

NAUI Open Water E-learning 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. During descent, a diver's buoyancy tends to ____.
 - A. Increase
 - B. Decrease
 - C. Stay the same
 - D. Fluctuate

2. When clearing water from a mask with a purge valve, which head position is recommended?
 - A. Tilt backward
 - B. Tilt forward
 - C. Turn to the side
 - D. Look up

3. The last thing to check before making a giant stride or any water entry is that the area below is clear.
 - A. The area below is clear
 - B. The surface is calm
 - C. The buddy is in position
 - D. The exit point is unobstructed

4. Which item is useful for underwater communication?
 - A. Underwater slate
 - B. Spare parts kit
 - C. Goodie bag
 - D. Dive flag

5. Before water entry, which area should be checked to ensure safety?
 - A. The area ahead is calm
 - B. The surface is smooth
 - C. The wind is favorable
 - D. The area below you is clear

- 6. Two methods of measuring air pressure are BAR or:**
- A. Kilopascals**
 - B. Inches of mercury**
 - C. Pounds per square inch**
 - D. Atmospheres**
- 7. Which type of suit is designed to be worn with insulating undergarments to remain dry?**
- A. Dry suit**
 - B. Semi-dry suit**
 - C. Wetsuit**
 - D. Insulating underwear**
- 8. Snorkels over 15 inches in length are not recommended primarily because**
- A. They are expensive**
 - B. They have too much dead air space**
 - C. They are heavy**
 - D. They are fragile**
- 9. A ___ is made from foam neoprene.**
- A. Drysuit**
 - B. Neoprene vest**
 - C. Wetsuit**
 - D. Foam neoprene**
- 10. Hydrostatic and visual inspection standards vary by region; you should consult your local NAUI facility to learn the regulations in your area. Is this statement True or False?**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. It depends on the region**
 - D. Not sure**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. During descent, a diver's buoyancy tends to ____.

- A. Increase
- B. Decrease**
- C. Stay the same
- D. Fluctuate

Gas volume in air spaces changes with pressure. As you descend, the surrounding water pressure increases and compresses the air in both your lungs and your buoyancy compensator. Since buoyancy from these gas spaces is tied to their volume, compressing the gas reduces the upward force they provide. The diver's body itself doesn't compress much, so the overall buoyant force drops as you go deeper. That's why buoyancy tends to decrease during descent, and you'd typically adjust by adding air to the BC or managing your breathing to maintain neutral buoyancy. The other factors, like water density, change only slightly compared to the effect of gas compression.

2. When clearing water from a mask with a purge valve, which head position is recommended?

- A. Tilt backward
- B. Tilt forward**
- C. Turn to the side
- D. Look up

When clearing water with a purge valve, you want the valve to be the lowest point so gravity helps the water drain out as you vent the mask. Tilting the head forward brings the bottom of the mask down, positioning the purge valve to vent efficiently. This lets you exhale gently through the nose into the mask while bubbles and water exit through the valve, keeping the lens clear and the seal intact. Tilting the head backward, turning to the side, or looking up can cause water to pool at the top of the mask, making it harder for the purge valve to vent and potentially breaking the seal.

3. The last thing to check before making a giant stride or any water entry is that the area below is clear.

- A. The area below is clear**
- B. The surface is calm
- C. The buddy is in position
- D. The exit point is unobstructed

Before entering the water, you want a safe drop zone. Verifying that the area below is clear eliminates the risk of landing on a person, boat, or submerged obstacle as you enter, which could cause serious injury to both you and others. This immediate check is crucial because you can't see what lies directly beneath you once you commit to the entry, so you need a clear space to land and begin your dive smoothly. Notes on the other factors: a calm surface helps with balance but doesn't guarantee safety below. A buddy being in position is important for overall safety, but it doesn't replace identifying a safe drop zone. The exit path being unobstructed matters for getting out after the dive, not for the moment of entry.

