

# SolarWinds SCP Network Performance Monitor (NPM) 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 of the following object types can you apply in Universal Device Poller? Choose two.**
  - A. Nodes and Interfaces**
  - B. Nodes**
  - C. Interfaces**
  - D. VLANs**
  
- 2. Hardware health information is collected only for which devices where the hardware sensors are enabled?**
  - A. Nodes**
  - B. Interfaces**
  - C. Volumes**
  - D. Applications**
  
- 3. Which PerfStack statistics help you correlate traffic volume with how close an interface is to saturation?**
  - A. Transmit Percent Utilization and Average Transmit BPS**
  - B. Receive Percent Utilization and Peak Receive BPS**
  - C. Error Rate and Dropped Packets**
  - D. Latency and Jitter**
  
- 4. By default, all sensors available in the selected MIB are monitored on devices with enabled hardware health monitoring. True or false?**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Not configurable**
  - D. Depends on device**
  
- 5. Where do you go to change the calculation method used for capacity forecasting across all monitored interfaces?**
  - A. NPM Thresholds**
  - B. Interface Settings**
  - C. Forecast Settings**
  - D. Alerts & Thresholds**

- 6. From which device should you start PerfStack analysis when a hub site is experiencing slow performance?**
- A. From the affected hub site's edge router**
  - B. From the hub site's core switch**
  - C. From the remote office router**
  - D. From the data center firewall**
- 7. What is the purpose of a Reset Condition in an alert rule?**
- A. To stop the alert when the condition occurs**
  - B. To end the alert when the condition returns below the reset value**
  - C. To trigger an additional email**
  - D. To re-run the alert periodically**
- 8. When investigating slow performance at a hub site with PerfStack, which device should you focus on first?**
- A. The hub site's edge router**
  - B. The hub site's core switch**
  - C. The remote office router**
  - D. The data center switch**
- 9. What is the default interface polling interval for response time and status?**
- A. 2 minutes**
  - B. 1 minute**
  - C. 5 minutes**
  - D. 10 minutes**
- 10. You can use Orion Groups in Maps.**
- A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. Only in dashboards**
  - D. Not supported**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which of the following object types can you apply in Universal Device Poller? Choose two.**

**A. Nodes and Interfaces**

**B. Nodes**

**C. Interfaces**

**D. VLANs**

Universal Device Poller lets you create custom polls that fetch numeric values from devices and attach them to specific object types. You can apply these pollers to a node (the device as a whole) or to an interface on that device, allowing either device-wide metrics or per-interface metrics. VLANs aren't separate pollable targets in UDP, so they aren't a valid object type to apply a UDP poller to. Therefore, the two valid targets are nodes and interfaces.

**2. Hardware health information is collected only for which devices where the hardware sensors are enabled?**

**A. Nodes**

**B. Interfaces**

**C. Volumes**

**D. Applications**

The hardware health information is gathered from the devices that expose hardware sensors. In SolarWinds NPM, you collect this data from the nodes only when their hardware sensors are enabled and reachable (via SNMP or WMI). These sensors report things like temperature, fan speed, voltages, and other SMART attributes. If a device doesn't expose or have enabled sensors, there's no hardware health data to collect for it, even if you're monitoring its interfaces, volumes, or applications. Interfaces and volumes focus on performance metrics for those components, while applications relate to software health, not the device's hardware sensors. So hardware health information is collected for the devices—nodes—that have hardware sensors enabled.

**3. Which PerfStack statistics help you correlate traffic volume with how close an interface is to saturation?**

**A. Transmit Percent Utilization and Average Transmit BPS**

**B. Receive Percent Utilization and Peak Receive BPS**

**C. Error Rate and Dropped Packets**

**D. Latency and Jitter**

The key idea is to correlate how much traffic is being carried with how much of the interface's capacity is actually in use. In PerfStack, pairing Transmit Percent Utilization with Average Transmit BPS lets you see, on average, how close outbound traffic is to the interface's limit: the utilization shows what fraction of capacity is used, while the average bits-per-second shows the volume being carried. When both are high, you're near saturation because the interface is handling a large traffic load close to its maximum capacity. Using inbound metrics or peaks doesn't map as reliably to steady capacity use, and focusing on errors, drops, latency, or jitter describes quality issues rather than the direct relationship between traffic volume and saturation. So the combination of transmit utilization and average transmit BPS provides the clearest link between traffic volume and how close the interface is to saturation.

**4. By default, all sensors available in the selected MIB are monitored on devices with enabled hardware health monitoring. True or false?**

**A. True**

**B. False**

**C. Not configurable**

**D. Depends on device**

When hardware health monitoring is enabled, the monitoring engine pulls data from the sensors defined in the device's MIB and treats all of those sensors as active for monitoring. The MIB describes what the device can report—temperature, voltages, fan speeds, currents, and similar health metrics—so by default you get visibility across all of those sensors that the device exposes. If a particular sensor isn't exposed by the device's SNMP agent, it won't appear or be monitored. You can later adjust which sensors to focus on or suppress, but the starting behavior is to monitor every MIB-defined sensor for the device.

