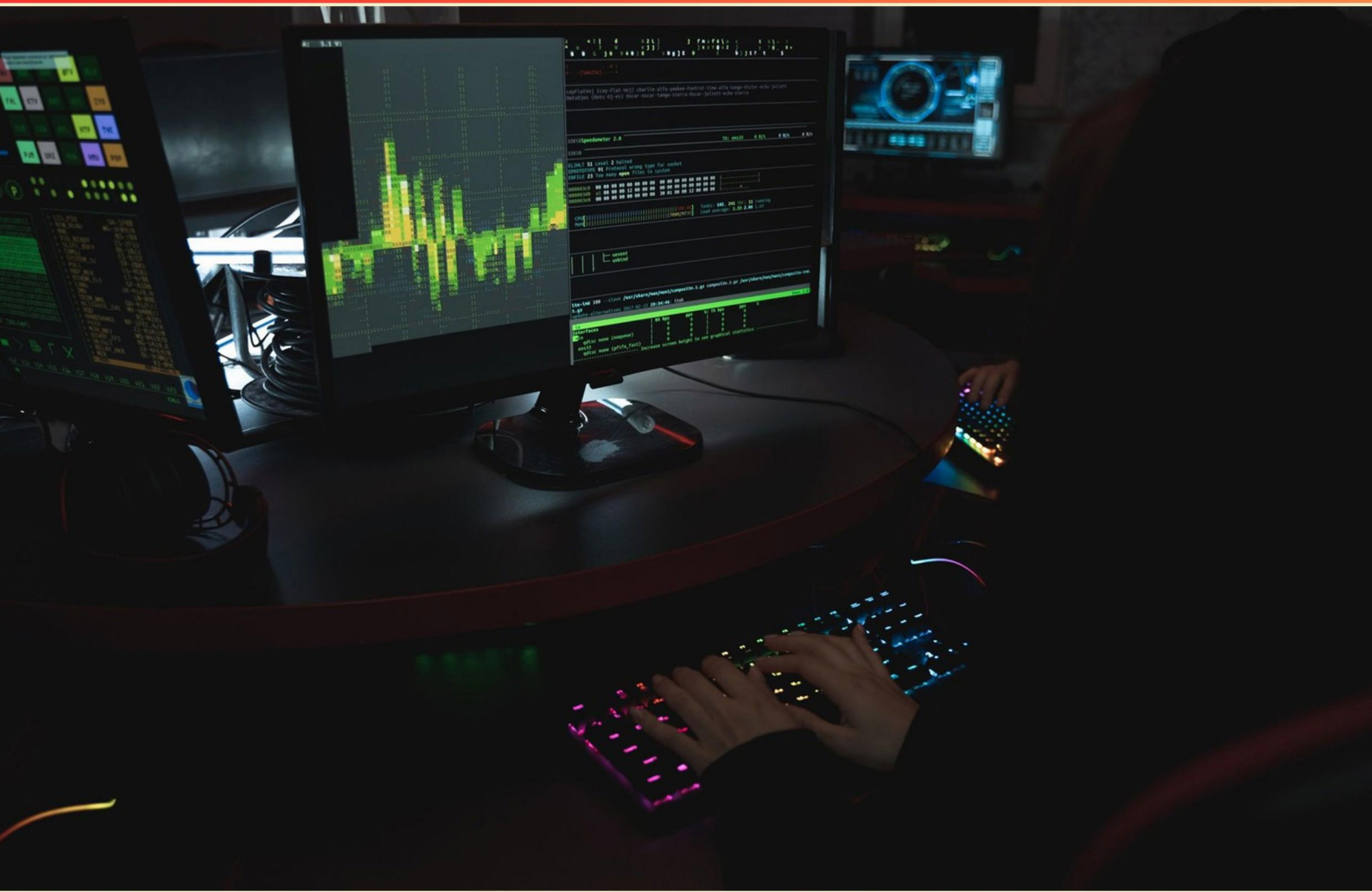


SOLARWINDS SCP NETWORK PERFORMANCE MONITOR (NPM) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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

