

Ontario Grade 9 Geography Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. Which of the following is an example of an extrusive igneous rock?**
 - A. Slate**
 - B. Limestone**
 - C. Basalt**
 - D. Diorite**

- 2. What does the term "climate change" refer to?**
 - A. Changes in geographic locations**
 - B. Short-term weather variations**
 - C. Significant changes in global temperatures and weather patterns**
 - D. A decrease in biodiversity**

- 3. What is the main agent of erosion?**
 - A. Wind**
 - B. Water**
 - C. Ice**
 - D. All of the above**

- 4. What is a key role of the Canadian Shield?**
 - A. It serves solely for tourism and recreation**
 - B. It is primarily an agricultural zone**
 - C. It provides valuable resources and wildlife habitats**
 - D. It acts as a transportation network**

- 5. How does urbanization impact the environment?**
 - A. Leads to reduced transportation needs**
 - B. Encourages biodiversity**
 - C. Results in habitat loss and increased pollution**
 - D. Increases natural resource availability**

- 6. How do human activities most significantly contribute to soil erosion?**
- A. By promoting the growth of vegetation**
 - B. Through sustainable agricultural practices**
 - C. By engaging in deforestation and overgrazing**
 - D. Through controlled land development**
- 7. What are the three highland landform regions found in Canada?**
- A. The Rockies, the Canadian Shield, and the Appalachian Mountains**
 - B. The Western Cordillera, the Innuitian Mountains, and the Appalachian Mountains**
 - C. The Canadian Shield, the Interior Plains, and the Rocky Mountains**
 - D. The Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Lowlands, and the Appalachian Mountains**
- 8. What does a geographic coordinate consist of?**
- A. Latitude and altitude**
 - B. Longitude and direction**
 - C. Latitude in degrees north or south and longitude in degrees east or west**
 - D. Latitude and longitude in meters**
- 9. At what longitude is the International Date Line located?**
- A. 0°**
 - B. 90°**
 - C. 180°**
 - D. 270°**
- 10. What is an effect of demographic trends on society?**
- A. Reduced need for healthcare services**
 - B. Changes in birth and death rates**
 - C. Stability in migration patterns**
 - D. Uniformity in educational access**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. Which of the following is an example of an extrusive igneous rock?

- A. Slate**
- B. Limestone**
- C. Basalt**
- D. Diorite**

Basalt is an example of an extrusive igneous rock because it forms from the rapid cooling of lava that erupts onto the Earth's surface. When lava flows or volcanic eruptions occur, the molten rock cools quickly in the open air or in water, resulting in a fine-grained texture, which is characteristic of extrusive rocks. This rapid cooling prevents large crystals from forming, unlike intrusive igneous rocks, which cool slowly beneath the Earth's surface and can develop larger crystals. In contrast, the other options represent different rock types. Slate is a metamorphic rock formed under pressure and heat, while limestone is a sedimentary rock primarily composed of calcium carbonate. Diorite is classified as an intrusive igneous rock because it forms from magma that cools slowly beneath the surface, leading to a coarse-grained texture. Understanding the formation processes and characteristics of these different rock types is essential in geology.

2. What does the term "climate change" refer to?

- A. Changes in geographic locations**
- B. Short-term weather variations**
- C. Significant changes in global temperatures and weather patterns**
- D. A decrease in biodiversity**

The term "climate change" specifically refers to significant and long-term changes in global temperatures and weather patterns. This encompasses alterations in precipitation levels, extreme weather events, and shifts in seasonal cycles that can affect various ecosystems and human activities. Climate change is primarily driven by human activities, especially the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to burning fossil fuels and deforestation, leading to global warming and its associated impacts. The other options do not accurately define climate change. Changes in geographic locations pertain more to shifts in human or environmental contexts rather than the climatic system itself. Short-term weather variations relate to daily or seasonal weather changes, which do not capture the prolonged and far-reaching impacts of climate change. A decrease in biodiversity may result from climate change but does not encompass the broader concept of changing climate and its effects on temperature and weather patterns.

3. What is the main agent of erosion?

- A. Wind
- B. Water
- C. Ice
- D. All of the above**

The main agent of erosion includes water, wind, and ice, making "all of the above" the correct answer. Each of these agents plays a significant role in reshaping the Earth's surface through various processes. Water is perhaps the most powerful erosional agent, capable of transporting sediments through rivers and streams, or by the action of ocean waves on coastlines. It can carve out valleys and create canyons over time. Wind also contributes to erosion, particularly in arid and semi-arid regions where there are fewer plants to anchor the soil. Wind can pick up and carry away fine particles, leading to the formation of features like sand dunes. Ice, through glaciers, can cause immense erosion. Glaciers can grind down rocks and carry large amounts of material over long distances, sculpting landscapes, as seen in many mountainous and polar regions. Recognizing that all three—water, wind, and ice—are significant agents of erosion highlights the complex interplay of natural forces that shape our environment. This understanding is essential in geography, as it shows how different climates and landscapes interact with these agents differently.

4. What is a key role of the Canadian Shield?

- A. It serves solely for tourism and recreation
- B. It is primarily an agricultural zone
- C. It provides valuable resources and wildlife habitats**
- D. It acts as a transportation network

The Canadian Shield is fundamentally important because it provides a rich array of natural resources, including minerals such as nickel, gold, copper, and iron, which are crucial for various industries and economic activities. Additionally, the Shield encompasses vast areas of forests and lakes, creating significant wildlife habitats that support diverse ecosystems. This region's geological features also contribute to its role in biodiversity by providing habitats for various species. Its landscapes and natural resources make it vital not only for the environment but also for the economy and cultural heritage of Canada, aligning with the key role identified in the correct answer.

