

# GSS ETYMOLOGY PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

## STUDY GUIDE



## SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://gssetymology.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. Which suffix means process?**

- A. -ation
- B. -ment
- C. -osis
- D. -ous

**2. The suffix -oid denotes which meaning?**

- A. Break down
- B. Creation or cause
- C. To View
- D. Resembling

**3. Cyto- refers to which cellular component?**

- A. Nucleus
- B. Cell
- C. Organelle
- D. Membrane

**4. Which prefix means 'apart'?**

- A. Auto
- B. Bi, di, diplo
- C. Arche/archaea
- D. Ana

**5. Which meaning matches the prefix hydro?**

- A. Earth
- B. Water
- C. Blood
- D. Equal

**6. Which prefix means 'large'?**

- A. Medi
- B. Micro
- C. Macro
- D. Milli

7. Cyclo- denotes which geometric shape?
- A. Triangle
  - B. Line
  - C. Square
  - D. Circle
8. The etymology of 'chemistry' includes roots from Greek khēmeia; which languages contributed to its development?
- A. Greek, Latin, and French.
  - B. Latin and Arabic.
  - C. German and French.
  - D. Greek and Sanskrit.
9. The term 'avocado' origin Nahuatl 'ahuacatl' meaning what?
- A. Fruit; via Spanish 'aguacate' to English 'avocado'
  - B. Seed
  - C. Leaf
  - D. Testicle; via Nahuatl 'ahuacatl' meaning
10. The city associated with the patron goddess of wisdom is which city?
- A. Athens
  - B. Sparta
  - C. Thebes
  - D. Corinth

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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### 1. Which suffix means process?

- A. -ation
- B. -ment
- C. -osis**
- D. -ous

Suffix -osis comes from Greek and is used to name a process that leads to a state or condition. It's common in medical terms to describe a process that results in a disease or ongoing condition, so words ending in -osis embody the idea of a process in action. For example, cirrhosis describes the process by which liver tissue becomes scarred, resulting in a chronic condition, and neurosis names a psychological state tied to underlying processes. Other endings lean toward describing actions or qualities rather than the ongoing process itself, which is why -osis is the best fit for "process" in this sense.

### 2. The suffix -oid denotes which meaning?

- A. Break down
- B. Creation or cause
- C. To View
- D. Resembling**

The idea behind this suffix is likeness. -oid signals that something is like or in the form of the base word—in other words, it describes appearance or shape rather than action, origin, or viewing. Think of examples: a humanoid is human-like, an asteroid is star-shaped or star-like, a spheroid is sphere-shaped, and an android is man-shaped. The focus is on how something resembles the base concept, not on breaking down, creating, or seeing something. So, the best fit describes resemblance or likeness. The other possibilities refer to different ideas (breaking down, making, or viewing) and don't capture what -oid conveys.

### 3. Cyto- refers to which cellular component?

- A. Nucleus
- B. Cell**
- C. Organelle
- D. Membrane

Cyto- is a prefix that means cell. It shows up in terms like cytology (the study of cells) and cytoplasm (the material inside a cell), signaling a relationship to the cell itself or its contents. This makes it the best fit for describing cellular components at the cell level. References to the nucleus would use nucle-, while membranes or other substructures use different roots, such as membran- or organell-. So cyto- points to the cell as a whole, not to a specific subcomponent.

