

SOUTH CAROLINA READY 4TH GRADE SCIENCE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. What do we call the phenomena where plants lose water to the atmosphere?**
 - A. Condensation
 - B. Evaporation
 - C. Transpiration
 - D. Precipitation
- 2. Which season is most directly affected by the tilt of the Earth's axis?**
 - A. Winter
 - B. Summer
 - C. Both summer and winter
 - D. Neither summer nor winter
- 3. Which type of rock is created from cooled lava?**
 - A. Metamorphic rock
 - B. Igneous rock
 - C. Sedimentary rock
 - D. Volcanic rock
- 4. Which of the following is an example of a fossil fuel?**
 - A. Solar energy
 - B. Natural gas
 - C. Wind energy
 - D. Hydroelectric power
- 5. Which hypothesis would be most appropriate for testing the impact of sunlight on plant growth?**
 - A. All plants need sunlight to grow
 - B. More sunlight will result in taller plants
 - C. Plants grow best in dark conditions
 - D. Plants grow at the same rate in all light conditions

6. What do we call the movement of tectonic plates?

- A. Plate tectonics
- B. Seismic activity
- C. Continental drift
- D. Volcanic eruption

7. Which process describes how plants convert sunlight into chemical energy?

- A. Fermentation
- B. Photosynthesis
- C. Respiration
- D. Synthesis

8. Which of the following is NOT a basic need of living organisms?

- A. Food
- B. Water
- C. Shelter
- D. Electricity

9. Which natural force helps power the water cycle?

- A. The gravity
- B. The wind
- C. The sun
- D. The moon

10. Which planet is known as the "Red Planet"?

- A. Venus
- B. Earth
- C. Saturn
- D. Mars

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What do we call the phenomena where plants lose water to the atmosphere?

- A. Condensation
- B. Evaporation
- C. Transpiration
- D. Precipitation

The phenomenon where plants lose water to the atmosphere is known as transpiration. During transpiration, water is absorbed by the plant roots from the soil, moves through the plant, and is released as water vapor through small openings in the leaves called stomata. This process is essential for the plant's ability to regulate temperature and maintain nutrient flow. Transpiration also contributes to the water cycle by adding moisture to the atmosphere, which can lead to cloud formation and precipitation. While condensation refers to the process of water vapor turning into liquid water, evaporation describes the transformation of liquid water into vapor. Precipitation involves water falling from the atmosphere to the ground, such as rain or snow. Transpiration is specifically related to the action of plants losing water, making it the correct term.

2. Which season is most directly affected by the tilt of the Earth's axis?

- A. Winter
- B. Summer
- C. Both summer and winter
- D. Neither summer nor winter

The tilt of the Earth's axis plays a crucial role in the changing seasons, affecting both summer and winter. The Earth's axis is tilted at an angle of about 23.5 degrees relative to its orbit around the sun. This tilt causes different parts of the Earth to receive varying amounts of sunlight throughout the year. During summer in the Northern Hemisphere, the North Pole is tilted towards the sun, resulting in longer daylight hours and more direct sunlight, which causes warmer temperatures. Conversely, during winter, the North Pole is tilted away from the sun, leading to shorter daylight hours and less direct sunlight, resulting in cooler temperatures. Similarly, in the Southern Hemisphere, the opposite occurs; when it is summer there, the South Pole is tilted towards the sun, and when it is winter, the South Pole is tilted away. This axial tilt is what ultimately creates the distinct seasons of summer and winter across the globe. Therefore, both summer and winter are directly influenced by the tilt of the Earth's axis, making the selection of both seasons as the answer valid.

3. Which type of rock is created from cooled lava?

- A. Metamorphic rock
- B. Igneous rock
- C. Sedimentary rock
- D. Volcanic rock

Igneous rock is created from the cooling and solidification of molten rock, known as magma when it is beneath the Earth's surface and lava when it erupts onto the surface. When lava cools quickly, it forms igneous rock with smaller crystals, while slower cooling can lead to larger crystals. This process indicates that igneous rock is specifically the type formed from volcanic activity, making it the correct answer. The term "volcanic rock" refers to a type of igneous rock that specifically forms from lava, but it is more of a descriptor rather than a distinct category like igneous rock. Metamorphic rock is formed from existing rocks that undergo changes due to heat and pressure, and sedimentary rock is created from the accumulation and compaction of minerals and organic material over time. This further clarifies why igneous rock is the appropriate choice for the question regarding rocks formed from cooled lava.

4. Which of the following is an example of a fossil fuel?

- A. Solar energy
- B. Natural gas**
- C. Wind energy
- D. Hydroelectric power

Natural gas is a fossil fuel, which is formed from the remains of ancient plants and animals that have been buried and subjected to heat and pressure over millions of years. Fossil fuels, which also include coal and oil, are important sources of energy used for electricity generation, heating, and powering vehicles. In contrast, solar energy, wind energy, and hydroelectric power are renewable energy sources. They do not rely on the combustion of natural resources and have a lower environmental impact, as they harness natural processes such as sunlight, wind, and flowing water. This distinction is key in understanding energy types and their implications for sustainability and environmental conservation.

