

PRELIMINARY SAT (PSAT) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 slope-intercept form of a linear equation?
 - A. $y = mx + b$
 - B. $y = mx - b$
 - C. $y = mx^2 + b$
 - D. $y = bx + m$
2. What term is used for a comparison of two objects or subjects?
 - A. Than
 - B. Then
 - C. Both
 - D. Either
3. What is the tangent function defined as?
 - A. $\sin x / \cos x$
 - B. Adjacent/opposite
 - C. Opposite/adjacent
 - D. Hypotenuse/ $\sin x$
4. What does the term "either/or" and "neither/nor" imply about subject-verb agreement?
 - A. They require a plural subject
 - B. They are singular in nature
 - C. They don't affect subject-verb agreement
 - D. They require a compound subject
5. What is a recommended strategy when reading a nonfiction passage?
 - A. Read the entire passage at once
 - B. Focus on the first sentence of each paragraph
 - C. Pay attention to the first and last paragraphs only
 - D. Summarize paragraphs in your own words
6. What is one example of an incorrect use of a semicolon?
 - A. Joining two unrelated sentences
 - B. Separating items in a list
 - C. Before a coordinating conjunction
 - D. Between independent clauses

- 7. Which of the following describes a scenario of 'drawing without replacement'?**
- A. The first selection alters the pool of choices
 - B. The same item can be chosen repeatedly
 - C. All outcomes are independent
 - D. Choices are random and unbiased
- 8. What is the result of applying the quadratic formula to a second-degree equation?**
- A. A linear equation
 - B. The roots of the equation
 - C. A system of equations
 - D. A new variable
- 9. What happens to the mode if each number in the set appears only once?**
- A. One mode is present
 - B. There is no mode
 - C. The average becomes the mode
 - D. The median is the mode
- 10. What is the correct usage of "lay" in a sentence?**
- A. To recline
 - B. To place
 - C. To sleep
 - D. To sit

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the slope-intercept form of a linear equation?

- A. $y = mx + b$
- B. $y = mx - b$
- C. $y = mx^2 + b$
- D. $y = bx + m$

The slope-intercept form of a linear equation is represented as $y = mx + b$. In this expression, 'm' denotes the slope of the line, which indicates how steep the line is and in which direction it tilts; if 'm' is positive, the line rises as you move from left to right, and if it is negative, the line falls. The 'b' stands for the y-intercept, which is the point at which the line crosses the y-axis. This form is particularly useful because it makes it easy to identify both the slope and y-intercept, enabling quick graphing of the linear equation. Other forms, such as quadratic ($y = mx^2 + b$) or those with different arrangements of variables, do not represent linear equations and therefore cannot be used to describe a consistent linear relationship. Understanding the structure of slope-intercept form lays the groundwork for analyzing and graphing linear equations effectively.

2. What term is used for a comparison of two objects or subjects?

- A. Than
- B. Then
- C. Both
- D. Either

The term that is commonly used for a comparison of two objects or subjects is "than." This word functions as a conjunction used in comparative statements to show the relationship between two items. For instance, when you say "A is larger than B," "than" establishes the comparison between A and B. This term helps to differentiate between them based on a particular characteristic or quality, such as size, quantity, or degree. The other terms mentioned here do not serve the purpose of making comparisons. "Then" typically refers to a time-related sequence or consequence. "Both" indicates two things considered together but does not inherently establish a comparative relationship. "Either" suggests a choice between two options, which again does not directly relate to the act of comparison. Thus, "than" is the precise term needed to articulate a comparison.

3. What is the tangent function defined as?

- A. $\sin x / \cos x$
- B. Adjacent/opposite
- C. Opposite/adjacent
- D. Hypotenuse/ $\sin x$

The tangent function is defined as the ratio of the length of the side opposite an angle to the length of the side adjacent to that angle in a right triangle. This definition aligns with the concept of trigonometric functions, where the angle under consideration has a corresponding opposite side and adjacent side. In terms of sine and cosine, the tangent function can also be expressed as the sine of the angle divided by the cosine of the angle. However, the fundamental definition of tangent focuses on the lengths of these two sides, making the option that states opposite over adjacent correct.

4. What does the term "either/or" and "neither/nor" imply about subject-verb agreement?

- A. They require a plural subject
- B. They are singular in nature**
- C. They don't affect subject-verb agreement
- D. They require a compound subject

The term "either/or" and "neither/nor" suggest that when using these constructs, the subject that directly precedes the verb determines whether the verb will be singular or plural, making them singular in nature. This means that if the subject is singular, the verb must also be singular, and vice versa. For example, in the phrase "either the cat or the dog runs fast," "the dog" is the subject closest to the verb, and since it is singular, the verb "runs" must also be singular. Similarly, in the phrase "neither the teacher nor the students were present," "the teacher" is singular, so the verb "were" aligns accordingly with the more closely related subject when reversed to the plural form. Therefore, the correct understanding of "either/or" and "neither/nor" establishes that they guide us to employ a singular verb form when dealing with a singular subject, emphasizing the singular nature of the subjects.

