

SkillsUSA Broadcast News Practice Test (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. 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 term refers to the name given to a story for newsroom use?**
 - A. Slug**
 - B. SOT or Sound Bit**
 - C. Spot**
 - D. Switch**

- 2. Which option describes taking over a broadcast that is already in progress?**
 - A. Join in Progress (JIP)**
 - B. Jump Cut**
 - C. Lip Flap**
 - D. Live**

- 3. Which term describes a live field shot that requires a satellite truck to transmit?**
 - A. Remote**
 - B. Studio Shoot**
 - C. On Location**
 - D. Field Camera**

- 4. What type of question is designed to elicit a yes-or-no answer?**
 - A. Open-Ended Question**
 - B. Closed-Ended Question**
 - C. Cold Open**
 - D. Dateline**

- 5. What is the term for an error when footage or audio plays before its intended time?**
 - A. Miscue**
 - B. MOS**
 - C. NAT Package**
 - D. NAT Sound**

- 6. Which term describes the portion of a story that is the actual audio from an external source?**
- A. Still**
 - B. Sting**
 - C. SOT or Sound Bit**
 - D. Switch**
- 7. A VOSOT script typically includes which combination?**
- A. Video, Track, and at least one Sound Bite**
 - B. Video, Audio, and Interview**
 - C. Only Voiceover with no video**
 - D. Text on screen only**
- 8. What is the full-screen graphic shown before the start of pre-produced video, identifying the story title and reporter's name?**
- A. Slate**
 - B. Title Card**
 - C. Lower Third**
 - D. Caption**
- 9. Casual, informal, and light-hearted chatter between the anchors, used as a bumper, is called what?**
- A. Happy Talk**
 - B. Banter**
 - C. Small Talk**
 - D. Chatter**
- 10. 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**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which term refers to the name given to a story for newsroom use?

A. Slug

B. SOT or Sound Bit

C. Spot

D. Switch

In broadcast news, every story gets a short, internal identifier used in the rundown and scripts. That identifier is called a slug. The slug is chosen to be concise and descriptive so reporters, editors, and producers can quickly locate and track the story across the rundown and the teleprompter system. It helps you group related items, label video elements, and avoid mix-ups during a live show. The slug stays on the script and in the newsroom database, but it isn't read on air. This makes it a practical behind-the-scenes tool for organization. A sound bite is the actual audio clip from an interview, not the label used to identify the story. A spot is a short segment or advertisement, not the naming convention for a story. A switch refers to the production control that selects video sources, not to how stories are labeled.

2. Which option describes taking over a broadcast that is already in progress?

A. Join in Progress (JIP)

B. Jump Cut

C. Lip Flap

D. Live

Joining in progress is the term used for taking over a broadcast that has already started. In live news or broadcasting, if an anchor or reporter comes on air partway through a program to cover breaking news or to relieve someone else, they're said to join in progress. This captures the idea of entering midstream and continuing from the current moment. Jump Cut is an editing move that creates a sudden jump from one shot to another, not about entering a live broadcast. Lip Flap refers to a mismatch between lip movements and audio, which is a technical issue, not the act of joining a program. Live describes the program being on air in real time, not the action of stepping into it mid-broadcast.

3. Which term describes a live field shot that requires a satellite truck to transmit?

- A. Remote**
- B. Studio Shoot**
- C. On Location**
- D. Field Camera**

Remote refers to a live field shot produced outside the studio that needs a satellite truck to send the signal back to the station. In this setup, a field crew sets up cameras and transmission gear on location, and the satellite uplink truck handles the live feed so viewers see the broadcast in real time. This differs from a studio shoot, which stays inside the control room and uses internal facilities to place the broadcast on air. On-location indicates outside the studio, but it doesn't necessarily imply live transmission via satellite. A field camera is simply the equipment used in the field, not the method of transmission. So for a live field shot requiring satellite transmission, the correct term is remote.

