

Journeyman Lineman (JL) Verbal 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

- 1. What is the main purpose of PPE?**
 - A. To comply with regulations only**
 - B. To protect from hazards when engineering and administrative controls cannot eliminate risk**
 - C. To increase efficiency**
 - D. To replace engineering controls**
- 2. Which statement best defines impedance?**
 - A. The total opposition to direct current, combining resistance and reactance**
 - B. The resistance of a circuit to heat**
 - C. The total opposition a circuit presents to alternating current, combining resistance and reactance**
 - D. The voltage drop across a component**
- 3. During phasing setup, what does the BT (battery test) verify?**
 - A. That the phasing meter needle moves and is functional.**
 - B. That the high voltage box tester is turned on.**
 - C. That the tester leads are connected properly.**
 - D. That the battery in the phasing meter is fully charged.**
- 4. What does dielectric strength refer to?**
 - A. The maximum electric field a material can withstand without breakdown.**
 - B. The impedance of a shielded cable.**
 - C. The color coding of insulation.**
 - D. The ability of a conductor to carry current without heating.**
- 5. What is a fault in electrical terms?**
 - A. A routine maintenance procedure.**
 - B. A measurement of line impedance.**
 - C. A normal operating condition.**
 - D. An abnormal condition causing unintended current flow, such as a short circuit or ground fault.**

- 6. In a transformer, which statement about current on the high-voltage and low-voltage sides is correct?**
- A. The high-voltage side carries less current and the low-voltage side carries more current**
 - B. The high-voltage side carries higher current**
 - C. No current flows on the high-voltage side**
 - D. Current is independent of voltage**
- 7. What is a MAC used for?**
- A. A non-insulated conductor used for fault current and protection against induction or energization**
 - B. A device that prevents corona on lines**
 - C. An insulated temporary jumper used to hold load**
 - D. A permanent connection used to tie conductors**
- 8. What do AWG and KCMIL stand for?**
- A. KCmil stands for Thousand Circular Mil; AWG stands for American Wire Gauge**
 - B. AWG stands for Aluminum Wire Gauge; KCMIL stands for Kilovolt-Circuit Mil**
 - C. AWG stands for American Wire Gauge; KCMIL stands for Thousand Circular Mils**
 - D. AWG stands for American Wire Gauge; KCmil stands for Kilovolt-Mains-In Line**
- 9. What is a megger?**
- A. A test instrument used to test insulation of a circuit or component.**
 - B. A device that measures temperature.**
 - C. A device that tests continuity.**
 - D. A device that measures voltage.**
- 10. Which protective ground size has the highest continuous current-carrying capacity?**
- A. #2 Copper (200 A)**
 - B. 1/0 Copper (250 A)**
 - C. 4/0 Copper (400 A)**
 - D. 2/0 Copper (300 A)**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the main purpose of PPE?

- A. To comply with regulations only
- B. To protect from hazards when engineering and administrative controls cannot eliminate risk**
- C. To increase efficiency
- D. To replace engineering controls

PPE is the last line of defense that protects a worker from hazards when engineering and administrative controls can't fully eliminate the risk. It creates a barrier between the body and the danger, reducing exposure to electrical shocks, arc flash, cuts, and other hazards. Because PPE doesn't remove the hazard itself, it must be used in conjunction with other controls and a proper safety program. Selection, fit, training, and maintenance matter just as much as the gear itself, and it should be part of a broader approach that includes eliminating or reducing hazards through design and procedures. For linemen, this means using equipment like dielectric gloves and sleeves, arc-rated clothing, helmets and face protection, hearing protection, and eye protection, all chosen for the specific task and kept in good condition.

2. Which statement best defines impedance?

- A. The total opposition to direct current, combining resistance and reactance
- B. The resistance of a circuit to heat
- C. The total opposition a circuit presents to alternating current, combining resistance and reactance**
- D. The voltage drop across a component

Impedance is the total opposition a circuit presents to alternating current, combining resistance and reactance. The resistive part acts to dissipate energy as heat, while the reactive part comes from energy storage in inductors and capacitors, causing a phase shift between voltage and current. Together, they form Z , a complex quantity that determines how much current flows for a given AC voltage and how the current lags or leads the voltage. This concept is specific to alternating current; in direct current, reactance vanishes and impedance equals resistance. The other ideas describe only resistance (opposition to heat), or focus on DC, or describe voltage drop, which are related but don't capture the full AC impedance concept.

3. During phasing setup, what does the BT (battery test) verify?

- A. That the phasing meter needle moves and is functional.**
- B. That the high voltage box tester is turned on.**
- C. That the tester leads are connected properly.**
- D. That the battery in the phasing meter is fully charged.**

The battery test checks that the phasing meter has enough power from its own battery to operate and produce a readable indication. If the battery isn't supplying sufficient voltage, the meter's needle may not move or may respond weakly, making any phasing reading unreliable. This step confirms the instrument is powered and capable of showing a proper deflection when a test signal is applied. This focus is different from whether the high voltage box tester is on or whether the leads are connected correctly, which are separate setup checks. It's also more than just having the battery charged; it verifies the meter actually responds and is functional, which is essential before making phasing readings.

4. What does dielectric strength refer to?

- A. The maximum electric field a material can withstand without breakdown.**
- B. The impedance of a shielded cable.**
- C. The color coding of insulation.**
- D. The ability of a conductor to carry current without heating.**

Dielectric strength is the maximum electric field an insulating material can withstand without breaking down. It expresses how much voltage per thickness the insulation can tolerate before it becomes conductive due to dielectric breakdown, and is often thought of as breakdown voltage per unit thickness. This matters because choosing insulation with adequate dielectric strength ensures the system can operate safely at the intended voltage without arcing or insulation failure. It's not about the impedance of a shielded cable (that deals with how signals propagate and reactance in the cable), not about the color coding of insulation (that's for identification), and not about how much current a conductor can carry without overheating (that relates to ampacity and resistance, not dielectric strength).

