

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

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. In which situation is a pleated air filter preferred over a flat filter?**
 - A. When lower cost is essential
 - B. When higher dust-holding capacity and surface area are desired
 - C. When easy maintenance is required
 - D. When low airflow restriction is prioritized
- 2. What type of filters would be most suitable for capturing smoke and VOCs?**
 - A. HEPA filters
 - B. Panel filters
 - C. Activated carbon filters
 - D. Fiberglass filters
- 3. What does the process of dust recovery aim to achieve?**
 - A. Enhancing product safety
 - B. Minimizing environmental impact
 - C. Recovering valuable products from dust-generating processes
 - D. Increasing product volume
- 4. Which standard defines the testing method for air filter efficiency?**
 - A. ASHRAE Standard 52.1
 - B. ASHRAE Standard 52.2
 - C. ASHRAE Standard 52.3
 - D. ASHRAE Standard 52.4
- 5. Which factors significantly affect filter life?**
 - A. Temperature and humidity
 - B. Particulate size and underrating/overrating
 - C. Type of media used
 - D. Airflow speed and direction
- 6. A two-stage air cleaner utilizes which two components?**
 - A. An Ionizer section and a collector section
 - B. A pre-filter and a HEPA filter
 - C. A fan and a filter
 - D. A carbon section and a HEPA section

7. What allows for retrofit without large pressure increases in the system?

- A. High efficiency filters
- B. Particles bypass cells
- C. Humidity control systems
- D. Static pressure adjustments

8. What is meant by "removal efficiency"?

- A. The effectiveness of the filter's structure
- B. The ability of the media to capture air pollutants
- C. The fraction of the contaminant that is removed by the media
- D. The speed at which contaminants are removed

9. Which type of air filter is typically used in hospital environments?

- A. HEPA filter
- B. Electrostatic filter
- C. Washable filter
- D. Fiberglass filter

10. 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

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In which situation is a pleated air filter preferred over a flat filter?

- A. When lower cost is essential
- B. When higher dust-holding capacity and surface area are desired**
- C. When easy maintenance is required
- D. When low airflow restriction is prioritized

A pleated air filter is preferred in situations where higher dust-holding capacity and surface area are desired due to its design and construction. Pleated filters have an increased surface area compared to flat filters, which allows them to capture more particles and contaminants from the air. The pleating creates additional surface space for filtration, meaning that they can hold more dust without getting clogged quickly. This design enhances their ability to trap particles and extends the time between necessary replacements, making them highly effective in maintaining indoor air quality. Furthermore, the increased surface area contributes to better airflow compared to flat filters when they are properly designed, allowing them to maintain efficiency for a longer period. In contrast, considerations related to cost, maintenance ease, or airflow restriction may make flat filters a suitable choice in different scenarios, but in terms of maximizing filtration efficiency and dust-holding capacity, pleated filters are the superior option.

2. What type of filters would be most suitable for capturing smoke and VOCs?

- A. HEPA filters
- B. Panel filters
- C. Activated carbon filters**
- D. Fiberglass filters

Activated carbon filters are specifically designed to capture volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and smoke effectively. This is due to the unique properties of activated carbon, which has a large surface area and a porous structure that allows it to adsorb gas molecules. When air containing these pollutants passes through the filter, the VOCs and smoke particulates adhere to the surface of the activated carbon, thereby removing them from the air. This makes activated carbon filters highly effective for applications where odor control and the removal of gaseous pollutants are essential. In contrast, HEPA filters are primarily designed to trap particulate matter, such as dust, pollen, and other allergens, but they do not have the capability to adsorb gases or odors like activated carbon does. Panel filters typically operate on a similar principle to HEPA filters but are not as efficient in capturing fine particulates or gases. Fiberglass filters are made of woven strands and primarily serve to protect HVAC systems by capturing larger particles but are ineffective in controlling VOCs and smoke. Therefore, for applications focused on the removal of smoke and harmful gaseous compounds, activated carbon filters are the best choice.

3. What does the process of dust recovery aim to achieve?

- A. Enhancing product safety
- B. Minimizing environmental impact
- C. Recovering valuable products from dust-generating processes**
- D. Increasing product volume

The process of dust recovery focuses on the goal of recovering valuable products from dust-generating processes. Dust is often a byproduct of various industrial operations, and within that dust, there can be valuable materials that, if recovered, can contribute to a more sustainable practice. By implementing effective dust recovery systems, companies can extract these materials, thereby not only reducing waste but also creating opportunities for recycling and reusing resources that would otherwise contribute to environmental pollution. This process promotes resource efficiency, aligns with initiatives for material recovery and waste reduction, and supports a circular economy. Companies that engage in dust recovery can benefit economically by lowering costs associated with raw materials and waste disposal while also enhancing their environmental stewardship.

4. Which standard defines the testing method for air filter efficiency?

- A. ASHRAE Standard 52.1
- B. ASHRAE Standard 52.2**
- C. ASHRAE Standard 52.3
- D. ASHRAE Standard 52.4

The standard that defines the testing method for air filter efficiency is ASHRAE Standard 52.2. This standard specifies the procedures for testing the filtration efficiency of air-cleaning devices for general ventilation, particularly measuring how effectively filters can capture airborne particles of varying sizes. ASHRAE Standard 52.2 utilizes a standardized protocol to assess filter performance, which includes a quantifiable method for determining how much particulate matter is removed from the air passing through the filter. This standard provides different efficiency ratings based on the size of particles that are being filtered, which helps in comparing the performance of different air filters under consistent testing conditions. Understanding this standard is critical for professionals in the air filtration industry, as it establishes a benchmark for the efficiency and effectiveness of air filters, aiding in the selection of appropriate filters for specific applications based on their efficiency ratings.

5. Which factors significantly affect filter life?

- A. Temperature and humidity
- B. Particulate size and underrating/overrating**
- C. Type of media used
- D. Airflow speed and direction

The factors that significantly affect filter life are closely tied to the characteristics of the particulate matter that the filter encounters. Particulate size is critical because larger particles tend to be trapped more easily by air filters, while smaller particles may pass through or accumulate, affecting the filter's efficiency over time. This ties directly into the concept of underrating and overrating – when a filter is rated for a specific particle size but encounters different sizes in real-world conditions, its life expectancy can dramatically change. Underrating occurs when a filter is not capable of handling the actual particulate load it faces, leading to rapid saturation and clogging. Conversely, overrating refers to using a filter rated beyond what is needed for a particular application, which can also impact performance if not correctly matched with the environment. Other factors, such as temperature and humidity, while important, mainly influence the physical properties of both the filter and the particulate matter rather than the intrinsic compatibility of the filter's design with specific particulate sizes. Type of media used relates to the efficiency and capacity of the filter, but again, it does not impact the life of the filter as directly as the size and load of the particulates it is designed to manage. Lastly, airflow speed and direction play roles in how effectively

6. A two-stage air cleaner utilizes which two components?

A. An Ionizer section and a collector section

B. A pre-filter and a HEPA filter

C. A fan and a filter

D. A carbon section and a HEPA section

The two-stage air cleaner is designed to improve air quality by effectively removing contaminants from the air. The correct pairing of components in a two-stage air cleaner involves an ionizer section and a collector section. In this configuration, the ionizer section helps to charge airborne particles, such as dust, pollen, and smoke, causing them to clump together and become more substantial. This process enhances their ability to be captured by the subsequent collector section. The collector section typically employs a method, such as an electrostatic charge, to attract and trap these charged particles, thus efficiently cleaning the air. The other options represent combinations of filtration or cleaning methods that do not specifically reflect the dual mechanism of a two-stage air cleaner. For instance, while pre-filters and HEPA filters are used in combination in many air purification systems, they do not formally constitute a two-stage process as defined in the context of this question. Therefore, the configuration of an ionizer followed by a collector is what highlights the unique two-stage functionality of this type of air cleaner.

7. What allows for retrofit without large pressure increases in the system?

A. High efficiency filters

B. Particles bypass cells

C. Humidity control systems

D. Static pressure adjustments

The ability to retrofit a system without experiencing significant pressure increases is primarily facilitated by the concept of particles bypassing cells. When air filtration systems are designed, there can be instances where the airflow may not be fully captured by the filters, especially if the filters have a very high level of efficiency or if they become too restrictive. In such cases, if particulates can bypass the filtering cells through gaps or less dense areas, it allows for better airflow overall within the system. This results in a lower static pressure drop, meaning the system operates more efficiently without needing to exert additional energy or increase the setup's pressure. Using high-efficiency filters can sometimes lead to excessive pressure drops, complicating the retrofit process. Similarly, humidity control systems and static pressure adjustments may impact system performance but do not specifically address the manner in which particles can bypass filtration without causing additional resistance in the system. Thus, the concept of particles bypassing cells is crucial for maintaining efficient operation during retrofitting.

8. What is meant by "removal efficiency"?

- A. The effectiveness of the filter's structure
- B. The ability of the media to capture air pollutants
- C. The fraction of the contaminant that is removed by the media**
- D. The speed at which contaminants are removed

Removal efficiency refers specifically to the fraction of contaminants that a filter media successfully captures from the air passing through it. This measurement is crucial for evaluating how effective a filter is at improving indoor air quality and ensuring that harmful particles and pollutants are minimized in the environment. When assessing a filter's performance, understanding its removal efficiency helps inform choices about air filtration systems for various applications, whether in residential, commercial, or industrial settings. It quantifies the filter's capability in terms of removing specific types of particles, including dust, pollen, smoke, and other airborne contaminants. The other options, while related to air filtration concepts, do not accurately define removal efficiency. The focus of the question is on the effectiveness in quantifying the specific proportion of pollutants eliminated from the air stream, making the selected answer the most precise and relevant definition of removal efficiency.

9. Which type of air filter is typically used in hospital environments?

- A. HEPA filter**
- B. Electrostatic filter
- C. Washable filter
- D. Fiberglass filter

The HEPA filter, which stands for High-Efficiency Particulate Air filter, is the type of air filter commonly used in hospital environments due to its exceptional ability to trap airborne particles. HEPA filters are designed to capture at least 99.97% of particles that are 0.3 microns in diameter. This is critical in hospitals where maintaining a sterile environment is essential to prevent the spread of infections and ensure patient safety. In healthcare settings, the presence of pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi must be minimized, and HEPA filters are particularly effective in this regard. The efficiency of HEPA filters makes them suitable for use in operating rooms, isolation rooms, and other areas where air quality is paramount. Other filter types, such as electrostatic filters, may offer certain advantages, like being washable or reusable, but they do not achieve the same level of particle capture as HEPA filters. Washable filters can lose their efficacy over time, while fiberglass filters, although inexpensive, are generally less efficient and often do not capture fine particles that could pose a risk in medical environments. Thus, HEPA filters are the standard for ensuring clean air in hospitals.

10. 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

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:

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

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