

SkillsUSA Broadcast News Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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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 role is primarily responsible for shooting video on location?**
 - A. Videographer**
 - B. Reporter**
 - C. Producer**
 - D. Editor**

- 2. What is the short indent used as filler leading into and out of commercial breaks?**
 - A. Breakbumper**
 - B. Teaser**
 - C. Stinger**
 - D. Teaser Tag**

- 3. What is the industry standard reference for formatting and word usage in news writing?**
 - A. AP Stylebook**
 - B. Chicago Manual of Style**
 - C. MLA Handbook**
 - D. APA Publication Manual**

- 4. Which item is not typically considered part of a VOSOT script's content?**
 - A. Teleprompter**
 - B. Video**
 - C. Track**
 - D. Sound Bite**

- 5. A directive to switch to a broadcast already in progress is called what?**
 - A. Lead**
 - B. Join in Progress (JIP)**
 - C. Live**
 - D. Kicker**

- 6. Woodshedding refers to which practice in script preparation?**
- A. Annotating for Emphasis**
 - B. Editing for Grammar**
 - C. Subtitling**
 - D. Logging**
- 7. What term refers to a short description of an upcoming story designed to keep the viewer watching through commercial breaks?**
- A. Tag**
 - B. Tease**
 - C. Tight on**
 - D. Toss**
- 8. Which term describes a reporter delivering a line to camera without video?**
- A. Still**
 - B. Sting**
 - C. Standup**
 - D. SOT**
- 9. Which type of video is unedited and presented as it was shot?**
- A. Raw Video**
 - B. Edited Clip**
 - C. B-Roll**
 - D. Montage**
- 10. Lining up stories within a newscast by importance and relationship is called?**
- A. Standup**
 - B. Stagger-through**
 - C. Stacking**
 - D. Still**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which role is primarily responsible for shooting video on location?

A. Videographer

B. Reporter

C. Producer

D. Editor

Capturing the footage on location is the core duty of the videographer. This role centers on operating the camera, framing and composing shots, setting exposure, focus, and typically handling or coordinating audio to ensure the visuals tell the story clearly. On location, the videographer works with the reporter to get the right visuals, whether it's a stand-up, an interview, or B-roll, and adapts to changing lighting and environments so the footage is ready for broadcast. The reporter's primary job is to gather information, conduct interviews, and present the story, not to handle the camera. The producer oversees planning, coordination, and overall production logistics. The editor works after filming to assemble and refine the footage into the final package. So, for the task of shooting video on location, the videographer is the best fit because that is precisely what they specialize in.

2. What is the short indent used as filler leading into and out of commercial breaks?

A. Breakbumper

B. Teaser

C. Stinger

D. Teaser Tag

Break bumpers are the short cues used to bridge content and commercial breaks. They're intentionally brief—just a couple of seconds of music or a quick visual ident—so they don't interrupt the program but clearly signal that a break is coming or ending. This helps re-orient the audience and keeps the broadcast's rhythm smooth as you move into or out of ads. A teaser is designed to promote upcoming content and isn't meant to fill time between segments. A stinger is a punchy, attention-grabbing cue used to punctuate a moment or end a segment, not the neutral filler that marks the transition into and out of a break. A teaser tag serves like a promo fragment attached to content rather than a standard break transition. So the break bumper best fits the role described.

3. What is the industry standard reference for formatting and word usage in news writing?

- A. AP Stylebook**
- B. Chicago Manual of Style**
- C. MLA Handbook**
- D. APA Publication Manual**

In journalism, a single reference keeps how things are written consistent across all stories. The AP Stylebook is the industry standard for formatting and word usage in news writing because it offers concise, newsroom-friendly rules that apply to everyday reporting—how to abbreviate organizations, spell names, handle dates and times, and format numbers so copy reads clearly on air and online. This practicality and broad adoption in newsrooms make it the go-to guide for broadcast news. Other style guides serve different fields: the Chicago Manual of Style is favored in book publishing and longer-form writing with detailed citation rules; the MLA Handbook is the standard for many humanities papers; the APA Publication Manual is used in the social sciences with a focus on citations and research reporting. For newsrooms and broadcast journalism, AP provides the most relevant and widely used framework, which is why it's considered the best answer.

4. Which item is not typically considered part of a VOSOT script's content?

- A. Teleprompter**
- B. Video**
- C. Track**
- D. Sound Bite**

In a VOSOT script, you're outlining what the audience will hear and see in the package. The script shows the voiceover lines (to be read on a teleprompter), the video that will accompany those lines, and the track—essentially the background audio or natural sound that sits under the narration. The teleprompter cue is included because the VO is read from it, the video cue is the footage viewers will watch, and the track cue tells producers what audio bed or nat sound to play underneath. A sound bite, while a common element in many broadcasts, isn't typically listed as part of the VOSOT script's content. It's a short clip from an interview used within the package, but it's treated as a separate asset rather than a line written into the VO/script itself. That's why it's not considered part of the script's core content in this context. So the items that fit are the teleprompter (for delivering the VO), the video (the visuals shown), and the track (the audio bed or nat sound). The sound bite is the element that's generally handled as a separate piece rather than part of the script's content.

