

# Nebraska Envirothon Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

SAMPLE

# 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. Approximately how many species of plants exist in Nebraska?**

- A. 1200**
- B. 1500**
- C. 1800**
- D. 2000**

**2. What is the total acreage of natural forest in Nebraska?**

- A. 2.5 million**
- B. 1.2 million**
- C. 3 million**
- D. 800,000**

**3. Which of the following tree species is known for having opposite branching patterns?**

- A. Eastern Red Cedar**
- B. Green Ash, White Ash, Maples, Buckeye**
- C. Ponderosa Pine**
- D. Silver Birch**

**4. How many species of terrestrial birds are found in Nebraska?**

- A. 400 species**
- B. 450 species**
- C. 500 species**
- D. 550 species**

**5. What is the total area covered by range worldwide in acres?**

- A. 14.6 billion acres**
- B. 16.0 billion acres**
- C. 16.6 billion acres**
- D. 17.5 billion acres**

**6. What distinguishes point source pollution from non-point source pollution?**

- A. Point source pollution comes from a single, identifiable source**
- B. Non-point source pollution is easier to control**
- C. Point source pollution only affects aquatic environments**
- D. Non-point source pollution is regulated by government agencies**

**7. What role do wetlands play in Nebraska's ecosystems?**

- A. They act as a barrier against wildfires.**
- B. They purify water and provide habitat.**
- C. They promote agricultural development.**
- D. They support only aquatic life.**

**8. What environmental feature is crucial for sustaining the ecosystem in Nebraska?**

- A. Deserts**
- B. Grasslands**
- C. Forests**
- D. Wetlands**

**9. What defines a watershed?**

- A. An area of land that collects rainfall**
- B. The area drained by a river or stream**
- C. A single ecosystem**
- D. The size of a tree's canopy**

**10. What instrument is used to determine the age of a standing tree?**

- A. Measuring Tape**
- B. Increment Borer**
- C. Caliper**
- D. Hypsometer**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Approximately how many species of plants exist in Nebraska?**

- A. 1200**
- B. 1500**
- C. 1800**
- D. 2000**

Nebraska is home to a diverse range of plant species, with estimates typically placing the total at around 1,500 different species. This number includes a variety of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees that thrive across the state's diverse ecosystems, which include prairies, wetlands, and forests. The figure of 1,500 represents a significant portion of the biodiversity found in the region and reflects the state's unique climate and geography. The diversity in plant species is vital for supporting wildlife, stabilizing soils, and contributing to overall ecosystem health. This count is a foundational aspect for understanding Nebraska's natural environment and plays a key role in conservation efforts. Other options represent higher numbers that exceed the documented biodiversity for Nebraska, showcasing an appreciation for correct ecological data in understanding the state's flora.

**2. What is the total acreage of natural forest in Nebraska?**

- A. 2.5 million**
- B. 1.2 million**
- C. 3 million**
- D. 800,000**

The total acreage of natural forest in Nebraska is approximately 1.2 million acres. This figure reflects the state's forest resources, which include various types of natural woodlands dispersed throughout its landscape. Nebraska's forested areas, though not extensive in comparison to some other states, play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity, protecting watersheds, and providing recreational opportunities. The data indicates that much of Nebraska's land is dedicated to agricultural uses, with forests accounting for a smaller proportion of the state's overall land area. Understanding the size of natural forests is important for resource management and conservation efforts, helping to inform strategies that balance human activities with environmental stewardship.

**3. Which of the following tree species is known for having opposite branching patterns?**

- A. Eastern Red Cedar**
- B. Green Ash, White Ash, Maples, Buckeye**
- C. Ponderosa Pine**
- D. Silver Birch**

The identification of tree species with opposite branching patterns is crucial for understanding their growth habits and aesthetics in landscaping or forestry. The correct answer consists of Green Ash, White Ash, Maples, and Buckeye, all of which exhibit opposite branching. In trees with opposite branching, new branches emerge directly across from each other at the same node, rather than alternating along the stem. This characteristic can often be observed in species such as maples, where the leaves and branches clearly arise in pairs. Ash species also share this trait, which helps in distinguishing them from other species that might have more random or spiral branching patterns. The other options represent species that typically exhibit alternate branching or do not have the characteristic of opposite branching. For example, Eastern Red Cedar and Ponderosa Pine usually have alternating branches. Silver Birch also follows an alternate pattern. Understanding these growth patterns is essential in tree identification and ecological studies, enhancing the knowledge base regarding the trees native to Nebraska and their habitats.

**4. How many species of terrestrial birds are found in Nebraska?**

- A. 400 species**
- B. 450 species**
- C. 500 species**
- D. 550 species**

Nebraska is home to approximately 450 species of terrestrial birds, making this choice the most accurate. The state's diverse ecosystems, which include grasslands, wetlands, forests, and agricultural areas, provide habitats for a wide variety of bird species. These ecosystems support migratory patterns and nesting behaviors, contributing to the overall avian diversity in the state. The number reflects the birds that are either permanent residents or seasonal visitors, highlighting Nebraska's importance as a stopover point during migration. This diversity also underscores the significance of conservation efforts to maintain these habitats, ensuring the survival of both common and rare bird species. In contrast, the other options represent figures that exceed the well-documented count of bird species recorded in Nebraska, thus they do not accurately reflect the state's avifauna.

**5. What is the total area covered by range worldwide in acres?**

- A. 14.6 billion acres**
- B. 16.0 billion acres**
- C. 16.6 billion acres**
- D. 17.5 billion acres**

The total area covered by rangelands worldwide is estimated to be approximately 16.6 billion acres. Rangelands are important ecosystems that provide habitat for wildlife, grazing for livestock, and are critical for carbon storage and soil conservation. Their vast expanse reflects the significant role they play in global agriculture and ecology. This figure encompasses various types of lands that are not cropped and primarily consist of grasses, shrubs, and sometimes trees, which underscores the importance of understanding land usage and management in environmental science.

**6. What distinguishes point source pollution from non-point source pollution?**

- A. Point source pollution comes from a single, identifiable source**
- B. Non-point source pollution is easier to control**
- C. Point source pollution only affects aquatic environments**
- D. Non-point source pollution is regulated by government agencies**

Point source pollution is characterized by its origin from a single, identifiable source, making it easier to track and manage. This distinct point of discharge, such as a pipe from a sewage treatment facility or an industrial outlet, allows for straightforward regulatory oversight and targeted remediation efforts. In contrast, non-point source pollution arises from diffuse sources, such as agricultural runoff or urban runoff, where pollutants are not confined to a single location. This complexity makes non-point source pollution more challenging to manage effectively. Understanding this distinction is crucial for implementing effective environmental protection measures and developing strategies for pollution control, as it informs the regulatory approaches and cleanup techniques used for each type of pollution.

## 7. What role do wetlands play in Nebraska's ecosystems?

- A. They act as a barrier against wildfires.
- B. They purify water and provide habitat.**
- C. They promote agricultural development.
- D. They support only aquatic life.

Wetlands play a crucial role in Nebraska's ecosystems by purifying water and providing diverse habitats. They act as natural filters, trapping sediments and pollutants from surface runoff, which helps to improve water quality in nearby rivers and lakes. This filtration process is essential in maintaining the health of aquatic ecosystems and supporting a wide range of wildlife. Additionally, wetlands are rich in biodiversity, offering habitat to various species, including birds, amphibians, insects, and plants that are specially adapted to these environments. This diversity is vital not only for the species that inhabit wetlands but also for the overall ecological balance within Nebraska's landscape. By providing breeding grounds and shelter, wetlands support both terrestrial and aquatic life forms, contributing significantly to the state's ecological health. The other options do not encompass the comprehensive benefits that wetlands provide. They are not primarily barriers against wildfires, while they may indirectly support agriculture, that is not their main role. Furthermore, wetlands support a range of wildlife, not just aquatic species, reflecting their importance in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

## 8. What environmental feature is crucial for sustaining the ecosystem in Nebraska?

- A. Deserts
- B. Grasslands
- C. Forests**
- D. Wetlands

Grasslands play a critical role in sustaining the ecosystem in Nebraska. Known for its vast prairies, Nebraska's grasslands are home to a diverse array of plant and animal species. They provide essential habitat for wildlife, support soil health through their extensive root systems, and help in carbon sequestration. Grasslands also contribute to the water cycle, as their plant life absorbs rainfall and mitigates erosion, maintaining the integrity of the land. They support a variety of agricultural practices that are vital to the state's economy while also providing recreational opportunities and enhancing biodiversity. While deserts, forests, and wetlands have their own ecological importance, Nebraska is predominantly characterized by its grassland ecosystems, which significantly influence the state's environmental health and agricultural productivity.

## 9. What defines a watershed?

- A. An area of land that collects rainfall
- B. The area drained by a river or stream**
- C. A single ecosystem
- D. The size of a tree's canopy

A watershed is defined as the area drained by a river or stream, which encompasses all the land that contributes water to that water body. This includes not only the river or stream itself but also the surrounding land where precipitation falls and flows towards the waterway. The concept of a watershed is essential in understanding hydrologic systems, as it highlights how water moves through a landscape and connects various ecological processes. It plays a crucial role in resource management, particularly in areas like water supply, flood control, and environmental conservation. The option that mentions an area of land that collects rainfall is too broad since not all land collecting rainfall necessarily drains into a specific river or stream. Similarly, identifying a watershed merely as a single ecosystem overlooks the complex interactions between various ecosystems that exist within a watershed. The option regarding the size of a tree's canopy is unrelated to watershed definition, as it focuses specifically on individual tree characteristics rather than the larger hydrological context.

## 10. What instrument is used to determine the age of a standing tree?

- A. Measuring Tape
- B. Increment Borer**
- C. Caliper
- D. Hypsometer

An increment borer is the instrument specifically designed to determine the age of a standing tree by extracting a small core sample from the tree trunk. When using the increment borer, the tool allows you to extract a cylindrical section of wood that includes the growth rings. Each ring corresponds to one year of growth, enabling an accurate count of the tree's age. In contrast, the other tools serve different purposes. A measuring tape is used to measure the circumference or height of the tree rather than its age. A caliper is typically used to measure the diameter of the tree trunk but does not provide information about age. A hypsometer is utilized for measuring the height of trees but does not contribute to determining the tree's age. Thus, the increment borer is uniquely suited for assessing the age through its ability to directly access the growth rings within the wood.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://neenvirothon.examzify.com>**

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

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