

OCFA SECURING UTILITIES PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. Commercial service lines can be up to how many psi?**
 - A. up to 60 psi
 - B. up to 0.3 psi
 - C. up to 12 psi
 - D. up to 5 psi
- 2. Which formula expresses the relationship between Watts, Volts, and Amps?**
 - A. $\text{Watts} = \text{Volts} \times \text{Amps}$
 - B. $\text{Watts} = \text{Volts} + \text{Amps}$
 - C. $\text{Watts} = \text{Amps} \div \text{Volts}$
 - D. $\text{Watts} = \text{Volts} - \text{Amps}$
- 3. Which framework is commonly used to guide security controls in electric utilities?**
 - A. PCI DSS
 - B. HIPAA
 - C. NERC CIP
 - D. SOC 2
- 4. For indicating electrical hazards that require restricted entry, which flagging configuration is used?**
 - A. Three stripe flagging, 18-24 inches apart
 - B. Two stripe flagging, 12-18 inches apart
 - C. Four stripe flagging, 30 inches apart
 - D. Single stripe flagging, 6 inches apart
- 5. Which statement about gas line color coding is true?**
 - A. Blue is used for newer gas line identification
 - B. Orange/Beige/Salmon are used for newer gas line identification
 - C. Yellow is used for newer gas line identification
 - D. Green is used for newer gas line identification

- 6. Which function is not typically a SOC function?**
- A. Threat intel ingestion and alert triage.
 - B. Incident response coordination.
 - C. Public safety coordination during a cyber-physical incident.
 - D. Post-incident reviews.
- 7. In utility security, what is the role of SIEM and what challenges might you encounter?**
- A. SIEM aggregates and analyzes logs to detect threats; challenges include data volume, false positives, and configuring OT-specific data sources.
 - B. SIEM replaces the need for human analysts.
 - C. SIEM only stores data; it does not analyze.
 - D. SIEM automatically fixes security incidents.
- 8. At approximately 0.5 milliamp of current, what sensation is typically felt?**
- A. Tingling sensation
 - B. No sensation
 - C. Painful shock
 - D. Muscle paralysis
- 9. Orange/Beige/Salmon color coding is associated with which regulation status?**
- A. Newer
 - B. Current
 - C. Older
 - D. Unregulated
- 10. Gas pipelines are typically buried at approximately what depth?**
- A. 6 feet underground
 - B. 3 feet underground
 - C. 10 feet underground
 - D. 1 foot underground

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Commercial service lines can be up to how many psi?

- A. up to 60 psi
- B. up to 0.3 psi
- C. up to 12 psi
- D. up to 5 psi**

Gas service lines to commercial buildings are treated as low-pressure conduits. They're designed so the utility can regulate the pressure down to safe, appliance-friendly levels, and five pounds per square inch represents the upper limit typically allowed for a service connection. This keeps the line within the range that standard regulators and safety practices can manage. Pressures above this are not considered service lines and require different handling and equipment. So five psi is the standard maximum for commercial service lines, which is why that option is the best fit.

2. Which formula expresses the relationship between Watts, Volts, and Amps?

- A. Watts = Volts × Amps**
- B. Watts = Volts + Amps
- C. Watts = Amps ÷ Volts
- D. Watts = Volts – Amps

Power in an electrical circuit is defined as the rate at which energy is transferred, and in simple circuits it equals the product of the voltage across the circuit and the current flowing through it. Therefore, Watts come from multiplying Volts by Amps, expressed as $P = V \times I$. The units line up: volt × ampere yields watt. This is why the expression that uses multiplication is correct. Addition, subtraction, or division do not yield power in watts. For example, at 120 volts and 2 amps, power is 240 watts. In AC circuits with a nonzero power factor you'd have $P = VI \cos \phi$, but for basic problems with resistive loads, $P = V \times I$ works.

3. Which framework is commonly used to guide security controls in electric utilities?

- A. PCI DSS
- B. HIPAA
- C. NERC CIP**
- D. SOC 2

NERC CIP is the framework designed specifically to guide security controls for the electric grid. It comes from the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and focuses on protecting the bulk electric system by establishing enforceable reliability standards. The idea is to identify critical assets and apply a layered set of cyber and physical security measures so that essential power generation, transmission, and control systems remain protected from threats and disruptions. You'll see sections that guide how to identify critical assets, how to manage security programs, how to control access, how to secure perimeters around sensitive systems, and how to plan for incidents and recovery. This targeted approach is why it's the framework utilities commonly rely on to structure their security controls and meet regulatory expectations. By contrast, PCI DSS is about protecting payment card data, not electric grid assets. HIPAA covers healthcare information privacy and security, not critical infrastructure. SOC 2 is a general framework for service organizations focusing on principles like security, availability, and confidentiality, but it isn't specific to electric utilities or their regulatory environment. So NERC CIP is the best fit for guiding security controls in electric utilities due to its focus, scope, and enforceability within the power sector.

4. For indicating electrical hazards that require restricted entry, which flagging configuration is used?

- A. Three stripe flagging, 18-24 inches apart**
- B. Two stripe flagging, 12-18 inches apart
- C. Four stripe flagging, 30 inches apart
- D. Single stripe flagging, 6 inches apart

When you have electrical hazards that require restricted entry, the flagging pattern used is three-stripe flagging spaced about 18 to 24 inches apart. This configuration signals a higher level of danger and a need to actively control access to the area. The three stripes create a clear, easily recognizable boundary that warns workers and bystanders that only authorized personnel may enter, helping to prevent accidental entry into a live or exposed electrical zone. The specific spacing keeps the boundary visible along the length of the hazard, even as you move around corners or along uneven ground. The other patterns convey different situations or levels of warning. Fewer stripes or a different spacing would not communicate the restricted-entry requirement as clearly, while more stripes or a wider gap typically indicate a different category of hazard or access control. So the three-stripe, 18–24 inch spacing is the standard choice for marking electrical hazards that require restricted entry.

