

IT GACE Computer Science Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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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. Who is someone who acts safely online?**
 - A. Digital Native**
 - B. Internet User**
 - C. Digital Citizen**
 - D. Netizen**

- 2. What does HOH stand for?**
 - A. Hard of Hearing**
 - B. Heavy Onset Hearing**
 - C. Hearing On Head**
 - D. High-Output Hearing**

- 3. Indicated by a series of three periods, which term indicates that material has been omitted from a text?**
 - A. Asterisk**
 - B. Dash**
 - C. Ellipsis**
 - D. Bracket**

- 4. A language that is used to give instructions to a computer.**
 - A. Programming Language**
 - B. URL**
 - C. Bug**
 - D. Output**

- 5. What term describes a set of step-by-step instructions that describes how to perform a task?**
 - A. Flowchart**
 - B. Algorithm**
 - C. Pseudocode**
 - D. Program**

- 6. A device through which data and programs from the outside world are entered into the computer.**
- A. Output Device**
 - B. Processor**
 - C. Storage Device**
 - D. Input Device**
- 7. What term refers to an unexpected problem with hardware or software?**
- A. Search Engine**
 - B. Bug**
 - C. File Extension**
 - D. Pixel**
- 8. Which memory component is the fast storage between RAM and CPU that holds recently used data?**
- A. Cache**
 - B. Register**
 - C. Main memory**
 - D. Disk**
- 9. A podcast is defined as?**
- A. A live video streaming service**
 - B. A printed magazine about podcasts**
 - C. A browser-based note-taking app**
 - D. A digital medium consisting of an episodic series of audio, video**
- 10. Which term describes devices that present results stored in memory to the outside world (e.g., printers, screen monitors)?**
- A. Input Devices**
 - B. Storage Devices**
 - C. Network Interfaces**
 - D. Output Devices**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who is someone who acts safely online?

- A. Digital Native
- B. Internet User
- C. Digital Citizen**
- D. Netizen

Being safe online comes from acting as a digital citizen—using technology responsibly, ethically, and with consideration for others. A digital citizen understands how to protect privacy, avoid scams, think critically about what they share, and follow online etiquette. This combination of safe, responsible behavior is what the term specifically captures, making it the best fit for someone who acts safely online. The other terms describe roles or general usage rather than behavior: a digital native refers to someone who grew up with technology; an internet user is anyone who uses the web, without implying safety practices; a netizen is a broad label for someone who uses the internet, not necessarily someone who acts safely.

2. What does HOH stand for?

- A. Hard of Hearing**
- B. Heavy Onset Hearing
- C. Hearing On Head
- D. High-Output Hearing

In hearing terminology, HOH stands for Hard of Hearing. This describes someone who has some degree of hearing loss but can still understand speech, often with the help of hearing aids or assistive devices. It's a common term used in medical, educational, and service settings to acknowledge that a person has hearing impairment without equating them to being deaf. The other phrases aren't recognized terms in this context, making Hard of Hearing the correct and standard meaning.

3. Indicated by a series of three periods, which term indicates that material has been omitted from a text?

- A. Asterisk
- B. Dash
- C. Ellipsis**
- D. Bracket

When you see three periods in a row, it signals that words have been left out from the text. That symbol is called an ellipsis. It's used to show omitted material in quotations or to shorten quoted content without changing the meaning. Ellipses can also hint at a pause or a trailing off in speech, but in the context of omissions they mark removed content. Other symbols serve different roles: an asterisk points to a footnote or correction, a dash can indicate a break or interruption, and brackets signal material added by someone other than the original author. So the three-dot marker specifically denotes omission.

4. A language that is used to give instructions to a computer.

A. Programming Language

B. URL

C. Bug

D. Output

A programming language is a formal way to express instructions for a computer to carry out tasks. It lets you write algorithms with precise syntax and meaning, and those instructions are then translated by a compiler or interpreter into actions the computer can execute. That's exactly what "a language used to give instructions to a computer" refers to. In contrast, a URL is a web address used to locate resources on the internet, a bug is an error in code, and output is the result produced after a program runs. Programming languages enable automation, decision making, and data processing by describing step-by-step commands for the computer to follow.

5. What term describes a set of step-by-step instructions that describes how to perform a task?

A. Flowchart

B. Algorithm

C. Pseudocode

D. Program

The main idea here is understanding what an algorithm is: a finite, well-defined set of step-by-step instructions that takes input and describes how to perform a task to produce a result. An algorithm lays out each precise action in order so that the task can be completed consistently, regardless of who follows it or when it's used. A flowchart is a visual diagram of the steps and decisions in a process, useful for showing the sequence and branching, but it's a representation of the algorithm rather than the instructions themselves. Pseudocode expresses the steps in a readable, code-like but language-agnostic form, making the logic easier to study without tying it to a specific programming language; it's a descriptive depiction of the algorithm, not the formal name for the steps. A program is the actual implementation in a programming language that can be executed by a computer; it realizes the algorithm in runnable code, rather than being the abstract set of instructions.

6. A device through which data and programs from the outside world are entered into the computer.

- A. Output Device**
- B. Processor**
- C. Storage Device**
- D. Input Device**

The concept being tested is how a computer receives data from outside sources. An input device is any hardware that brings data and programs into the computer for processing, acting as the entry point for information from the outside world. Examples include keyboards, mice, scanners, and microphones, which convert human actions or external signals into digital data the computer can work with. In contrast, output devices display or print results (like a monitor or printer), storage devices save data for later use (like a hard drive or USB stick), and the processor handles the actual computation. Those roles don't describe the entry point for new data into the system, which is why an input device is the correct choice.

7. What term refers to an unexpected problem with hardware or software?

- A. Search Engine**
- B. Bug**
- C. File Extension**
- D. Pixel**

A bug is an unexpected problem with software that causes a program to behave incorrectly, crash, or produce wrong results—and it can also arise from how software interacts with hardware. The central idea is that a bug is a flaw in the program's code or its design that leads to undesired behavior, which engineers diagnose and fix through debugging. For example, a calculation yielding the wrong output or a feature not responding as expected are typical bug manifestations. The other terms don't fit because a search engine is a tool for finding information, a file extension indicates a file type, and a pixel is a tiny element on a display.

8. Which memory component is the fast storage between RAM and CPU that holds recently used data?

- A. Cache**
- B. Register**
- C. Main memory**
- D. Disk**

Cache memory is the fast storage between the CPU and RAM that holds recently used data. It's much smaller than RAM but significantly faster, so the CPU can access often-needed information quickly instead of waiting for slower main memory. When the CPU needs data, it first checks the cache; if the data is there (a cache hit), the CPU gets it almost immediately. If it isn't (a cache miss), the data is fetched from RAM and placed into the cache for future use. This works well because programs tend to reuse recently accessed data and nearby data, a pattern called locality of reference. Caches are layered (L1, L2, sometimes L3) to balance speed and size. By comparison, registers are inside the CPU and hold a tiny amount of data for immediate calculations, main memory is RAM and slower than cache, and disk is far slower and used for long-term storage.

9. A podcast is defined as?

- A. A live video streaming service**
- B. A printed magazine about podcasts**
- C. A browser-based note-taking app**
- D. A digital medium consisting of an episodic series of audio, video**

Podcasts are digital media delivered over the Internet as an episodic series, usually in audio form, with some entries containing video. The key idea is that each episode is released separately and can be downloaded or streamed on demand, rather than watched or listened to in real time. This exactly matches describing a digital medium consisting of an episodic series of audio, and sometimes video. The other options describe things that aren't about on-demand media: a live video streaming service is real-time, a printed magazine is physical, and a browser-based note-taking app is a productivity tool.

10. Which term describes devices that present results stored in memory to the outside world (e.g., printers, screen monitors)?

- A. Input Devices**
- B. Storage Devices**
- C. Network Interfaces**
- D. Output Devices**

Output devices are devices that take information stored in memory and present it to the outside world. They turn digital data into something you can see or hear, such as the text or images on a screen or a printed page from a printer. The data comes from the computer's memory, is sent to the peripheral, and is converted into a human-perceptible form. This differs from input devices, which bring information into the computer (like keyboards and mice), and from storage devices, which save data for later use rather than presenting it. Network interfaces enable communication with other systems over a network, not directly displaying results to you.

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://itgacecompsci.examzify.com>

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

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