**5. Where do you go to change the calculation method used for capacity forecasting across all monitored interfaces?**

**A. NPM Thresholds**

**B. Interface Settings**

**C. Forecast Settings**

**D. Alerts & Thresholds**

This tests understanding that capacity forecasting uses a global setting that applies across every monitored interface, not something you change per device. The place to adjust how the forecast is calculated for all interfaces is the NPM Thresholds area, because it serves as the central policy hub for how performance data is interpreted and acted on across the system. Changing the calculation method here ensures every interface uses the same forecasting approach, giving consistent projections. If you were to use Interface Settings, you'd be tweaking a single interface rather than the whole fleet, and per-interface changes wouldn't guarantee uniform results. Forecast Settings might seem like the place to tweak forecasting, but in this context the thresholds area is the global control point for the calculation method that drives forecasts across all monitored interfaces.

**6. From which device should you start PerfStack analysis when a hub site is experiencing slow performance?**

- A. From the affected hub site's edge router**
- B. From the hub site's core switch**
- C. From the remote office router**
- D. From the data center firewall**

Starting PerfStack at the hub site's edge router puts you at the first point where traffic from the WAN enters the hub. If the hub is slow, the bottleneck is most often at this border—high WAN latency, interface queueing, dropped packets, or CPU issues on the device that handles all incoming and outgoing traffic. By beginning with the edge router, you quickly see whether the problem originates at the border or if border performance is healthy and the issue lies deeper inside the hub. Once you confirm the edge router's status, you can add the hub's core switch, the remote office router, and the data center firewall to the same PerfStack view to correlate metrics over the same time window and trace where delays accumulate. Starting at downstream devices like the core switch or firewall can miss border symptoms, and starting at remote sites can mislead you about where traffic is actually stalling.

**7. What is the purpose of a Reset Condition in an alert rule?**

- A. To stop the alert when the condition occurs**
- B. To end the alert when the condition returns below the reset value**
- C. To trigger an additional email**
- D. To re-run the alert periodically**

Resetting an alert defines when an active alert should be cleared after it has fired. When the monitored condition breaches its threshold, the alert goes into an alert state and stays there until the metric recovers to a defined recovery level. The reset value acts as that recovery threshold; once the value falls below it (for a high-severity alert), the alert is cleared and returns to normal. This ensures alerts don't stay active after the problem is resolved and helps avoid constant toggling from small fluctuations. For example, an alert might fire when CPU usage exceeds 90%, and be set to reset when it drops below 70%; the alert clears once the CPU stays under 70%. Other actions like sending additional emails or re-running checks are separate features, not the purpose of the reset condition.

**8. When investigating slow performance at a hub site with PerfStack, which device should you focus on first?**

- A. The hub site's edge router**
- B. The hub site's core switch**
- C. The remote office router**
- D. The data center switch**

When a hub site is experiencing slow performance, start by looking at the hub site's edge router. This device sits at the boundary of your network, acting as the gateway between the hub and the rest of the network (remote offices and the WAN). If traffic from remote sites is slow or if there's congestion entering or leaving the hub, the edge router is the most likely point to show the bottleneck through metrics like interface utilization, queueing, CPU, and error counts. Using PerfStack, you can quickly correlate spikes in latency or drops in throughput on the hub's edge router with other metrics to confirm if contention or processing limits at the boundary are the root cause. If the edge router checks out, you then expand the investigation to internal devices such as the hub's core switch or remote office routers to pinpoint secondary bottlenecks.

**9. What is the default interface polling interval for response time and status?**

- A. 2 minutes**
- B. 1 minute**
- C. 5 minutes**
- D. 10 minutes**

Polling interval for an interface determines how often the system queries the device to record its response time and whether the interface is up or down. The default value of two minutes is chosen because it offers a practical balance: it keeps data points frequent enough to catch short-lived spikes and quick outages, while not overloading the poller or the network with excessive queries. If you were to use one minute, you'd increase the load and data volume; if you used five or ten minutes, you'd risk missing brief outages and transient performance issues. The two-minute default provides timely visibility without undue strain, and you can adjust it if your environment has special needs.

**10. You can use Orion Groups in Maps.**

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only in dashboards**
- D. Not supported**

Orion Maps can display Orion Groups, so you can place a group on a map just like individual devices. The group on the map shows the aggregated status of all its members—typically the worst status among them—giving you a quick view of the health of that whole group. You can add a Group to a map from the map's object picker or by dragging it onto the map, and you can drill into the group's members for details when needed. This capability makes the statement true, since Maps support Groups and aren't limited to dashboards.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://solarwindsscnpnm.examzify.com>**

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

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