

NAFA CERTIFIED AIR FILTER SPECIALIST (CAFS) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. Why is it not possible to test electronic air cleaners for loading using the ASHRAE 52.2 test?**
 - A. The particles disrupt airflow
 - B. Carbon in the dust shorts out electrical connections
 - C. Electronic cleaners are too complex for testing
 - D. ASHRAE standards do not cover electronics
- 2. What is the purpose of a pre-filter in an HVAC system?**
 - A. To improve air quality
 - B. To extend the life of the primary filter
 - C. To enhance moisture control
 - D. To increase system pressure
- 3. If static pressure goes up, velocity pressure goes?**
 - A. Up
 - B. Down
 - C. Remains constant
 - D. Varies based on airflow
- 4. What standard must baffle grease filters meet?**
 - A. ASTM Standard 56
 - B. NFPA Standard 96
 - C. ISO Standard 9001
 - D. ANSI Standard 45
- 5. Which of the following describes the types of cleanrooms?**
 - A. Only unidirectional flow
 - B. Conventional and air-tight
 - C. Non-unidirectional (conventional) and unidirectional (laminar flow)
 - D. Classified and unclassified
- 6. Which characteristic is NOT associated with HEPA filters?**
 - A. High particle capture capability
 - B. Medium airflow resistance
 - C. Low efficiency for small particles
 - D. Commonly used in allergy prevention

7. What types of filters are used for mist and smoke removal?

- A. HEPA, charcoal, and mechanical
- B. Media, centrifugal, and electrostatic
- C. High-efficiency particulate, chemical, and woven
- D. Bag, cartridge, and pleated

8. Which of the following best defines gas?

- A. A fluid that has fixed volume and shape
- B. A material with tendency to expand indefinitely
- C. A solid that does not change shape
- D. A liquid that does not evaporate

9. What is the primary function of ceiling diffusion media?

- A. To enhance air circulation in a room
- B. To clean the air of particles 5 microns and larger
- C. To increase temperature regulation in a space
- D. To reduce noise in the environment

10. What characterizes particulate contamination?

- A. It can only be removed by chemical agents
- B. It consists of solid or liquid particles in the air
- C. It is controlled solely through ventilation
- D. It does not affect indoor air quality

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Why is it not possible to test electronic air cleaners for loading using the ASHRAE 52.2 test?

- A. The particles disrupt airflow
- B. Carbon in the dust shorts out electrical connections**
- C. Electronic cleaners are too complex for testing
- D. ASHRAE standards do not cover electronics

Testing electronic air cleaners using the ASHRAE 52.2 test is not feasible due to the fact that carbon particles present in the dust can interfere with the operation of the electronic components within the cleaner. When carbon dust is introduced, it has the potential to cause short circuits in the electrical connections, which can compromise the functionality of the air cleaner during the testing process. This challenges the integrity of any results obtained, as the presence of carbon can affect both the performance of the air cleaner and the reliability of the data collected. Therefore, the interaction between the electronic components and the carbon particles creates an obstacle that renders the ASHRAE 52.2 test unsuitable for accurately assessing electronic air cleaners. Other options might suggest issues related to airflow disruptions or the complexity of electronic systems, but they do not accurately capture the essential reason why the ASHRAE 52.2 test is not applicable. The primary concern remains the risk of electrical shorts caused by carbon, making it crucial for appropriate testing methodologies to be developed specifically for electronic air cleaners, rather than relying on conventional filter testing standards.

2. What is the purpose of a pre-filter in an HVAC system?

- A. To improve air quality
- B. To extend the life of the primary filter**
- C. To enhance moisture control
- D. To increase system pressure

The purpose of a pre-filter in an HVAC system is primarily to extend the life of the primary filter. By capturing larger particles such as dust, debris, and other contaminants before they reach the primary filter, the pre-filter reduces the load on the primary filtering system. This not only enhances the efficiency of the air filtration process but also prolongs the operational lifespan of the primary filter, allowing it to perform effectively for a longer duration before requiring replacement. This maintenance aspect is crucial for ensuring that the HVAC system runs efficiently, helps maintain good air quality, and reduces overall maintenance costs. While the pre-filter can indirectly contribute to air quality improvement and system performance by minimizing the amount of debris that reaches the primary filters, its main function is focused on protection and longevity of those primary filters rather than directly impacting moisture control or increasing system pressure.

