RHEL Linux - Red Hat System Administration 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. Don’t worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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

1. What does the command 'chmod 755' accomplish?

A. Grants read, write, and execute permissions to the user; read and execute for group and others

B. Grants only read permission for all users

C. Removes all permissions from group and others

D. Grants write and execute permissions to the group only

2. Which command is used to list the contents of a directory?

A. show [directory]

B. list [directory]

C. ls [directory]

D. dir [directory]

3. Which configuration file controls the default behavior of user account settings in Linux?

A. /etc/passwd

B. /etc/shadow

C. /etc/login.defs

D. /etc/group

4. Which one of these is not a common protocol?

A. SSH

B. HTTPS

C. NFS

D. TCP

5. For tar to be able to archive the selected files, it is mandatory that the user executing the tar command be able to _____ the file(s).

A. read

B. write

C. execute

D. link

6. What is the command to display disk usage in a human-readable format?

A. du -h

B. df -h

C. ls -lh

D. stat -h

7. When using the tar utility, which option (switch) is needed to list the contents of an archive?

A. -c

B. -t

C. -x

D. -l

8. Which configuration file specifies the default locale settings in RHEL?

A. /etc/locale.settings

B. /etc/locale.conf

C. /etc/default/locale

D. /etc/locale.default

9. Which Linux command allows you to view the contents of a text file in a paginated manner?

A. cat

B. more

C. tail

D. nano

10. The useradd command is primarily used to what?

A. Add a user to the /etc/passwd file

B. Add a group to the /etc/group file

C. Add a user to the superusers list

D. None of the above

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What does the command 'chmod 755' accomplish?

A. Grants read, write, and execute permissions to the user; read and execute for group and others

B. Grants only read permission for all users

C. Removes all permissions from group and others

D. Grants write and execute permissions to the group only

The command 'chmod 755' is used to set the permissions of a file or directory in a Linux system. When executed, it modifies the permissions in a specific manner. The number '755' is composed of three digits, each of which defines permissions for different categories of users: the owner (user), the group, and others. In this instance, the first digit '7' corresponds to the owner's permissions. The value '7' is a combination of read (4), write (2), and execute (1) permissions, which means the owner has full control over the file or directory—able to read, write, and execute it. The second digit '5' pertains to the group's permissions. The value '5' is a combination of read (4) and execute (1) permissions only—meaning that the group can read and execute the file or directory, but cannot modify it. The third digit '5' defines the permissions for others (everyone else). Like the group, others have read and execute (but not write) permissions. Thus, the command effectively grants read, write, and execute permissions to the user; read and execute permissions to both the group and others. This structure is particularly useful for scripts or programs

2. Which command is used to list the contents of a directory?

A. show [directory]

B. list [directory]

C. ls [directory]

D. dir [directory]

The command that is used to list the contents of a directory in Linux, including on RHEL systems, is "ls [directory]". This command is widely utilized across various Unix-like operating systems, making it a fundamental tool for file and directory management. When you run "ls" followed by a directory name, it will display the files and folders contained within that directory in a concise format. By default, it lists the names of the files and directories in a column format. Moreover, the `ls` command is equipped with numerous options, allowing users to customize the output and view additional details, such as file permissions, sizes, and timestamps. The other commands, while they might be familiar or used in other contexts (for example, "dir" is more commonplace in DOS and Windows command line environments), are not standard or recognized for listing directory contents in the same way as "ls" is in Unix-like systems. Therefore, knowing and employing the "ls" command is essential for effectively navigating and managing directories in a Linux environment.

3. Which configuration file controls the default behavior of user account settings in Linux?

A. /etc/passwd

B. /etc/shadow

C. /etc/login.defs

D. /etc/group

The configuration file that controls the default behavior of user account settings in Linux is /etc/login.defs. This file is essential for defining user account properties and system-wide settings that impact the creation and management of user accounts. It specifies parameters such as the minimum and maximum age of passwords, default UID and GID ranges for new users, and other account-related policies that are applied during the user account creation process. In contrast, /etc/passwd is primarily a user account database that contains basic information about user accounts, such as usernames, UIDs, GIDs, home directories, and default shells. It does not dictate default settings or behaviors for user accounts. The /etc/shadow file holds secure user account information, specifically passwords and password expiration data. While it is crucial for security, it does not govern user account policies or defaults. Similarly, /etc/group is utilized to define groups on the system, including group names, GIDs, and member user accounts. Like /etc/passwd, it does not influence the overall behavior of user accounts beyond group management. Thus, /etc/login.defs is the file that centralizes various default user account settings that are applied when managing user accounts in a Linux system.

4. Which one of these is not a common protocol?

A. SSH

B. HTTPS

C. NFS

D. TCP

In the context of networking protocols, TCP, or Transmission Control Protocol, is a foundational protocol that operates at the transport layer of the Internet Protocol Suite. It is responsible for establishing connections and ensuring reliable data transmission between devices. Because TCP is a fundamental building block for many higher-level protocols, it is crucial for network communication, making it a common protocol in use. In contrast, SSH, HTTPS, and NFS are all specific application-layer protocols. SSH (Secure Shell) is used for secure remote login and other secure network services, HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure) is used for secure communication over a computer network, especially on the internet, and NFS (Network File System) allows file sharing across networks. While all of these are indeed common protocols used for specific purposes, TCP is a general transport protocol rather than a specialized application protocol, which aligns it with the core functionality of networking rather than particular applications. Therefore, identifying TCP as not being a common protocol in the same category as SSH, HTTPS, and NFS reflects this distinction in the layer of the networking stack in which they function.