5. How does urbanization impact the environment?

- A. Leads to reduced transportation needs
- B. Encourages biodiversity
- C. Results in habitat loss and increased pollution**
- D. Increases natural resource availability

Urbanization significantly impacts the environment through habitat loss and increased pollution, making this the correct choice. As cities expand to accommodate growing populations, natural landscapes are often converted into urban areas, leading to the destruction of ecosystems. This process can displace wildlife and disrupt the natural balance of flora and fauna, contributing to a decline in biodiversity. Additionally, urban environments are associated with higher levels of pollution due to increased construction, vehicle emissions, and industrial activities. As cities grow, the concentration of pollutants in the air, water, and soil generally rises, which can have harmful effects on local ecosystems and public health. The combination of habitat loss and heightened pollution levels presents serious challenges for the environment, impacting everything from air quality to climate change. Therefore, the reality of urbanization's adverse effects on the environment illustrates why this option is the most accurate reflection of its consequences.

6. How do human activities most significantly contribute to soil erosion?

- A. By promoting the growth of vegetation
- B. Through sustainable agricultural practices
- C. By engaging in deforestation and overgrazing**
- D. Through controlled land development

Human activities significantly contribute to soil erosion primarily through practices such as deforestation and overgrazing. When trees are removed in deforestation, the protective cover that vegetation provides is lost, exposing the soil to wind and water erosion. Without roots to anchor it, the soil becomes more easily eroded. Similarly, overgrazing by livestock can strip the land of vegetation, leading to a lack of cover that helps hold the soil in place. This results in soil being washed or blown away, reducing soil fertility and leading to desertification in severe cases. Engaging in these practices disrupts the natural balance of the ecosystem, contributing to increased soil erosion rates significantly more than other options like promoting vegetation growth or sustainable agricultural practices.

7. What are the three highland landform regions found in Canada?

- A. The Rockies, the Canadian Shield, and the Appalachian Mountains**
- B. The Western Cordillera, the Innuitian Mountains, and the Appalachian Mountains**
- C. The Canadian Shield, the Interior Plains, and the Rocky Mountains**
- D. The Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence Lowlands, and the Appalachian Mountains**

The three highland landform regions found in Canada are indeed the Western Cordillera, the Innuitian Mountains, and the Appalachian Mountains. Each of these regions has distinct geological characteristics and formations that classify them as highland areas. The Western Cordillera is a series of mountain ranges that stretches from British Columbia to the southern United States, characterized by rugged peaks and deep valleys. This region is home to some of the highest elevations in Canada, including the majestic Rocky Mountains. The Innuitian Mountains are located in the Arctic region of Canada and are known for their extreme, rugged terrain. These mountains are primarily composed of sedimentary rock and have been shaped by glacial activity, which is typical in this frigid environment. The Appalachian Mountains, though older and more eroded than the Rocky Mountains, are significant highlands in the eastern part of Canada, extending from Newfoundland to the United States. They played a crucial role in the geological history of North America and are recognized for their rolling hills and valleys. The other options include regions that do not fit within the highland classification, such as the Interior Plains or the Canadian Shield, which are characterized by flat land and larger sedimentary deposits rather than mountainous terrain. Therefore, the selection of the Western Cordillera

8. What does a geographic coordinate consist of?

- A. Latitude and altitude**
- B. Longitude and direction**
- C. Latitude in degrees north or south and longitude in degrees east or west**
- D. Latitude and longitude in meters**

A geographic coordinate consists of a pair of numerical values that pinpoint a specific location on the Earth's surface. These values are latitude and longitude, expressed in degrees. Latitude indicates how far north or south a point is from the equator, measured in degrees north (N) or south (S). Longitude indicates how far east or west a point is from the Prime Meridian, measured in degrees east (E) or west (W). This system allows us to accurately locate any point on the globe. The choice that states latitude in degrees north or south and longitude in degrees east or west effectively captures the essential components of geographic coordinates, making it the correct answer. Other options do not provide an accurate or complete representation of the components that make up geographic coordinates. For example, altitude refers to elevation but does not factor into latitude and longitude; direction alone does not define a geographic location; and representing latitude and longitude in meters is incorrect, as geographic coordinates are conventionally given in degrees.

9. At what longitude is the International Date Line located?

- A. 0°
- B. 90°
- C. 180°**
- D. 270°

The International Date Line is situated at a longitude of 180°. This imaginary line serves as the boundary for calendar dates, indicating where one day ends and the next one begins. When you cross the International Date Line from west to east, you subtract a day, and when you cross from east to west, you add a day. This system helps manage time zones around the globe, ensuring that, despite latitude and cultural differences, there is a standardized way of keeping track of time and days internationally. Understanding the significance of the International Date Line is crucial for grasping how we define and organize time across different regions of the world.

10. What is an effect of demographic trends on society?

- A. Reduced need for healthcare services
- B. Changes in birth and death rates**
- C. Stability in migration patterns
- D. Uniformity in educational access

The correct choice highlights that demographic trends significantly influence society through changes in birth and death rates. These changes can have profound implications for the population structure, economic conditions, and social services. For instance, a rising birth rate might lead to a younger population, which can affect educational planning, job markets, and healthcare services geared towards children and families. Conversely, a declining birth rate could result in an aging population, creating challenges for pension systems, healthcare for the elderly, and workforce participation. Changes in death rates also contribute to this dynamic; an increase in life expectancy can shift the demographic makeup, necessitating adjustments in policies related to elder care, housing, and healthcare. Understanding these trends is crucial for governments and organizations as they plan for future needs and allocate resources effectively, making the connection between demographic trends and societal effects essential in geography and social studies. The impact of demographic changes on birth and death rates is a foundational concept that helps explain numerous societal developments and challenges.

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://ontariograde9geography.examzify.com>

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