

# Intuit Academy Tax Practice Exam (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. Which types of losses can be deducted on a tax return?**
  - A. Only business losses**
  - B. Capital losses and losses from stocks**
  - C. Capital losses, business losses, and certain casualty losses**
  - D. Only casualty losses**
  
- 2. Which scenario would allow a person to use a tax deduction?**
  - A. They have a taxable income of \$50,000**
  - B. They are self-employed and incur business expenses**
  - C. They received a tax refund**
  - D. They earned interest from a savings account**
  
- 3. What defines "itemized deductions"?**
  - A. General expenses that can be deducted**
  - B. Specific expenses deducted from taxable income**
  - C. Standardized amounts allowed without receipts**
  - D. Expenses that increase taxable income**
  
- 4. Which expenses incurred during poker tournaments are not deductible against gambling winnings?**
  - A. Entry fees**
  - B. Transportation costs**
  - C. Any related travel expenses**
  - D. None of the above**
  
- 5. How do contributions to a Health Savings Account (HSA) affect your taxes?**
  - A. They are taxed as ordinary income**
  - B. They are tax-deductible and reduce taxable income**
  - C. They have no impact on taxes**
  - D. They are subject to additional penalties**

**6. For which type of income is Schedule SE used?**

- A. Investment income**
- B. Self-employment income**
- C. Employee wages**
- D. Rental income**

**7. Which education-related requirement must taxpayers meet to qualify for the American Opportunity Tax Credit?**

- A. They must be enrolled in a vocational training program**
- B. They must be pursuing a degree or recognized education credential**
- C. They must be over 30 years old**
- D. They must have a minimum credit score**

**8. How do you report self-employment income?**

- A. On Form 1040 only**
- B. On Schedule C along with business deductions**
- C. Through Form 1099 exclusively**
- D. On a separate business tax return**

**9. What is the definition of "passive activity loss"?**

- A. Losses that offset ordinary income**
- B. Losses generated in non-rental activities**
- C. Losses from taxpayer's rental or business activities that cannot offset ordinary income**
- D. Losses that are fully deductible against ordinary income**

**10. What does FSA stand for in tax terms?**

- A. Fully Secured Account**
- B. Flexible Spending Account**
- C. Federal Savings Account**
- D. Fiscally Significant Account**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. Which types of losses can be deducted on a tax return?

- A. Only business losses
- B. Capital losses and losses from stocks
- C. Capital losses, business losses, and certain casualty losses**
- D. Only casualty losses

The correct choice highlights that capital losses, business losses, and certain casualty losses can be deducted on a tax return, reflecting the multitude of tax deductions available to taxpayers. Capital losses occur when assets such as stocks are sold for less than their purchase price. These losses can offset capital gains, and if the losses exceed the gains, taxpayers can deduct a certain amount against other income, such as wages or salaries, which is beneficial for tax planning. Business losses arise when the expenses of running a business exceed its income. These losses can typically be deducted from other income on an individual's tax return, providing relief to those who invest in operating businesses that may not perform well financially in a given year. Certain casualty losses refer to losses from unforeseen events, such as natural disasters or accidents, that damage property. Taxpayers may claim these losses on their returns when they meet specific IRS requirements, such as determining the amount of loss and the event's severity. Together, these deductions aim to provide a more equitable tax burden by allowing taxpayers to offset their income with legitimate losses incurred during the tax year, thereby reducing their overall taxable income.

## 2. Which scenario would allow a person to use a tax deduction?

- A. They have a taxable income of \$50,000
- B. They are self-employed and incur business expenses**
- C. They received a tax refund
- D. They earned interest from a savings account

A tax deduction is a specific expense that reduces a person's taxable income, thus lowering their overall tax liability. In the scenario where a person is self-employed and incurs business expenses, they can claim those expenses as tax deductions. This is based on the principle that expenses necessary for conducting business operations can be subtracted from taxable income. When self-employed individuals track and report their business expenses, they can deduct costs directly associated with running their business, such as supplies, utilities, and travel expenses. This not only ensures that they are taxed only on their true earnings after necessary expenses are accounted for but also fosters business activities by allowing entrepreneurs to reinvest in their operations. In contrast, while having a certain taxable income, receiving a tax refund, or earning interest from a savings account may have implications for taxes, they do not directly relate to having eligible tax deductions. Taxable income is the basis upon which tax is calculated, a tax refund is simply a return of overpaid taxes, and earnings from interest are considered taxable income rather than deductible expenses.

