

IGCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

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"dError1" class="dError1">Please contact the administrator for further  
<saml-auth-status>-1</saml-auth-status>  
window.top.location='/php/login.php';return false;
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SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://igcsecompsci.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 technology does a light sensor use to process its signals?**
 - A. ADC converter
 - B. Digital-to-analog converter
 - C. Signal amplifier
 - D. Microcontroller
- 2. Which of the following is NOT a common application for keyboards?**
 - A. Data entry
 - B. Video gaming
 - C. Image editing
 - D. Memory storage
- 3. Which of the following describes a characteristic of laser printers?**
 - A. Uses liquid ink
 - B. Uses powdered ink
 - C. Requires an external cooling system
 - D. Only prints in black
- 4. How does an infra-red touch screen detect touch inputs?**
 - A. By measuring pressure applied to the screen
 - B. Through a break in an infra-red beam
 - C. Using capacitive sensors to measure conductivity
 - D. By detecting electrical signals from the user's body
- 5. What is a common disadvantage of 2D cutters?**
 - A. They operate at high speeds
 - B. They can handle a variety of materials
 - C. They consume a lot of electricity
 - D. They are low in cost
- 6. What does a NOR logic gate output when both inputs are 0?**
 - A. 1
 - B. 0
 - C. Depends on the input states
 - D. Only for binary inputs

7. What is freeware?

- A. Software that is free to modify and share
- B. Software that can be used without payment but cannot be modified
- C. Software that restricts user access
- D. Software that only works online

8. What type of storage is characterized as non-volatile and cannot be accessed once removed?

- A. RAM
- B. Optical Technology
- C. ROM
- D. SSD

9. What is a key application of laser printers?

- A. Creating low-quality printouts
- B. Producing high-quality printouts quickly
- C. Printing solely in black and white
- D. Making small print runs efficiently

10. What strategy can help against unsolicited software installations?

- A. Using the Internet freely
- B. Avoiding unknown sources of software
- C. Regularly updating web browsers
- D. Sharing passwords with friends

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What technology does a light sensor use to process its signals?

- A. ADC converter**
- B. Digital-to-analog converter
- C. Signal amplifier
- D. Microcontroller

A light sensor employs an Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC) to process its signals because it typically produces an analog signal in response to light intensity. The ADC is essential for converting this analog signal, which varies continuously, into a digital signal so that it can be read by a microcontroller or other digital devices. By converting the analog information about light levels into a digital format, the light sensor enables digital systems to interpret and respond to varying light conditions effectively. This process allows for accurate measurement, decision-making, and integration within electronic systems.

2. Which of the following is NOT a common application for keyboards?

- A. Data entry
- B. Video gaming
- C. Image editing
- D. Memory storage**

The identification of memory storage as not being a common application for keyboards is accurate. Keyboards are primarily input devices designed to allow users to enter data, commands, and interact with computer systems. Data entry refers to inputting information into databases or software applications, which is a direct and fundamental function of a keyboard. Video gaming is a well-known application that utilizes keyboards, particularly for PC gaming, where keyboard controls and commands are essential for gameplay. Similarly, image editing software often relies on keyboard shortcuts to enhance productivity and streamline the editing process. In contrast, memory storage pertains to the physical components of a computer system, such as hard drives or SSDs, which are responsible for storing data, rather than an application or function of a keyboard itself. Thus, memory storage does not align with the primary functions typically associated with the use of keyboards, making it the correct choice for the question posed.

3. Which of the following describes a characteristic of laser printers?

- A. Uses liquid ink
- B. Uses powdered ink**
- C. Requires an external cooling system
- D. Only prints in black

Laser printers are characterized primarily by their use of powdered ink, known as toner. This toner is a fine powder that is fused to paper using heat and pressure during the printing process. This method allows laser printers to produce high-quality images and text with precise detail and sharpness. The powdered nature of the toner differentiates laser printers from inkjet printers, which utilize liquid ink to create prints. Given the other options, while some printers might use liquid ink and there are printers that can print in color, laser printers specifically rely on powder rather than liquid. They do not require an external cooling system, as they are designed to operate efficiently without one. Therefore, the key characteristic of laser printers is their use of powdered ink, making this the correct choice.

4. How does an infra-red touch screen detect touch inputs?

- A. By measuring pressure applied to the screen
- B. Through a break in an infra-red beam**
- C. Using capacitive sensors to measure conductivity
- D. By detecting electrical signals from the user's body

An infra-red touch screen operates by utilizing an array of infra-red light beams that are projected across the surface of the screen. When a user touches the screen, their finger or hand interrupts the pathway of the infra-red beams, creating a break in the signal. The touch screen then registers this break, allowing it to determine the location of the touch on the screen. This method is effective because it can accurately detect touch without physical contact required on the screen's surface, leading to reduced wear and tear and allowing for use with gloved hands or styluses that do not conduct electricity. The other methods mentioned, such as measuring pressure or detecting electrical signals from the user's body, are not employed by infra-red touch screens, as these operate on an optical detection principle rather than relying on conductivity or pressure sensitivity.