4. What type of question is designed to elicit a yes-or-no answer?

- A. Open-Ended Question**
- B. Closed-Ended Question**
- C. Cold Open**
- D. Dateline**

Closed-ended questions are designed to elicit a yes-or-no answer. They frame the query so the respondent can give a brief, definitive response, often just "yes" or "no" or a small set of limited options. This makes it easy to confirm facts quickly and keep interviews or surveys efficient in broadcasting and reporting. For example, asking "Have you received the package?" seeks a straightforward yes or no, whereas "What did you think about the package?" invites a fuller, more detailed answer. The other terms mentioned—cold open and dateline—are broadcasting concepts, not types of questions. A cold open refers to starting a story before the standard introduction, and a dateline indicates the location and date of a report.

5. What is the term for an error when footage or audio plays before its intended time?

- A. Miscue**
- B. MOS**
- C. NAT Package**
- D. NAT Sound**

The timing cue is off. When footage or audio starts before the planned moment, that's called a miscue. It's a cueing error in broadcast work: the media begins too soon, throwing off the anchor, the script, and the rhythm of the package. This term is used specifically to describe those early playback mistakes, and crews fix it by re-cueing, adjusting pre-roll, and rehearsing to keep everything synchronized. MOS refers to shooting without synchronized sound and isn't about timing errors in playback. NAT Sound describes natural ambient audio, not an error in when media plays. NAT Package isn't a standard term for this situation.

6. Which term describes the portion of a story that is the actual audio from an external source?

- A. Still**
- B. Sting**
- C. SOT or Sound Bit**
- D. Switch**

In broadcast storytelling, the part of the story that is the actual audio from an external source is a sound bite, often called SOT (sound on tape). This is the short clip of someone's spoken words from interviews or other sources that editors insert into the package to illustrate a point or add credibility. It's different from a sting, which is a brief musical cue used for transitions, a still, which is a single frozen image, or a switch, which is a camera transition. So the described portion best matches SOT or Sound Bite.

7. A VOSOT script typically includes which combination?

- A. Video, Track, and at least one Sound Bite**
- B. Video, Audio, and Interview**
- C. Only Voiceover with no video**
- D. Text on screen only**

VOSOT hinges on blending visuals with narration and a bite from a source. The video provides the imagery, the accompanying audio track carries the narrator's voice and any natural or ambient sound, and at least one sound bite gives a direct quote from someone involved. This combination keeps the piece engaging and credible: you see what's happening, hear a guided narration, and hear a real voice from the story for impact. Without video, there's no visual to anchor the audience. Without an audio track, the narration and context don't come through. Without at least one sound bite, you miss a direct quote that adds perspective and authority. That's why the trio of video, a supporting audio track, and a sound bite is the best fit for a VOSOT.

8. What is the full-screen graphic shown before the start of pre-produced video, identifying the story title and reporter's name?

- A. Slate**
- B. Title Card**
- C. Lower Third**
- D. Caption**

In broadcast journalism, the term for a full-screen graphic shown at the start of a pre-produced piece that lists the story title and the reporter's name is the slate. This graphic serves as a quick, clear introduction so viewers immediately know what story is being presented and who reported it before the video begins. A title card can display a title as well, but the slate is specifically the introductory full-screen graphic tied to a packaged report. A lower third appears during the video as a text bar along the bottom, usually naming the reporter or position, not a full-screen intro. A caption is typically used for subtitles or descriptive text, not the opening graphic identifying the story and byline.

9. Casual, informal, and light-hearted chatter between the anchors, used as a bumper, is called what?

- A. Happy Talk**
- B. Banter**
- C. Small Talk**
- D. Chatter**

Happy Talk is the term for the casual, informal, light-hearted chatter between anchors used as a bumper. It's designed to bridge segments, set a warm, approachable tone, and keep viewers engaged as the show transitions from one story to the next without delivering news. In practice, this chatter is brief, upbeat, and often lightly scripted to help the show flow smoothly. Banter can be witty or teasing and may drift into topics beyond the transition, so it isn't the standard label for these interstitial moments. Small talk describes everyday casual conversation, which isn't specific enough to the broadcast transition role. Chatter is too vague to capture the intentional purpose of these anchor moments. So, this is the best term because it precisely describes the purposeful, upbeat bridge between segments.

10. 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.

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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