

SKILLSUSA BROADCAST NEWS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

A glowing red neon sign that reads "ON AIR" in a bold, sans-serif font. The sign is mounted on a dark, possibly black, rectangular base. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting.

SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://skillsusabroadcastnews.examzify.com>



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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 shot type is used to establish location?**
 - A. Wide establishing shots
 - B. Close-ups
 - C. Medium shots
 - D. Overhead shots
- 2. What is the main difference between 30-second and 60-second broadcast formats?**
 - A. They are the same length.
 - B. The 60-second format allows more detail; 30-second requires tighter leads, faster transitions, and concise VO/SOT.
 - C. A 30-second format allows more detail than 60-second.
 - D. 60-second format is just longer but has no effect on content.
- 3. What is the term for the brief closing story that lightens the mood at the end of a broadcast?**
 - A. Kicker
 - B. Lead
 - C. Lower Third
 - D. Lip Flap
- 4. A reporter speaking to camera, not covered by video, is described by which term?**
 - A. Standup
 - B. Slug
 - C. SOT
 - D. Spot
- 5. What is the impact of fact-checking and proper attribution on newsroom credibility?**
 - A. It slows the newsroom down.
 - B. It replaces the need for verification.
 - C. It increases sensationalism.
 - D. It ensures accuracy, gives credit to sources, and reduces misrepresentation.

6. 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
7. OC stands for which phrase in broadcasting terminology?
- A. On Camera
 - B. Open Caption
 - C. On Cue
 - D. Over the Shoulder
8. What is a typical audio peak target in broadcast production?
- A. Around -3 to -1 dB.
 - B. Around -12 to -6 dB.
 - C. Around -60 to -40 dB.
 - D. 0 dB.
9. What term identifies the source of a fact, opinion, or quote in a story?
- A. Attribution
 - B. Byline
 - C. Caption
 - D. Lead
10. Which term means a full rehearsal of the show?
- A. Stagger-through
 - B. Standup
 - C. Sting
 - D. Switch

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which shot type is used to establish location?

A. Wide establishing shots

B. Close-ups

C. Medium shots

D. Overhead shots

The main idea is to orient the viewer by showing where the scene is taking place. A wide shot at the start gives a broad view of the surroundings—the landscape, buildings, streets, or interior space—so the audience immediately understands the geography and context before we zero in on characters or details. This broad view anchors the scene in a place and time, which is exactly what establishing location calls for. Close-ups focus on a single detail or expression, so they don't reveal the surroundings. Medium shots show a subject with a bit of background, but they still center on the person rather than the setting. Overhead shots look at the scene from above to reveal layout or patterns, but they don't provide the same clear sense of place as a wide establishing shot.

2. What is the main difference between 30-second and 60-second broadcast formats?

A. They are the same length.

B. The 60-second format allows more detail; 30-second requires tighter leads, faster transitions, and concise VO/SOT.

C. A 30-second format allows more detail than 60-second.

D. 60-second format is just longer but has no effect on content.

The main idea is how time constraints shape storytelling in a news package. A 60-second broadcast gives more space to establish the topic, add background, include additional quotes, and develop the story, which means you can use a fuller structure and richer detail. A 30-second slot, by contrast, forces you to front-load the most important information and move quickly: leads must be tighter, transitions need to be faster, and voiceover and sound bites (VO/SOT) must be concise and to the point. That's why the key difference is that the longer format allows more detail while the shorter format requires tighter leads, faster transitions, and briefer VO/SOT. The other statements don't fit because they either claim the formats are the same length, which they aren't, or suggest the shorter format can include more detail, which isn't true, or imply the longer format doesn't affect content, which is inaccurate since time directly shapes pacing and content depth.

3. What is the term for the brief closing story that lightens the mood at the end of a broadcast?

A. Kicker

B. Lead

C. Lower Third

D. Lip Flap

A kicker is the brief closing story that lightens the mood at the end of a broadcast. It serves as a short, uplifting wrap-up, often a light-hearted anecdote or quick human-interest moment that leaves viewers with a positive impression after the heavier news. This differs from a lead, which opens the newscast with the main story to grab attention; a lower third, which is the on-screen graphic with names or captions; and lip flaps, which describe spoken audio over video and isn't used as a closing moment.