5. Which hypothesis would be most appropriate for testing the impact of sunlight on plant growth?

- A. All plants need sunlight to grow
- B. More sunlight will result in taller plants**
- C. Plants grow best in dark conditions
- D. Plants grow at the same rate in all light conditions

The choice highlighting that more sunlight will result in taller plants presents a clear cause-and-effect hypothesis. This statement proposes a direct relationship between the amount of sunlight and the height of the plants, making it easy to test through experimentation. By measuring the growth of plants exposed to varying amounts of sunlight, one can gather data to either support or contradict the hypothesis. It encourages a focused investigation that can yield quantifiable results, which is essential in scientific practice. In contrast, the other options do not lend themselves to effective testing in the same way. For instance, stating that all plants need sunlight to grow is more of a general observation rather than a testable hypothesis. Similarly, claiming that plants grow best in dark conditions conflicts with the understanding of plant biology and is not an actionable test. Lastly, suggesting that plants grow at the same rate in all light conditions does not allow for measurable differences, which is key in developing a scientific hypothesis. Thus, the chosen hypothesis stands out for its clarity and testability.

6. What do we call the movement of tectonic plates?

- A. Plate tectonics**
- B. Seismic activity
- C. Continental drift
- D. Volcanic eruption

The movement of tectonic plates is referred to as plate tectonics. This scientific theory explains how the Earth's outer shell, the lithosphere, is divided into several pieces, or tectonic plates, that move and interact with one another. The movement is responsible for various geological phenomena, including earthquakes and the formation of mountains. Plate tectonics is integral to understanding the structure of the Earth's surface and how it changes over time due to the plate interactions, such as converging, diverging, or sliding past each other. It encompasses a wide range of geological activities, more broadly connecting to ideas like continental drift, which describes how continents have shifted position over geological time, but is specifically within the context of the larger theory of plate movements. Other options like seismic activity and volcanic eruptions are results of the movements of tectonic plates, rather than the movement itself.

7. Which process describes how plants convert sunlight into chemical energy?

- A. Fermentation
- B. Photosynthesis**
- C. Respiration
- D. Synthesis

Plants convert sunlight into chemical energy through photosynthesis, a vital process that enables them to produce their own food. During photosynthesis, plants absorb sunlight using chlorophyll, the green pigment found in their leaves. This energy is then used to convert carbon dioxide, taken from the air, and water, absorbed through their roots, into glucose, a type of sugar that serves as an energy source for the plant. The overall equation for photosynthesis illustrates this transformation: sunlight energy is captured to turn carbon dioxide and water into glucose and oxygen. The glucose produced can be stored for later use or utilized immediately for growth and development. The oxygen released is a byproduct of this process, contributing to the atmospheric oxygen that is essential for the survival of almost all living organisms on Earth. Understanding photosynthesis also highlights its significance in ecosystems, as it forms the foundation of the food chain and is crucial for life on the planet.

8. Which of the following is NOT a basic need of living organisms?

- A. Food
- B. Water
- C. Shelter
- D. Electricity**

Living organisms have fundamental requirements that they need to survive and thrive. These essential needs include food, water, and shelter. Food provides the nutrients and energy necessary for growth and metabolic processes. Water is vital for maintaining hydration, supporting cellular functions, and facilitating various biological reactions. Shelter offers protection from environmental hazards and predators, enabling organisms to live safely. Electricity, on the other hand, is not a basic need of living organisms. While some organisms can harness electrical energy in specific ways, such as through bioelectric processes, it is not an essential requirement for survival. Therefore, among the options provided, electricity does not belong to the fundamental needs that all living organisms require.

9. Which natural force helps power the water cycle?

- A. The gravity
- B. The wind
- C. The sun**
- D. The moon

The sun is a crucial element in powering the water cycle because it provides the energy needed for evaporation. Through the process of evaporation, water from oceans, rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water is converted into water vapor and rises into the atmosphere. This transformation is essential for the formation of clouds and precipitation, which are key components of the water cycle. Additionally, the sun helps to warm the air, which can also aid in the movement of this water vapor around the planet, contributing to weather patterns and the distribution of water resources. The energy from the sun drives these processes, making it the primary force behind the water cycle.

10. Which planet is known as the "Red Planet"?

- A. Venus
- B. Earth
- C. Saturn
- D. Mars**

Mars is known as the "Red Planet" primarily due to its reddish appearance, which is caused by iron oxide, commonly referred to as rust, on its surface. The high concentration of iron gives Mars its distinct color when viewed from Earth or space. This characteristic has fascinated astronomers and researchers for centuries, and it is a key feature that helps differentiate Mars from other planets in our solar system. In astronomy and planetary sciences, the names and characteristics of planets often relate to their appearances or notable features. Mars, with its prominent red hue, stands out distinctly from other planets. Meanwhile, other options like Venus, Earth, and Saturn have their unique colors and attributes, but none are known for a red appearance like Mars. Thus, the association of Mars with the term "Red Planet" is well-established and widely recognized.

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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://scready4thgrscience.examzify.com>

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

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