

NAQT Poetry 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

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- 1. Which poem starts with the line "I, being born a woman and distressed"?**
 - A. Ars Poetica**
 - B. Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori**
 - C. I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed**
 - D. The Monkey's Raincoat**

- 2. What is a central motif in Thomas Gray's poetry?**
 - A. Chaos and despair**
 - B. Nature and beauty**
 - C. Death and mortality**
 - D. Love and relationships**

- 3. Who is the author of "Les Paradis Artificiels"?**
 - A. Charles Baudelaire**
 - B. Elizabeth Barrett Browning**
 - C. Wilfred Owen**
 - D. Shel Silverstein**

- 4. Which of the following works features the theme of endless longing?**
 - A. Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking**
 - B. I Sing the Body Electric**
 - C. Calamus**
 - D. O Captain! My Captain!**

- 5. Which poet wrote "The Second Coming"?**
 - A. W.B. Yeats**
 - B. T.S. Eliot**
 - C. Robert Lowell**
 - D. Stephen Spender**

- 6. Which poem was written by Edgar Allan Poe?**
 - A. Howl**
 - B. Ulalume**
 - C. Theme for English B**
 - D. Yet Do I Marvel**

- 7. Which poem is considered part of Oliver Wendell Holmes (Sr.)'s literary contributions?**
- A. "Lady Lazarus"**
 - B. "Old Ironsides"**
 - C. "For the Union Dead"**
 - D. "The Village Blacksmith"**
- 8. What is the title of E. E. Cummings' work that reflects on life in a small town?**
- A. In Just**
 - B. anyone lived in a pretty how town**
 - C. It's a Great Day**
 - D. Spring is Here**
- 9. Which poem reflects on the concept of an uninvited presence during the act of dying?**
- A. A narrow fellow in the grass**
 - B. I taste a liquor never brewed**
 - C. I heard a fly buzz when I died**
 - D. Because I could not stop for Death**
- 10. Which poet's work is closely associated with the imagery of an urban metro station?**
- A. Maya Angelou**
 - B. William Carlos Williams**
 - C. Ezra Pound**
 - D. Anne Bradstreet**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which poem starts with the line "I, being born a woman and distressed"?

A. Ars Poetica

B. Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori

C. I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed

D. The Monkey's Raincoat

The poem that begins with the line "I, being born a woman and distressed" is indeed "I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed." This line is the opening of a poem written by Edna St. Vincent Millay, which explores themes of femininity, desire, and the complexities of love and relationships. Millay's work is notable for its honest and passionate reflections on the struggles that women face, and this particular poem confronts societal expectations surrounding gender and emotion. The significance of the opening line is that it immediately establishes the speaker's identity and emotional state, setting the tone for the exploration of personal and gender-related turmoil throughout the poem. Millay's style incorporates both a lyrical quality and a modern sensibility, allowing her to articulately express the conflicts and desires that come with being a woman in her time. In contrast, the other options do not start with this line. "Ars Poetica," by Archibald MacLeish, is a poem that discusses the nature of poetry itself, without focusing on personal identity or gender. "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori" by Wilfred Owen is a powerful anti-war poem reflecting on the grim realities of battle and patriotism, while "The

2. What is a central motif in Thomas Gray's poetry?

A. Chaos and despair

B. Nature and beauty

C. Death and mortality

D. Love and relationships

The central motif of death and mortality in Thomas Gray's poetry is particularly prominent in works like "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard." In this poem, Gray meditates on the lives of the common people buried in the churchyard, reflecting on their unfulfilled potential and the inevitability of death. This focus on mortality encourages readers to contemplate the transient nature of life and emphasizes themes of remembrance and legacy. Gray's exploration of death is not just about the end of life but serves as a lens through which he examines human existence, the passage of time, and the universal experience of loss. While other motifs such as nature and beauty do appear in his work and may intersect with his themes, they often serve more as backdrops to the central contemplation of mortality. Similarly, love and relationships are addressed, but they are generally not as foregrounded in the same profound manner as death and mortality are in his writing. Thus, it is the motif of death and mortality that stands out as central to understanding Gray's poetic contributions.

