

NLN NEX Science 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 organelle is named for having ribosomes on its surface and stores and delivers proteins made by the attached ribosomes?**
 - A. Lysosomes**
 - B. Golgi Complex**
 - C. Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum**
 - D. Smooth Endoplasmic Reticulum**

- 2. What is the process of copying DNA prior to cell division called?**
 - A. Translation**
 - B. Mutation**
 - C. Replication**
 - D. Proteins**

- 3. Which organ is the female reproductive organ that houses the developing fetus?**
 - A. Oocyte**
 - B. Umbilical cord**
 - C. Uterus**
 - D. Endometrium**

- 4. Which statement describes the noble gases' position on the periodic table?**
 - A. They occupy the first group on the left**
 - B. They occupy the central block**
 - C. They occupy the last group, Group 18, on the right**
 - D. They are scattered across multiple groups**

- 5. Which of the following is NOT a component of blood?**
 - A. Blood**
 - B. Platelets**
 - C. Erythrocytes**
 - D. Lymph Nodes**

- 6. Which organ releases enzymes for digestion, including amylase and proteases?**
- A. Liver**
 - B. Pancreas**
 - C. Gallbladder**
 - D. Stomach**
- 7. What is the functional unit of the nervous system?**
- A. Neuron**
 - B. Synapse**
 - C. Brain**
 - D. Nerve**
- 8. What is the concentrated mixture of wastes left in the tubules and subsequently excreted?**
- A. Urinary bladder**
 - B. Urine**
 - C. Ureters**
 - D. Urethra**
- 9. Protons carry a positive charge and are located in the nucleus.**
- A. Outside the nucleus and positive**
 - B. In the nucleus and positive**
 - C. In the electron shells and negative**
 - D. In the neutrons and neutral**
- 10. Which biome is characterized by very cold temperatures and high altitude, where shrubs and bushes grow but no trees?**
- A. Aquatic biomes**
 - B. Marine biomes**
 - C. Forests**
 - D. Tundras**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which organelle is named for having ribosomes on its surface and stores and delivers proteins made by the attached ribosomes?

- A. Lysosomes
- B. Golgi Complex
- C. Rough Endoplasmic Reticulum**
- D. Smooth Endoplasmic Reticulum

The presence of ribosomes on the surface and the role in handling newly made proteins point to the rough endoplasmic reticulum. Its ribosomes give it a “rough” appearance and they are the sites where proteins destined for secretion, insertion into membranes, or delivery to lysosomes are synthesized. After production, these proteins enter the ER lumen, where they’re folded and stored briefly, and then packaged into vesicles that bud off to be transported to the Golgi apparatus for further processing and sorting. The rough ER’s combination of ribosome-studded surface and protein packaging/transport function distinguishes it from the other organelles: the lysosome focuses on digestion, the Golgi modifies and ships proteins but doesn’t have ribosomes on its surface, and the smooth ER lacks ribosomes and specializes in lipid synthesis and detoxification.

2. What is the process of copying DNA prior to cell division called?

- A. Translation
- B. Mutation
- C. Replication**
- D. Proteins

Copying DNA before cell division is called replication. During replication, the DNA double helix unwinds and each strand serves as a template for a new complementary strand. Enzymes add matching nucleotides to form two identical DNA molecules, a process that keeps genetic information from one generation of cells to the next. This is called semiconservative replication because each new DNA molecule contains one original strand and one newly formed strand. Replication happens in the S phase of the cell cycle to prepare for mitosis or meiosis. Translation, by contrast, is the process of building proteins from mRNA; mutation means a change in the DNA sequence; and proteins are the products that result from gene expression, not the copying of DNA.

3. Which organ is the female reproductive organ that houses the developing fetus?

- A. Oocyte
- B. Umbilical cord
- C. Uterus**
- D. Endometrium

The body’s main place where a developing fetus grows is the uterus, the muscular womb inside the female pelvis. It provides the space for the fetus to develop and houses it during pregnancy. The endometrium is the lining inside the uterus that thickens to receive an embryo, but it isn’t the organ itself. The oocyte is an egg cell, and the umbilical cord connects the fetus to the placenta for nutrients and waste exchange.

