

Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354) Practice Test (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 NOT a skill included in the 13 clusters of mental cognition skills?**
 - A. Reflecting on judgements and evaluations**
 - B. Problem Solving**
 - C. Physical coordination**
 - D. Understanding cause and effect relationships**
- 2. Assistive technology is best described as?**
 - A. General educational resources**
 - B. Specific devices and services based on assessment**
 - C. Traditional teaching methods**
 - D. Software applications for all students**
- 3. What is the purpose of fluency building in special education?**
 - A. To improve understanding of concepts**
 - B. To encourage practice of skills for accuracy and rate**
 - C. To ensure compliance with IEPs**
 - D. To enhance creativity in learning**
- 4. What type of knowledge do Constructivists believe learners actively build through experiences?**
 - A. Static knowledge obtained from textbooks**
 - B. Dynamic knowledge constructed personally and socially**
 - C. Knowledge primarily based on lectures**
 - D. Information that is handed down from teachers**
- 5. What is the purpose of a skills assessment for students with disabilities?**
 - A. To determine the students' interests and hobbies**
 - B. To evaluate essential skills needed for daily living, academic success, and independence**
 - C. To assess physical abilities only**
 - D. To create standardized testing environments**

- 6. Which of the following factors can influence a child's development outside of school?**
- A. Homework completion**
 - B. Teacher feedback**
 - C. Parental interaction**
 - D. Standardized testing results**
- 7. Which of the following is NOT one of the four areas of the Social/Emotional domain?**
- A. Self-Concept**
 - B. Confidence**
 - C. Inclusion**
 - D. Esteem**
- 8. Which of the following best describes a least restrictive environment (LRE)?**
- A. A setting with minimal supervision and interventions**
 - B. An environment that allows students with disabilities to learn alongside their non-disabled peers**
 - C. A completely separate educational setting for students with disabilities**
 - D. A place where special education students can only receive online education**
- 9. What type of communication does AAC primarily focus on?**
- A. Written communication only**
 - B. Verbal communication skills**
 - C. Meeting communication needs through various means and devices**
 - D. Only body language**
- 10. What is the purpose of individualized instruction?**
- A. To standardize teaching methods across all students**
 - B. To tailor teaching to each student's specific needs**
 - C. To promote competition among students**
 - D. To minimize the role of the educator in the classroom**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is NOT a skill included in the 13 clusters of mental cognition skills?

A. Reflecting on judgements and evaluations

B. Problem Solving

C. Physical coordination

D. Understanding cause and effect relationships

The skill of physical coordination is not included in the 13 clusters of mental cognition skills because these clusters are primarily focused on cognitive processes involved in thinking, learning, and problem-solving. Mental cognition skills encompass abilities such as reflecting on judgments and evaluations, problem solving, and understanding cause and effect relationships, all of which are integral to cognitive development and functioning. Physical coordination, on the other hand, relates more to motor skills and physical activities rather than cognitive processes. Therefore, while physical coordination is important in its own right, it does not fit within the classifications that specifically pertain to mental cognition skills. By identifying the distinction between cognitive and physical abilities, one can better understand the scope and focus of the 13 clusters of mental cognition skills.

2. Assistive technology is best described as?

A. General educational resources

B. Specific devices and services based on assessment

C. Traditional teaching methods

D. Software applications for all students

Assistive technology refers specifically to devices and services that are tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals with disabilities, based on thorough assessments of those needs. It encompasses a wide range of tools, from low-tech options like pencil grips to high-tech solutions such as speech recognition software and communication devices. The emphasis on assessment means that the selected assistive technology is directly aligned with the individual's capabilities and challenges, ensuring that it is an effective support in enhancing learning and communication. In contrast, general educational resources do not focus on the personalized needs of students with disabilities. Traditional teaching methods are often not adapted to accommodate specific learning differences, potentially leaving some students without the support they need to succeed. Although software applications can benefit all students, assistive technology is specifically developed for individuals with disabilities, making it a more focused and specialized category.

3. What is the purpose of fluency building in special education?

- A. To improve understanding of concepts**
- B. To encourage practice of skills for accuracy and rate**
- C. To ensure compliance with IEPs**
- D. To enhance creativity in learning**

Fluency building in special education focuses primarily on providing students with opportunities to practice skills until they can perform them accurately and efficiently. This process involves repeated practice and engagement, allowing students to become more automatic in their responses, which directly enhances their ability to respond in a timely manner. Fluency is essential because it bridges the gap between the initial learning of a skill and its application during more complex tasks. While improving understanding of concepts, ensuring compliance with IEPs, and enhancing creativity in learning are important aspects of special education, they do not capture the specific goal of fluency building, which is centered on the development of skills in terms of both accuracy and rate. This two-pronged approach helps students with disabilities achieve greater independence and effectiveness in their academic endeavors.

4. What type of knowledge do Constructivists believe learners actively build through experiences?

- A. Static knowledge obtained from textbooks**
- B. Dynamic knowledge constructed personally and socially**
- C. Knowledge primarily based on lectures**
- D. Information that is handed down from teachers**

Constructivists emphasize that learners actively construct knowledge through their experiences, interactions, and reflections. This perspective sees knowledge as dynamic, rather than static, meaning it is continuously evolving as learners engage with new information and ideas in various contexts. The social aspect of learning is equally important, as students often collaborate with peers, facilitating deeper understanding and reinforcing their own learning through dialogue and shared experiences. This approach contrasts sharply with static knowledge, which is merely regurgitated from textbooks without active engagement, and knowledge derived mainly from lectures or teacher-driven content, where individual exploration and collaboration are minimal. Constructivists value personal meaning-making, suggesting that learners build their understanding through critical engagement rather than passively receiving information handed down from a teacher. The focus is on a learner's active role in the learning process, highlighting the significance of their unique experiences in shaping their knowledge.