4. Which item is useful for underwater communication?

- A. Underwater slate**
- B. Spare parts kit**
- C. Goodie bag**
- D. Dive flag**

Underwater communication relies on methods that work despite not being able to speak underwater. The underwater slate lets divers write messages to convey information, questions, or instructions when hand signals aren't enough or when more detail is needed. It's a common training tool because you can quickly jot something, share it with your buddy, and erase it for reuse. The other items don't serve as direct communication tools: a spare parts kit is for repairing gear, a goodie bag is for carrying items, and a dive flag signals surface boats and marks a dive site rather than allowing two divers to talk underwater.

5. Before water entry, which area should be checked to ensure safety?

- A. The area ahead is calm**
- B. The surface is smooth**
- C. The wind is favorable**
- D. The area below you is clear**

When you enter the water, your immediate safety hinges on what's directly beneath you. You want a clear zone under where you'll land to avoid hitting submerged hazards like rocks, coral, or debris, or getting tangled as you descend. Even if the surface looks calm, dangers can be just below, so confirming that the area below you is clear gives you a safe entry and reduces the risk of injury right after you enter. The other factors—surface conditions, wind, or what's ahead—don't guarantee a safe landing zone as reliably as checking the water directly beneath you.

6. Two methods of measuring air pressure are BAR or:

- A. Kilopascals**
- B. Inches of mercury**
- C. Pounds per square inch**
- D. Atmospheres**

Pressure is measured as a force per area, and in diving you'll encounter two common ways to express it: bar and pounds per square inch. Bar is a metric unit, while psi (pounds per square inch) is the imperial counterpart. They describe the same physical quantity, with 1 bar about 14.5 psi. Gauges and regulators used in different regions reflect this, so psi is the natural second unit to pair with bar. Inches of mercury and atmospheres are other ways to express pressure in different contexts (barometric vs. atmospheric), and kilopascals are another metric unit, but in this pairing the practical alternative to bar is psi.

7. Which type of suit is designed to be worn with insulating undergarments to remain dry?

- A. Dry suit**
- B. Semi-dry suit**
- C. Wetsuit**
- D. Insulating underwear**

Staying dry is the key idea. A dry suit is built to be waterproof and sealed at the neck and wrists, so water doesn't enter. You wear insulating undergarments underneath to stay warm, while the suit keeps you dry by isolating you from the water. In contrast, a wetsuit relies on a layer of water between you and the fabric for warmth, so it cannot keep you dry. A semi-dry suit limits water entry but still lets some in, offering less dryness and insulation. So the suit designed to be worn with insulating undergarments to stay dry is the dry suit.

8. Snorkels over 15 inches in length are not recommended primarily because

- A. They are expensive**
- B. They have too much dead air space**
- C. They are heavy**
- D. They are fragile**

Long snorkels create a larger dead air space—the portion of air in the tube that isn't refreshed with each breath. When a snorkel is longer, more of the air you inhale is the air you just exhaled, which has higher carbon dioxide and lower oxygen. That means you have to work harder to breathe, and you can feel lightheaded or fatigued from rebreathing stale air. Shorter snorkels minimize this dead air space and make breathing easier, which is why longer tubes aren't recommended.

9. A ___ is made from foam neoprene.

- A. Drysuit**
- B. Neoprene vest**
- C. Wetsuit**
- D. Foam neoprene**

Foam neoprene provides insulation by trapping a thin layer of water that your body heat warms, and it's the material used to make wetsuits. That combination of warmth and flexibility is exactly what a wetsuit is built from, so this option is the best fit for the description. Drysuits rely on waterproof fabrics and seals to stay dry, not on foam neoprene. A neoprene vest is also made from neoprene, but the commonly described item made from foam neoprene is the wetsuit.

10. Hydrostatic and visual inspection standards vary by region; you should consult your local NAUI facility to learn the regulations in your area. Is this statement True or False?

A. True

B. False

C. It depends on the region

D. Not sure

Regional rules govern hydrostatic and visual inspections for scuba cylinders, and these can differ across areas. Since NAUI operates globally, your local NAUI facility has the up-to-date, area-specific regulations and will guide you through the correct requirements for your region. Visual inspection checks for exterior damage, corrosion, or valve issues, while hydrostatic testing verifies the cylinder's integrity under pressure. The specific intervals and procedures vary by jurisdiction, so consulting your local facility ensures you follow the right timeline and procedures for your area.

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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://nauipenwaterelearning.examzify.com>

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

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