<https://solarwindsscpnpm.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. IP SLA tests in NPM simulate what types of network transactions to measure performance?**
 - A. Pings, HTTP, and TCP transactions to measure latency, jitter, and packet loss
 - B. Firmware upgrade procedures
 - C. User authentication events
 - D. DNS lookups only
- 2. Which settings menu will show the details of total number of elements polled in your Orion Web Console?**
 - A. License Details
 - B. Account Limitations
 - C. DirectLink accounts
 - D. Web Console Settings
- 3. Which command-line tools or logs are useful when troubleshooting an NPM deployment?**
 - A. No logs are useful
 - B. Windows Event Viewer, Orion logs, SQL Server logs, and Orion-specific logs like the Diagnostic and Resource Manager logs; check Core/BizLayer events
 - C. Linux only tools
 - D. Only Windows Event Viewer
- 4. What is the purpose of dashboards in NPM, and how can you tailor them to operators?**
 - A. Dashboards provide real-time visuals of performance data; you can customize widgets, layouts, and who can view them via roles.
 - B. Dashboards are static reports stored nightly; you can't customize who views them.
 - C. Dashboards only show alert events; widgets and layouts cannot be altered.
 - D. Dashboards automatically adjust to device type and cannot be customized.
- 5. What are best practices for backing up and restoring SolarWinds NPM Orion server data?**
 - A. Regular database backups, configuration snapshots, and tested disaster recovery; ensure matching versions and verify backups.
 - B. Backups are unnecessary if the system is healthy.
 - C. Backups should only be performed once a year.
 - D. Backups should be stored on the same server.

- 6. What is a primary benefit of data retention rollups in NPM?**
- A. They reduce storage needs while preserving trend data.
 - B. They eliminate the need for backups.
 - C. They increase data retention requirements.
 - D. They render real-time dashboards unusable.
- 7. How does NPM handle interface naming and user-defined mapping?**
- A. It always uses the raw interface names exactly as reported by devices
 - B. NPM uses interface IDs and allows aliasing or mapping to friendly names for clarity in dashboards and alerts
 - C. It cannot map interface names
 - D. It requires vendor-specific plugins to rename interfaces
- 8. Which practice helps manage capacity in a large NPM deployment?**
- A. Rely on a single poller.
 - B. Ignore data retention.
 - C. Turn off alerts.
 - D. Distribute polling across multiple servers.
- 9. What considerations apply when the NPM Orion database is hosted on SQL Server?**
- A. Ensure proper SQL Server configuration, backups, performance tuning, and disaster recovery; maintain compatibility with Orion version
 - B. Install latest SQL Server and enable auto-shrink
 - C. Use single data file to maximize performance
 - D. Disable SQL Server maintenance plans
- 10. NetPath prerequisites include which of the following?**
- A. NetPath requires only SNMP access to devices.
 - B. NetPath requires a dedicated NetPath appliance in addition to SNMP access.
 - C. Appropriate permissions to measure hops and latency across the network, and a functioning NetPath-enabled Orion environment.
 - D. NetPath can operate with no permissions and no server components.

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. IP SLA tests in NPM simulate what types of network transactions to measure performance?

- A. Pings, HTTP, and TCP transactions to measure latency, jitter, and packet loss**
- B. Firmware upgrade procedures
- C. User authentication events
- D. DNS lookups only

IP SLA tests in NPM simulate network transactions to measure performance. By running pings, HTTP requests, and TCP transactions, you capture how quickly data moves across the network, how consistent those timings are (latency and jitter), and how often packets fail to arrive (packet loss). Ping tests provide a basic sense of reachability and round trip time. HTTP tests mimic real web traffic, revealing end to end application response times. TCP tests assess how long it takes to establish a connection and transfer data, reflecting reliability and performance under typical usage. This combination gives a practical view of network and application performance across different layers. The other options describe activities that don't directly measure these performance characteristics: firmware upgrades are maintenance procedures, user authentication events are security/login processes, and DNS lookups alone only measure name resolution time without capturing general network transaction performance.

2. Which settings menu will show the details of total number of elements polled in your Orion Web Console?

- A. License Details**
- B. Account Limitations
- C. DirectLink accounts
- D. Web Console Settings

This asks where you find the usage data for how many elements Orion is actively polled. The total number of elements polled is a licensing/usage metric, so it belongs in the license-related area of the web console. The License Details section is designed to show license information, including the total elements allowed and the number currently polled. That makes it the best place to view how many elements are being monitored. Other menus don't track this metric. Account Limitations may outline restrictions but not the live polled count; DirectLink accounts relate to remote connectivity options, not element polling; Web Console Settings controls UI preferences and console behavior, not license usage.