5. What is the purpose of a skills assessment for students with disabilities?

A. To determine the students' interests and hobbies

B. To evaluate essential skills needed for daily living, academic success, and independence

C. To assess physical abilities only

D. To create standardized testing environments

A skills assessment for students with disabilities is primarily conducted to evaluate essential skills that are crucial for daily living, academic success, and fostering independence. This type of assessment is designed to identify not just academic competencies, but also practical and social skills that are necessary for the students to thrive in various contexts, such as home, school, and community settings. By focusing on these essential skills, educators and support staff can tailor interventions, educational plans, and resources to meet the individual needs of each student effectively, enhancing their overall quality of life and educational outcomes. The other options do not capture the comprehensive purpose of skills assessments. While knowing students' interests and hobbies can be beneficial for engagement, it does not address the skills necessary for independence or academic success. Assessing only physical abilities limits the scope of understanding the student's overall capabilities and needs. Similarly, creating standardized testing environments does not directly contribute to evaluating the unique skills of students with disabilities and does not focus on their individual development.

6. Which of the following factors can influence a child's development outside of school?

A. Homework completion

B. Teacher feedback

C. Parental interaction

D. Standardized testing results

Parental interaction plays a critical role in a child's development outside of school. This influence encompasses various aspects, including emotional support, socialization, communication, and the establishment of routines. Children who experience positive and engaging interactions with their parents are more likely to develop strong language skills, emotional regulation, and social competencies. Additionally, parental involvement fosters an environment that encourages learning, exploration, and confidence, all of which can significantly impact a child's overall development. In contrast, homework completion typically occurs within the school context and is often more about reinforcing skills learned in class. Teacher feedback, while influential in shaping a child's academic performance and self-esteem, primarily happens in the educational settings. Standardized testing results provide insights into academic achievement but do not directly influence the broader aspects of a child's development beyond their school performance.

7. Which of the following is NOT one of the four areas of the Social/Emotional domain?

- A. Self-Concept**
- B. Confidence**
- C. Inclusion**
- D. Esteem**

The correct answer identifies "Inclusion" as not being one of the four areas of the Social/Emotional domain. The four primary areas typically include Self-Concept, Confidence, Esteem, and Relationships, among others that explicitly deal with individual feelings, self-perception, and interactions with others. Self-Concept refers to how individuals perceive themselves, which is fundamental to their social and emotional development. Confidence relates to a person's belief in their abilities and judgment, playing a crucial role in self-esteem and interpersonal interactions. Esteem, often considered synonymous with self-esteem, encompasses the regard in which one holds oneself and is critical for overall emotional health. In contrast, "Inclusion" pertains more to social constructs involving the acceptance and integration of individuals into social groups or communities, rather than a direct aspect of the individual's internal social/emotional skill set or competencies. While inclusion is an important concept in social settings, it doesn't constitute an area within the typical framework of the Social/Emotional domain.

8. Which of the following best describes a least restrictive environment (LRE)?

- A. A setting with minimal supervision and interventions**
- B. An environment that allows students with disabilities to learn alongside their non-disabled peers**
- C. A completely separate educational setting for students with disabilities**
- D. A place where special education students can only receive online education**

A least restrictive environment (LRE) best describes an educational setting that allows students with disabilities to learn alongside their non-disabled peers. This principle is grounded in the idea that students with disabilities should receive their education in the most inclusive setting possible, which promotes social interaction, access to the general curriculum, and important peer relationships. LRE emphasizes that students should not be removed from the general education environment unless it is necessary for their education due to the severity of their disabilities. The goal is to provide the supports and accommodations that enable these students to thrive alongside their peers, fostering an inclusive community and ensuring access to quality education. This approach aligns with the mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which advocates for inclusion and equal opportunities within educational settings.

9. What type of communication does AAC primarily focus on?

- A. Written communication only**
- B. Verbal communication skills**
- C. Meeting communication needs through various means and devices**
- D. Only body language**

AAC, or Augmentative and Alternative Communication, is designed to enhance communication for individuals who have difficulty with traditional speech or writing. The primary focus of AAC is to meet communication needs through a variety of methods and devices. This includes not only the use of speech-generating devices but also symbol systems, Picture Exchange Communication Systems (PECS), sign language, and other forms of expressive communication tailored to the individual's abilities and needs. This inclusive approach allows individuals to express their thoughts, needs, and ideas in ways that suit them best, whether through technology, gestures, or symbolic representation. By focusing on a broad array of communication methods, AAC addresses the unique challenges faced by individuals with speech or language impairments, ensuring they have effective ways to interact with others in different contexts. This comprehensive understanding of communication is crucial in special education, as it promotes better engagement and reduces frustration in communication efforts.

10. What is the purpose of individualized instruction?

- A. To standardize teaching methods across all students**
- B. To tailor teaching to each student's specific needs**
- C. To promote competition among students**
- D. To minimize the role of the educator in the classroom**

The purpose of individualized instruction is to tailor teaching to each student's specific needs. This approach recognizes that students have different learning styles, paces, and levels of understanding. By focusing on the unique strengths and challenges of each student, educators can create a more effective and engaging learning environment. Individualized instruction allows teachers to provide personalized support, modify content or activities, and implement strategies that meet the particular needs of students, thereby promoting better educational outcomes and fostering a sense of ownership over their learning. Standardizing teaching methods across all students, promoting competition, or minimizing the educator's role do not take into account the diverse requirements of learners and could hinder their educational development.

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://praxis5354.examzify.com>

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