IGCSE Environmental Management Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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

1. Which term describes a broad volcano formed by layers of cooling lava?

A. Basalt

B. Artesian aquifer

C. Basic volcano

D. Asthenosphere

2. What term refers to all the organisms of one species living in a defined area?

A. Population

B. Ecosystem

C. Community

D. Species Richness

3. The amount of water in the soil before rainfall is called?

A. Antecedent soil moisture

B. Field capacity

C. Soil moisture deficit

D. Soil moisture surplus

4. The process of wearing away rock or soil by wind, water, or ice is known as:

A. Deposition

B. Weathering

C. Sedimentation

D. Erosion

5. Which term refers to a hole dug into rock where water is stored?

A. Weathering

B. Water Tower

C. Well

D. Weed

6. What is the name of a volcano built from alternating layers of lava and ash?

A. Shield volcano

B. Strato volcano/ Composite volcano

C. Caldera

D. Lava dome

7. Which diagram shows the distribution of a population by age and gender?

A. Population Pyramid

B. Population

C. Pyramid of Numbers

D. Potable Water

8. Which term refers to the living, organic components of an environment?

A. Bioremediation

B. Biotic

C. Brackish water

D. Bund

9. What is the term for the rock or soil on top of an economically viable mineral deposit?

A. Topsoil

B. Overburden

C. Subsoil

D. Cap rock

10. The specific role of organisms within an ecosystem is called what?

A. Mineral

B. Niche

C. Noble gas

D. Non renewable

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which term describes a broad volcano formed by layers of cooling lava?

A. Basalt

B. Artesian aquifer

C. Basic volcano

D. Asthenosphere

The idea being tested is how lava composition and flow behavior shape volcanoes. Basic (mafic) lava has low silica and low viscosity, so it flows easily and spreads over large areas. Each eruption adds another cooled layer, building a broad, gently sloping volcano from successive lava flows. That description fits a basic volcano very well. Basalt is the rock formed from basic lava, which is related but doesn't name the volcano itself. An artesian aquifer is unrelated to volcanology, and the asthenosphere is a mantle layer, not a volcano. So the best term for a broad volcano built from layered cooling lava is basic volcano.

2. What term refers to all the organisms of one species living in a defined area?

A. Population

B. Ecosystem

C. Community

D. Species Richness

The main idea here is a population: all individuals of one species living in a defined area. This focuses on how many individuals exist and how they are distributed within that area—for example, the population of rabbits in a field or the population of oak trees in a forest. The other terms describe different concepts. An ecosystem includes both living organisms and the physical environment (air, water, soil, climate). A community includes all the living organisms of all species in the area. Species richness is simply the number of different species present, not the number of individuals of one species.

3. The amount of water in the soil before rainfall is called?

A. Antecedent soil moisture

B. Field capacity

C. Soil moisture deficit

D. Soil moisture surplus

The amount of water in the soil before rainfall is called antecedent soil moisture. This term describes the soil's initial water content, which shapes what happens when rain arrives. If the soil is already fairly moist (high antecedent moisture), there's less capacity to absorb new water, so rainfall is more likely to run off or drain quickly rather than infiltrate deeply. If the soil is dry (low antecedent moisture), rainfall can infiltrate more readily and replenish moisture for plants and groundwater. Field capacity, by contrast, is the maximum water the soil can hold after drainage; soil moisture deficit is how much water is needed to reach that capacity, and soil moisture surplus is when moisture temporarily exceeds that capacity and drainage or runoff occurs.

4. The process of wearing away rock or soil by wind, water, or ice is known as:

A. Deposition

B. Weathering

C. Sedimentation

D. Erosion

Erosion is the act of wearing away rock or soil and moving that material from its original place. Wind, water, and ice act as transport agents, picking up particles and carrying them to new locations. Weathering describes breaking down rock in place without moving it, so it isn't about removal. Deposition (and sedimentation) refers to the settling and accumulation of eroded material in a new area after transport. So the term that captures both wearing away and movement of material is erosion.

