

Old Testament (OT) Survey Practice Exam (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. What is the primary question addressed in the Book of Habakkuk?**
 - A. How can the righteous suffer?**
 - B. When will the end come?**
 - C. How can those who are wicked go unpunished?**
 - D. What is the role of the prophet?**

- 2. According to Malachi, how did the people claim they had robbed God?**
 - A. By failing to give offerings**
 - B. By breaking the covenant**
 - C. By not teaching their children**
 - D. By worshiping foreign gods**

- 3. What role did the prophets serve in relation to the covenant?**
 - A. Guides for political leaders**
 - B. Judgment makers for the people**
 - C. Enforcement mediators**
 - D. Record keepers of history**

- 4. What is the major theme of the book of Exodus?**
 - A. Redemption**
 - B. Covenant**
 - C. Yahweh**
 - D. Faithfulness**

- 5. What was one of King Solomon's notable achievements during his reign?**
 - A. Establishing the first temple**
 - B. Conquering Egypt**
 - C. Leading Israel into exile**
 - D. Disbanding the monarchy**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a major theme of 1 Samuel?**
- A. The Davidic covenant**
 - B. Kingship**
 - C. The ark of the covenant**
 - D. Reforming temple worship**
- 7. According to the retribution principle, what happens to a righteous person?**
- A. They will fail**
 - B. They will suffer**
 - C. They will prosper**
 - D. They will wander**
- 8. Which of the following is not an aspect of the fear of the Lord?**
- A. Awe and reverence of God**
 - B. Dread at God's holiness**
 - C. Faith and trust in God's plan for human life**
 - D. Being intimate with the wicked**
- 9. Who was the pagan prophet who was sent to curse Israel but ended up blessing them instead?**
- A. Balaam**
 - B. Job**
 - C. Nebuchadnezzar**
 - D. Saul**
- 10. Which of the following prophets is known for the vision of dry bones?**
- A. Isaiah**
 - B. Ezekiel**
 - C. Jeremiah**
 - D. Amos**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary question addressed in the Book of Habakkuk?

- A. How can the righteous suffer?**
- B. When will the end come?**
- C. How can those who are wicked go unpunished?**
- D. What is the role of the prophet?**

In the Book of Habakkuk, the primary concern revolves around the issue of justice and the problem of evil, specifically addressing the question of how the wicked can seemingly go unpunished. Habakkuk engages in a dialogue with God, expressing confusion and frustration over the prevalence of injustice and the prosperity of the wicked, particularly in light of the impending Babylonian invasion. He seeks clarity on why God would allow such circumstances, questioning the apparent absence of divine retribution for wrongdoing. Throughout the text, Habakkuk wrestles with the tension between faith and doubt, ultimately arriving at a deeper understanding of God's sovereignty and justice. The book illustrates the prophet's journey from questioning to reaffirming his faith, culminating in a declaration of trust in God's plan and timing, even amidst uncertainty. This exploration of the suffering of the righteous and the triumph of the wicked is a central theme that defines Habakkuk's message and purpose.

2. According to Malachi, how did the people claim they had robbed God?

- A. By failing to give offerings**
- B. By breaking the covenant**
- C. By not teaching their children**
- D. By worshiping foreign gods**

The assertion that the people robbed God stems from the book of Malachi, specifically in Malachi 3:8-10. In this passage, God, through the prophet Malachi, questions the people about their failure to bring their tithes and offerings to the temple. This failure to provide their proper offerings is directly linked to the idea of robbery, as it indicates a lack of faithfulness and obedience to God's commands regarding stewardship of their resources. When the people withhold their tithes, they are essentially denying God what is due to Him as an act of worship and gratitude. Additionally, in Malachi's context, the lack of offerings is connected to the broader themes of spiritual apathy and neglecting the covenant relationship with God. However, the specific charge of robbing God is explicitly tied to the failure to give offerings, making this choice clearly aligned with the scriptural teaching presented in Malachi. Other aspects like breaking the covenant, not teaching their children, or worshiping foreign gods also reflect disobedience but do not directly answer the question regarding how they claimed to have robbed God as outlined in Malachi. The focus on offerings provides a precise interpretation of the verse and illustrates a critical aspect of the people's relationship with God.

