

PRINTREADING TRADE COMPETENCY PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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. Which of the following is a requirement when mechanically securing splices?**
 - A. Splices must be enclosed
 - B. Splices must be verified by testing
 - C. Splices must be made with non-corrosive materials
 - D. Splices must be made electrically secure
- 2. What does the NEC stand for?**
 - A. National Electric Council
 - B. National Electrical Code
 - C. National Energy Commission
 - D. National Engineers Code
- 3. True or False: The NEC is a legal document intended for adoption by governmental bodies.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only in certain states
 - D. Depends on the context
- 4. In a 1 phase, 120/240V service, which size should the neutral conductor be if a 100A load is connected across A and B, and a 50A load across A and N?**
 - A. 4
 - B. 6
 - C. 8
 - D. 10
- 5. When is it necessary to consider the number of conductors in an outlet box?**
 - A. When switches are used
 - B. When it's a multi-gang box
 - C. When testing for voltage
 - D. When planning lighting layout

- 6. What is the significance of the resistance measurement in relation to ground rods?**
- A. It determines if the rod is adequately driven
 - B. It indicates the quality of the metal
 - C. It affects safety and effectiveness of grounding
 - D. It shows the age of the grounding system
- 7. What is the minimum length that tap conductors for recessed lighting fixtures must be?**
- A. 12"
 - B. 18"
 - C. 24"
 - D. 36"
- 8. Not more than how many switches at a service location shall be used as the service disconnecting means if they are each permanently marked?**
- A. four
 - B. five
 - C. six
 - D. seven
- 9. What is the main purpose of the National Electrical Code (NEC)?**
- A. To establish competition regulations
 - B. To protect people and property from electrical hazards
 - C. To standardize electrical appliance manufacturing
 - D. To promote environmental awareness in electrical installations
- 10. What rating is required for the service disconnect in a one-family dwelling according to the standards?**
- A. 40 A
 - B. 60 A
 - C. 100 A
 - D. 150 A

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a requirement when mechanically securing splices?

- A. Splices must be enclosed
- B. Splices must be verified by testing
- C. Splices must be made with non-corrosive materials
- D. Splices must be made electrically secure**

When mechanically securing splices, ensuring that they are made electrically secure is a fundamental requirement. This is crucial because an electrically secure splice will maintain continuous electrical conductivity, preventing power loss and avoiding potential hazards such as overheating or fire risks due to poor connections. An electrically secure connection minimizes resistance at the splice point, which could otherwise lead to instability in the electrical system. Additionally, while other considerations such as corrosion resistance and enclosure might be important in specific contexts (like environmental conditions), the primary focus for splicing in terms of immediate safety and functionality lies in ensuring that the electrical integrity is uncompromised. This is why the requirement for splices to be made electrically secure takes precedence.

2. What does the NEC stand for?

- A. National Electric Council
- B. National Electrical Code**
- C. National Energy Commission
- D. National Engineers Code

The NEC stands for the National Electrical Code. This is a crucial standard in the electrical industry, established to ensure the safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment in the United States. The NEC provides guidelines for various aspects of electrical safety, covering everything from wiring methods to equipment specifications. It is regularly updated by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to reflect advances in technology and safety concerns. Understanding the NEC is essential for electrical professionals, as it helps them comply with safety regulations and avoid hazards associated with electrical installations. Mastery of the NEC is important not only for code compliance but also for protecting lives and property from potential electrical fires and accidents. This standard serves as the backbone for training and certification in the electrical trade, making it foundational knowledge for anyone working in the field.

3. True or False: The NEC is a legal document intended for adoption by governmental bodies.

A. True

B. False

C. Only in certain states

D. Depends on the context

The National Electrical Code (NEC) is indeed a legal document designed to establish minimum regulations for electrical installations to ensure safety. Its primary purpose is to provide guidelines that help reduce the likelihood of electrical hazards. When adopted by local, state, or federal governmental bodies, it becomes enforceable by law, meaning that compliance is mandated for all new electrical installations and modifications. As a comprehensive set of standards, the NEC ensures consistency and safety across the electrical industry. The code is updated regularly to reflect new innovations and safety practices, and stakeholders in the electrical trade, including contractors and inspectors, often refer to it as the authoritative source for electrical safety and regulations. In many cases, the adoption of the NEC can vary by jurisdiction; however, the foundational principle remains the same: when it is adopted, it functions as a legal requirement that must be followed. This underscores why the statement is true— it highlights the NEC's role in establishing safety standards that are legally binding when adopted by regulatory authorities.

4. In a 1 phase, 120/240V service, which size should the neutral conductor be if a 100A load is connected across A and B, and a 50A load across A and N?

A. 4

B. 6

C. 8

D. 10

In a single-phase 120/240V service, the neutral conductor's size is crucial for handling the current that may flow through it due to the loads connected to the system. When there is a 100A load connected between conductors A and B, this is a 240V load. This doesn't directly affect the neutral conductor size because the current flowing between A and B does not return through the neutral. However, when there is also a 50A load between conductor A and the neutral, the neutral conductor must be capable of carrying the return current from this load. In this case, the total current that could flow back through the neutral is the current from the A-N load, which is 50A. The National Electrical Code (NEC) provides guidelines for determining the appropriate size of the neutral conductor, taking into account not just the maximum load but also safety factors. Typically, the neutral conductor should be sized to carry the maximum anticipated return current under normal operating conditions. In this instance, for a 50A load returning through the neutral, a gauge size of 6 AWG would be appropriate to ensure it can safely handle the return current without overheating. Additionally, it offers a buffer for potential overload. Choosing a

5. When is it necessary to consider the number of conductors in an outlet box?

- A. When switches are used
- B. When it's a multi-gang box**
- C. When testing for voltage
- D. When planning lighting layout

Considering the number of conductors in an outlet box is essential when dealing with a multi-gang box. A multi-gang box is designed to hold multiple switches, outlets, or other devices in a single electrical box. The box must be sized correctly since each conductor requires space, and the cumulative number of conductors directly affects the box volume. Adequate space is necessary to prevent overheating, ensure safe installation practices, and avoid violation of electrical codes, which often dictate minimum box volume based on the number of conductors and devices. In contrast, while switches and voltage testing could involve multiple conductors, those circumstances do not typically require an assessment of box sizing or volume. The lighting layout may also need consideration for electrical design, but it does not specifically address the spatial limitations within the outlet box itself related to multiple conductors. Thus, the focus on a multi-gang box highlights the critical nature of understanding conductor numbers to ensure safety and compliance in electrical installations.

6. What is the significance of the resistance measurement in relation to ground rods?

- A. It determines if the rod is adequately driven
- B. It indicates the quality of the metal
- C. It affects safety and effectiveness of grounding**
- D. It shows the age of the grounding system

The significance of the resistance measurement in relation to ground rods is crucial because it directly affects the safety and effectiveness of grounding systems. A proper grounding system is essential for protecting both electrical equipment and individuals from electric shock hazards and electrical fires. When measuring resistance, the goal is to ensure that the resistance is low enough to conduct any fault currents safely into the ground, preventing dangerous build-ups of voltage that could lead to hazards. A high resistance measurement can indicate poor grounding, which may not adequately divert electrical faults away from equipment or individuals, leading to potential dangers. Therefore, keeping resistance as low as possible is vital for the overall effectiveness of grounding systems and maintaining safety standards in electrical installations. While other options relate to ground rods, they do not encompass the critical function of resistance measurements in ensuring safety and operational reliability, which is why the chosen correct answer focuses on this aspect.

7. What is the minimum length that tap conductors for recessed lighting fixtures must be?

- A. 12"
- B. 18"**
- C. 24"
- D. 36"

The minimum length for tap conductors for recessed lighting fixtures is critical to ensure proper installation and safety. The requirement of 18 inches allows for sufficient conductor length, making it easier to service, connect, or modify lighting fixtures in the future while also considering the need to maintain proper electrical codes and standards. This length helps ensure that the conductors are accessible while minimizing the risk of strain or damage to the wiring connections due to tension or twisting. It also provides enough flexibility to accommodate different installation scenarios, where fixtures may need to be adjusted or where junction boxes are situated at varying distances. In contrast, shorter lengths would not provide adequate flexibility or accessibility, compromising ease of maintenance and potential safety. Therefore, the code specifies 18 inches as the minimum required length to establish safe and effective connections for recessed lighting fixtures.

8. Not more than how many switches at a service location shall be used as the service disconnecting means if they are each permanently marked?

- A. four
- B. five
- C. six**
- D. seven

In electrical installations, there are regulations that govern how many switches can be used as the service disconnecting means at a service location. If each switch is permanently marked, the answer indicates that up to six switches can be utilized for this purpose. This limit is in place to ensure safety and ease of operation. Having a clear and manageable number of disconnecting means helps to reduce confusion during an emergency or maintenance situation. Furthermore, if each switch is permanently marked, it ensures that users can quickly identify and operate each switch properly, thus enhancing safety. This standard is established to maintain an effective balance between operational flexibility and user safety in electrical systems. Consequently, the number six is recognized by various electrical codes and standards, reinforcing why this answer is the correct choice in this context.

9. What is the main purpose of the National Electrical Code (NEC)?

- A. To establish competition regulations
- B. To protect people and property from electrical hazards**
- C. To standardize electrical appliance manufacturing
- D. To promote environmental awareness in electrical installations

The primary purpose of the National Electrical Code (NEC) is to ensure safety in electrical installations and to protect people and property from electrical hazards. The NEC provides a comprehensive set of guidelines and standards that govern the design, installation, and maintenance of electrical systems. By adhering to the code, electricians and contractors help prevent electrical fires, shocks, and other dangerous situations that could result from improper electrical work. The code is regularly updated to incorporate new technologies and practices, further enhancing safety measures in the electrical industry. Overall, the NEC serves as a critical framework for ensuring safe electrical practices across various applications, ultimately fostering a secure environment for both individuals and property.

10. What rating is required for the service disconnect in a one-family dwelling according to the standards?

- A. 40 A
- B. 60 A
- C. 100 A**
- D. 150 A

The correct rating for the service disconnect in a one-family dwelling is 100 Amperes. This rating is based on the National Electrical Code (NEC) requirements, which are designed to ensure adequate power supply for typical residential use while maintaining safety standards. A 100 Amp service disconnect provides sufficient capacity to power the basic electrical needs of a household, including lighting, appliances, and HVAC systems, while allowing for future expansion if necessary. Using a rating lower than 100 Amperes may not accommodate the electrical load of modern appliances and systems, potentially leading to overloading and hazardous situations. A higher rating, such as 150 Amperes, while sometimes used in larger homes or those with significant electrical demands, is not the minimum required standard for a typical one-family residence. Therefore, the 100 Amp service disconnect rating strikes a balance between safety, usability, and compliance with established electrical codes.

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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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