aroused to anger
- B. Calm and composed
- C. Patient and understanding
- D. Indifferent to emotions

The term "irascible" is used to describe someone who is easily provoked to anger or tends to get angry quickly. This characteristic suggests a short temper or a propensity to respond to situations with agitation or hostility. Therefore, the description of being "quickly aroused to anger" captures the essence of the word perfectly. The other options provided represent characteristics that are opposite to the definition of "irascible." Being calm and composed, patient and understanding, or indifferent to emotions indicates a level of emotional control, tolerance, or detachment that does not align with the impulsiveness associated with irascibility. Thus, these alternatives do not fit the definition of the word being assessed.

8. Which of the following actions does "prune" best describe?

- A. To weed out unnecessary things
- B. To cut off from a whole
- C. To move more slowly
- D. To refine and enhance

The term "prune" is best described by the action of weeding out unnecessary things. In a literal sense, pruning refers to the process of cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems from a plant to encourage healthy growth. This concept of removing the extraneous to improve the overall health or quality is what makes this choice correct. It encapsulates the idea of taking away that which is no longer useful or necessary in order to foster a better outcome, either in gardening or metaphorically in other contexts like projects or ideas. While other choices involve forms of removal or modification, they don't capture the specific nuance of eliminating unnecessary elements to enhance overall effectiveness or quality. Moving more slowly, for instance, does not align with the concept of improving by cutting away; instead, it relates to pace. Similarly, to cut off from a whole may imply exclusion but doesn't convey the careful selection process associated with pruning. Lastly, refining and enhancing could involve adding or improving elements rather than the selective removal implied by pruning. Therefore, the essence of "prune" directly aligns with the concept of weeding out what is unnecessary to achieve a more focused result.

9. To describe someone's agreement as acquiescing indicates:

- A. A total rejection of the proposal
- B. A passive acceptance of an idea
- C. A loud opposition to change
- D. An enthusiastic endorsement

Describing someone's agreement as acquiescing suggests that they are passively accepting an idea or proposal without strong enthusiasm or objection. This term is often used to imply a certain reluctance or lack of eagerness in the acceptance, indicating that the person goes along with something, perhaps because it is easier than opposing it. The nuance of "acquiescing" conveys a sense of compliance without an active endorsement, which aligns perfectly with the idea of passive acceptance. Other options describe more active or emphatic responses, which do not fit with the connotation of acquiescing. A total rejection would indicate a refusal, loud opposition suggests a vocal disagreement, and enthusiastic endorsement implies a strong support that contrasts sharply with the passive nature of acquiescence.

10. What term is used to describe something lacking interest or significance?

- A. Frugality
- B. Insipid**
- C. Inured
- D. Nonplused

The term "insipid" is used to describe something that is lacking in flavor, interest, or significance. It conveys a sense of dullness or lack of stimulation, making it analogous to something that is bland or unexciting. When referring to a person, event, or experience as insipid, it implies that there is nothing noteworthy or engaging about it, leaving one feeling uninspired or disinterested. This word effectively captures the essence of something that fails to evoke interest, making it the most appropriate choice for the definition provided in the question. The term "insipid" is often used in both culinary contexts, where it describes food that lacks taste, and in more general contexts, indicating a lack of liveliness or appeal.

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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://grebasicvocab.examzify.com>

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

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