3. Who is the author of "Les Paradis Artificiels"?

- A. Charles Baudelaire**
- B. Elizabeth Barrett Browning**
- C. Wilfred Owen**
- D. Shel Silverstein**

"Les Paradis Artificiels," which translates to "Artificial Paradises," is a work authored by Charles Baudelaire. This book is a critical examination of the effects of drugs, particularly opium and hashish, on the mind and creativity. Baudelaire delves into the experiences and sensations that such substances can evoke, linking them to the wider theme of artificial paradises and the pursuit of ecstasy. Baudelaire is also known for his innovative poetry collection "Les Fleurs du mal," which explores themes of beauty, decadence, and existential angst. His influence on modern literature and poetry is profound, particularly in the realms of Symbolism and Modernism. The other authors listed are notable in their own right but do not relate to "Les Paradis Artificiels." For example, Elizabeth Barrett Browning is recognized for her romantic poetry, Wilfred Owen for his poignant World War I poems, and Shel Silverstein for his children's literature and whimsical verse.

4. Which of the following works features the theme of endless longing?

- A. Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking**
- B. I Sing the Body Electric**
- C. Calamus**
- D. O Captain! My Captain!**

The correct choice is "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking," which is a poem by Walt Whitman. This work embodies the theme of endless longing through its exploration of loss, memory, and the deep yearning for connection. The poem reflects on the speaker's experience of mourning the loss of a loved one, symbolized by the death of a young bird. The imagery of the cradle and the connectedness to nature enhances the feeling of nostalgia and the bittersweet nature of longing. Whitman's use of vivid sensory details and rich emotional resonance creates a powerful sense of yearning that permeates the poem, illustrating a universal human experience of seeking something or someone that is lost. The other options, while significant works in their own right, address different themes. "I Sing the Body Electric" mostly celebrates the human body and the beauty of life, "Calamus" delves into themes of companionship and fraternity, and "O Captain! My Captain!" focuses on mourning a leader after a significant victory, specifically addressing the themes of grief and admiration for Abraham Lincoln. None of those encapsulates the persistent sense of longing in the same way as "Out of the Cradle Endlessly Rocking."

5. Which poet wrote "The Second Coming"?

A. W.B. Yeats

B. T.S. Eliot

C. Robert Lowell

D. Stephen Spender

"The Second Coming" is a poem written by W.B. Yeats, first published in 1920. This poem is one of Yeats's most famous works and is known for its exploration of themes such as chaos, disillusionment, and the cyclical nature of history. It reflects the tumultuous times following World War I and draws on various mythological and prophetic elements, including Yeats's own interest in mysticism. Yeats employs a vivid and haunting imagery that captures the sense of foreboding and transformation, making this poem a key text in modernist literature. The opening lines introduce a world spiraling into disorder, which is encapsulated in the powerful phrase "the centre cannot hold." The poem's apocalyptic vision and rich symbolism have led to extensive interpretations and discussions, solidifying its place in literary history. The other poets listed, while prominent figures in their own rights, are not associated with this particular work. T.S. Eliot is known for his own significant contributions to poetry, such as "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and "The Waste Land." Robert Lowell and Stephen Spender have their distinctive styles and subjects but did not write "The Second Coming." Hence, W.B. Yeats

6. Which poem was written by Edgar Allan Poe?

A. Howl

B. Ulalume

C. Theme for English B

D. Yet Do I Marvel

"Ulalume" is indeed a poem written by Edgar Allan Poe. Composed in 1847, it showcases many of Poe's signature themes, including loss and melancholy, through its haunting imagery and musicality. The poem's structure is notable for its repetitive and rhythmic qualities, which contribute to the overall atmosphere of despair and longing. Poe is well-known for his mastery of the gothic genre and his exploration of dark, psychological themes, which are abundantly present in "Ulalume." The poem's setting, which is filled with references to the supernatural and the landscape of the mind, is typical of Poe's work. It reflects his characteristic use of symbolism and rich language, making it a quintessential example of his poetic style. The other choices represent works by different poets: "Howl" was written by Allen Ginsberg, a central figure of the Beat Generation; "Theme for English B" is by Langston Hughes, a key figure of the Harlem Renaissance; and "Yet Do I Marvel" is a poem by Countee Cullen, also associated with the Harlem Renaissance. Each of these poems explores diverse themes and contexts separate from Poe's unique stylistic approach and thematic obsessions.