5. A directive to switch to a broadcast already in progress is called what?

- A. Lead
- B. Join in Progress (JIP)**
- C. Live
- D. Kicker

Joining a broadcast that's already underway is called joining in progress, or JIP. This term describes the action of switching the audience to a program that is currently in progress rather than starting from the top. It's used when a breaking event or urgent update requires you to cut into the live feed midstream, so viewers are brought directly to the ongoing coverage with any necessary orientation. This is different from simply labeling a feed as live, which only indicates the broadcast is on air but doesn't convey the midstream switch. A lead refers to the main story or opening segment, and a kicker is a short closing piece, neither of which describe the action of entering a running broadcast.

6. Woodshedding refers to which practice in script preparation?

- A. Annotating for Emphasis**
- B. Editing for Grammar
- C. Subtitling
- D. Logging

Woodshedding centers on marking a script to guide delivery, emphasis, and timing. In script preparation for broadcast news or performance, you annotate where to place emphasis on certain words or phrases, where to pause, and how the tone should rise or fall. This makes your practice more efficient because the written text becomes a set of cues you can follow during rehearsal and on air, helping you deliver with the intended impact and clarity. It's not about fixing grammar or editing the text, which would be editing for correctness; it's not about creating on-screen captions, which is subtitling; and it's not about recording events, which is logging. The goal is to translate the script into vocal and pacing signals that guide your performance.

7. What term refers to a short description of an upcoming story designed to keep the viewer watching through commercial breaks?

- A. Tag
- B. Tease**
- C. Tight on
- D. Toss

A tease is a short preview of an upcoming story designed to hook viewers and keep them tuning in through commercial breaks. It acts like a quick, enticing hint about what's coming next without giving away details, which makes people want to stay on the channel. In practice, you might hear it as a line like "Coming up, the surprise that changed everything in your town—stay with us." That sticks in the audience's mind and encourages them to keep watching. A tag, by contrast, is a brief closing line after a story. A tight on refers to a specific camera shot (a close-up), and a toss is a transition between anchors. Those elements serve different purposes than a tease. The tease best fits the idea of a short, provocative description used to hold viewers through the break.

8. Which term describes a reporter delivering a line to camera without video?

- A. Still**
- B. Sting**
- C. Standup**
- D. SOT**

The idea being tested is how reporters speak directly to the audience for a segment, typically while on location. When a reporter delivers a line to the camera in a live-action shot, we call that a standup. It's the moment the reporter appears on screen, addressing the audience and guiding the story, often bridging from one element to another. This distinguishes it from other broadcast elements: a still is just a photo used in a package, a sting is a short musical cue, and a SOT is a short interview clip with someone speaking on video. A standup specifically captures the reporter in front of the camera delivering narration or context.

9. Which type of video is unedited and presented as it was shot?

- A. Raw Video**
- B. Edited Clip**
- C. B-Roll**
- D. Montage**

The main idea here is showing footage exactly as it was captured, with no edits or processing. Raw video is footage straight from the camera in its original form, preserving the original sequence, timing, and any natural sounds or imperfections. This gives viewers an authentic look at what happened, without decisions about what to cut or how to arrange the shots. Why this fits best: Raw video preserves the event in its original state, including pauses, mistakes, or background noise, which underscores transparency and immediacy. In contrast, an edited clip is trimmed and arranged to tell a story more cleanly, B-roll is supplementary footage used to illustrate or cover scenes, and a montage is a creative sequence that blends multiple shots—often with music and transitions. None of those present the event exactly as it happened, which is why the unedited, presented-as-shot option is the best fit.

10. Lining up stories within a newscast by importance and relationship is called?

- A. Standup**
- B. Stagger-through**
- C. Stacking**
- D. Still**

Lining up stories by importance and relationship is stacking. In a newscast, stacking means deciding the order of items so the most important story opens the show and related items follow in a logical sequence. This creates a clear flow for viewers, helps transitions feel natural, and keeps pacing consistent. By grouping related reports together, the audience can follow the storyline without getting lost, and the show moves smoothly from one segment to the next. The other terms don't describe this process. A standup is when the reporter appears on camera to introduce or wrap a story. A still is a static image shown on screen. "Stagger-through" isn't a standard term for arranging content in a broadcast. So stacking best captures the act of ordering stories by importance and how they connect.

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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://skillsusabroadcastnews.examzify.com>

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

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