

Into Thin Air 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 explanation do the Sherpas give for Ngawang's death?**
 - A. They said that one of Fischer's climbers (Sandy Pittman the slut), by having sex on the mountain while married to another man, had angered Everest and the goddess was taking revenge on Ngawang**
 - B. He died from an avalanche**
 - C. He died of exposure during a storm**
 - D. He fell while crossing a rope bridge**

- 2. How is Sandy Pittman initially portrayed in Krakauer's account?**
 - A. She is famous and climbs mountains for attention**
 - B. She is a quiet, selfless climber**
 - C. She avoids media attention**
 - D. She is a novice who learns quickly**

- 3. Which of the following best describes Mike Groom?**
 - A. Australian guide with red hair who is toe-less, quiet and reserved.**
 - B. American climber who leads the rope teams.**
 - C. Nepali guide who carries heavy loads.**
 - D. British medic with a loud personality.**

- 4. What is the Hillary Step?**
 - A. A notch in the Southeast Ridge of Everest named after Edmund Hillary**
 - B. A peak on the Khumbu Glacier**
 - C. A weather station on Everest**
 - D. A glacier carving on the North Face**

- 5. How many camps will the Sherpas establish on the mountain?**
 - A. Four camps, each 2,000 feet higher than the last.**
 - B. Three camps, each 3,000 feet higher.**
 - C. Five camps, varying in distance.**
 - D. Six camps, all at equal elevations.**

- 6. What do climbers find scattered all over the ground at Camp 4?**
- A. Empty oxygen canisters.**
 - B. Used batteries.**
 - C. Rope slings.**
 - D. Climbers' jackets.**
- 7. Why did Rob Hall insist that everyone turn around at 10:00 during the first acclimation climb up the Icefall?**
- A. The Icefall would be more unstable in the sun, melting.**
 - B. They had completed the required distance.**
 - C. They needed to return to rest before lunch.**
 - D. The weather forecast predicted a storm later.**
- 8. Who is Mike Groom and how is Krakauer described him?**
- A. The expedition's third guide, he is Australian, has red hair, and doesn't have any toes; he sometimes works as a plumber, and is very quiet and reserved.**
 - B. The expedition's lead guide, American, tall and loud.**
 - C. A Sherpa guide from Nepal who leads the rope teams.**
 - D. A medical doctor who provides altitude training.**
- 9. During his climb to Camp Two, what does Krakauer find wrapped in blue plastic sheeting on the side of the trail?**
- A. A bag of supplies**
 - B. A body**
 - C. A map**
 - D. A tent**
- 10. What is Jan Arnold's relation to Rob Hall?**
- A. His wife**
 - B. His sister**
 - C. His daughter**
 - D. His colleague**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What explanation do the Sherpas give for Ngawang's death?

- A. They said that one of Fischer's climbers (Sandy Pittman the slut), by having sex on the mountain while married to another man, had angered Everest and the goddess was taking revenge on Ngawang**
- B. He died from an avalanche**
- C. He died of exposure during a storm**
- D. He fell while crossing a rope bridge**

In this part of the story, the Sherpas frame death on the mountain as a consequence of spiritual or moral forces, not just physical hazards. They say the goddess of Everest was angered by a climber's sexual activity on the mountain, and that divine anger manifested as Ngawang's death. This reflects their belief that sacred space on the peak can enforce moral order and punish transgressions with misfortune. So the explanation they give is a supernatural, moral cause—divine retribution—rather than an avalanche, exposure, or a fall.

2. How is Sandy Pittman initially portrayed in Krakauer's account?

- A. She is famous and climbs mountains for attention**
- B. She is a quiet, selfless climber**
- C. She avoids media attention**
- D. She is a novice who learns quickly**

Sandy Pittman is introduced as a famous, high-profile participant whose presence on the expedition is tied to visibility and publicity. Krakauer presents her as a well-known figure—wealthy, connected, and bringing attention with her move into the climb—so the ascent is seen as much as a spectacle as a mountaineering effort. This portrayal sets up the tension Krakauer often highlights between the allure of fame and the harsh realities of the mountain, making her motivation appear tied to public recognition rather than just the sport itself. The description fits someone who seeks media attention, rather than a quiet, selfless climber, someone who avoids the spotlight, or a novice who learns quickly, which is why this portrayal sits best with the initial depiction.

3. Which of the following best describes Mike Groom?

- A. Australian guide with red hair who is toe-less, quiet and reserved.**
- B. American climber who leads the rope teams.**
- C. Nepali guide who carries heavy loads.**
- D. British medic with a loud personality.**

Think about how the book describes Mike Groom. He's portrayed as an Australian guide with red hair who lost toes to frostbite, and he's known for being quiet and reserved. That exact combination—Australian guide, red hair, toe-less from frostbite, and a calm, reserved demeanor—is what distinguishes him in the narrative, so the description that matches all of these details is the best fit. The other options don't line up with how Groom is depicted: he isn't American and not the one leading rope teams, he isn't Nepali carrying heavy loads, and he isn't British with a loud personality.

