

SCIENCE PSSA 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 material does not allow heat or electrons to move through it easily?

- A. Conductor
- B. Insulator
- C. Semiconductor
- D. Resistor

2. What is an aquifer?

- A. A type of soil
- B. A layer of rock that stores groundwater
- C. A lake or water body
- D. None of the above

3. Which definition correctly describes a parasite?

- A. An organism that serves as a protector of another
- B. An organism that benefits from another at its expense
- C. An organism that lives independently in the environment
- D. An organism that provides mutual benefits to another

4. What is the term for the process by which wind, water, ice, or gravity transports soil and sediment from one location to another?

- A. Erosion
- B. Deposition
- C. Weathering
- D. Transportation

5. What term describes the flow of water from land surface into the subsurface through soil?

- A. Evaporation
- B. Infiltration
- C. Transpiration
- D. Percolation

- 6. What is the process called when liquid water changes into vapor?**
- A. Condensation
 - B. Evaporation
 - C. Precipitation
 - D. Sublimation
- 7. What type of erosion occurs as a result of water flowing over land?**
- A. Wind erosion
 - B. Water erosion
 - C. Soil erosion
 - D. Ice erosion
- 8. What is the term for the response that occurs following a message in communication?**
- A. Output
 - B. Feedback
 - C. Input
 - D. Reaction
- 9. What is a genetic factor called that can overshadow another genetic factor?**
- A. Recessive trait
 - B. Dominant trait
 - C. Homologous trait
 - D. Autosomal trait
- 10. What is energy from the sun converted into thermal or electrical energy called?**
- A. Geothermal energy
 - B. Solar energy
 - C. Fossil fuel energy
 - D. Wind energy

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which material does not allow heat or electrons to move through it easily?

- A. Conductor
- B. Insulator**
- C. Semiconductor
- D. Resistor

The material that does not allow heat or electrons to move through it easily is an insulator. Insulators are designed to inhibit the flow of electricity and thermal energy. This characteristic arises because insulators have tightly bound electrons that do not move freely, which prevents them from conducting electricity. Additionally, insulators are effective in preventing heat transfer, making them ideal for applications where maintaining temperature is crucial, such as in thermal insulation in buildings or in electrical wiring to prevent shocks. In contrast, conductors are materials that allow heat and electricity to flow freely due to their loosely bound electrons. Semiconductors have properties that fall between those of conductors and insulators and can conduct electricity under certain conditions. Resistors are components that limit the flow of electric current but do not necessarily serve the purpose of insulating from heat or preventing electricity from passing through, as they are specifically designed to create resistance in a circuit. Thus, the defining features of an insulator make it the correct choice for this question.

2. What is an aquifer?

- A. A type of soil
- B. A layer of rock that stores groundwater**
- C. A lake or water body
- D. None of the above

An aquifer is defined as a layer of rock or sediment that is capable of storing and transmitting groundwater. This makes it a crucial component of the hydrological cycle, as aquifers act as natural reservoirs for fresh water that can be tapped for irrigation, drinking water, and other uses. The geological composition of an aquifer, often made up of permeable materials like sand, gravel, or porous rock, allows water to flow through it and accumulate. This characteristic enables the aquifer to serve as a reliable source of water, especially in regions where surface water is scarce. Understanding aquifers is important for resource management and environmental conservation, as they play a vital role in maintaining groundwater supplies.

3. Which definition correctly describes a parasite?

- A. An organism that serves as a protector of another
- B. An organism that benefits from another at its expense**
- C. An organism that lives independently in the environment
- D. An organism that provides mutual benefits to another

A parasite is defined as an organism that benefits from another organism, known as the host, at the expense of that host. This relationship is characterized by the parasite obtaining nutrients or resources from the host while potentially causing harm or detriment to the host's health or wellbeing. This behavior can manifest in various forms, such as feeding on the host's tissues, consuming its resources, or even causing diseases. The nature of parasitism distinguishes it from other types of biological interactions. In mutualism, for example, both organisms benefit from the relationship, while in commensalism, one organism benefits without significantly affecting the other. The definition provided in the correct choice highlights this key aspect of parasitic relationships, emphasizing the unbalanced nature of the interaction where the parasite thrives at the host's expense.

4. What is the term for the process by which wind, water, ice, or gravity transports soil and sediment from one location to another?

- A. Erosion**
- B. Deposition
- C. Weathering
- D. Transportation

The process by which wind, water, ice, or gravity moves soil and sediment from one location to another is known as erosion. Erosion involves the removal of material from the Earth's surface through the actions of these natural forces. For example, running water can wash away soil on a hillside, while wind can carry sand from one place to another, reshaping landscapes over time. It's important to differentiate erosion from other related terms. While deposition refers specifically to the process of sediment being laid down in a new location after being transported, erosion is the initial movement of that sediment. Weathering involves the breaking down of rocks and minerals into smaller particles due to various factors, typically without movement, while transportation generally refers to the conveyance of particles; however, erosion specifically includes the process of removing them from their original location, making erosion the most accurate term in this context.

5. What term describes the flow of water from land surface into the subsurface through soil?

- A. Evaporation
- B. Infiltration**
- C. Transpiration
- D. Percolation

The term that describes the flow of water from the land surface into the subsurface through soil is infiltration. Infiltration occurs when water, primarily from precipitation or irrigation, seeps into the ground and permeates through the soil layers. This process is essential for recharging groundwater supplies, supporting plant growth by providing moisture to roots, and maintaining the hydrological cycle. Infiltration is influenced by several factors including soil composition, structure, saturation levels, and vegetation. For instance, sandy soils typically allow water to infiltrate more quickly than clayey soils, which may retain water on the surface for longer periods because of their smaller particle size and compact nature. Other related processes include percolation, which refers more specifically to the movement of water through the soil layers after infiltration has occurred, and evaporation and transpiration, which involve the movement of water from the surface back into the atmosphere rather than into the subsurface. Thus, infiltration is a key part of understanding how water interacts with the land and soil.

6. What is the process called when liquid water changes into vapor?

- A. Condensation
- B. Evaporation**
- C. Precipitation
- D. Sublimation

The process in which liquid water transforms into vapor is known as evaporation. This occurs when water molecules at the surface gain enough energy, typically from heat, to break free from the liquid state and enter the gaseous state. Evaporation is a critical component of the water cycle, allowing water from oceans, lakes, and rivers to move into the atmosphere as vapor. Understanding this process also ties into concepts such as temperature and humidity, as warmer temperatures generally increase the rate of evaporation by providing more energy to the water molecules. This phase change can happen at any temperature when liquid water is exposed to air, not just when it reaches its boiling point.

7. What type of erosion occurs as a result of water flowing over land?

- A. Wind erosion
- B. Water erosion**
- C. Soil erosion
- D. Ice erosion

Water erosion refers to the process in which water flows over land, leading to the removal and transport of soil and rock materials from one location to another. This erosion can occur through various mechanisms, such as rainfall runoff, river flow, or even waves along a shoreline. When water moves, it can pick up loose particles from the ground and carry them away, leading to changes in landforms, sediment deposition, and sometimes the degradation of agricultural land. This process is highly significant in shaping landscapes, influencing ecosystems, and impacting human activities such as farming and construction. Other types of erosion, such as wind erosion, soil erosion, and ice erosion, involve different forces or agents. Wind erosion primarily involves the movement of soil by wind, which is more common in arid regions. Soil erosion is a broader term that can include water erosion but also refers to the wearing away of topsoil by any natural forces. Ice erosion occurs due to the movement of glaciers and ice, which can carve out land but is distinct from the impact of flowing water. Therefore, the specific term that accurately describes the process resulting from the flow of water over land is water erosion.

8. What is the term for the response that occurs following a message in communication?

- A. Output
- B. Feedback**
- C. Input
- D. Reaction

The term "feedback" refers to the response that occurs following a message in the communication process. When one individual conveys a message to another, the recipient processes that information and may respond in various ways. This response can take the form of verbal comments, non-verbal cues, or follow-up actions, all of which provide the sender with insight into how the message was received. Feedback is crucial in communication as it helps to improve understanding and facilitates a two-way exchange of information. It allows the sender to gauge the effectiveness of their communication and make necessary adjustments, promoting clearer and more effective interactions.

9. What is a genetic factor called that can overshadow another genetic factor?

- A. Recessive trait
- B. Dominant trait**
- C. Homologous trait
- D. Autosomal trait

A genetic factor that can overshadow another genetic factor is known as a dominant trait. Dominant traits are characterized by their ability to express themselves in the phenotype even when only one copy of the allele is present. This means that if an individual inherits a dominant allele from one parent, the trait associated with that allele will be exhibited, regardless of whether the other allele is recessive. In contrast, recessive traits require two copies of the recessive allele (one from each parent) to be expressed in the phenotype. Homologous traits refer to genes that are located on homologous chromosomes and are not specifically related to dominance or suppression of other traits. Autosomal traits describe characteristics that are determined by genes located on autosomes (non-sex chromosomes) but do not indicate dominance. Understanding dominant and recessive traits is fundamental in genetics, as these interactions determine how traits are passed down through generations and expressed in organisms.

10. What is energy from the sun converted into thermal or electrical energy called?

A. Geothermal energy

B. Solar energy

C. Fossil fuel energy

D. Wind energy

Energy from the sun that is transformed into thermal or electrical energy is referred to as solar energy. This process harnesses sunlight through various technologies, such as solar panels or solar thermal systems. Solar energy has numerous applications, including generating electricity to power homes and businesses or providing heat for residential and industrial use. The significance of solar energy lies in its renewable nature and abundance, as the sun provides a continuous source of energy that can be converted into usable forms. This makes it a pivotal component of sustainable energy strategies, contributing to a decrease in reliance on fossil fuels and helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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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://sciencepssa.examzify.com>

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

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