5. What is a recommended strategy when reading a nonfiction passage?

- A. Read the entire passage at once
- B. Focus on the first sentence of each paragraph
- C. Pay attention to the first and last paragraphs only**
- D. Summarize paragraphs in your own words

The recommended strategy of paying attention to the first and last paragraphs is effective because these sections often contain the main ideas and conclusions of the passage. The first paragraph typically introduces the topic and sets the stage for the arguments or information that follow, while the last paragraph often summarizes the key points or presents the author's final thoughts. This approach allows the reader to grasp the overall structure and intent of the passage efficiently, making it easier to understand the context and primary arguments as they read the middle sections. In nonfiction, where clarity and main ideas are paramount, focusing solely on the beginning and end can provide a framework for understanding the details presented in between. This selective reading helps to identify the thesis and key conclusions, which can be especially useful when time is limited or when trying to comprehend dense material.

6. What is one example of an incorrect use of a semicolon?

- A. Joining two unrelated sentences**
- B. Separating items in a list
- C. Before a coordinating conjunction
- D. Between independent clauses

The choice that illustrates an incorrect use of a semicolon is joining two unrelated sentences. A semicolon is specifically intended to link closely related independent clauses, meaning that the two clauses being connected should have a logical relationship or thematic continuity. When two sentences lack any meaningful connection, using a semicolon to join them creates confusion and disrupts the flow of the writing, as it implies a relationship that does not exist. In contrast, separating items in a list is a proper use of semicolons when the items themselves contain commas, as this can help avoid ambiguity. Similarly, using a semicolon before a coordinating conjunction is generally considered incorrect because a conjunction typically connects elements and does not require a semicolon. Moreover, using a semicolon between independent clauses is actually one of the primary functions of the semicolon, facilitating the connection of two related thoughts within a single sentence. This is why the first option demonstrates the incorrect application of the semicolon.

7. Which of the following describes a scenario of 'drawing without replacement'?

A. The first selection alters the pool of choices

B. The same item can be chosen repeatedly

C. All outcomes are independent

D. Choices are random and unbiased

In the context of probability, "drawing without replacement" refers to a scenario where once an item is selected from a set, it is not returned to that set for any subsequent selections. This means that the total number of items available for selection decreases with each draw, thereby altering the pool of choices for the next selection. When the first selection is made and an item is removed from the selection pool, the remaining items available for subsequent selections are those left after that first selection. This change impacts the probabilities of outcomes for any subsequent draws, as the likelihood of selecting any particular item is directly affected by the item chosen previously. The other choices describe situations that do not align with the concept of drawing without replacement. For instance, the option indicating that the same item can be chosen repeatedly describes drawing with replacement, as in that scenario, the total pool remains the same for each selection. Similarly, stating that all outcomes are independent also points towards a situation where each selection does not affect the others, typically associated with replacement. Lastly, the idea that choices are random and unbiased does not specifically pertain to the mechanics of how items are drawn, making it less relevant to the specific scenario of drawing without replacement.

8. What is the result of applying the quadratic formula to a second-degree equation?

A. A linear equation

B. The roots of the equation

C. A system of equations

D. A new variable

Applying the quadratic formula to a second-degree equation yields the roots, or solutions, of the equation. The quadratic formula is given as: $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ where $(ax^2 + bx + c = 0)$ is the standard form of a quadratic equation. When you substitute the coefficients (a) , (b) , and (c) from the specific quadratic equation into this formula, it allows you to find the values of (x) that satisfy the equation. These values are known as the roots, and they represent the points where the corresponding quadratic function intersects the x-axis on a graph. This process does not produce a linear equation, a system of equations, or a new variable, but rather identifies the specific solutions for the variable (x) in the context of the quadratic equation. Understanding this framework highlights the role of the quadratic formula as a critical tool for solving second-degree polynomial equations.

9. What happens to the mode if each number in the set appears only once?

A. One mode is present

B. There is no mode

C. The average becomes the mode

D. The median is the mode

When each number in the set appears only once, there is no number that repeats, which is the requirement for a mode to exist. The mode is defined as the value that occurs most frequently in a data set. Since all values occur with the same frequency of one, it is not possible to identify a mode. Therefore, it is correct to conclude that in this situation, there is no mode present in the set. This answer aligns with the definition of mode and reflects the characteristics of the data set being analyzed.

10. What is the correct usage of "lay" in a sentence?

- A. To recline
- B. To place**
- C. To sleep
- D. To sit

The choice that accurately reflects the correct usage of "lay" in a sentence is "to place." The verb "lay" requires a direct object and means to set something down in a specific position. For example, in the sentence "She will lay the book on the table," "lay" is used correctly to indicate that the subject is placing the book down. In the context of the other choices, "to recline" references the verb "lie," which is commonly confused with "lay." "To sleep" does not apply, as that would typically involve the verb "sleep," and "to sit" would similarly not connect with the action associated with "lay." Understanding the differences between these verbs can prevent confusion and enhance clarity in writing.

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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:

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

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