5. Which statement about gas line color coding is true?

- A. Blue is used for newer gas line identification
- B. Orange/Beige/Salmon are used for newer gas line identification
- C. Yellow is used for newer gas line identification**
- D. Green is used for newer gas line identification

Color coding of underground utilities uses distinct colors to signal what's buried, so workers can identify lines at a glance and stay safe. For gas lines, yellow is the standard marker because it is highly visible and widely adopted across codes to indicate flammable gas. When newer gas line installations are identified, yellow helps differentiate them from older markings and from other utilities. That's why this statement is the best one: yellow specifically flags gas lines, aligning with common safety color conventions. Other colors map to different utilities—blue for water, green for sewer, and orange-related markings for other services—so they don't indicate newer gas lines. Always verify markings with utility maps and call before digging.

6. Which function is not typically a SOC function?

- A. Threat intel ingestion and alert triage.
- B. Incident response coordination.
- C. Public safety coordination during a cyber-physical incident.**
- D. Post-incident reviews.

The main idea here is understanding what a SOC normally handles in security operations. A SOC focuses on monitoring for security events, analyzing alerts, and directing the right response. Ingestion of threat intelligence and triage of alerts are core activities because they turn raw data into prioritized incidents the team can act on. Incident response coordination is central because the SOC or an incident response team keeps the response organized, communicates status, and works to contain, eradicate, and recover from threats. Post-incident reviews are also part of the SOC lifecycle, providing lessons learned to strengthen defenses for the future. Public safety coordination during a cyber-physical incident isn't typically handled by the SOC. That kind of work involves external authorities, emergency responders, and physical safety considerations, often managed by crisis management, an incident command structure, or OT/ICS teams that handle risk to people and infrastructure. The SOC may provide information and support, but the primary responsibility for coordinating with public safety lies outside the SOC's normal duties.

7. In utility security, what is the role of SIEM and what challenges might you encounter?

A. SIEM aggregates and analyzes logs to detect threats; challenges include data volume, false positives, and configuring OT-specific data sources.

B. SIEM replaces the need for human analysts.

C. SIEM only stores data; it does not analyze.

D. SIEM automatically fixes security incidents.

SIEM's role in utility security is to collect logs and events from both IT and OT assets, normalize diverse data, and correlate it to surface threats through real-time alerts and an investigative trail. In a utility environment, this means bringing together information from firewalls, servers, SCADA systems, historians, HMI, and industrial devices, so analysts can see how seemingly separate events fit together and respond quickly. The OT side adds extra complexity because you need OT-specific data sources, compatible connectors for industrial protocols, and synchronized time contexts to make sense of events across legacy and modern equipment. The challenges you'll encounter include handling the huge volume of data produced by complex utility networks, which requires scalable collection, storage, and efficient filtering to avoid alert overload. Tuning detection to reduce false positives while still catching real threats is crucial, and configuring OT data sources is often the hardest part due to unique protocols, limited native logging on some devices, and the need for specialized asset inventories and connectors. This is why the described role is the best choice: it acknowledges both what SIEM does and the real-world OT-specific hurdles.

8. At approximately 0.5 milliamp of current, what sensation is typically felt?

A. Tingling sensation

B. No sensation

C. Painful shock

D. Muscle paralysis

Understanding how current interacts with the body helps explain this. The nerves in the skin typically start to perceive alternating current around about 1 milliamp at common safety frequencies, so a current of roughly 0.5 milliamp is usually below the perception threshold. In other words, such a small current generally passes without a noticeable sensation. Keep in mind that perception can vary with skin moisture, contact area, and frequency, and that higher currents can still be dangerous even if this tiny amount isn't felt.

9. Orange/Beige/Salmon color coding is associated with which regulation status?

A. Newer

B. Current

C. Older

D. Unregulated

Color coding in regulatory contexts is meant to convey status at a glance. The orange, beige, or salmon family of colors is typically used to flag items that are older or past their recommended period, signaling that they are not current and may need updating or replacement. That makes Older the best match. The others don't fit because newer or current items are marked with colors that imply up-to-date compliance, and unregulated items wouldn't be tagged with a regulatory color indicating status.

10. Gas pipelines are typically buried at approximately what depth?

- A. 6 feet underground**
- B. 3 feet underground
- C. 10 feet underground
- D. 1 foot underground

Gas pipelines are buried to protect them from surface activity and environmental risks, reducing the chance of damage from digging, heavy equipment, and weather effects. About six feet underground is a common standard because it provides a solid safety buffer without making installation prohibitively expensive. This depth helps shield the line from shallow grading, lawn maintenance, and agricultural activities, while still allowing for practical excavation if needed. Shallow placements, such as around one to three feet, are more easily hit by routine digging or landscaping, increasing the risk of leaks or outages. Going much deeper, like ten feet, adds unnecessary cost and complexity for typical distribution lines. Actual depths can vary by local codes and pipe type, but six feet is a widely used guideline for standard gas distribution mains.

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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://ocfasecuringutilities.examzify.com>

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

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