5. For tar to be able to archive the selected files, it is mandatory that the user executing the tar command be able to _____ the file(s).

A. read

B. write

C. execute

D. link

When using the tar command to create an archive, it is essential that the user has read permissions for the files they wish to include in the archive. This is because tar needs to access the contents of the files in order to copy them into the archive. If the user does not have read permission, the tar command will fail to access and thus will not be able to archive those files. The focus here is on the fundamental principle of file permissions in Linux. The read permission allows for the content of files to be accessed and displayed, which is critical for archiving purposes. While write permissions can be necessary for creating or modifying files and directories, they are not required for simply reading from files to create an archive. Execution permissions pertain to scripts and binaries, enabling them to be run as programs, whereas linking is related to creating references to files, which does not impact the ability to archive. Thus, it is the read permission that is mandatory for the successful execution of the tar command to archive selected files.

6. What is the command to display disk usage in a human-readable format?

A. du -h

B. df -h

C. ls -lh

D. stat -h

The command to display disk usage in a human-readable format is indeed constructed using "du -h". The "du" command, which stands for disk usage, is used to estimate file space usage on a filesystem. When used with the "-h" option, the sizes are output in a format that is easier to read; specifically, it converts the byte counts into a more manageable format using KB, MB, GB, etc. This makes it straightforward for users to understand the amount of disk space being used without needing to interpret large numbers directly. It is important to note that "df -h" is a command as well, but it serves a different purpose. While "df" reports on the amount of disk space used and available on filesystems, it encompasses the entire filesystem rather than individual files or directories, even though it also includes a human-readable option. The "ls -lh" command shows the size of files in a human-readable format in a directory listing, but it doesn't specifically report on disk usage for directories or files in the same way "du" does. Lastly, "stat -h" is not a standard command that relates directly to disk usage or displays it in a human-readable format; instead, "stat" is used

7. When using the tar utility, which option (switch) is needed to list the contents of an archive?

A. -c

B. -t

C. -x

D. -l

The tar utility is commonly used for creating and handling archive files in Linux. To list the contents of an archive without extracting the files, the appropriate switch is crucial. The option that allows you to do this is -t, which stands for "list." When you use the -t switch with tar, it will display the files contained within the specified archive. This is an essential functionality for users who want to review the contents of an archive before deciding to extract any files. This capability is particularly valuable when dealing with large archives or when you need to verify the files that are included without making any modifications to the archive itself. The other options serve different purposes. The -c switch is used for creating a new archive, while the -x switch is for extracting the files from an existing archive. The -l switch, on the other hand, is not a standard option associated with the tar command, making it irrelevant in this context. Understanding the correct use of these options is important for effective file management using tar.

8. Which configuration file specifies the default locale settings in RHEL?

A. /etc/locale.settings

B. /etc/locale.conf

C. /etc/default/locale

D. /etc/locale.default

The configuration file that specifies the default locale settings in Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) is /etc/locale.conf. This file is crucial for establishing the system's character encoding and language settings that affect how software interacts with the system. When the system starts, it reads this configuration file to set the environment variables that define the locale, such as LANG, LC_ALL, and other LC_* variables. Using /etc/locale.conf allows administrators to ensure consistent locale settings across all users and applications on the system. The settings defined within this file can help manage the way data is represented and processed, making it essential for applications that rely on correct character encoding and language support. While other options may appear plausible at first glance, they either do not exist in the typical RHEL system, or they serve different purposes. For example, there is not usually a file specifically named /etc/locale.settings, /etc/default/locale may be used in different distributions like Debian, and /etc/locale.default is not a standard file in RHEL for specifying locale settings. Thus, /etc/locale.conf is the proper and standard file for managing default locale configurations in RHEL.

9. Which Linux command allows you to view the contents of a text file in a paginated manner?

A. cat

B. more

C. tail

D. nano

The command that allows you to view the contents of a text file in a paginated manner is "more." This command displays the file content one screen at a time, making it easier to read large files without scrolling through everything at once. You can navigate through the content using the spacebar to advance one page, or the Enter key to scroll one line at a time, and it provides a simple way to read through lengthy documents. Other commands serve different purposes. "cat" is used to concatenate and display the entire contents of a file, but it does not provide pagination, which means for larger files, the output can scroll past the terminal window. "tail" is primarily used to view the last few lines of a file, which can be useful for checking log files or recent entries, but it does not facilitate reading the entire file in a controlled manner. "nano," on the other hand, is a text editor that opens files for editing rather than just viewing, which is not suitable for simply paginating through a text file's contents.

10. The useradd command is primarily used to what?

A. Add a user to the /etc/passwd file

B. Add a group to the /etc/group file

C. Add a user to the superusers list

D. None of the above

The useradd command is primarily used for adding a new user account to the Linux system, and it indeed modifies the /etc/passwd file, which is a fundamental file for user management. When you execute the useradd command, it establishes a new user and creates an entry in the /etc/passwd file that contains details like the username, user ID (UID), group ID (GID), home directory, and default shell. This action is critical for system administration as it allows users to log into the system with their unique credentials and access resources based on their permissions. While there are additional related files, such as /etc/shadow (for password storage) and /etc/group (for group information), the command's primary action focuses on adding the user to the passwd database. Hence, this makes the option regarding adding a user to the /etc/passwd file the correct answer.

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://rhellinux-redhatsystemadministration.examzify.com

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