

NEW CED – RESEARCH PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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Table of Contents

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

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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 type of correlation suggests there is no consistent relationship between two variables?**
 - A. Negative correlation
 - B. Positive correlation
 - C. No correlation
 - D. Perfect correlation

- 2. What differentiates observational research from experimental research?**
 - A. Observational research includes manipulating variables
 - B. Observational research requires controlled environments
 - C. Observational research does not manipulate variables
 - D. Observational research typically uses larger sample sizes

- 3. What research procedure involves statistically combining the results of multiple studies?**
 - A. Meta-analysis
 - B. Systematic review
 - C. Literature review
 - D. Pooling analysis

- 4. How can sampling bias affect research outcomes?**
 - A. It improves the accuracy of results
 - B. It can lead to results that are not representative of the entire population
 - C. It has no impact on the validity of research
 - D. It enhances the credibility of the findings

- 5. In research, what is the importance of conducting a replication study?**
 - A. To introduce new variables for further testing
 - B. To verify the reliability of findings across different contexts
 - C. To recruit larger sample sizes only
 - D. To limit the research to qualitative data only

6. What characterizes a longitudinal study?

- A. It is conducted over a short timeframe
- B. It involves different subjects at each stage
- C. It follows the same subjects over a long period
- D. It only focuses on qualitative data

7. What is the primary purpose of conducting a survey?

- A. To assess existing theories
- B. To ascertain self-reported attitudes or behaviors
- C. To establish causation between variables
- D. To collect observational data

8. How do researchers assess the credibility of their sources?

- A. By checking the publication date only
- B. By evaluating the author's qualifications, publication authenticity, and methodological rigor
- C. By relying on peer reviews without further checks
- D. By focusing solely on the popularity of the source

9. What does a high standard deviation indicate about a dataset?

- A. The scores are close to the mean
- B. The scores are widely spread out
- C. The dataset is normally distributed
- D. The mode is mainly high

10. Which of the following defines societal rules or standards that indicate appropriate behavior in a culture?

- A. Ethical guidelines
- B. Cultural norm
- C. Experimenter bias
- D. Descriptive statistics

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of correlation suggests there is no consistent relationship between two variables?

- A. Negative correlation
- B. Positive correlation
- C. No correlation**
- D. Perfect correlation

The concept of correlation refers to the statistical relationship between two variables, indicating how one variable may change in relation to another. When we describe a correlation as "no correlation," it signifies a lack of consistent relationship between the two variables being analyzed. This means that changes in one variable do not systematically correspond to changes in the other. For example, if one variable increases while the other shows no discernible pattern of increase or decrease, or remains unchanged, that indicates no correlation. This type of correlation is often represented by a correlation coefficient that is close to zero, highlighting that there is no predictive relationship between the variables. In contrast, a negative correlation would indicate that as one variable increases, the other decreases consistently, while a positive correlation suggests that both variables move in the same direction. A perfect correlation, whether positive or negative, means that one variable's change is exactly predicted by the other, which does not apply in the case of no correlation. Therefore, the correct choice illustrates a scenario where the variables do not influence one another consistently.

2. What differentiates observational research from experimental research?

- A. Observational research includes manipulating variables
- B. Observational research requires controlled environments
- C. Observational research does not manipulate variables**
- D. Observational research typically uses larger sample sizes

Observational research is fundamentally different from experimental research in that it does not involve the manipulation of variables. In observational research, researchers observe and record behavior or outcomes as they occur naturally, without any intervention. This approach allows for the study of phenomena in real-world settings and is useful for generating hypotheses or gaining insights into complex social or behavioral patterns. In contrast, experimental research involves the deliberate manipulation of one or more independent variables to determine their effect on dependent variables, typically within controlled environments. This manipulation is essential for establishing causal relationships. The absence of variable manipulation in observational research distinguishes it from experimental methods, making the understanding of phenomena contextually rich but without the ability to attribute cause-and-effect relationships directly. Factors such as controlled environments and sample sizes, while relevant to the design and execution of research studies, do not serve as the primary distinguishing characteristic between observational and experimental research. Thus, the assertion that observational research does not manipulate variables accurately captures the essence of what sets it apart from experimental research.