3. If static pressure goes up, velocity pressure goes?

- A. Up
- B. Down**
- C. Remains constant
- D. Varies based on airflow

When static pressure in a system increases, it affects the overall pressure dynamics of that system. In airflow systems, static pressure and velocity pressure are related through the principles of fluid dynamics, specifically within the context of the airflow in ducts. As static pressure increases, it indicates that there is greater resistance in the system, which can lead to a decrease in velocity pressure. Velocity pressure is a measure of the dynamic pressure of air due to its motion, and when static pressure rises, the energy available to sustain that velocity diminishes. Therefore, as the system's static pressure climbs, the ability of the air to flow at a high velocity decreases, resulting in a lower velocity pressure. This relationship underscores the fundamentals of air movement in ducts, where a balance between static and velocity pressures is crucial for efficient system performance. A rise in static pressure typically signifies that the airflow is either encountering resistance or that air is being forced into a smaller space, balancing out the overall energy distribution within the system, hence leading to a drop in the velocity pressure.

4. What standard must baffle grease filters meet?

- A. ASTM Standard 56
- B. NFPA Standard 96**
- C. ISO Standard 9001
- D. ANSI Standard 45

Baffle grease filters are essential components in commercial kitchen ventilation systems, and they must adhere to specific safety and performance standards to ensure effective and safe operation. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 96 is the recognized standard governing the installation, maintenance, and use of exhaust systems in commercial cooking applications. This standard addresses the prevention of fire hazards associated with grease-laden vapors, which can be a significant concern in kitchens where cooking oils and fats are used. Following NFPA Standard 96 ensures that baffle grease filters are designed to mitigate fire risks by enabling efficient airflow while capturing grease particles. These filters contribute to maintaining the cleanliness and safety of kitchen ventilation systems. The other options relate to different standards that are not specifically tailored to the needs and safety requirements of kitchen ventilation systems. ASTM Standard 56 pertains to materials and testing methods but does not focus on grease filters. ISO Standard 9001 sets criteria for quality management systems across various industries but is not specific to grease filter performance. ANSI Standard 45 addresses air pollution control but does not encompass the specific requirements for baffle grease filters found in commercial cooking environments.

5. Which of the following describes the types of cleanrooms?

- A. Only unidirectional flow
- B. Conventional and air-tight
- C. Non-unidirectional (conventional) and unidirectional (laminar flow)**
- D. Classified and unclassified

The correct answer identifies the two primary types of airflow in cleanrooms: non-unidirectional and unidirectional. Non-unidirectional cleanrooms, often referred to as conventional cleanrooms, maintain cleanliness by using recirculation methods, but they do not have a specific airflow direction. This means that particles can settle and accumulate because the airflow isn't structured in a way that prevents this. On the other hand, unidirectional cleanrooms, also known as laminar flow cleanrooms, utilize a specific direction of airflow to effectively sweep away contaminants. In these environments, air flows in a single direction at a constant speed to create a clean area by minimizing the potential for particulate contamination. This distinction between the two types of airflow systems is crucial for different industries and applications, influencing how products are manufactured and how contamination is controlled. Understanding these categories helps in selecting the appropriate cleanroom design for specific processes and products, ensuring that cleanliness standards are met effectively. Knowledge of cleanroom classifications can have a profound impact on operations in industries like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and biotechnology, where contamination control is critical for product integrity and safety.

6. Which characteristic is NOT associated with HEPA filters?

- A. High particle capture capability
- B. Medium airflow resistance
- C. Low efficiency for small particles**
- D. Commonly used in allergy prevention

HEPA filters are specifically designed to capture a high percentage of airborne particles, leading to their recognition for excellent performance in various applications, including those aimed at allergy prevention. They have a particle capture capability of at least 99.97% for particles that are 0.3 microns in size. The characteristic indicating "low efficiency for small particles" is not true for HEPA filters; instead, these filters are particularly effective at capturing small particles, which includes allergens such as dust mites, pollen, and pet dander. This capability makes them an essential part of allergy prevention approaches in homes and healthcare settings. In terms of airflow resistance, HEPA filters can exhibit higher resistance relative to other types of filters, making their airflow characteristics more closely aligned with higher resistance rather than medium. Thus, while HEPA filters are known for their high efficiency and benefits in allergy management, the notion that they have low efficiency for small particles directly contradicts their primary design purpose.