3. What role did the prophets serve in relation to the covenant?

- A. Guides for political leaders
- B. Judgment makers for the people
- C. Enforcement mediators**
- D. Record keepers of history

The prophets in the Old Testament played a crucial role as enforcement mediators of the covenant between God and the Israelites. Their primary function was to convey God's messages, which often included calls for obedience to the covenant and warnings of consequences for disobedience. In this mediating role, prophets helped to ensure that the people understood the expectations God had for them and the blessings that would come with faithfulness to the covenant, as well as the judgments that could occur due to unfaithfulness. Throughout the Old Testament narrative, prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel often appealed to the covenant stipulations to remind Israel of their responsibilities and the consequences of breaking these sacred agreements. Their messages were not limited to declarations of future events but included a strong emphasis on the need for repentance and a return to covenant faithfulness. By serving as intermediaries, they helped to maintain the relationship between God and His people, reminding them of the covenant's importance and the need to adhere to its terms. In contrast, while prophets might have influenced political leaders, made judgments about people's actions, and documented historical events, these roles do not define their primary function in relation to the covenant as enforcement mediators do. Their quintessential task was to uphold the covenant relationship by

4. What is the major theme of the book of Exodus?

- A. Redemption
- B. Covenant
- C. Yahweh**
- D. Faithfulness

The major theme of the book of Exodus is redemption. This theme is central to the narrative, which recounts how God delivers the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The story begins with the oppression of the Israelites and culminates in their liberation, showcasing God's power and willingness to rescue His people. The Exodus serves as a pivotal moment in the history of Israel, representing not only physical deliverance but also spiritual salvation, revealing God's character as a redeemer. The focus on redemption intertwines with the other themes present in Exodus, such as the establishment of the covenant and the revelation of Yahweh's name and presence among His people. While the presence of God (Yahweh) is significant, it primarily serves the overarching theme of redemption—showing how God intervenes in history to save His chosen people from bondage. Understanding redemption provides a foundation for grasping the significance of the covenant that God establishes with Israel afterward, as it highlights the relationship and responsibilities accompanying the deliverance.

5. What was one of King Solomon's notable achievements during his reign?

- A. Establishing the first temple**
- B. Conquering Egypt**
- C. Leading Israel into exile**
- D. Disbanding the monarchy**

One of King Solomon's most significant achievements during his reign was establishing the First Temple in Jerusalem. This monumental structure was dedicated to the worship of Yahweh and served as the central place of worship for the Israelites. It symbolized the presence of God among His people and marked a high point in Israel's religious and national identity. The Temple became the focus of Jewish worship, fulfilling a long-held desire expressed by David, Solomon's father, to build a house for God. The construction of the Temple demonstrated Solomon's commitment to consolidating the Israelite nation's faith and culture, and it also asserted Jerusalem's status as the religious capital of Israel. In addition to its spiritual importance, the Temple also had significant political and social implications, as it was a unifying structure for the people of Israel. In contrast, the other options are not attributed to Solomon's reign. There is no record of Solomon conquering Egypt or leading Israel into exile; rather, his era was characterized by peace and prosperity, often seen as a time of consolidation following the tumultuous periods of earlier kings. Furthermore, disbanding the monarchy would fundamentally contradict the nature of his rule, which solidified the monarchy in Israel's history. Therefore, establishing the first temple stands out as

6. Which of the following is NOT a major theme of 1 Samuel?

- A. The Davidic covenant**
- B. Kingship**
- C. The ark of the covenant**
- D. Reforming temple worship**

The assertion that reforming temple worship is not a major theme of 1 Samuel is accurate. The text primarily focuses on significant events surrounding the establishment of monarchy in Israel, particularly the transition from the period of the judges to the rule of kings, exemplified by Saul and David. Nonetheless, while worship practices and the role of the ark of the covenant do play a role in the narrative, the text does not centralize on reforming temple worship as a key theme. In contrast, the Davidic covenant is essential because, during David's rise to power and his anointing as king, the promise and implications of his lineage being established are highlighted. Kingship represents a pivotal shift in Israel's governance, showcasing the people's desire for a king like other nations, which leads to significant political and spiritual developments. The ark of the covenant is also significant because it represents God's presence among His people and its movements detail the sacredness and centrality of worship in Israelite life during this time. The narrative weaves together these themes to articulate the complex relationship between Israel, its leaders, and God.