### 3. What defines "itemized deductions"?

- A. General expenses that can be deducted
- B. Specific expenses deducted from taxable income**
- C. Standardized amounts allowed without receipts
- D. Expenses that increase taxable income

Itemized deductions are defined as specific expenses that taxpayers can deduct from their taxable income to potentially lower their overall tax liability. These deductions can include a variety of expenses such as mortgage interest, state and local taxes, medical expenses, charitable contributions, and certain unreimbursed business expenses. By listing these individual allowable deductions on Schedule A of Form 1040, taxpayers can detail their expenses rather than opting for the standard deduction, which is a fixed amount. The nature of itemized deductions lies in their specificity; they must meet certain criteria and often require supporting documentation or receipts to validate the claims being made. This is distinctly different from standardized amounts, which do not require itemization and can be claimed without providing detailed expense records. Therefore, the focus on specificity distinguishes itemized deductions as an important part of tax planning for many individuals.

### 4. Which expenses incurred during poker tournaments are not deductible against gambling winnings?

- A. Entry fees
- B. Transportation costs**
- C. Any related travel expenses
- D. None of the above

Transportation costs are not deductible against gambling winnings because the IRS specifically states that expenses directly related to gambling activities can only include certain types of costs, such as entry fees. While individuals can deduct losses from gambling activities against their winnings, transportation costs often don't fall into the category of allowable deductions for gambling expenses. In this context, entry fees are directly tied to the act of gambling itself and can be deducted. Similarly, related travel expenses that are directly associated with participating in gambling activities could potentially be deductible under certain conditions. Therefore, the option that highlights transportation costs stands out as the correct choice because it emphasizes that such expenses remain non-deductible, whereas the other options may be eligible under specific circumstances.

## 5. How do contributions to a Health Savings Account (HSA) affect your taxes?

- A. They are taxed as ordinary income
- B. They are tax-deductible and reduce taxable income**
- C. They have no impact on taxes
- D. They are subject to additional penalties

Contributions to a Health Savings Account (HSA) are indeed tax-deductible, which means they can be subtracted from your gross income when calculating your taxable income. This deduction effectively reduces the amount of income that is subject to tax, potentially lowering your overall tax liability for the year. This feature is designed to encourage individuals to save for medical expenses, making HSAs a valuable tool for managing healthcare costs while also providing tax advantages. It's important to recognize the benefits of this deduction: it not only reduces the amount of income tax owed for the year in which contributions are made but the funds in the HSA can also grow tax-free, and withdrawals for qualified medical expenses are not taxed either. This triple tax benefit—deduction upon contribution, tax-free growth, and tax-free withdrawals for qualified expenses—distinguishes HSAs from other savings or investment accounts. In contrast, contributions that are taxed as ordinary income would not offer the same tax benefit and would not help in reducing taxable income. Having no impact on taxes contrasts with the clear financial benefits provided by HSAs. Finally, while there are penalties for withdrawals made for non-qualified expenses, this is not the primary consideration when examining the tax implications of contributions.

## 6. For which type of income is Schedule SE used?

- A. Investment income
- B. Self-employment income**
- C. Employee wages
- D. Rental income

Schedule SE is specifically used for reporting self-employment income, which is income earned by individuals who work for themselves rather than receiving a wage or salary from an employer. This form enables taxpayers to calculate the self-employment tax, which covers Social Security and Medicare taxes on net earnings from self-employment. Self-employment income can arise from business activities, freelance work, or other forms of non-employee compensation. Essentially, individuals who receive this type of income must report it on Schedule C or Schedule C-EZ (for simpler cases) and then transfer the net income to Schedule SE to determine their self-employment tax obligation. In contrast, investment income, employee wages, and rental income have different reporting requirements. Investment income typically falls under various other schedules or forms, wages are reported directly on Form 1040, and rental income is often reported on Schedule E. Therefore, Schedule SE is uniquely dedicated to addressing the needs of self-employed individuals, ensuring they fulfill their tax responsibilities accurately.