7. Which poem is considered part of Oliver Wendell Holmes (Sr.)'s literary contributions?

- A. "Lady Lazarus"
- B. "Old Ironsides"**
- C. "For the Union Dead"
- D. "The Village Blacksmith"

"Old Ironsides" is a pivotal poem in Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.'s literary contributions. Written in 1830, the poem is a protest against the proposed dismantling of the USS Constitution, an iconic warship of the early American navy. Holmes's work is notable for its patriotic themes and its reflection on national identity, particularly in how it honors American history and valor. The poem blends emotional appeal with vivid imagery, capturing the idea of preserving national heritage while simultaneously addressing modern concerns about respect and valor. The other options, while important works of poetry, do not relate to Holmes Sr. "Lady Lazarus," for instance, is written by Sylvia Plath, known for its exploration of themes such as death and rebirth. "For the Union Dead" is a poem by Robert Lowell, reflecting on the American Civil War and the complexities of memory and history. "The Village Blacksmith" is associated with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, focusing on the life and virtues of a hardworking and honorable figure. Each of these poets has their own unique themes and styles but are separate from Holmes's contributions.

8. What is the title of E. E. Cummings' work that reflects on life in a small town?

- A. In Just
- B. anyone lived in a pretty how town**
- C. It's a Great Day
- D. Spring is Here

The title "anyone lived in a pretty how town" by E. E. Cummings is significant in its exploration of the themes of individuality and the mundane realities of life in a small town. In this poem, Cummings uses his distinctive style, including unconventional punctuation and capitalization, to depict the lives of the townspeople and the central figure, "anyone," who represents both the universal human experience and the often overlooked aspects of life in a close-knit community. The poem reflects on how society can sometimes ignore individuality and the vibrant inner lives of its members, particularly in a small-town setting where conformity is prevalent. Cummings' portrayal of the cyclical nature of life, love, and death within this environment adds depth to the reflection on small-town life, making it a fitting choice in response to the prompt.

9. Which poem reflects on the concept of an uninvited presence during the act of dying?

- A. A narrow fellow in the grass**
- B. I taste a liquor never brewed**
- C. I heard a fly buzz when I died**
- D. Because I could not stop for Death**

The poem "I heard a fly buzz when I died" by Emily Dickinson captures the idea of an uninvited presence at the moment of dying through its stark imagery and subdued tone. In the poem, the speaker describes the scene in which they are dying, notable for the quiet and solemn setting interrupted by the presence of a fly. This fly serves as a symbol of the mundane and the unexpected at a critical moment, emphasizing the idea that death is often accompanied by trivial distractions and uninvited occurrences. Dickinson's portrayal of this moment highlights the intersection of the profound and the ordinary, suggesting that even in our final moments, we may be met with interruptions that seem out of place. The fly's buzz symbolizes a presence that is both unsettling and ordinary, contrasting sharply with the gravity of the situation. By focusing on this uninvited presence, the poem poignantly reflects on the nature of dying and how it is intertwined with life's persistent, often overlooked details.

10. Which poet's work is closely associated with the imagery of an urban metro station?

- A. Maya Angelou**
- B. William Carlos Williams**
- C. Ezra Pound**
- D. Anne Bradstreet**

The work of Ezra Pound is closely associated with the imagery of an urban metro station due to his modernist approach and fascination with city life. Pound's poetry often reflects the vibrancy and complexity of modern urban environments, capturing the rapid pace and the intricate interplay of people and architecture in cities. His use of precise imagery and concern for the modern experience aligns well with the atmosphere of a bustling metro station, which serves as a microcosm of urban life, filled with diverse individuals and the transitory nature of movement. In contrast, while Maya Angelou, William Carlos Williams, and Anne Bradstreet have made significant contributions to American poetry, their works do not typically center around the specific imagery of urban metro stations. Angelou's poetry often deals with themes of identity and resilience, while Williams is known for his focus on everyday objects and experiences rather than urban transit systems. Anne Bradstreet, as one of the early American poets, primarily wrote on themes of faith, domestic life, and nature, thus not aligning with the modern urban imagery characteristic of Pound's work.

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://naqtpoetry.examzify.com>

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

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