3. Which command-line tools or logs are useful when troubleshooting an NPM deployment?

- A. No logs are useful
- B. Windows Event Viewer, Orion logs, SQL Server logs, and Orion-specific logs like the Diagnostic and Resource Manager logs; check Core/BizLayer events**
- C. Linux only tools
- D. Only Windows Event Viewer

Troubleshooting an NPM deployment relies on gathering evidence from multiple log sources that cover the Windows OS, the Orion platform itself, and the database that underpins the system. Windows Event Viewer captures OS-level events, service start/stop issues, and errors that can block components from running. Orion logs provide insight into the NPM components and their internal events, helping you see where a deployment or service operation is failing. SQL Server logs are important because the Orion (NPM) database stores configuration data and performance metrics; problems there can show up as connectivity failures, database errors, or query timeouts that halt or slow deployment. Orion-specific logs like Diagnostic and Resource Manager logs deliver detailed telemetry about component health, resource usage, and diagnostic data that can pinpoint misconfigurations or performance bottlenecks. Core and BizLayer events reflect the central services that drive the Orion platform, so issues there often explain why a deployment isn't functioning as expected. Using this combination gives a complete view of what's happening, whereas relying on only one source (such as OS logs or only Windows logs) can miss deeper causes.

4. What is the purpose of dashboards in NPM, and how can you tailor them to operators?

- A. Dashboards provide real-time visuals of performance data; you can customize widgets, layouts, and who can view them via roles.**
- B. Dashboards are static reports stored nightly; you can't customize who views them.
- C. Dashboards only show alert events; widgets and layouts cannot be altered.
- D. Dashboards automatically adjust to device type and cannot be customized.

Dashboards in NPM are meant to give quick, real-time visuals of how the network is performing, so operators can spot issues, monitor health, and see where to act at a glance. They're not just static pages; they stream live data and help you understand current conditions across devices, interfaces, and paths. You can tailor them extensively for operators. This means adding and arranging widgets that show the exact metrics you care about—things like device CPU and memory, interface utilization, latency, packet loss, and top-talkers—and choosing how those metrics are presented (graphs, gauges, tables, maps). You can customize the layout, pick the time range, and apply filters so only relevant devices or groups appear. Important thresholds and color coding can highlight problems automatically. Access is controlled via roles, so you can decide who can view or modify a dashboard, ensuring operators see what's appropriate for their role. This combination of real-time visuals, flexible widgets and layouts, and role-based visibility makes dashboards a powerful, operator-focused tool.

5. What are best practices for backing up and restoring SolarWinds NPM Orion server data?

- A. Regular database backups, configuration snapshots, and tested disaster recovery; ensure matching versions and verify backups.
- B. Backups are unnecessary if the system is healthy.
- C. Backups should only be performed once a year.
- D. Backups should be stored on the same server.

Regular, comprehensive backups are essential for SolarWinds NPM Orion. The best approach is to back up the Orion database to capture all monitoring data and history, and to take configuration snapshots so you can recreate the deployment, including settings, dashboards, templates, and customizations. A tested disaster recovery plan ensures you can restore service quickly, which means rehearsing the restore process, defining recovery goals (RTO/RPO), and having clear steps and contacts. Keeping the backup version in sync with the exact Orion version in production is important because mismatches can cause restore failures or data integrity problems. Verifying backups means performing restore tests or integrity checks to confirm you can actually recover the data and that the backups aren't corrupted. In practice, store backups off the primary server, back up on a regular schedule, and follow retention policies to balance risk and storage needs.

6. What is a primary benefit of data retention rollups in NPM?

- A. They reduce storage needs while preserving trend data.
- B. They eliminate the need for backups.
- C. They increase data retention requirements.
- D. They render real-time dashboards unusable.

Data retention rollups are about keeping long-term visibility while using less storage. By aggregating many raw data points into coarser time intervals (for example, converting several minutes of data into an hourly rollup), you dramatically reduce the number of samples that need to be stored. This lowers storage requirements without sacrificing the ability to see how metrics trend over extended periods, which is essential for capacity planning and long-term performance analysis. These rollups don't replace backups, and they don't force you to keep more data; they make it feasible to retain historical trends with far less storage. They also don't render dashboards unusable—near term dashboards can still display granular, real-time data, while older data is available in rolled up form to support long-term insights.