#### 4. Which prefix means 'apart'?

- A. Auto
- B. Bi, di, diplo
- C. Arche/archaea

D. Ana

*The idea behind this prefix is that it often signals separation or taking apart in terms. Ana- comes from Greek and in many scientific words it conveys the sense of apart, up, or again. For instance, anatomy literally involves cutting the body apart to study its parts, and anaphase is the stage of cell division where chromosomes separate from each other. That sense of separation aligns with meaning "apart." The other prefixes point to different ideas: auto- means self, bi/di/diplo means two or double, and arche/archaea means ancient or primitive. So ana- best fits the sense of apart.*

#### 5. Which meaning matches the prefix hydro?

A. Earth

B. Water

C. Blood

D. Equal

*Hydro- signals water. It comes from the Greek hydōr for water, so terms with this prefix are about water or fluids. That's why it best matches water in the list, as seen in words like hydroelectric (powered by water), hydrotherapy (treatment using water), and hydroponics (growing plants in water-based solutions). The other ideas don't fit because they come from different roots: earth is geo- (as in geology), blood is hemo-/haemo- (as in hematology or hemodynamics), and equal is iso- (as in isometric or isotherm).*

#### 6. Which prefix means 'large'?

A. Medi

B. Micro

C. Macro

D. Milli

*The idea being tested is how prefixes express scale. The prefix that means large is macro-. It comes from Greek makros, meaning long or large, and it appears in words like macroscopic (visible to the naked eye) or macroeconomics (the study of the economy as a whole), which illustrate the large-scale sense. The other options point to different sizes: micro- means small (microorganism, microscope), milli- means one-thousandth (millimeter, millisecond), and medi- (from Latin medius) means middle or middle-sized (median, medical terms like medial). So macro is the best fit because it directly conveys a large scale.*

## 7. Cyclo- denotes which geometric shape?

- A. Triangle
- B. Line
- C. Square
- D. Circle**

*Cyclo- comes from Greek *kyklos* meaning circle or wheel. When this prefix is attached to a term, it signals a circular shape or motion. That's why it's tied to the circle in geometry. The other shapes would be described with different roots—tri- for triangle, quadri- or tetr- for square, and line isn't tied to a circle at all—so cyclo- specifically points to a circle.*

## 8. The etymology of 'chemistry' includes roots from Greek *khēmeia*; which languages contributed to its development?

- A. Greek, Latin, and French.**
- B. Latin and Arabic.
- C. German and French.
- D. Greek and Sanskrit.

*This question is about tracing how a scientific word traveled through languages as it entered English. The name chemistry goes back to the Greek word *khēmeia*, used in ancient discussions of the craft that aimed to transform metals. That Greek term was carried into Latin as *chemia* (and related *alchemia*), preserving the sense of an art or craft of changing substances. In medieval Europe, Old French provided a familiar form, *chimie*, which the scholarly world used and which English borrowed. From French, the word entered English as chemistry. So the languages involved are Greek for the original term, Latin for the transmission, and French for the route into English. Other options aren't part of the standard lineage for this word. Arabic is tied to the historical practice of alchemy, but it isn't the direct path by which the modern term acquired its current form; Sanskrit and German aren't part of the primary etymological chain for this word's current English form.*

## 9. The term 'avocado' origin Nahuatl 'ahuacatl' meaning what?

- A. Fruit; via Spanish 'aguacate' to English 'avocado'
- B. Seed
- C. Leaf
- D. Testicle; via Nahuatl 'ahuacatl' meaning**

*The main idea here is how words travel and shift meaning through languages. The Nahuatl word for this fruit is *ahuacatl*, which literally refers to a testicle, a comparison that comes from the fruit's shape. When the word moved into Spanish, it became *aguacate*, and English later borrowed it as *avocado*. So the origin isn't about fruit parts like seeds or leaves; it's about a shape-based metaphor that stuck with the fruit's name across languages.*

10. The city associated with the patron goddess of wisdom is which city?

A. Athens

B. Sparta

C. Thebes

D. Corinth

*Athena embodies wisdom and is the patron goddess of Athens, the city most closely tied to her. The Acropolis and the Parthenon are dedicated to Athena, and the city's very name honors her, reflecting her guardian role over wisdom, crafts, and strategic thinking. In myth and history, Athens is known as the city of Athena, which sets it apart from other Greek cities that honored different deities. So, the city associated with the patron goddess of wisdom is Athens.*

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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://gssetymology.examzify.com>

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

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