

Printreading Trade Competency Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. For overhead conductor spans, what shall not be used for support other than temporary holiday wiring?**
 - A. Ropes**
 - B. Vegetation**
 - C. Metal poles**
 - D. Plastic supports**

- 2. NMS cable (Romex) is not permitted in which type of studio?**
 - A. Sound**
 - B. Motion picture**
 - C. Art**
 - D. Photography**

- 3. What is the maximum horizontal distance that a point of unbroken wall space can be from a receptacle in a living room of a dwelling unit?**
 - A. 6'**
 - B. 12'**
 - C. 18'**
 - D. 2'**

- 4. If a 100A load is connected, how should the neutral conductor be sized?**
 - A. According to the load's amperage**
 - B. By a standard size**
 - C. By the size of the circuit breaker**
 - D. By balancing the total loads**

- 5. Receptacles connected to a 30A branch circuit supplying multiple outlets must be rated at a minimum of how many Amperes?**
 - A. 20A**
 - B. 25A**
 - C. 30A**
 - D. 35A**

- 6. Boxes in electrical installations may have which type of covers?**
- A. Plastic**
 - B. Wood**
 - C. Metal**
 - D. Glass**
- 7. What is the minimum insulation rating for conductors installed inside nonmetallic-sheathed cable?**
- A. 60° C**
 - B. 75° C**
 - C. 90° C**
 - D. 100° C**
- 8. What is the purpose of using an approved depth for outlet boxes?**
- A. To enhance aesthetics**
 - B. To avoid damage to conductors**
 - C. To reduce installation time**
 - D. To maintain electrical load**
- 9. According to the text, how should circuit breakers be loaded when not specifically marked?**
- A. Based on manufacturer's rating**
 - B. By either column**
 - C. By 60° C column only**
 - D. By ambient temperature only**
- 10. What is the minimum clearance overhead service conductors must maintain from the ground?**
- A. 5 feet**
 - B. 8 feet**
 - C. 10 feet**
 - D. 12 feet**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. For overhead conductor spans, what shall not be used for support other than temporary holiday wiring?

A. Ropes

B. Vegetation

C. Metal poles

D. Plastic supports

In the context of overhead conductor spans, vegetation should not be used for support, except for temporary holiday wiring. This is because tree branches and other forms of vegetation can pose significant safety risks as they can sway or move in the wind, potentially causing the conductors to become loose or to sag dangerously low. Additionally, as vegetation grows or is affected by weather conditions, it may interfere with the stability and integrity of the wire supports, leading to potential hazards like electrical shorts or outages. Using proper support structures like metal poles or suitable types of insulation ensures the safety and reliability of electrical overhead installations. These materials provide a stable, long-term solution that can withstand environmental forces without degrading over time, unlike vegetation, which is inconsistent and unpredictable in its behavior.

2. NMS cable (Romex) is not permitted in which type of studio?

A. Sound

B. Motion picture

C. Art

D. Photography

NMS cable, commonly known as Romex, is not permitted in motion picture studios primarily due to safety regulations associated with fire hazards and the need for specialized electrical systems. In these environments, high-capacity lighting and sophisticated electrical equipment are often used, which can generate significant heat. Romex, being a non-metallic sheathed cable, lacks the necessary fire resistance and durability needed in such high-demand settings, leading to potential risks of electrical fires. In contrast, sound, art, and photography studios may not have the same stringent electrical requirements or fire safety codes, allowing for more flexibility in the types of wiring used. Thus, the prohibition of Romex in motion picture studios is specifically linked to the unique challenges and risks associated with the filmmaking process, prioritizing safety and functionality.

3. What is the maximum horizontal distance that a point of unbroken wall space can be from a receptacle in a living room of a dwelling unit?

- A. 6'
- B. 12'
- C. 18'**
- D. 2'

The maximum horizontal distance that a point of unbroken wall space can be from a receptacle in a living room is correctly identified as 18 feet. This requirement is in place to ensure that users have adequate access to electrical outlets for various devices, promoting safety and reducing the risk of overextending cords or using unsafe extensions. The National Electrical Code (NEC) specifies that there should be an outlet within a certain distance from any point along the wall to provide practical and safe access to power. This distance helps in reducing clutter and hazards that can arise from long cords or multiple power strips, contributing to a more organized and functional living space. Proper placement of outlets within this distance enhances convenience without compromising safety standards within a dwelling.

4. If a 100A load is connected, how should the neutral conductor be sized?

- A. According to the load's amperage
- B. By a standard size
- C. By the size of the circuit breaker
- D. By balancing the total loads**

The correct approach to sizing the neutral conductor when a load is connected is by considering the need to balance the total loads. When dealing with a 100A load, it's important to recognize that the neutral conductor is responsible for carrying the unbalanced current of the system. In many cases, especially in multi-wire branch circuits, the current on the neutral will vary depending on the loads on each phase and the overall balance between them. Proper sizing of the neutral is crucial because if the neutral is undersized, it can overheat due to carrying excess current, potentially leading to safety hazards, such as electrical fires. Balancing the total loads ensures that the neutral conductor can adequately handle the return current without being overloaded, providing safety and compliance with electrical codes. In contrast, choosing a size based on the load's amperage, selecting a standard size, or sizing it based on the circuit breaker would not take into account the actual operating conditions and may lead to improper sizing in scenarios where unbalanced loads are present. Hence, factor D emphasizes the importance of balancing the loads for optimal neutral conductor sizing.

5. Receptacles connected to a 30A branch circuit supplying multiple outlets must be rated at a minimum of how many Amperes?

