

PWS FLORAL DESIGN PRACTICE EXAM (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 concept refers to the visual cohesion of all elements in a floral design?**
 - A. Harmony
 - B. Rhythm
 - C. Proportion
 - D. Balance
- 2. A cultivar is defined as what?**
 - A. Hybrid
 - B. Cultivar
 - C. Variety
 - D. Clone
- 3. Softened water is harmful for cut flowers because it contains high amounts of what?**
 - A. Sugars
 - B. Minerals
 - C. Salts, usually Sodium
 - D. Acids
- 4. How do harmony and unity differ in floral design?**
 - A. Harmony is the wise selection of parts to form a floral composition; Unity is the whole composition predominant over its parts
 - B. Harmony is color coordination; Unity is identical shapes
 - C. Harmony is balance; Unity is proportion
 - D. Harmony is contrast; Unity is rhythm
- 5. Which term refers to a plant produced from a cross between two plants with different genetic elements?**
 - A. Hybrid
 - B. Cultivar
 - C. Genus
 - D. Species

- 6. Which technique involves a gradual change from one element to another to express unity?**
- A. Proximity
 - B. Repetition
 - C. Balance
 - D. Transition
- 7. Which two original wire service companies are still in business today?**
- A. FDT and Teleflora
 - B. Teleflora and Interflora
 - C. FTD and Bloomex
 - D. FDT and FTD
- 8. What are the problems with hard water and softened water?**
- A. Hard water has high mineral content; soft water has added salts.
 - B. Hard water is cheaper than softened water.
 - C. Both are ideal for vase life.
 - D. Soft water has fewer minerals than hard water.
- 9. What is postharvest physiology?**
- A. The division of plant physiology that deals with photosynthesis during growth
 - B. The study of plant development while in the soil
 - C. The study of plant reproduction
 - D. The division of plant physiology that deals with the metabolic processes in plant material after it has been harvested
- 10. Which tissue carries nutrients and sugars from leaves to the rest of the plant?**
- A. Xylem
 - B. Phloem
 - C. Cortex
 - D. Dermis

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which concept refers to the visual cohesion of all elements in a floral design?

- A. Harmony**
- B. Rhythm
- C. Proportion
- D. Balance

Harmony is the principle that creates visual cohesion among all elements in a floral design. When colors, textures, line directions, forms, and spacing work together to express a single mood or theme, the arrangement reads as a unified whole rather than a collection of parts. That sense of compatibility and intentional unity is what makes the design feel complete and satisfying. Rhythm involves the movement of the eye through repetition and progression, focusing on flow rather than overall cohesion. Proportion is about the size relationships between parts and the overall scale, ensuring no element looks out of place in size. Balance is about distributing visual weight to achieve stability, which supports cohesion but centers on equilibrium instead of the entire ensemble feeling unified. So the term that best describes the visual cohesion of all elements is harmony.

2. A cultivar is defined as what?

- A. Hybrid
- B. Cultivar**
- C. Variety
- D. Clone

A cultivar is a cultivated variety. It's a plant line that humans have selected, named, and propagated to keep specific, desirable traits stable and uniform. The term itself signals intentional, ongoing cultivation and maintenance of those traits, typically through vegetative propagation to preserve consistency. This differs from a hybrid, which is a cross between two different parents and may not breed true without careful control. It also differs from a botanical variety, which is a natural variation within a species rather than one shaped and maintained by human cultivation. And it's not the same as a clone, which refers to genetically identical copies derived from a single parent; though cultivars are often propagated clonally to preserve traits, the defining idea is that a cultivar is a human-maintained cultivated variety.

3. Softened water is harmful for cut flowers because it contains high amounts of what?

- A. Sugars
- B. Minerals
- C. Salts, usually Sodium**
- D. Acids

Softened water harms cut flowers because its higher salt level, especially sodium salts, interferes with the flowers' ability to take up water. An ion-exchange softener swaps calcium and magnesium for sodium, boosting sodium in the water. The increased salt concentration raises osmotic pressure in the stem's vascular system, making it harder for water to move up from the vase. With water uptake hindered, the flowers lose turgor and wilt sooner, shortening vase life. Sugars aren't the issue here, and acids aren't necessarily elevated, while the broader term "minerals" is vague—what matters is the elevated sodium salts that come from softened water.

4. How do harmony and unity differ in floral design?

- A. Harmony is the wise selection of parts to form a floral composition; Unity is the whole composition predominant over its parts
- B. Harmony is color coordination; Unity is identical shapes
- C. Harmony is balance; Unity is proportion
- D. Harmony is contrast; Unity is rhythm

Harmony refers to how well the elements of a design relate to each other to create a pleasing, cohesive relationship among color, texture, line, and form. Unity is the overall sense that the arrangement reads as a single, complete idea, with every part supporting that idea so the whole dominates the impression. The described choice captures this distinction clearly: harmony is about the careful selection of parts that fit together to form the floral composition, while unity is about the entire arrangement being perceived as one cohesive whole, stronger than its individual parts. In practice, you might choose colors and shapes that work well together to achieve harmony, and then arrange and emphasize a unifying focal point or rhythm so the piece feels like a single concept. Other options are too narrow or mix concepts. Limiting harmony to color coordination, or unity to identical shapes, misses how harmony also involves compatible relationships beyond color and how unity arises from the overall cohesiveness rather than just a single attribute. Likewise, equating harmony with balance or unity with proportion, or linking harmony to contrast and unity to rhythm, doesn't align with how these terms describe the relationship among design elements and the perception of the whole.

