

IGCSE Geography Agricultural Systems Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 process involves supplying land with water through a network of canals?**
 - A. Irrigation**
 - B. Manure**
 - C. Fertilizer**
 - D. Seeds**

- 2. The practice of cultivating the land only every other year to conserve soil moisture is called what?**
 - A. Fallow periods**
 - B. Stop ploughing**
 - C. Strip fallow**
 - D. Ripping**

- 3. In Swaziland, who provides most of the physical labor on farms?**
 - A. Men**
 - B. Foreign workers**
 - C. Women**
 - D. Children**

- 4. Which category includes Fertilizer, Pesticides, and Irrigation as examples?**
 - A. Expenditure**
 - B. Physical Inputs**
 - C. Flood Water**
 - D. Human Inputs**

- 5. Which term is used to describe the work done by the working class, especially manual labor?**
 - A. Capital**
 - B. Enterprise**
 - C. Labour**
 - D. Management**

- 6. Which term describes inputs such as Fertilizer, Pesticides, and Irrigation?**
- A. Physical Inputs**
 - B. Flood Water**
 - C. Expenditure**
 - D. Human Inputs**
- 7. What two factors are cited as discouraging agriculture and reducing the workforce?**
- A. Drought and HIV/AIDS**
 - B. Flooding and malaria**
 - C. Urban development and clean water**
 - D. Tourism and education**
- 8. What benefits are mentioned for workers?**
- A. Free car and housing**
 - B. Medical, housing, schooling, security**
 - C. Pensions only**
 - D. No benefits**
- 9. Gullies mainly form due to which environmental condition in the high veld areas?**
- A. Drought**
 - B. Torrential rainfall**
 - C. Human activity**
 - D. Snow melt**
- 10. What term describes animal droppings used to fertilize land?**
- A. Fertilizer**
 - B. Soil Exhaustion**
 - C. Irrigation**
 - D. Manure**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What process involves supplying land with water through a network of canals?

- A. Irrigation**
- B. Manure**
- C. Fertilizer**
- D. Seeds**

Providing land with water through a network of canals is irrigation. Irrigation is the practice of delivering water to fields to keep the soil moist and support crop growth, especially when rainfall is insufficient. Canals are a common way to move water from rivers or reservoirs to multiple fields, giving farmers control over when and how much water crops receive. Manure is used to improve soil fertility and organic matter, not to supply water. Fertilizer adds nutrients to the soil to boost growth, but it doesn't water the land. Seeds are planted material; irrigation may help them establish, but the process described is specifically about providing water, which is irrigation.

2. The practice of cultivating the land only every other year to conserve soil moisture is called what?

- A. Fallow periods**
- B. Stop ploughing**
- C. Strip fallow**
- D. Ripping**

The idea being tested is leaving land unused for a time to save moisture and restore soil conditions. This practice is called fallow periods. By not cultivating the field for a year (or alternating years), moisture is conserved and the soil has a chance to recover, reducing evaporation and helping maintain fertility. Strip fallow is a related idea but involves leaving only strips of land fallow within a field, not the whole field on a simple every-other-year cycle. Ripping is a deep tillage method used to break up compacted soil, not about conserving moisture by allowing land to rest. Stop ploughing isn't a standard term for this concept. So the best fit for cultivating the land only every other year to conserve soil moisture is fallow periods.

3. In Swaziland, who provides most of the physical labor on farms?

- A. Men**
- B. Foreign workers**
- C. Women**
- D. Children**

In many traditional farming systems, women do most of the physical labour on farms. On Swaziland's smallholder plots, day-to-day field work like planting, weeding, harvesting, and processing crops is typically carried out by female family members. This work is central to producing food for the household, so women's labour is essential for food security. Men may assist with tasks that require more strength or capital, and in some sectors there are foreign workers, but the bulk of hands-on farming on these farms is done by women. This shows how labour in agriculture is often distributed along gender lines, with women playing the central role in producing food.

4. Which category includes Fertilizer, Pesticides, and Irrigation as examples?

- A. Expenditure**
- B. Physical Inputs**
- C. Flood Water**
- D. Human Inputs**

In farming systems, inputs are resources added to the farm to boost production. Fertilizer, pesticides, and irrigation are all things that farmers bring in or apply through planning, management, and investment. They are produced, purchased, and operated by people, so they fall under human inputs. Flood water is a natural resource that may influence production but isn't something a farmer deliberately supplied as part of the farming system in the same controlled way. Expenditure describes the cost aspect rather than the category of input itself, and physical inputs would typically refer to natural resources or equipment not actively managed by people in the same way. So, the best fit is human inputs.