3. What research procedure involves statistically combining the results of multiple studies?

- A. Meta-analysis**
- B. Systematic review
- C. Literature review
- D. Pooling analysis

The research procedure that involves statistically combining the results of multiple studies is meta-analysis. This method allows researchers to quantitatively assess the overall effects, patterns, and relationships found in a body of research by integrating results from various studies. By performing statistical calculations, meta-analysis enables a comprehensive evaluation of evidence, helping to identify trends that may not be apparent from individual studies alone. Meta-analysis often includes rigorous criteria for study selection, ensuring that only relevant, high-quality studies contribute to the analysis. This strengthens the validity of the conclusions drawn from the combined data. In contrast, while systematic reviews aim to summarize and evaluate the available research on a specific topic, they do not necessarily perform statistical analysis on the data from each study. Literature reviews provide a broad overview of research findings and trends without the structured rigor of systematic reviews or the statistical focus of meta-analysis. Pooling analysis, while it may sound similar, is not a standard term and is not recognized as a specific type of research procedure in the same way that meta-analysis is.

4. How can sampling bias affect research outcomes?

- A. It improves the accuracy of results
- B. It can lead to results that are not representative of the entire population**
- C. It has no impact on the validity of research
- D. It enhances the credibility of the findings

Sampling bias significantly impacts research outcomes by skewing the results in a way that they do not accurately reflect the characteristics of the overall population being studied. When a sample is not representative, it can lead to conclusions that are misleading or incomplete. For instance, if a study aims to understand the health habits of a community but only includes participants from a specific socioeconomic status, the findings may not apply to the entire community. This lack of representation can result in overgeneralized claims that do not account for varied experiences and behaviors across different segments of the population. Accurate sampling is crucial because it ensures that diverse perspectives and variables are included. When sampling bias occurs, it undermines the research's validity and reliability, making it difficult to draw sound conclusions or make informed decisions based on the findings. Researchers must be diligent in their sampling methods to reduce bias and enhance the likelihood that their results will be applicable and beneficial for the target population.

5. In research, what is the importance of conducting a replication study?

- A. To introduce new variables for further testing
- B. To verify the reliability of findings across different contexts**
- C. To recruit larger sample sizes only
- D. To limit the research to qualitative data only

Conducting a replication study is vital in research primarily because it helps verify the reliability of findings across different contexts. This process involves repeating an original study to see if the same results can be achieved, which adds strength and credibility to the initial findings. Replication can demonstrate whether the observed effects are consistent and not due to chance or specific conditions inherent to the original study. By confirming that results can be reproduced, researchers can provide stronger evidence for the generalizability of those findings. This is particularly crucial in scientific research, where evidence must be robust and reliable to advance knowledge in any field. The verification of results through replication can also help in identifying potential biases or errors in the original study, further solidifying our understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. While the other options touch on important aspects of research processes, they do not accurately capture the primary purpose of replication, which centers on the verification of findings and boosting confidence in research outcomes.

6. What characterizes a longitudinal study?

- A. It is conducted over a short timeframe
- B. It involves different subjects at each stage
- C. It follows the same subjects over a long period**
- D. It only focuses on qualitative data

A longitudinal study is characterized by its approach of following the same subjects over an extended period. This allows researchers to observe changes and developments within the same group over time, providing insights into how specific variables influence outcomes as they change. By repeatedly measuring the same subjects, researchers can track trends, causality, and the long-term effects of conditions or interventions, thereby enhancing the reliability and depth of their findings. In contrast, a study that is conducted over a short timeframe would not capture the longitudinal aspect, nor would it provide insights into long-term changes. Additionally, involving different subjects at each stage refers to a cross-sectional study rather than a longitudinal one, as the latter emphasizes continuity with the same subjects. Focusing solely on qualitative data would limit the study's potential to collect comprehensive information, including quantitative data, which can be instrumental in longitudinal designs. Therefore, the distinctive characteristic of a longitudinal study is its commitment to following the same subjects over a long period, enabling a deeper understanding of dynamic processes.

7. What is the primary purpose of conducting a survey?

- A. To assess existing theories
- B. To ascertain self-reported attitudes or behaviors**
- C. To establish causation between variables
- D. To collect observational data

The primary purpose of conducting a survey is to ascertain self-reported attitudes or behaviors. Surveys are designed to gather information directly from individuals about their opinions, feelings, thoughts, or experiences. They often use structured questions to quantify these self-reports, which can then be analyzed to identify trends or correlations within the population studied. Surveys are particularly valuable because they allow researchers to collect data from a large number of respondents, making it possible to generalize findings to a broader context. This self-reported data can inform a variety of fields, such as psychology, sociology, market research, and public health, where understanding individual perspectives and behaviors is crucial. In contrast to other options, surveys do not establish causation between variables, as they typically do not involve controlled experimental methods. Similarly, while they can incorporate observational data, the primary mechanism of data collection in surveys is through responses from participants rather than observation alone.

8. How do researchers assess the credibility of their sources?

- A. By checking the publication date only
- B. By evaluating the author's qualifications, publication authenticity, and methodological rigor**
- C. By relying on peer reviews without further checks
- D. By focusing solely on the popularity of the source

Assessing the credibility of sources is a critical skill for researchers, and it involves a comprehensive evaluation of several key factors. The correct choice emphasizes the importance of examining the author's qualifications, which includes their educational background, experience, and expertise in the field related to the content. This helps determine if the author possesses the necessary knowledge and authority to address the topic effectively. Additionally, evaluating the authenticity of the publication is essential. This involves considering whether the source is from a reputable publisher or journal known for its rigorous standards and adherence to academic integrity. Moreover, looking into the methodological rigor used in the research is crucial. A reliable source will provide a clear explanation of the research methods employed, the data collection process, and the analysis techniques. This transparency supports the validity of the findings and conclusions drawn. By considering these factors together, researchers can make informed judgments about the credibility of their sources, leading to more reliable and trustworthy research outcomes.

9. What does a high standard deviation indicate about a dataset?

- A. The scores are close to the mean
- B. The scores are widely spread out**
- C. The dataset is normally distributed
- D. The mode is mainly high

A high standard deviation indicates that the scores in a dataset are widely spread out from the mean. This means there is a large variation in the data points; some scores may be significantly higher or lower than the average. A high standard deviation provides insight into the variability within the dataset, suggesting that the individual scores do not cluster closely around the mean. In contrast, a low standard deviation would indicate that most of the data points are close to the mean, which is not the case here. The choices that suggest a dataset is normally distributed or related to the mode do not directly address the concept of spread as indicated by standard deviation. Thus, the option that emphasizes the wide dispersion of scores correctly reflects the significance of a high standard deviation in understanding the dataset's characteristics.

10. Which of the following defines societal rules or standards that indicate appropriate behavior in a culture?

- A. Ethical guidelines
- B. Cultural norm**
- C. Experimenter bias
- D. Descriptive statistics

The correct answer is the cultural norm, as this term specifically refers to the shared standards and rules that govern the behavior of individuals within a society or group. Cultural norms encompass the expectations of behavior that are accepted and upheld by a community, influencing how individuals act in various situations. They serve as guidelines for what is considered acceptable and appropriate, shaping social interactions and collective practices. Ethical guidelines, while important in various contexts particularly in research and professional practices, refer to the principles that govern conduct regarding what is morally right or wrong. These do not specifically address societal rules or standards related to behavior in culture. Experimenter bias pertains to issues in research where a scientist's expectations or preferences influence the outcome of an experiment. This term does not relate to cultural behavior or societal rules. Descriptive statistics refers to methods for summarizing and interpreting data, providing numerical descriptions of characteristics within a dataset. This concept is statistical in nature and does not address the social rules or behavioral standards inherent in a culture. Thus, the concept of cultural norms is the most relevant and accurately captures the essence of societal rules and standardized behaviors within a culture.

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://newcedresearch.examzify.com>

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

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