5. Which term refers to a plant produced from a cross between two plants with different genetic elements?

- A. Hybrid
- B. Cultivar
- C. Genus
- D. Species

A plant produced from crossing two plants with different genetic elements is called a hybrid. In botany, crossing distinct genetic backgrounds combines traits from both parents, often resulting in offspring with a mix of desirable characteristics and sometimes greater vigor. A cultivar refers to a cultivated variety chosen for specific traits and maintained through propagation, and it isn't the term for the offspring produced by crossing. Genus and species are taxonomic ranks that describe groups of related organisms, not the outcome of a cross.

6. Which technique involves a gradual change from one element to another to express unity?

- A. Proximity
- B. Repetition
- C. Balance
- D. Transition

Transition creates unity by gradually shifting from one element to another, guiding the eye smoothly across the design. This technique blends differences—such as color, texture, size, or direction—so there are no sharp breaks, and the arrangement feels cohesive. In practice, you might fade a color from pale to deep across the piece, taper one type of stem into another, or let a curved line lead from a focal point into the rest of the composition. Those gradual changes unify disparate parts because the eye experiences a continuous flow rather than abrupt changes. Proximity groups related components to show connection, but it doesn't express unity through a gradual change. Repetition reinforces similarity and rhythm, not a transition between different elements. Balance focuses on even distribution of visual weight, not the progression from one element to another.

7. Which two original wire service companies are still in business today?

- A. FDT and Teleflora
- B. Teleflora and Interflora
- C. FTD and Bloomex
- D. FDT and FTD

Wire services in floristry are networks that link independent florists so orders can be fulfilled across long distances. FTD is one of the earliest and most enduring networks, and Bloomex represents a later network that keeps to the same delivery model and remains active today. The other options pair names that aren't recognized as continuing, original wire-service networks in the same way within this context, so they don't fit as the two that have persisted since the early days. Therefore, FTD and Bloomex are identified as the two still-in-business originals in this item.

8. What are the problems with hard water and softened water?

- A. Hard water has high mineral content; soft water has added salts.
- B. Hard water is cheaper than softened water.
- C. Both are ideal for vase life.
- D. Soft water has fewer minerals than hard water.

The main idea being tested is how the mineral content of water affects cut flowers and vase life. Hard water is defined by high levels of minerals, especially calcium and magnesium, which can lead to mineral buildup and scale that can clog stems and hinder water uptake. Softened water, on the other hand, is produced by exchanging these minerals for sodium (and other salts) through a softening process, so the water contains added salts. That's why the best choice says hard water has high mineral content and softened water has added salts. The hard-water issue explains potential scale and uptake problems, while the softened-water issue highlights the salt load that can also affect flowers. The other options aren't addressing these practical water-related problems: water that's cheaper doesn't speak to vase-life effects; claiming both waters are ideal for vase life isn't accurate; and saying softened water has fewer minerals is an oversimplification that overlooks the added salts from the ion-exchange process.

9. What is postharvest physiology?

- A. The division of plant physiology that deals with photosynthesis during growth
- B. The study of plant development while in the soil
- C. The study of plant reproduction
- D. The division of plant physiology that deals with the metabolic processes in plant material after it has been harvested

Postharvest physiology is the study of the metabolic changes that occur in plant material after it has been harvested. It covers how harvested fruits, vegetables, and other plant products continue to respire, transpire, age, and ripen, and how these processes affect quality, texture, flavor, color, and shelf life. This field also looks at how storage conditions—such as temperature, humidity, and atmospheric composition—and additives influence these postharvest changes, with the goal of extending freshness and reducing spoilage. The other descriptions refer to processes occurring before or during growth or to different plant functions: photosynthesis during growth happens while the plant is still on or in the ground, development in soil is about growth before harvest, and reproduction concerns flowering and seed production. The focus on what happens after harvest makes the stated option the best definition.

10. Which tissue carries nutrients and sugars from leaves to the rest of the plant?

- A. Xylem
- B. Phloem**
- C. Cortex
- D. Dermis

The movement of nutrients and sugars from the leaves to other parts of the plant is done by the phloem. Phloem is the vascular tissue specialized for translocation of photosynthates (mainly sugars like sucrose) from sources such as leaves to sinks like roots, developing fruits, and growing shoots. This transport, called phloem transport or translocation, uses living sieve-tube elements and companion cells and can move in multiple directions depending on where sugars are needed. Sugars are actively loaded into the phloem in source tissues, creating a pressure difference that pushes the sap toward areas of need or storage. By contrast, xylem moves water and minerals upward from the roots and does not carry sugars; cortex is a storage and support tissue in the stem or root, and the outer protective layer (epidermis) is not a transport tissue.

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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://pwsfloraldesign.examzify.com>

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

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