7. What types of filters are used for mist and smoke removal?

- A. HEPA, charcoal, and mechanical
- B. Media, centrifugal, and electrostatic**
- C. High-efficiency particulate, chemical, and woven
- D. Bag, cartridge, and pleated

The choice of media, centrifugal, and electrostatic filters for mist and smoke removal is based on their specific design qualities and operational principles. Media filters are effective at capturing various airborne particles, including mists, by providing a physical barrier that traps contaminants as air passes through. These filters utilize different materials that can address both particulate and gaseous pollution, offering versatile solutions for maintaining air quality in environments where mist and smoke are prevalent. Centrifugal filters harness the principle of centrifugal force to separate particles from the air stream. As air enters the filter, it is subjected to rapid rotation, which causes heavier particles, such as smoke and mist droplets, to be thrown outward and collected in a designated area. This method is particularly useful for high-volume air applications, effectively handling larger amounts of polluted air without clogging. Electrostatic filters utilize an electrical charge to attract and capture airborne particles, including smoke and mist. The charged particles adhere to a collecting surface, ensuring effective removal of fine particles that might otherwise pass through standard mechanical filters. This technology can improve filter efficiency and allow for the removal of sub-micron particles. These filter types are well-suited for environments where mist and smoke are common, such as in industrial settings, kitchens, or areas

8. Which of the following best defines gas?

- A. A fluid that has fixed volume and shape
- B. A material with tendency to expand indefinitely**
- C. A solid that does not change shape
- D. A liquid that does not evaporate

The definition of gas as a material with a tendency to expand indefinitely accurately captures the essential characteristics of gases. Unlike solids and liquids, gases do not have a fixed volume or shape; they fill the container they are in, adapting to its dimensions. This expansion ability is due to the high kinetic energy of gas molecules, which are in constant motion and colliding with each other and the walls of their container. This behavior contrasts starkly with the properties of solids, which maintain fixed shapes and volumes, and liquids, which have fixed volumes but take the shape of their containers. Therefore, option B correctly encapsulates the fundamental nature of gases in contrast to other states of matter.

9. What is the primary function of ceiling diffusion media?

- A. To enhance air circulation in a room
- B. To clean the air of particles 5 microns and larger**
- C. To increase temperature regulation in a space
- D. To reduce noise in the environment

The primary function of ceiling diffusion media is to clean the air of particles 5 microns and larger. This type of media is typically used in air filtration systems to trap and eliminate various airborne contaminants, thereby improving indoor air quality. Ceiling diffusion media are designed to target larger particulates, which may include dust, pollen, and other allergens, helping to ensure that the air circulated within a space is cleaner and healthier for occupants. While enhancing air circulation, increasing temperature regulation, and reducing noise are important aspects of an HVAC system, they do not capture the primary role of ceiling diffusion media, which is focused specifically on filtration. By understanding the targeted function of this media, one can better appreciate its importance in maintaining a clean and comfortable indoor environment.

10. What characterizes particulate contamination?

- A. It can only be removed by chemical agents
- B. It consists of solid or liquid particles in the air**
- C. It is controlled solely through ventilation
- D. It does not affect indoor air quality

Particulate contamination is defined as the presence of solid or liquid particles suspended in the air. This characterization highlights the nature of particulates, which can vary in size and composition, including dust, pollen, smoke, and aerosols. These particles can originate from various sources, both natural and man-made, and they pose potential health risks when inhaled. The correct understanding establishes that particulate contamination directly influences air quality and can lead to respiratory issues and other health concerns. Therefore, it is essential to acknowledge the characteristics of particulates in the context of air filtration and indoor air quality management. Other options are not suitable definitions of particulate contamination. The assertion that it can only be removed by chemical agents disregards the effectiveness of physical filtration and mechanical methods in removing particulates from the air. Controlling it solely through ventilation fails to consider that effective air filtration systems are often necessary to manage particulate contamination effectively, not just passive ventilation. Lastly, claiming that it does not affect indoor air quality is inaccurate, as the presence of particulates is a significant factor in assessing air quality in indoor environments.

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://nafacafs.examzify.com>

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

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