

SKILLSUSA PHOTOGRAPHY PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://skillsusaphotography.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. The original height of a digital photograph measures 350 pixels. The new height of the photograph measures 613 pixels. By what percentage has this photo been enlarged?**
 - A. 125%
 - B. 150%
 - C. 175%
 - D. 200%
- 2. Red-Eye is caused by which phenomenon?**
 - A. Light reflecting back from the retina
 - B. Lens flare
 - C. Sensor bloom
 - D. Chromatic aberration
- 3. Which of these tools creates a selection with a series of straight lines?**
 - A. The polygon lasso tool
 - B. The magic wand tool
 - C. The quick selection tool
 - D. The lasso tool
- 4. The photograph of receding railroad tracks demonstrates which compositional technique?**
 - A. Rule of Thirds
 - B. Leading Lines
 - C. Framing
 - D. Symmetry
- 5. An advantage of using layers is that you can...**
 - A. Keep the editing process dynamic, apply special styles to layers, and move content forward or backward in the picture plane
 - B. Layers reduce file size
 - C. Layers prevent any edits
 - D. Layers automatically flatten at save

- 6. Which camera function compensates for different colors of light emitted by different light sources?**
- A. Exposure
 - B. ISO
 - C. White Balance
 - D. Focus
- 7. An 80mm focal length lens with a full frame sensor at 35mm x 24mm is used on a camera that does not have a full frame sensor, with a crop factor of 1.5. What is the equivalent focal length?**
- A. 60 mm
 - B. 120 mm
 - C. 180 mm
 - D. 240 mm
- 8. Where should the subject be placed according to the Rule of Thirds?**
- A. Centering the Subject
 - B. Placing the Subject Along Imaginary Grid Lines One-Third from the Edges
 - C. Filling the Frame with the Subject
 - D. Using Only High-Key Lighting
- 9. Side lighting emphasizes which aspect?**
- A. Shadow
 - B. Detail
 - C. Color
 - D. Texture
- 10. Which statement about sensor size and angle of view is true?**
- A. A smaller sensor increases the angle of view.
 - B. A smaller sensor decreases the angle of view.
 - C. Sensor size has no effect on angle of view.
 - D. Only the lens focal length affects angle of view.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The original height of a digital photograph measures 350 pixels. The new height of the photograph measures 613 pixels. By what percentage has this photo been enlarged?

- A. 125%
- B. 150%
- C. 175%**
- D. 200%

When a photo is enlarged, you can express the new size as a percentage of the original by dividing the new dimension by the original and multiplying by 100. So compute 613 divided by 350, which is about 1.7514. Multiply by 100 to get roughly 175.14%, meaning the new height is about 175% of the original height. Rounding gives 175%. Note the distinction: this is the final size as a percentage of the original. If you were asked for the percent increase, you'd subtract 100%, yielding about a 75% increase (since 613 is about 1.75 times the original).

2. Red-Eye is caused by which phenomenon?

- A. Light reflecting back from the retina**
- B. Lens flare
- C. Sensor bloom
- D. Chromatic aberration

Red-eye happens when light from a flash reflects off the retina at the back of the subject's eye and travels back through the pupil to the camera. The pupil is dilated in low light, so a lot of light enters, hits the blood-rich retina, and comes back to your lens, giving that characteristic red glow from the blood vessels. This is different from lens flare, which is stray light scattering inside the camera lens; sensor bloom, which is saturation causing bright pixels to smear; and chromatic aberration, which is color fringing around edges due to how a lens bends different colors. To reduce red-eye, use red-eye reduction features, increase ambient lighting so pupils contract, or move/bounce the flash or use off-camera lighting.

3. Which of these tools creates a selection with a series of straight lines?

- A. The polygon lasso tool**
- B. The magic wand tool
- C. The quick selection tool
- D. The lasso tool

Creating a selection with straight-line segments is done with the polygonal Lasso Tool. You place points around the edge of what you want to select, and each click creates a straight line to the next point. When you connect back to the start, the area inside becomes the selection. This is ideal when you need precise, angular edges or geometric shapes. The magic wand selects pixels based on color similarity, the quick selection tool grows a selection by following edges as you brush, and the regular Lasso Tool draws freehand with curved edges. So the polygonal Lasso Tool is the one that builds a selection from straight lines.

4. The photograph of receding railroad tracks demonstrates which compositional technique?

- A. Rule of Thirds
- B. Leading Lines**
- C. Framing
- D. Symmetry

Leading lines pull the viewer's eye along a path through the image. In this photo, the railroad tracks are the strongest lines, starting in the foreground and receding into the distance. As perspective makes parallel lines appear to converge toward the horizon, your eye naturally follows the rails, creating depth and a sense of movement. This directional emphasis is what makes it a clear example of leading lines. Other techniques describe different effects but don't capture what's happening here. The scene isn't about placing a subject on grid lines (rule of thirds), surrounding a subject with elements (framing), or creating mirrored balance (symmetry); it's about how the lines themselves guide your gaze through the frame. The vanishing point where the tracks seem to meet the horizon is a natural outcome of perspective, reinforcing the leading lines effect.