7. According to the retribution principle, what happens to a righteous person?

- A. They will fail**
- B. They will suffer**
- C. They will prosper**
- D. They will wander**

The retribution principle, a significant theme in the Old Testament, posits a moral order where good is rewarded and evil is punished, reflecting a belief in divine justice. In this context, a righteous person is typically seen as someone who follows God's will and adheres to His commandments. Thus, it is expected that such an individual will experience prosperity, which encompasses not just material wealth but also blessings, favor, and well-being within the framework of God's covenant with Israel. Scriptural examples support this idea, such as in the book of Psalms where it is articulated that the righteous will flourish like a tree planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in season and experiencing overall prosperity. This aligns with the overarching narrative of the blessings that come to those who are faithful to God. Therefore, the correct understanding of the retribution principle culminates in the notion that a righteous person will prosper, affirming the moral and spiritual order established in biblical texts.

8. Which of the following is not an aspect of the fear of the Lord?

- A. Awe and reverence of God**
- B. Dread at God's holiness**
- C. Faith and trust in God's plan for human life**
- D. Being intimate with the wicked**

The fear of the Lord encompasses a deep sense of awe and reverence for God, recognizing His holiness and majesty. This fear is characterized by a respectful understanding of God's power and righteousness, which naturally leads to a desire to align one's life with His will. Awe and reverence are essential in cultivating a relationship with God, as they reflect an acknowledgment of His supreme authority. Dread at God's holiness is also a valid aspect of the fear of the Lord, as it emphasizes the seriousness of sin in the presence of a holy God and the need for humility and repentance. This aspect of fear helps believers understand their position before God and fosters a healthy respect for His commandments. Faith and trust in God's plan for human life solidifies the relationship between the believer and God, recognizing that true fear of the Lord involves confidence in His goodness, wisdom, and provision. This trust is rooted in the assurance that God's intentions for humanity are loving and just. In contrast, being intimate with the wicked contradicts the foundational elements of the fear of the Lord. Such intimacy does not align with the characteristics of reverence, awe, or respect for God. Instead, it can lead one away from God's righteousness and obstruct the very relationship that the fear of the Lord

9. Who was the pagan prophet who was sent to curse Israel but ended up blessing them instead?

A. Balaam

B. Job

C. Nebuchadnezzar

D. Saul

The correct answer is Balaam. Balaam is a significant figure in the Old Testament, particularly in the book of Numbers (chapters 22-24). He was a non-Israelite prophet from Mesopotamia who was summoned by Balak, the king of Moab, to curse the Israelites as they were encamped near Moab on their journey to the Promised Land. Despite being offered riches and rewards for his services, Balaam was unable to curse the Israelites because God intervened. Instead, he ended up blessing them multiple times, emphasizing God's favor upon Israel and revealing God's plans for them. This event highlights themes of divine sovereignty and the futility of opposing God's purposes. The other figures mentioned do not fit this narrative. Job is known for his suffering and conversations about faith and righteousness, but he did not serve as a prophet sent to curse Israel. Nebuchadnezzar was a Babylonian king known for his conquest of Jerusalem and interactions with Daniel, but he too does not align with the role of a prophet who was intended to curse Israel. Saul, the first king of Israel, struggled with his loyalty to God and did not function as a prophetic figure in this context.

10. Which of the following prophets is known for the vision of dry bones?

A. Isaiah

B. Ezekiel

C. Jeremiah

D. Amos

The prophet known for the vision of dry bones is indeed Ezekiel. This significant vision is found in Ezekiel 37 and is a powerful illustration of God's ability to bring life out of death, representing the restoration of Israel after exile. In this vision, Ezekiel is taken to a valley filled with dry bones and commanded by God to prophesy to them. As he speaks, the bones come together, are covered with flesh, and are ultimately animated by the breath of life, symbolizing the revival of the nation of Israel, which had lost hope. Ezekiel's prophetic ministry centers around themes of judgment and restoration, and this vision specifically conveys the message of hope for the Israelites who were in exile. It emphasizes God's sovereignty and the promise that He would re-establish His relationship with His people, leading them back to their homeland. This vision stands out as one of the most dramatic and memorable images in biblical prophecy, illustrating the intersection of death, hope, and divine intervention.

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://otsurvey.examzify.com>

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

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