5. Which term refers to a hole dug into rock where water is stored?

A. Weathering

B. Water Tower

C. Well

D. Weed

A well is a hole dug into rock or soil to reach groundwater and bring it to the surface. It taps water stored in underground spaces such as porous rock or fractures, allowing people to pump it up for use. This is different from weathering, which is the natural breakdown of rock; a water tower, which stores water above ground in a tall structure; and weeds, which are plants. So the term that fits a hole dug into rock where water is accessed is a well.

6. What is the name of a volcano built from alternating layers of lava and ash?

A. Shield volcano

B. Strato volcano/ Composite volcano

C. Caldera

D. Lava dome

Volcanoes formed by alternating layers of lava and ash are stratovolcanoes, also known as composite volcanoes. This type builds up from repeated cycles of explosive ash and pumice eruptions followed by lava flows that harden into rock, creating a tall, steep-sided cone. The alternating layers give the characteristic layered structure. To compare briefly: shield volcanoes are built mainly from low-viscosity lava that spreads into gentle, wide slopes; calderas are large depressions formed after major eruptions and collapse; lava domes are mplots of viscous lava that pile up near the vent rather than forming broad layered cones. The layered, alternating ash and lava pattern identifies this as a stratovolcano.

7. Which diagram shows the distribution of a population by age and gender?

A. Population Pyramid

B. Population

C. Pyramid of Numbers

D. Potable Water

The diagram that shows distribution of a population by age and gender is the Population Pyramid. This diagram is built with age groups stacked along the vertical axis and two halves of bars across the horizontal axis representing different genders. Each horizontal bar shows how many people are in that age group, split by male and female. That combination lets you see both the age structure (how many young versus old people) and the gender balance at every age. This is useful because the shape of the pyramid tells you about population trends. A broad base means many young people and potential for growth, while a narrow top indicates fewer older people. Differences between the sides show how life expectancy or gender ratios vary by age. The other options don't fit this purpose: a general population diagram would just show total numbers without age or gender details; a Pyramid of Numbers represents counts of organisms at different trophic levels in ecosystems, not human age and sex structure; and potable water relates to water quality, not population structure.

8. Which term refers to the living, organic components of an environment?

A. Bioremediation

B. Biotic

C. Brackish water

D. Bund

Living, organic components of an environment are described as biotic. This includes all organisms such as plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms, along with their interactions and relationships within an ecosystem. Non-living factors like climate, soil minerals, water, and light are abiotic, not biotic. The other terms refer to different ideas: bioremediation is a process using living organisms to clean up pollutants; brackish water is water with intermediate salinity; a bund is an embankment built for flood protection. So the term that best fits living, organic components is biotic.

9. What is the term for the rock or soil on top of an economically viable mineral deposit?

A. Topsoil

B. Overburden

C. Subsoil

D. Cap rock

Overburden is the rock and soil lying above an economically viable mineral deposit that must be removed to access the ore in open-pit mining. It often includes the topsoil, which is the fertile surface layer that may be stripped and stored for rehabilitation, but the key idea is the overall covering that adds to mining cost. Subsoil sits below the topsoil, not above the ore, and cap rock refers to a hard layer above an underground ore body, not the general surface cover in open-pit mining.

10. The specific role of organisms within an ecosystem is called what?

A. Mineral

B. Niche

C. Noble gas

D. Non renewable

The niche is the role an organism plays in its ecosystem—the job it does, including what it eats, how it obtains energy, how it interacts with other species, and how it contributes to energy flow and nutrient cycling. It's different from the habitat, which is the place where the organism lives; a species can share a habitat with others but occupy a different niche through different foods or activities. For example, in a forest, one organism might feed on leaves while another feeds on seeds, and another may be active at night—these differences in role reduce direct competition and help the community function smoothly. The other terms aren't about the role of living things: a mineral is a non-living substance, a noble gas is a category of elements, and non-renewable refers to resources that can't be replenished quickly. Therefore, the term that fits best is niche.

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://igcseenvimgmt.examzify.com

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