5. What is a fault in electrical terms?

- A. A routine maintenance procedure.**
- B. A measurement of line impedance.**
- C. A normal operating condition.**
- D. An abnormal condition causing unintended current flow, such as a short circuit or ground fault.**

An electrical fault is an abnormal condition that causes current to flow where it wasn't intended, often through an unintended path. This includes short circuits, where a low-resistance path forms between conductors, and ground faults, where current leaks to earth. Such faults disrupt normal operation and typically require protective devices to trip to isolate the problem and prevent damage, fire, or shock. A routine maintenance procedure is planned work, not an electrical fault. A measurement of line impedance is a diagnostic test, not an abnormal current path. A normal operating condition is simply how the system runs under design, not a fault.

6. In a transformer, which statement about current on the high-voltage and low-voltage sides is correct?

A. The high-voltage side carries less current and the low-voltage side carries more current

B. The high-voltage side carries higher current

C. No current flows on the high-voltage side

D. Current is independent of voltage

In a transformer, power in roughly equals power out (ignoring losses), so the currents and voltages are tied by $V_p I_p \approx V_s I_s$. When the transformer steps voltage down (V_p higher, V_s lower), the current on the high-voltage side must be smaller than the current on the low-voltage side to keep power the same; $I_p = (V_s/V_p) \cdot I_s$ and $V_s/V_p < 1$, so $I_p < I_s$. That's why the high-voltage side carries less current and the low-voltage side carries more. For example, a 1000 kVA transformer with HV at 13.8 kV and LV at 0.48 kV will have a much smaller current on the HV side than on the LV side. There is current on both sides, and current is not independent of voltage; the statement that HV side would carry more current (or that no current flows) is not correct.

7. What is a MAC used for?

A. A non-insulated conductor used for fault current and protection against induction or energization

B. A device that prevents corona on lines

C. An insulated temporary jumper used to hold load

D. A permanent connection used to tie conductors

The idea being tested is the use of a MAC as a temporary, insulated jumper to hold load. In field work, technicians need a safe, short-term way to keep a circuit energized while repairs or switch operations are performed. An insulated jumpers, like a MAC, provides a temporary path to carry the load without exposing workers to live conductors or creating unsafe contact points. It's designed for quick installation and removal and is not intended to be a permanent tie or a device for preventing phenomena like corona. The other options describe different devices or purposes (bare conductors for fault paths, corona-prevention devices, or permanent connections), none of which match the intended temporary, insulated jumper function of a MAC.

8. What do AWG and KCMIL stand for?

- A. KCMil stands for Thousand Circular Mil; AWG stands for American Wire Gauge
- B. AWG stands for Aluminum Wire Gauge; KCMIL stands for Kilovolt-Circuit Mil
- C. AWG stands for American Wire Gauge; KCMIL stands for Thousand Circular Mils**
- D. AWG stands for American Wire Gauge; KCMil stands for Kilovolt-Mains-In Line

AWG and KCMIL are two ways of describing conductor size in the electrical field. AWG, or American Wire Gauge, is a standard US system that numbers wires by gauge. As the gauge number goes up, the wire diameter and cross-sectional area get smaller, which also changes resistance and current-carrying capability. This system is commonly used for smaller to mid-sized conductors and is tied to practical properties like ampacity. KCMIL, meaning thousand circular mils, is a unit of cross-sectional area used for larger conductors. A circular mil is the area of a circle with a diameter of one mil (one thousandth of an inch). The area in circular mils grows with the square of the wire's diameter in mils, and "thousand circular mils" (KCMIL) simply scales that area by 1,000. This notation is handy for big conductors where AWG numbers become unwieldy. So the correct expansions are American Wire Gauge for AWG and thousand circular mils for KCMIL.

9. What is a megger?

- A. A test instrument used to test insulation of a circuit or component.**
- B. A device that measures temperature.
- C. A device that tests continuity.
- D. A device that measures voltage.

A megger is a high-voltage insulation resistance tester. It applies a steady DC voltage to the insulation of a circuit or component and measures the leakage current, giving insulation resistance in megohms. The higher the megohm reading, the better the insulation; a low reading indicates insulation degradation, moisture, or contamination that could allow dangerous leakage. It's specifically for assessing insulation, not for measuring temperature, continuity, or voltage. In practice, you isolate the equipment, discharge any stored energy, select the appropriate test voltage, connect the test leads, perform the test, and compare the reading to acceptable values to determine if the insulation is in good condition or needs repair or drying.

10. Which protective ground size has the highest continuous current-carrying capacity?

- A. #2 Copper (200 A)**
- B. 1/0 Copper (250 A)**
- C. 4/0 Copper (400 A)**
- D. 2/0 Copper (300 A)**

The ability of a protective ground to carry current depends on its conductor size—the larger the wire, the higher its ampacity. The grounding conductor is sized to carry fault current long enough for the protective device to trip, so bigger conductors can handle more current without overheating. Among the options, 4/0 copper has the largest cross-sectional area, giving it the highest ampacity (about 400 A in the provided rating). The smaller conductors—#2 copper (200 A), 2/0 copper (300 A), and 1/0 copper (250 A)—have lower ampacities, so they can carry less current continuously.

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://jlverbal.examzify.com>

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