**7. Which education-related requirement must taxpayers meet to qualify for the American Opportunity Tax Credit?**

- A. They must be enrolled in a vocational training program**
- B. They must be pursuing a degree or recognized education credential**
- C. They must be over 30 years old**
- D. They must have a minimum credit score**

To qualify for the American Opportunity Tax Credit, taxpayers must be pursuing a degree or recognized education credential. This requirement emphasizes that the credit is specifically designed to assist students who are actively engaged in higher education or a qualifying educational program. The focus is on supporting individuals who are working towards educational attainment at an institution of higher learning, which can include universities, colleges, and other accredited institutions that confer degrees or credentials. By establishing this requirement, the tax credit aims to encourage and facilitate access to education, thereby supporting the lifelong learning and skill development of individuals who are making substantial investments in their future. Other options do not align with the core purpose of this tax credit. For example, while enrollment in a vocational training program can sometimes qualify for other educational tax benefits, it does not automatically qualify for the American Opportunity Tax Credit unless it is part of a degree or recognized educational credential pursuit. Age and credit score are irrelevant criteria for this specific educational tax benefit, as the credit is available regardless of the taxpayer's age or credit history, focusing instead purely on their educational journey.

**8. How do you report self-employment income?**

- A. On Form 1040 only**
- B. On Schedule C along with business deductions**
- C. Through Form 1099 exclusively**
- D. On a separate business tax return**

Reporting self-employment income effectively involves several key considerations, which is why the choice involving Schedule C along with business deductions is the correct one. When a taxpayer is self-employed, they must report their income and deduct any allowable business expenses to determine their net profit or loss. This process is crucial as it outlines not just the income but also the specific expenses related to the business, thereby providing a comprehensive picture of the business's financial performance. The IRS requires this detailed reporting to ensure that taxpayers accurately account for income and can legally claim deductions that minimize their taxable income. Schedule C, also known as "Profit or Loss from Business," is specifically designed for this purpose. It allows self-employed individuals to report their income as well as associated expenses, such as costs of goods sold, operating expenses, and other necessary deductions directly related to their business activities. By using Schedule C, taxpayers integrate their self-employment income reporting with their overall tax return process on Form 1040. Considering the other options, reporting solely on Form 1040 does not provide the necessary breakdown of income and expenses required for self-employment. Relying exclusively on Form 1099 would miss additional deductions and may not capture all income accurately, as not all self-employment income

## 9. What is the definition of "passive activity loss"?

- A. Losses that offset ordinary income**
- B. Losses generated in non-rental activities**
- C. Losses from taxpayer's rental or business activities that cannot offset ordinary income**
- D. Losses that are fully deductible against ordinary income**

The definition of "passive activity loss" refers specifically to losses incurred in activities in which the taxpayer does not materially participate and which cannot be used to offset ordinary income. This concept typically relates to income generated from rental properties or certain businesses in which the taxpayer is not actively involved on a regular, continuous, or substantial basis. By classifying these losses as passive, the tax code imposes limitations on the deductibility of these losses against other types of income, particularly ordinary income like wages or salaries. This ensures that the tax benefits associated with passive investments are not as readily available as those generated from active participation in a trade or business. In contrast, other options would not accurately capture the nuances of how passive activity losses are treated under tax regulations. For example, losses that offset ordinary income (which is mentioned in one of the choices) typically characterize active losses, not passive ones. Furthermore, losses generated in non-rental activities (another option) fail to recognize that passive losses can occur specifically in rental activities. Similarly, stating that losses are fully deductible against ordinary income ignores the restrictions placed on passive activity losses. Thus, the correct characterization of passive activity loss as losses from rental or business activities that cannot offset ordinary income properly reflects the tax principles governing

## 10. What does FSA stand for in tax terms?

- A. Fully Secured Account**
- B. Flexible Spending Account**
- C. Federal Savings Account**
- D. Fiscally Significant Account**

In tax terms, FSA stands for Flexible Spending Account. This type of account is an important financial tool that allows employees to set aside pre-tax earnings to pay for certain eligible out-of-pocket health expenses. The primary benefit of using an FSA is the tax savings, as the contributions reduce the individual's taxable income. This means that employees can use funds from their FSA for various health-related costs, like copayments, deductibles, and certain qualified medical expenses, without being taxed on that income. Additionally, FSAs are employer-established benefits, and typically, contributions must be used within a specified period, often by the end of the plan year, to avoid losing the funds. Understanding the features and regulations around FSAs is crucial for effective tax planning and maximizing the benefits of these accounts.

# 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://intuit-tax.examzify.com>**

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

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