5. An advantage of using layers is that you can...

- A. Keep the editing process dynamic, apply special styles to layers, and move content forward or backward in the picture plane**
- B. Layers reduce file size
- C. Layers prevent any edits
- D. Layers automatically flatten at save

Layers let you edit non-destructively. Each element can sit on its own layer, so you can adjust, reposition, or hide parts of the image without changing the rest. You can apply effects or styles to a specific layer, like shadows or color tweaks, giving precise control over how that element looks. Changing the stacking order lets you move content forward or backward in the picture plane, altering which elements sit on top of others. This makes the editing process dynamic, because you can experiment with different arrangements and styles without starting from scratch. Keep in mind that layers don't reduce file size, and they don't prevent edits; and they don't automatically flatten when you save—layers stay separate until you choose to merge or export a flattened file.

6. Which camera function compensates for different colors of light emitted by different light sources?

- A. Exposure
- B. ISO
- C. White Balance**
- D. Focus

White Balance is what keeps colors looking natural when the light source changes. Different lights have different color temperatures, which can make a scene look too yellow/orange (tungsten), too blue (shade or some fluorescents), or balanced (sunlight). White balance tells the camera how to compensate for that color cast so whites stay white and other colors appear correct. You can set it to a preset for common lighting (like daylight, tungsten, fluorescent) or choose a manual color temperature in Kelvin for precise control. Exposure, ISO, and Focus affect brightness, sensor sensitivity, and sharpness, respectively, not the color cast produced by lighting. White balance specifically manages how the camera interprets color under varied lighting to keep colors accurate.

7. An 80mm focal length lens with a full frame sensor at 35mm x 24mm is used on a camera that does not have a full frame sensor, with a crop factor of 1.5. What is the equivalent focal length?

- A. 60 mm
- B. 120 mm**
- C. 180 mm
- D. 240 mm

Field of view on different sensor sizes is determined by the crop factor. To find the equivalent focal length on a full-frame sensor, multiply the actual focal length by the crop factor. An 80 mm lens on a camera with a 1.5 crop factor yields $80 \times 1.5 = 120$ mm. So the image would have the same framing as if you used a 120 mm lens on a full-frame body. The smaller sensor crops the image, effectively magnifying the center area and making the lens appear longer in terms of field of view. The other options would not match that same framing; they would produce a wider or tighter view than the 80 mm on this crop body.

8. Where should the subject be placed according to the Rule of Thirds?

- A. Centering the Subject
- B. Placing the Subject Along Imaginary Grid Lines One-Third from the Edges**
- C. Filling the Frame with the Subject
- D. Using Only High-Key Lighting

Place the subject along imaginary lines that divide the frame into thirds, or at the points where those lines intersect one-third from the edges. This setup creates a balanced, natural feel and guides the viewer's eye through the image rather than locking attention to the center. Why this works: when the main element sits on those lines or at an intersection, the composition feels more dynamic and open. It provides space for context, movement, or background elements that enhance the subject rather than crowding the center. Centering the subject can make the image feel static and less interesting because the eye is drawn straight to the middle. Filling the frame with the subject removes surrounding context and can look cramped. Lighting style, like high-key lighting, affects brightness and mood but doesn't address where the subject sits within the frame.

9. Side lighting emphasizes which aspect?

- A. Shadow
- B. Detail
- C. Color
- D. Texture**

Side lighting hits the subject from the side, so the light skims across the surface and highlights its texture. The oblique angle creates shadows along ridges and reveals subtle variations in the surface, making texture look more pronounced and tactile. This contrast between light and shadow gives a stronger sense of depth and the material's surface quality. While lighting can influence color and can cast shadows, the spark that side lighting emphasizes most clearly is the texture.

10. Which statement about sensor size and angle of view is true?

- A. A smaller sensor increases the angle of view.
- B. A smaller sensor decreases the angle of view.**
- C. Sensor size has no effect on angle of view.
- D. Only the lens focal length affects angle of view.

Angle of view comes from both the lens and the sensor. For a fixed focal length, a larger sensor captures a wider portion of the scene, while a smaller sensor captures a narrower portion. This is why a smaller sensor decreases the angle of view: the image is effectively cropped, making the scene appear more zoomed in compared to a larger sensor using the same lens. A handy way to think about it is the crop factor—on an APS-C sensor, a 50mm lens behaves more like a longer focal length on full-frame in terms of framing, giving a narrower field of view. The other statements don't fit because they either flip the relationship (smaller sensor increasing the angle of view), claim there's no effect from sensor size (which ignores the crop factor), or say that only focal length matters (sensor size also changes the angle of view).

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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://skillsusaphotography.examzify.com>

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

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