

PSAT/NMSQT Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 focus of the collection of medieval maps discussed?**
 - A. To review the biographies of medieval cartographers.**
 - B. To evaluate the use of color in medieval maps.**
 - C. To describe a collection of medieval maps and the process of its creation.**
 - D. To compare medieval maps with modern digital maps.**

- 2. How many values are listed for a?**
 - A. Eight**
 - B. Six**
 - C. Four**
 - D. Ten**

- 3. What aspect of Vargas's performances is highlighted in the text?**
 - A. Her unique approach to performing classic songs from a male perspective.**
 - B. Her use of electronic instruments.**
 - C. Her focus on contemporary pop songs.**
 - D. Her strict adherence to original arrangements.**

- 4. Which expression is equivalent to $x/19 - 7/2$?**
 - A. $(2x - 133)/38$**
 - B. $(2x)/38 - 133/2$**
 - C. $(x - 7)/19$**
 - D. $(2x - 7)/38$**

- 5. What does the narrator's description of the house in 'Happy House' convey?**
 - A. A sense of delight at its beauty.**
 - B. A sense of nostalgia for its history.**
 - C. A sense of curiosity about its layout.**
 - D. A sense of disappointment due to the house's square lines and lack of beauty.**

6. What is the minimum value of the function $p(x) = 576x^2 + 2$?
- A. 0
 - B. 578
 - C. 576
 - D. 2
7. What is the fourth wall in theater?
- A. The metaphorical barrier between actors and audiences that allows viewers to suspend disbelief.
 - B. The physical barrier at the back of the stage.
 - C. The boundary between script and stage directions.
 - D. The curtain used to signal intermission.
8. In software contexts, what does 'defunct' imply?
- A. The software remains actively maintained.
 - B. The software is open-source.
 - C. The software is no longer in use or supported.
 - D. The software is compatible with legacy systems
9. How did the studies measure the impact of pricing messages on consumer behavior?
- A. By analyzing the prices participants chose under different messaging conditions.
 - B. By surveying participants about their attitudes toward price.
 - C. By comparing baseline consumption with post-message purchase amounts.
 - D. By tracking time spent evaluating products.
10. What is total pressure at 105 feet depth under sea level?
- A. 60.00 psi
 - B. 60.50 psi
 - C. 60.65 psi
 - D. 60.90 psi

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the focus of the collection of medieval maps discussed?

- A. To review the biographies of medieval cartographers.
- B. To evaluate the use of color in medieval maps.
- C. To describe a collection of medieval maps and the process of its creation.**
- D. To compare medieval maps with modern digital maps.

The focus is on describing a collection of medieval maps and explaining how that collection was created. The passage would cover what the maps include, where they came from, and the steps taken to assemble, preserve, and perhaps catalog or display the collection. This makes it the best choice because it centers on the collection itself and the process behind its creation, rather than on individual mapmakers, the use of color, or comparisons with modern digital maps.

2. How many values are listed for a?

- A. Eight**
- B. Six
- C. Four
- D. Ten

When a question asks how many values are listed for a, you count how many individual values are shown for that variable in the data or list provided. Each item in the list is one possible value for a, so eight items means eight values. For example, if the list is $a = 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16$, there are eight values. If a value repeats, count it as many times as it appears unless the problem asks for distinct values, in which case you'd count each unique value only once. In this case, there are eight values listed for a.

3. What aspect of Vargas's performances is highlighted in the text?

- A. Her unique approach to performing classic songs from a male perspective.**
- B. Her use of electronic instruments.
- C. Her focus on contemporary pop songs.
- D. Her strict adherence to original arrangements.

Understanding how a performer reinterprets familiar material is what this item tests. The text highlights Vargas's unique approach: she performs classic songs from a male perspective, reimagining how the vocal lines, phrasing, and emotion convey the story when voiced from that viewpoint. This gives well-known songs a fresh emotional texture and demonstrates her versatility beyond simply singing them as written. This is the best answer because it focuses on the distinctive way she presents the material. The text doesn't emphasize using electronic instruments, concentrating on contemporary pop, or sticking strictly to the original arrangements; instead, it stresses the perspective and interpretation Vargas brings to classic songs.

4. Which expression is equivalent to $x/19 - 7/2$?

- A. $(2x - 133)/38$
- B. $(2x)/38 - 133/2$
- C. $(x - 7)/19$
- D. $(2x - 7)/38$

Combining fractions by using a common denominator. To rewrite $x/19 - 7/2$ with a shared bottom, use 38 as the common denominator. $x/19$ becomes $2x/38$, since multiplying numerator and denominator by 2 gives $(2x)/38$. $7/2$ becomes $133/38$, since multiplying numerator and denominator by 19 gives $(133)/38$. Subtracting the two with this common denominator yields $(2x - 133)/38$. This single-fraction form preserves the exact value of the original expression, matching the difference of the two terms. Why the other forms don't fit: keeping two fractions with different denominators isn't a single combined expression, so it isn't equivalent in simplified form. Replacing $7/2$ with $7/19$ would subtract a different amount, and using $7/38$ would subtract an even smaller amount, both changing the value from the original.

5. What does the narrator's description of the house in 'Happy House' convey?

- A. A sense of delight at its beauty.
- B. A sense of nostalgia for its history.
- C. A sense of curiosity about its layout.
- D. A sense of disappointment due to the house's square lines and lack of beauty.

Focusing on the house's square lines and lack of beauty sets a mood of disappointment. When a description centers on harsh, unadorned geometry and an unattractive appearance, the narrator's emotional response tends to be cool or unsettled rather than warm or excited. That tone signals dissatisfaction with the house itself, not delight, nostalgia for its history, or curiosity about its layout. If the narrator were moved by beauty, history would likely be praised; if drawn to the layout, details about rooms and flow would spark curiosity. The emphasis on rigidity and plainness most strongly communicates a letdown about what the house represents in that moment.

6. What is the minimum value of the function $p(x) = 576x^2 + 2$?

- A. 0
- B. 578
- C. 576
- D. 2

Think about what the expression $576x^2 + 2$ can be. The square part, $576x^2$, is always nonnegative and is zero only when x is zero. So the smallest $p(x)$ you can get is when $x = 0$, giving $p(0) = 576 \cdot 0^2 + 2 = 2$. Any nonzero x makes $576x^2$ positive, which increases $p(x)$ above 2. Therefore the minimum value is 2.

7. What is the fourth wall in theater?

- A. The metaphorical barrier between actors and audiences that allows viewers to suspend disbelief.**
- B. The physical barrier at the back of the stage.**
- C. The boundary between script and stage directions.**
- D. The curtain used to signal intermission.**

The concept being tested is the imaginary boundary that separates the world of the play from the audience. The fourth wall isn't a real, visible barrier onstage; it's the convention that the actors perform as if the audience isn't there, which lets us accept the events as happening within the story and maintain suspension of disbelief. When performers break this boundary and acknowledge the audience, they momentarily change the sense of immersion. The other descriptions describe actual physical or practical elements (a back wall of the set, a human-made boundary between script and directions, or the curtain signaling a break) rather than the implied separation between stage world and viewer.

8. In software contexts, what does 'defunct' imply?

- A. The software remains actively maintained.**
- B. The software is open-source.**
- C. The software is no longer in use or supported.**
- D. The software is compatible with legacy systems**

Defunct means no longer in use or supported; in software this describes a product or project that has been discontinued and will not receive updates or official assistance. Because there are no bug fixes or security patches and no ongoing support, relying on it for current needs is risky and typically you'd migrate to a maintained alternative. Open-source status or whether a product can run on older systems are separate details and aren't dictated by defunct—one can be defunct regardless of licensing, and its lack of active support doesn't tell you about compatibility. In short, defunct = no longer supported or maintained.

9. How did the studies measure the impact of pricing messages on consumer behavior?

- A. By analyzing the prices participants chose under different messaging conditions.**
- B. By surveying participants about their attitudes toward price.**
- C. By comparing baseline consumption with post-message purchase amounts.**
- D. By tracking time spent evaluating products.**

Pricing messages influence how people think about value and price, so the most direct way the studies captured their effect is by asking participants about their attitudes toward price after exposure. This approach reveals how perceptions of price shift in response to the messaging, which is a precursor to actual behavior. If researchers were measuring choices or purchase amounts, they'd be looking at concrete actions, which can be influenced by many factors beyond the messaging and may not reflect the immediate mental shift the messages aim to produce. Tracking how someone feels about price also allows researchers to gauge potential changes in willingness to pay or perceived fairness, which are precisely the internal responses pricing messages intend to modify.

10. What is total pressure at 105 feet depth under sea level?

A. 60.00 psi

B. 60.50 psi

C. 60.65 psi

D. 60.90 psi

Total pressure underwater comes from two parts: the pressure at the surface (atmospheric pressure) and the extra pressure from the water column above you (hydrostatic pressure). The atmosphere at the surface is about 14.7 psi. For seawater, the hydrostatic pressure adds roughly 0.44 psi for each foot of depth. At 105 feet, that's $105 \times 0.44 \approx 46.2$ psi. Combine them: $46.2 + 14.7 \approx 60.9$ psi. So the total pressure at 105 feet is about 60.9 psi, which matches the given choice.

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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:

<https://psatnmsqt.examzify.com>

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

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