5. Which term is used to describe the work done by the working class, especially manual labor?

- A. Capital**
- B. Enterprise**
- C. Labour**
- D. Management**

Labour is the term for human work used in making goods and delivering services, especially the physical effort involved in manual tasks. It's one of the main factors of production, alongside land (natural resources), capital (machinery, tools, and money), and enterprise (the drive and risk-taking to organize production). In farming, labour means the people doing tasks like planting, weeding, harvesting, and caring for animals. The other terms describe different inputs: capital is the tools and money used, enterprise is the initiative to start and run a business, and management is the coordination of people and resources. So the work done by the working class, particularly manual labor, is labour.

6. Which term describes inputs such as Fertilizer, Pesticides, and Irrigation?

- A. Physical Inputs**
- B. Flood Water**
- C. Expenditure**
- D. Human Inputs**

Inputs are resources added to a farming system to make production possible. Fertilizer, pesticides, and irrigation are provided or managed by humans to boost crop yields. Fertilizers and pesticides are manufactured products used to supply nutrients and control pests, while irrigation systems are installed and operated by people to supply water when rainfall isn't enough. Because these rely on human action, design, and management, they are best described as human inputs. They aren't just natural resources like rainfall or soil conditions, which would fall under physical inputs, and they aren't a cost by themselves but a category of resources brought into the system by humans.

7. What two factors are cited as discouraging agriculture and reducing the workforce?

- A. Drought and HIV/AIDS**
- B. Flooding and malaria**
- C. Urban development and clean water**
- D. Tourism and education**

The main idea here is that external pressures from development can push people away from farming and shrink the land available for agriculture. Urban development encroaches on farmland, turning fields into housing, roads, and businesses. That directly reduces how much land can be used for crops and also creates fewer local jobs in farming, so fewer people work in agriculture. Clean water is part of broader development. When communities gain reliable water infrastructure and sanitation, people have more options beyond farming and may choose urban or non-farm work instead. The combination of less land for farming and more opportunities elsewhere helps discourage farming and reduces the agricultural workforce. Other options would point more to climate or disease effects directly on crops and workers, but this pair emphasizes how development-related factors shift land use and labor away from agriculture.

8. What benefits are mentioned for workers?

- A. Free car and housing**
- B. Medical, housing, schooling, security**
- C. Pensions only**
- D. No benefits**

Welfare benefits for workers in agricultural systems are described as a bundled package that supports both workers and their families. The listed items—medical care, housing, schooling for children, and security—together form a broad program aimed at keeping workers healthy, housed, educated, and safe, which helps ensure a stable, productive workforce. This is why it is the best answer: it shows a comprehensive set of benefits rather than a single benefit, no benefits, or an overly specific benefit. The other options describe only one aspect or contradict the idea of a benefits package.

9. Gullies mainly form due to which environmental condition in the high veld areas?

- A. Drought**
- B. Torrential rainfall**
- C. Human activity**
- D. Snow melt**

Gullies form when intense, heavy rainfall creates rapid surface runoff that concentrates into narrow flows, washing away loose soil along slopes. In high veld areas, soils are often shallow and vegetation cover may be limited, so the water doesn't infiltrate quickly and instead erodes the surface, carving channels that become gullies. The energy of a torrential downpour is the key driver, as it can move material downslope much faster than it can be replaced, leading to headward erosion and the widening of channels. Drought reduces available water and rainfall, so it's less able to create gullies; snow melt is uncommon in many high veld regions; while human activity can contribute to erosion, the main natural cause here is torrential rainfall.

10. What term describes animal droppings used to fertilize land?

- A. Fertilizer**
- B. Soil Exhaustion**
- C. Irrigation**
- D. Manure**

Manure is animal droppings used as a fertilizer. It provides nutrients to the soil as it decomposes and adds organic matter, which helps plants grow and improves soil structure, porosity, and moisture retention. Manure releases essential nutrients like nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium back into the soil, supporting crop growth in a natural way. It's a traditional, natural source of fertility and recycles livestock waste. Proper handling, such as aging or composting, helps reduce risks from pathogens and weed seeds and prevents potential nutrient burn. The other terms refer to different ideas: irrigation is about watering, soil exhaustion describes a decline in soil fertility, and fertilizer is a general term for any substance that supplies nutrients (manure is a natural example of this).

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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://igcsegeoagrisys.examzify.com>

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

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