4. Which statement describes the noble gases' position on the periodic table?

- A. They occupy the first group on the left
- B. They occupy the central block
- C. They occupy the last group, Group 18, on the right**
- D. They are scattered across multiple groups

Noble gases sit in the far right of the periodic table in the last column, Group 18. This placement matches their electron configuration: they have full outer electron shells, which makes them very stable and largely unreactive. In the periodic table, elements in the same group share the same number of valence electrons, so having a complete shell places them together in that final column. They're not on the leftmost group of alkali metals, not in the central block of transition metals, and they aren't scattered across multiple groups. Helium is included in Group 18 too, placed above the others in the same group.

5. Which of the following is NOT a component of blood?

- A. Blood
- B. Platelets
- C. Erythrocytes
- D. Lymph Nodes**

Blood is made up of plasma and formed elements: erythrocytes (red blood cells), leukocytes (white blood cells), and platelets. Lymph nodes are not part of the blood; they're organs of the lymphatic system that filter lymph and support immune responses. They're involved in immune activation, not circulating blood components. So the item that is not a component of blood is the lymph nodes.

6. Which organ releases enzymes for digestion, including amylase and proteases?

- A. Liver
- B. Pancreas**
- C. Gallbladder
- D. Stomach

Digestive enzymes like amylase and proteases come from the pancreas. The pancreas has an exocrine function that releases a broad set of enzymes into the small intestine through the pancreatic duct. Amylase breaks down carbohydrates, and proteases such as trypsin and chymotrypsin break down proteins, helping digest most of what you eat once it reaches the small intestine. Other organs don't provide this combination: the liver and gallbladder deal mainly with bile, which aids digestion but isn't an enzyme, and the stomach mainly secretes its own enzymes like pepsin, not the pancreatic ones. So the pancreas is the organ best known for releasing these digestive enzymes.

7. What is the functional unit of the nervous system?

- A. Neuron**
- B. Synapse**
- C. Brain**
- D. Nerve**

The basic signaling cell, a neuron, is the unit that carries out nervous system signaling. Neurons are specialized to receive inputs through dendrites, integrate that information in the cell body, and transmit signals along the axon to other neurons, muscles, or glands at synapses. This combination of receiving, processing, and sending signals is what makes a neuron the fundamental working unit of the nervous system. The other structures play important roles but aren't the basic signaling unit. A synapse is the junction where communication occurs between neurons, a brain is a complex organ made up of many neurons and supporting cells, and a nerve is a bundle of nerve fibers outside the central nervous system.

8. What is the concentrated mixture of wastes left in the tubules and subsequently excreted?

- A. Urinary bladder**
- B. Urine**
- C. Ureters**
- D. Urethra**

What forms after the kidneys concentrate wastes is urine. In the nephrons, filtrate from the blood passes through tubules where water and many useful substances are reabsorbed back into the bloodstream. What remains in the tubular fluid becomes more concentrated with wastes, turning into urine. This urine is then collected and moved to the urinary bladder for storage, and finally excreted through the urethra. The urinary bladder stores urine, the ureters transport it from the kidneys to the bladder, and the urethra is the exit route from the body.

9. Protons carry a positive charge and are located in the nucleus.

- A. Outside the nucleus and positive**
- B. In the nucleus and positive**
- C. In the electron shells and negative**
- D. In the neutrons and neutral**

Protons are positively charged particles located in the nucleus, the dense center of the atom. They, along with neutrons, form the nucleus, while electrons orbit outside in electron shells. The positive charge of protons helps hold the negatively charged electrons close to the nucleus through electrostatic attraction. So the correct idea is that protons are in the nucleus and positive. Protons aren't outside the nucleus, they aren't negative (that's electrons), and they aren't contained in neutrons (neutrons are neutral and reside in the nucleus).

10. Which biome is characterized by very cold temperatures and high altitude, where shrubs and bushes grow but no trees?

A. Aquatic biomes

B. Marine biomes

C. Forests

D. Tundras

Very cold temperatures with a very short growing season at high elevations prevent trees from establishing. In these conditions the ground often stays frozen or becomes too nutrient-poor for large-rooted plants, so vegetation is limited to low shrubs, grasses, mosses, and lichens. This combination of cold, wind, and a treeless landscape is exactly what defines the tundra, and it can appear at high altitudes (alpine tundra) as well as in polar regions. Since aquatic and marine biomes are water-based, and forests have trees, they don't fit this description.

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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://nlnextscience.examzify.com>

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

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