4. A reporter speaking to camera, not covered by video, is described by which term?

A. Standup

B. Slug

C. SOT

D. Spot

In broadcast news, a reporter who speaks directly to the camera in the field, delivering narration without accompanying video, is a standup. This on-camera bridge shot is used to present the reporter's voice and tie the package together, often shot on location. Slug refers to a label or header in the script for the story, not the on-camera action. A SOT (sound on tape) is a short clip of a sound bite from an interview used within a package. A spot can mean a brief news item or a short promotional segment, but it doesn't describe the reporter's on-camera standup the way this term does.

5. What is the impact of fact-checking and proper attribution on newsroom credibility?

A. It slows the newsroom down.

B. It replaces the need for verification.

C. It increases sensationalism.

D. It ensures accuracy, gives credit to sources, and reduces misrepresentation.

Fact-checking and proper attribution build newsroom credibility by showing readers that reporting is rigorous and transparent. When stories are checked for accuracy and corrections are handled openly, audiences trust that what they read reflects reality and that mistakes won't be hidden. Clear attribution lets readers see exactly where information comes from, enables independent verification, and protects against misrepresentation or plagiarism. These practices together foster accountability, reinforce trust, and reduce the spread of misinformation. Slowing the process can be a trade-off, but the credibility gained through accuracy and crediting sources is the top priority. Verification isn't optional and attribution doesn't replace it, and fact-checking should not promote sensationalism; it should ground reporting in careful, verifiable facts.

6. 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.

7. OC stands for which phrase in broadcasting terminology?

- A. On Camera**
- B. Open Caption
- C. On Cue
- D. Over the Shoulder

In broadcasting production notes, OC is used to indicate that someone is on camera and about to appear on screen. This shorthand helps the crew coordinate timing, lighting, and camera focus so the talent is seen when it's their moment to speak. The other phrases refer to different concepts—Open Caption is about captions that stay visible, an On Cue cue points to the exact moment to go on air, and Over the Shoulder describes a camera angle—so they don't capture the status of being live on camera in the same way. Therefore, On Camera is the best match.

8. What is a typical audio peak target in broadcast production?

- A. Around -3 to -1 dB.
- B. Around -12 to -6 dB.**
- C. Around -60 to -40 dB.
- D. 0 dB.

You're testing how to set a safe peak level for broadcast audio. In digital systems, the ceiling is 0 dBFS, and you want headroom so the loudest moments don't clip after processing and transmission. A peak target around -12 to -6 dBFS gives enough space for occasional loud hits and for any downstream limiting or compression to work without distortion, while still keeping the audio loud enough when combined with normalization across programs. Pushing peaks closer to 0 dBFS leaves no room for processing and can cause clipping, while making peaks far too low (like -60 to -40 dBFS) wastes dynamic range and reduces perceived loudness.

9. What term identifies the source of a fact, opinion, or quote in a story?

- A. Attribution**
- B. Byline
- C. Caption
- D. Lead

Attribution is the term for identifying who provided a fact, opinion, or quote in a story. It credits the source and helps readers judge reliability and perspective. In reporting you'll commonly see phrases like "According to..." or "The spokesperson said..." which place the information with its origin. This distinguishes the source from the journalist's own voice. Byline refers to the author of the story, not the source of the information. A caption describes an image, and a lead is the opening paragraph that summarizes the main points. Because attribution directly links the information to its source, it's the correct term for identifying where a fact, opinion, or quote comes from.

10. Which term means a full rehearsal of the show?

A. Stagger-through

B. Standup

C. Sting

D. Switch

Progressing through the entire show in one continuous run is called a stagger-through. It's the full run that lets everyone practice timing, transitions, and entrances as they would appear during the actual broadcast, even if some details aren't perfectly polished yet. The goal is to reveal pacing issues and cue timing so the crew can adjust before a dress rehearsal. This differs from a standup—the on-air piece delivered by a reporter or host—where the focus is on performing a single segment rather than the whole program. A sting is a brief musical or audio cue used to punctuate a moment, which helps with emphasis but isn't a full show. A switch refers to changing from one camera or video source to another; that skill is tested in technical rehearsals rather than a full show run. So the term for a full show rehearsal is stagger-through.

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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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