5. What is a common disadvantage of 2D cutters?

- A. They operate at high speeds
- B. They can handle a variety of materials
- C. They consume a lot of electricity**
- D. They are low in cost

The correct choice highlights that a common disadvantage of 2D cutters is their high electricity consumption. Many 2D cutting machines, especially those that utilize lasers or other energy-intensive technologies, require a significant amount of power to operate. This can lead to increased operational costs and may necessitate a more robust electrical supply. High energy consumption can also have environmental implications, making the use of such machines less sustainable compared to other options that are more energy-efficient. The other options, although they may have merits in certain contexts, do not capture the primary disadvantage associated with 2D cutters. For instance, their capacity to operate at high speeds is typically seen as an advantage rather than a drawback, and being able to handle a variety of materials is a beneficial feature that enhances their versatility. Additionally, low cost is often a desirable quality rather than a negative aspect. Thus, the focus on electricity consumption provides a more accurate representation of a potential drawback when evaluating the use of 2D cutters in various applications.

6. What does a NOR logic gate output when both inputs are 0?

- A. 1**
- B. 0
- C. Depends on the input states
- D. Only for binary inputs

A NOR logic gate is a combination of an OR gate followed by a NOT gate. It performs a logical operation where the output is true (1) only when all of its inputs are false (0). When both inputs to a NOR gate are 0, the OR operation first results in 0 (since $0 \text{ OR } 0$ is 0). The NOT operation then inverts this output, changing it to 1. Therefore, the NOR gate outputs 1 when both inputs are 0, which confirms that the reasoning for choosing this option is accurate. Understanding this behavior is essential as it highlights the fundamental operation of NOR gates in digital logic design, where they are often utilized for creating complex logic circuits and implementing functions.

7. What is freeware?

- A. Software that is free to modify and share
- B. Software that can be used without payment but cannot be modified**
- C. Software that restricts user access
- D. Software that only works online

Freeware refers to software that is available for use without any financial cost. This means that users can download and use the software without having to pay for it. However, freeware typically comes with certain restrictions, particularly regarding modification. Unlike open-source software, which allows users to modify and share the software freely, freeware is usually provided in a form that users cannot modify or alter. The fact that users can use the software without payment but cannot make modifications is a key characteristic of freeware, distinguishing it from other types of software licenses.

8. What type of storage is characterized as non-volatile and cannot be accessed once removed?

- A. RAM
- B. Optical Technology
- C. ROM**
- D. SSD

The characteristic of being non-volatile means that the data stored retains its value even when the power is turned off. ROM, or Read-Only Memory, fits this description as it is designed to store firmware or software that is not intended to be modified frequently. When ROM is removed from a device, the data it contains is inaccessible; this is a key feature that differentiates it from other types of storage. In contrast, RAM (Random Access Memory) is volatile, meaning it loses all stored data when power is lost, which rules it out. Optical technologies, like CDs or DVDs, are also removable and do allow access when outside their devices, eliminating them as well. SSDs (Solid State Drives) are non-volatile too but can be accessed after removal, showcasing the importance of the "cannot be accessed once removed" aspect in identifying the correct answer. Thus, the defining attributes of ROM align perfectly with the criteria given in the question.

9. What is a key application of laser printers?

- A. Creating low-quality printouts
- B. Producing high-quality printouts quickly**
- C. Printing solely in black and white
- D. Making small print runs efficiently

Producing high-quality printouts quickly is a key application of laser printers. These printers utilize a laser beam to create an electrostatic image on a rotating drum, which attracts toner (a fine powder) that adheres to the paper. This process allows for precise control of the placement of the toner, resulting in sharp and clear text and images. Additionally, laser printers are known for their rapid printing speeds, making them ideal for environments where efficiency and quality are paramount, such as offices and businesses that require a high volume of printed materials in a short time frame. While laser printers can print in various quality levels, they excel at delivering professional-quality results, which distinguishes them from other printing technologies, such as inkjet printers, which may require longer drying times and can sometimes result in smudges or blurs if not handled carefully. The capability to print in both color and monochrome adds to their versatility, making them suitable for a wide range of printing tasks.

10. What strategy can help against unsolicited software installations?

- A. Using the Internet freely
- B. Avoiding unknown sources of software**
- C. Regularly updating web browsers
- D. Sharing passwords with friends

Avoiding unknown sources of software is an effective strategy to combat unsolicited software installations. This approach emphasizes the importance of being cautious about where software is downloaded from, ensuring that users only acquire programs from reputable and trusted sources. Unsolicited software often comes bundled with applications from dubious websites that may try to execute installations without the user's full consent or awareness. By steering clear of these unknown or unverified sources, users can significantly reduce the risk of inadvertently installing malicious software, adware, or programs that could compromise their system's security and performance. The other strategies, while they may contribute to good practices in some areas, do not directly address the core issue of unwanted installations from untrustworthy sources. For instance, using the Internet freely can expose individuals to risky sites; regularly updating web browsers is important for security but doesn't prevent unsolicited installations directly; and sharing passwords with friends can lead to security breaches rather than protecting against them. Thus, the focus on avoiding unknown software sources stands out as a practical and effective defense.

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://igcsecompisci.examzify.com>

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

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