4. What is the Hillary Step?

- A. A notch in the Southeast Ridge of Everest named after Edmund Hillary**
- B. A peak on the Khumbu Glacier**
- C. A weather station on Everest**
- D. A glacier carving on the North Face**

This feature is a notable notch near the summit on Everest's Southeast Ridge, a small but famous rock step that climbers must navigate to reach the top. It was named after Sir Edmund Hillary, who, along with Tenzing Norgay, first climbed Everest in 1953 and passed this obstacle on the way to the summit. It's not presented as a separate peak on the Khumbu Glacier, nor a weather station, nor a glacier carving on the North Face. Recognizing it as a distinctive climbing obstacle on the Southeast Ridge explains why this option is the correct identification.

5. How many camps will the Sherpas establish on the mountain?

- A. Four camps, each 2,000 feet higher than the last.**
- B. Three camps, each 3,000 feet higher.**
- C. Five camps, varying in distance.**
- D. Six camps, all at equal elevations.**

The concept being tested is how the expedition plans its ascent with staged camps to help acclimate to rising altitudes. The description indicates there will be four camps, with each one about 2,000 feet higher than the last. This creates a steady, manageable ascent that gives climbers time to rest and adjust before climbing higher, which is a typical and practical approach for high-altitude expeditions. It fits the pattern of a planned ladder of elevation gains rather than jumping to many different heights or clustering camps at the same level. The other patterns—fewer or more camps, unequal spacing, or equal elevations—don't match the described strategy of a consistent, stepwise ascent.

6. What do climbers find scattered all over the ground at Camp 4?

- A. Empty oxygen canisters.**
- B. Used batteries.**
- C. Rope slings.**
- D. Climbers' jackets.**

At Camp 4, the use of supplemental oxygen is a daily reality for many climbers, and when those oxygen cylinders are emptied, they're often left behind rather than carried back down. The cans become a visible, repeated sight—a field of empty canisters scattered on the ground—that Krakauer uses to highlight the harsh realities and waste associated with high-altitude climbing. This makes empty oxygen canisters the most characteristic and widely noted form of debris at that camp. While other items like rope slings or jackets can appear, they don't form the same pervasive, defining scene as the discarded oxygen containers.

7. Why did Rob Hall insist that everyone turn around at 10:00 during the first acclimation climb up the Icefall?

- A. The Icefall would be more unstable in the sun, melting.**
- B. They had completed the required distance.**
- C. They needed to return to rest before lunch.**
- D. The weather forecast predicted a storm later.**

This question tests understanding of how glacier conditions change with sun exposure and how that affects safety decisions during acclimatization climbs. The Khumbu Icefall becomes more unstable as temperatures rise: ice melts, crevasses widen, and large blocks can shift or fall as the day warms. By setting a turnaround time around mid-morning, Rob Hall aimed to keep the group out of the highest-risk period—the time when warming makes the icefall most dangerous—so they could descend to safer ground before conditions deteriorate. This isn't about reaching a distance target, taking a lunch break, or chasing a forecasted storm. It's about balancing progress with safety, recognizing that waiting too long on a fragile, melting icefall increases the chance of a dangerous collapse or slide.

8. Who is Mike Groom and how is Krakauer described him?

- A. The expedition's third guide, he is Australian, has red hair, and doesn't have any toes; he sometimes works as a plumber, and is very quiet and reserved.**
- B. The expedition's lead guide, American, tall and loud.**
- C. A Sherpa guide from Nepal who leads the rope teams.**
- D. A medical doctor who provides altitude training.**

Mike Groom is presented in Krakauer's account as the expedition's third guide for Adventure Consultants. He is described as Australian, with a quiet, reserved demeanor that contrasts with more outgoing personalities on the team. Krakauer emphasizes Groom's steady competence and practical nature rather than loud leadership or flashy behavior. The other options don't fit Krakauer's portrayal—he isn't the lead guide, a Sherpa, or a medical doctor. The most distinctive parts of Groom's description are his role on the team, his nationality, and his understated, calm presence.

9. During his climb to Camp Two, what does Krakauer find wrapped in blue plastic sheeting on the side of the trail?

- A. A bag of supplies**
- B. A body**
- C. A map**
- D. A tent**

This moment foregrounds the harsh reality and immediacy of death on Everest. As Krakauer climbs toward Camp Two, he sees something on the slope wrapped in blue plastic sheeting—a body. The blue wrap isn't just packaging; it's a makeshift shroud that marks the presence of a climber who died on the mountain. This sight is meant to shock and remind readers (and the climber) that the ascent is a perilous endeavor where death is a constant, visible possibility, not just a distant statistic. It's not a bag of supplies, a map, or a tent—things associated with living, navigating, or camping—so the scene underscores mortality over utility, and it helps explain why the mountain changes people who survive it.

10. What is Jan Arnold's relation to Rob Hall?

A. His wife

B. His sister

C. His daughter

D. His colleague

Jan Arnold is Rob Hall's wife. The accounts describe Jan as Hall's spouse, highlighting the personal side of his life during the expedition. She isn't depicted as his sister, daughter, or colleague, so the relationship that fits the text best is that she is his wife.

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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://intothinair.examzify.com>

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

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