- A. 20A
- B. 25A
- C. 30A**
- D. 35A

To determine the minimum rating for receptacles connected to a 30A branch circuit supplying multiple outlets, it's essential to understand the relationship between the branch circuit and the devices connected to it. When a branch circuit is rated at 30 amperes, any receptacles connected to that circuit must be capable of safely handling the maximum current that the circuit can provide. Therefore, receptacles would need to have a minimum rating that matches or exceeds the branch circuit's capacity to ensure they can handle the load without risk of overheating or failure. This is why a receptacle rated for 30 amperes is the minimum requirement. Using receptacles rated lower than the circuit's rating can lead to overheating and potential hazards since the receptacle would be unable to handle the maximum current supplied by the circuit. The other choices provide ratings that would be inadequate for a 30A circuit. For instance, receptacles rated at 20A or 25A would not be appropriate, as they could pose a safety risk under heavy load conditions. In order to maintain safety and compliance with electrical standards, the receptacles must be rated appropriately.

6. Boxes in electrical installations may have which type of covers?

- A. Plastic
- B. Wood
- C. Metal**
- D. Glass

In electrical installations, the covers for boxes are typically made of metal for several important reasons. Metal covers provide excellent durability and strength, effectively protecting the wiring and connections inside the box from physical damage, environmental factors, and accidental contact. This enhances safety, particularly in environments where electrical connections may be exposed to impact or other stresses. Metal also has conductive properties that can assist in grounding; in cases of fault conditions, a metal cover can help ensure that any stray electrical charges are safely directed away, preventing potential electric shock hazards. Furthermore, many electrical codes and standards require the use of metal covers in certain installations to meet fire safety regulations and to ensure the integrity of the electrical system. While plastic, wood, and glass covers might have specific uses in other contexts, they do not provide the same level of protection, grounding capability, or compliance with industry standards associated with electrical installations. This makes metal the preferred and often required choice for covers in these applications.

7. What is the minimum insulation rating for conductors installed inside nonmetallic-sheathed cable?

- A. 60° C**
- B. 75° C**
- C. 90° C**
- D. 100° C**

The minimum insulation rating for conductors installed inside nonmetallic-sheathed cable is 90° C. This rating is significant because it allows for a higher operating temperature of the conductors, which can provide a greater margin for safety and efficiency in electrical systems. Conductors with a 90° C insulation rating are designed to withstand higher temperatures without degrading, which is essential when considering the heat generated during normal operation and potential overload conditions. This higher rating offers flexibility in various applications, especially in environments where heat dissipation is a concern, ensuring that the integrity of the electrical system is maintained over its lifespan. Choosing conductors with a lower insulation rating than 90° C could result in issues such as overheating or inefficiency, especially in nonmetallic-sheathed cables where heat can build up. Therefore, the 90° C rating is the minimum standard to ensure reliable and safe performance of electrical installations.

8. What is the purpose of using an approved depth for outlet boxes?

- A. To enhance aesthetics**
- B. To avoid damage to conductors**
- C. To reduce installation time**
- D. To maintain electrical load**

The purpose of using an approved depth for outlet boxes primarily revolves around preventing potential damage to conductors. Electrical codes set the specifications for outlet box depths to ensure that wires and cables are adequately protected within the box. If a box is too shallow, there is a risk that the conductors can be pinched or damaged when the outlet cover is installed, especially during the tightening of screws or the securing of the cover plate. Proper depth ensures that all wires are safely housed, which protects both the wiring and the overall safety of the electrical installation. In addition to safety, adhering to the approved depth also accommodates appropriate spacing for the conductors, preventing overcrowding within the box, which is another potential hazard. This ensures that the installation complies with safety regulations, ultimately contributing to a safer electrical system.

9. According to the text, how should circuit breakers be loaded when not specifically marked?

- A. Based on manufacturer's rating**
- B. By either column**
- C. By 60° C column only**
- D. By ambient temperature only**

When determining how circuit breakers should be loaded when not specifically marked, the best approach is to refer to the manufacturer's rating. This is because circuit breakers are designed with specific load capacities that vary based on temperature and other factors defined by the manufacturer. Following the manufacturer's rating ensures safe and efficient operation of the breaker, as it takes into account the design limits under normal operating conditions. In contrast, loading circuit breakers by either column or by ambient temperature alone does not provide the specificity needed to account for the capabilities of the breaker under varying conditions. Loading solely by the 60° C column could lead to overloading in ambient conditions that may not be accounted for, resulting in potential safety hazards or equipment failure. Thus, relying on the manufacturer's rating is the most accurate and safe approach to loading circuit breakers.

10. What is the minimum clearance overhead service conductors must maintain from the ground?

- A. 5 feet**
- B. 8 feet**
- C. 10 feet**
- D. 12 feet**

The minimum clearance requirement for overhead service conductors from the ground is 10 feet. This standard is primarily set to ensure safety for individuals passing underneath the conductors, as well as to reduce the risk of accidental contact with equipment, vehicles, or other structures. The 10-foot clearance helps in mitigating potential hazards, especially in areas where the ground level may be subject to changes due to environmental factors or activity in the vicinity, such as construction or landscaping. By adhering to this clearance requirement, utility companies can ensure that the conductors remain safely above the reach of the average person and any likely machinery, thereby minimizing the risk of electrical accidents. It is crucial for both planning and installation of overhead lines to comply with these safety regulations to protect both the public and employees who may work in proximity to these lines.

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://printreadingtrade.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE