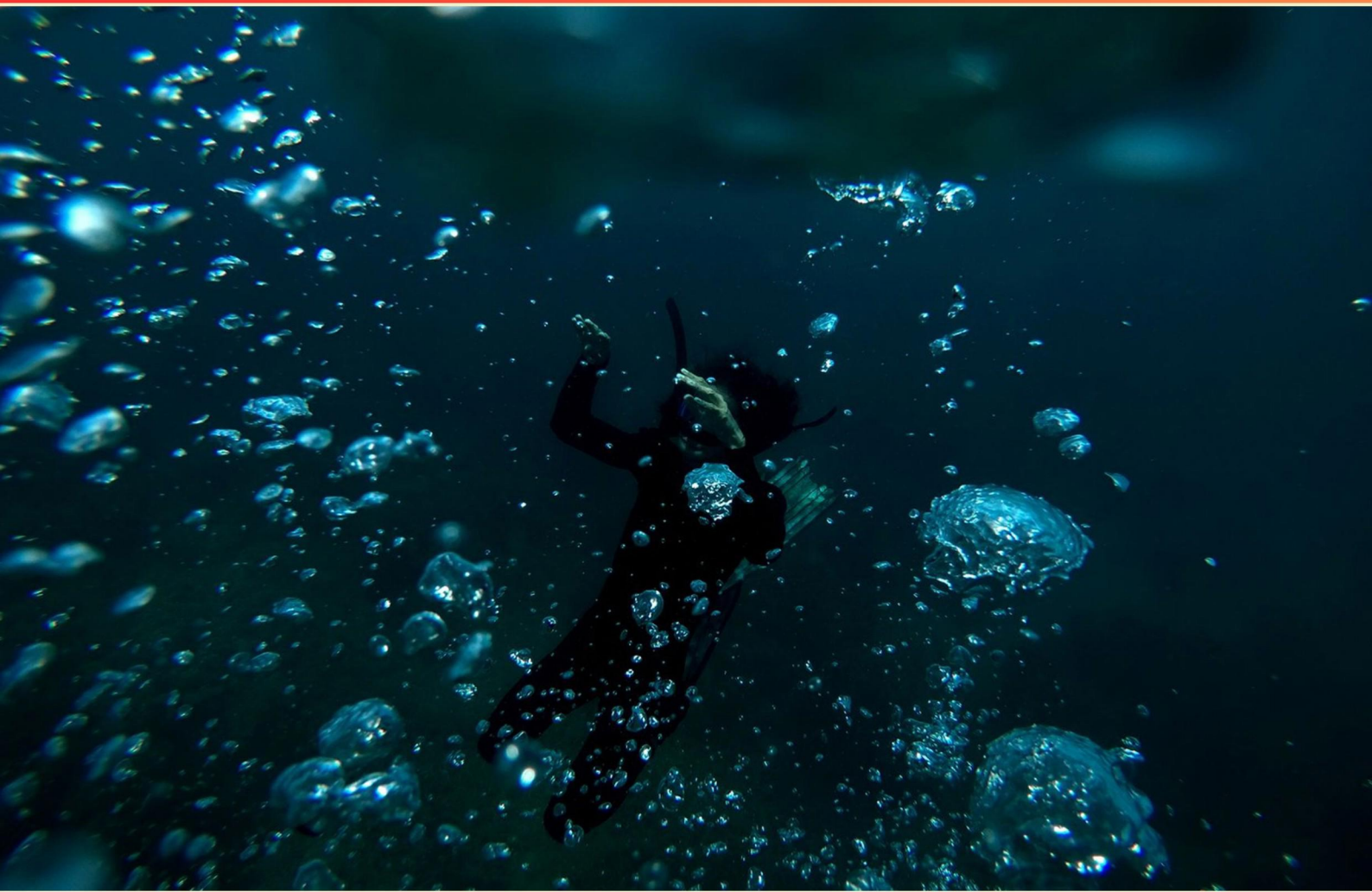


SCUBA DIVING INTERNATIONAL (SDI) AFS 270 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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 type of alternate air source does not necessarily require the donor to give up his primary second stage?**
 - A. Technical diving configuration.
 - B. Alternate-air-source inflator.
 - C. Conventional alternate-air-source second stage.
 - D. None of the above.
- 2. What is the best description of risk management in diving?**
 - A. Eliminating all possible accidents
 - B. Preventing problems and having a plan for emergencies
 - C. Just having good insurance
 - D. Having the latest gear
- 3. First aid for suspected decompression sickness may include all of the following except:**
 - A. Activate the EMS system and contact the Divers Alert Network (DAN).
 - B. Monitor the patient's vital signs.
 - C. Get the diver back in the water and repeat any missed or omitted decompression.
 - D. Administer pure oxygen.
- 4. The best time to dive is during slack tide.**
 - A. It varies by location
 - B. False
 - C. True
 - D. It is never the best time
- 5. If you feel pain or discomfort during descent, which is the recommended action?**
 - A. Stop, hold in place and equalize forcefully until your ears clear.
 - B. Ascend to the point where you can comfortably equalize, and only then continue your descent.
 - C. Abort the dive and consult a physician.
 - D. Note the depth at which the pain occurred and conduct your safety stop there at the end of the dive.

- 6. Objects under water appear 60 percent larger than they do on land.**
- A. Not always
 - B. True
 - C. Depends on depth
 - D. False
- 7. What is the recommended action when you cannot inhale during an independent emergency ascent?**
- A. Exhale completely prior to ascent.
 - B. Hold your breath.
 - C. Exhale continuously any time you cannot inhale.
 - D. Spit out your regulator.
- 8. Which pieces of equipment should never be allowed to dangle freely?**
- A. Alternate-Air-Source Second Stage
 - B. BC Power Inflator
 - C. Submersible Pressure Gauge Or Instrument Console
 - D. Both The First And Third Answers Are Correct
- 9. If you are unable to make a required decompression stop:**
- A. All of the above
 - B. Breathe pure oxygen for at least 30 minutes
 - C. Do not dive or fly for at least 24 hours
 - D. Monitor for signs and symptoms for the next 24 hours
- 10. When searching for a missing buddy, which statement best reflects the risk described in the material?**
- A. It may put you at risk.
 - B. It will always succeed.
 - C. It has no effect on risk.
 - D. It guarantees safety.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which type of alternate air source does not necessarily require the donor to give up his primary second stage?

- A. Technical diving configuration.
- B. Alternate-air-source inflator.
- C. Conventional alternate-air-source second stage.**
- D. None of the above.

Sharing air in a buddy situation relies on having a dedicated alternate air source that the recipient can use while the donor keeps breathing from their own regulator. In the conventional alternate-air-source second stage setup, the extra second stage is on its own hose and the buddy who needs air uses that alternate regulator, while the donor continues to breathe from their own primary second stage. Because the donor doesn't have to hand over or relinquish their primary regulator, this arrangement does not necessarily require the donor to give up his primary second stage. Other configurations, such as those integrated with the inflator or more complex technical-diving arrangements, can involve different handoffs or setups that might complicate whether the donor would relinquish their primary. But the standard conventional second stage setup is designed to allow air sharing without requiring the donor to give up his primary.

2. What is the best description of risk management in diving?

- A. Eliminating all possible accidents
- B. Preventing problems and having a plan for emergencies**
- C. Just having good insurance
- D. Having the latest gear

Risk management in diving means focusing on preventing problems and having a plan for emergencies. It's about anticipating hazards before you enter the water, planning your dive to stay within your training and gas limits, and using procedures that reduce the chance of trouble. Practical steps include proper pre-dive checks, sticking to conservative dive plans, buddy separation awareness, and maintaining gear so it works when you need it. Gas management is a core part—organizing your cylinder(s), knowing your consumption, planning turns and reserves, and having a backup plan if a problem arises. It also means being ready to act quickly if something does go wrong: clear emergency procedures, signals to surface, a plan for ascent or bailout, and access to rescue help if needed. This approach is why preventing problems and having an emergency plan is the best description. Simply having the latest gear or insurance doesn't automatically manage risk, and aiming to eliminate all accidents isn't realistic because diving involves inherent hazards. The emphasis is on smart planning, training, and preparedness that reduce both the likelihood and the impact of any problem.

3. First aid for suspected decompression sickness may include all of the following except:

- A. Activate the EMS system and contact the Divers Alert Network (DAN).
- B. Monitor the patient's vital signs.
- C. Get the diver back in the water and repeat any missed or omitted decompression.**
- D. Administer pure oxygen.

The main idea is that suspected decompression sickness is treated by stopping further exposure, giving high flow oxygen, and getting professional care as quickly as possible, not by trying to re-create decompression in the field. Re-entering the water to repeat any missed decompression can worsen bubbles and symptoms and is not a valid first-aid step. The appropriate actions are to activate EMS and contact DAN so experts can arrange rapid hyperbaric treatment, monitor the diver's vital signs to catch any deterioration, and administer pure oxygen to accelerate nitrogen washout and improve tissue oxygenation.

4. The best time to dive is during slack tide.

- A. It varies by location
- B. False
- C. True**
- D. It is never the best time

Slack tide is that brief window when tidal current is at its weakest as the flow reverses. In these moments, the water moves much less, so you have minimal drift. That makes entry and exit safer and easier to control, and it helps you stay on your planned path without fighting strong pushes. With little current, buoyancy is easier to manage, navigation is more straightforward, and you're less likely to be swept into hazards or sediment that stirs up when the water is moving. Because these calmer conditions make dives more predictable and safer, slack tide is generally the best time to dive. The exact timing and length of slack vary by location, but the principle remains: the least current around slack tide tends to offer more manageable diving conditions.

5. If you feel pain or discomfort during descent, which is the recommended action?

- A. Stop, hold in place and equalize forcefully until your ears clear.
- B. Ascend to the point where you can comfortably equalize, and only then continue your descent.**
- C. Abort the dive and consult a physician.
- D. Note the depth at which the pain occurred and conduct your safety stop there at the end of the dive.

When you feel pain or discomfort during descent, your priority is to manage the pressure in your ears. The best action is to ascend to a depth where you can comfortably equalize, and then continue your descent. Pain means the middle ear can't equalize with the surrounding water pressure yet, and forcing it can cause barotrauma or damage. By moving up to a shallower depth, you give your ears a chance to equalize more easily. Once you're pain-free and can equalize comfortably, you can resume your descent gradually. This approach is safer than continuing deeper while in pain, which can worsen ear injury. Abruptly aborting the dive is only necessary if symptoms persist or are signs of more serious injury, and choosing to finish the dive at the point of pain doesn't address the problem and isn't recommended.

6. Objects under water appear 60 percent larger than they do on land.

- A. Not always
- B. True
- C. Depends on depth
- D. False**

Objects seen underwater aren't enlarged by a fixed percentage. What you notice comes from refraction at the water surface (and, if you're wearing a mask, the magnifying effect of the air in the mask). This bending of light makes things look closer and somewhat larger, but the amount of magnification is not a constant value—it depends on viewing angle, depth, and whether you're looking through a mask. Because there isn't a universal 60% increase, the statement isn't accurate.

7. What is the recommended action when you cannot inhale during an independent emergency ascent?

- A. Exhale completely prior to ascent.
- B. Hold your breath.
- C. Exhale continuously any time you cannot inhale.**
- D. Spit out your regulator.

The important idea is to avoid breath-holding during an ascent. If you can't inhale, you should exhale continuously any time you cannot inhale. Exhaling steadily as you rise prevents air from being trapped in the lungs and reduces the risk of lung overexpansion injuries that can occur when air is held in as ambient pressure falls. Maintaining a continuous exhale also keeps you from blocking the regulator and helps you stay calm and buoyant while you work to resolve the emergency. Exhaling completely before ascending isn't helpful in this scenario because the situation calls for managing air flow during the ascent itself. Holding your breath is dangerous for the same reason—air expansion in the lungs during ascent can cause injury. Spitting out the regulator would interrupt your air supply and isn't a safe or effective response to an emergency ascent.

8. Which pieces of equipment should never be allowed to dangle freely?

- A. Alternate-Air-Source Second Stage
- B. BC Power Inflator
- C. Submersible Pressure Gauge Or Instrument Console
- D. Both The First And Third Answers Are Correct**

Free-hanging gear can snag on surrounding equipment, get pulled unintentionally, or deploy when not wanted. The alternate-air-source second stage is a backup regulator; if it dangles, it can catch on gear or lines, be pulled from the mouth, or suffer damage to the mouthpiece or valve, which can compromise air delivery when you need it most. The submersible pressure gauge or instrument console carries critical readings you rely on during a dive; letting it dangle means the hose can snag on objects, the display can be hard to read in a hurry, and movement of the hose can affect your ability to monitor depth and air supply. Because these two pieces must stay secure and readily controlled, they should never be allowed to dangle freely, which is why that option is correct.

9. If you are unable to make a required decompression stop:

- A. All of the above**
- B. Breathe pure oxygen for at least 30 minutes
- C. Do not dive or fly for at least 24 hours
- D. Monitor for signs and symptoms for the next 24 hours

When a required decompression stop can't be completed, you're at risk for decompression illness and must take precautionary actions that cover immediate off-gassing, avoidance of further pressure changes, and watchful monitoring. Breathe 100% oxygen for at least 30 minutes to speed nitrogen off-gassing and reduce bubble formation. Do not dive or fly for at least 24 hours to prevent additional nitrogen loading and exposure to pressure changes. Monitor for signs and symptoms for the next 24 hours because symptoms can be delayed and early treatment improves outcomes. Taken together, these steps address the immediate risk and any possible delayed effects, which is why all of the above is the best course.

10. When searching for a missing buddy, which statement best reflects the risk described in the material?

A. It may put you at risk.

B. It will always succeed.

C. It has no effect on risk.

D. It guarantees safety.

Searching for a missing buddy carries inherent risk for the diver doing the search. The act consumes air and time, increases cognitive load, and can pull you away from your own buddy and the team, exposing you to currents, entanglement, and equipment issues. Because of these factors, the outcome isn't guaranteed and safety isn't assured. The best reflection of the risk is that it may put you at risk. It isn't guaranteed to succeed, nor does it guarantee safety.

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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://sdiags270.examzify.com>

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

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