7. How does NPM handle interface naming and user-defined mapping?

- A. It always uses the raw interface names exactly as reported by devices
- B. NPM uses interface IDs and allows aliasing or mapping to friendly names for clarity in dashboards and alerts
- C. It cannot map interface names
- D. It requires vendor-specific plugins to rename interfaces

NPM identifies each interface by a stable internal identifier (such as an interface ID) and allows you to map that interface to a friendly, user-defined label for display. This means the dashboards and alerts can show clear, meaningful names instead of only the device-reported raw interface names, which can be long, inconsistent, or change with devices. The aliasing is built into NPM, so you can apply readable names without altering the actual device configuration. This makes monitoring more intuitive across large networks and helps ensure consistency in graphs, reports, and alerts. Raw device names aren't always stable or readable, and you don't need vendor plugins to rename interfaces—the built-in aliasing handles this directly.

8. Which practice helps manage capacity in a large NPM deployment?

- A. Rely on a single poller.
- B. Ignore data retention.
- C. Turn off alerts.
- D. Distribute polling across multiple servers.**

Distributing polling across multiple servers helps manage capacity in a large NPM deployment. When monitoring many devices, a single poller can be overwhelmed, using excessive CPU, memory, and I/O and causing slower data collection or gaps. Spreading the polling workload across several pollers increases parallel data collection, reduces the chance of any one server becoming a bottleneck, and improves overall throughput and reliability. It also adds redundancy—if one poller fails, others continue gathering data. In SolarWinds NPM, you'd set up distributed pollers and assign devices to multiple pollers to balance the load and scale as the network grows. The other options don't address capacity effectively: a single poller becomes a bottleneck, ignoring data retention leads to storage and performance problems, and turning off alerts removes visibility without solving capacity concerns.

9. What considerations apply when the NPM Orion database is hosted on SQL Server?

- A. Ensure proper SQL Server configuration, backups, performance tuning, and disaster recovery; maintain compatibility with Orion version**
- B. Install latest SQL Server and enable auto-shrink
- C. Use single data file to maximize performance
- D. Disable SQL Server maintenance plans

When the NPM Orion database runs on SQL Server, you must balance environment setup, data protection, and ongoing performance with Orion's supported configurations. The best approach is to configure the SQL Server instance properly to support Orion, set up a solid backup and disaster-recovery plan, and regularly tune performance while keeping the Orion version and SQL Server compatible. Configure SQL Server with sensible memory and CPU I/O settings, follow SolarWinds recommendations for leaving OS headroom, and set appropriate parallelism so Orion workloads don't contend with other processes. Implement a robust backup strategy that includes regular full backups and frequent transaction log backups, and verify restores regularly—plus keep offsite copies for DR. For performance, maintain indexes to avoid fragmentation, keep statistics up to date, and schedule routine maintenance (including proper tempdb sizing and file configuration) within windows that minimize user impact. Finally, ensure the SQL Server version and compatibility level are supported by the Orion release and keep both up to date with the required patches. Avoid practices like auto-shrink or disabling maintenance plans, as they can degrade reliability and performance.

10. NetPath prerequisites include which of the following?

- A. NetPath requires only SNMP access to devices.
- B. NetPath requires a dedicated NetPath appliance in addition to SNMP access.
- C. Appropriate permissions to measure hops and latency across the network, and a functioning NetPath-enabled Orion environment.**
- D. NetPath can operate with no permissions and no server components.

NetPath measures network paths by performing traceroute-like probes to map hops and latency. To do this effectively, you must have the appropriate permissions to run those path-trace measurements across the devices in the network, and NetPath must be enabled within a functioning SolarWinds Orion environment to orchestrate the probes and store the results. Simply having SNMP access isn't enough because SNMP provides polling data, not active path measurements. A dedicated NetPath appliance isn't strictly required in every deployment—you can run NetPath from the Orion server or NetPath probes—but you do need an Orion that has NetPath enabled and the necessary permissions to perform the measurements. NetPath cannot operate without server components and without the proper permissions to measure paths.

SAMPLE

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://solarwindsscnpnm.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE