

SQA National 5 Geography Practice Exam (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. What is animal dung used as fertilizer commonly called?**
 - A. Compost**
 - B. Organic waste**
 - C. Manure**
 - D. Biomass**

- 2. What term is used to describe the wealth or personal comfort of individuals or groups?**
 - A. Quality of life**
 - B. Standard of living**
 - C. Economic status**
 - D. Social equity**

- 3. Who is considered the final user of a product?**
 - A. Producer**
 - B. Retailer**
 - C. Wholesale distributor**
 - D. Consumer**

- 4. What term refers to a group of European countries formed to promote trade and reduce war potential?**
 - A. United Nations**
 - B. World Trade Organization**
 - C. NATO**
 - D. European Union**

- 5. What term is used for a modern residential area that has seen a rise in new housing construction and often revitalization?**
 - A. Urban sprawl**
 - B. Suburbanization**
 - C. Urban regeneration**
 - D. Community development**

6. What term describes the predominant use for land in a specific area?

- A. Land use zones**
- B. Land type**
- C. Land designation**
- D. Land utility**

7. Which of the following is NOT a method of increasing soil fertility?

- A. Using fertiliser**
- B. Cover cropping**
- C. Footpath erosion**
- D. Composting**

8. What does the term 'birth rate' refer to?

- A. The number of deaths per thousand people**
- B. The number of immigrants per year**
- C. The number of live births per thousand of the population**
- D. The total number of children in a population**

9. What direction refers to moving against the current of a river?

- A. Downstream**
- B. Upstream**
- C. Crosstream**
- D. Lateral**

10. What term describes the sharp turn in a meandering river?

- A. Ox-bow lake**
- B. Meander**
- C. Stream bend**
- D. Cut-off**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is animal dung used as fertilizer commonly called?

- A. Compost
- B. Organic waste
- C. Manure**
- D. Biomass

Animal dung used as fertilizer is commonly referred to as "manure." This term specifically describes animal excreta that is used to enrich soil, promote plant growth, and improve soil fertility. Manure is rich in nutrients, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium, which are essential for plant health. It also helps improve soil structure, enhances water retention, and adds organic matter to the soil. In agricultural practices, manure serves not only as a natural fertilizer but also as a means of recycling waste, making it an environmentally friendly option. Its use has been a traditional practice for centuries in various farming systems around the world, showcasing its importance in sustainable agriculture. The other terms listed do not have the specific connotation associated with animal dung as fertilizer. Compost refers to decomposed organic material often made from kitchen scraps and plant materials. Organic waste is a broader term that encompasses all biodegradable waste, including food remains and yard waste, but does not specifically pertain to animal dung. Biomass refers to any organic matter used as fuel or for energy production, which could include plant materials but isn't specifically about dung as fertilizer.

2. What term is used to describe the wealth or personal comfort of individuals or groups?

- A. Quality of life
- B. Standard of living**
- C. Economic status
- D. Social equity

The term that describes the wealth or personal comfort of individuals or groups is "Standard of living." This concept encompasses not just the income level, but also the overall quality of life that can be afforded based on economic factors. It relates to the material well-being, including access to necessities such as adequate housing, nutritious food, healthcare, education, and leisure activities. A higher standard of living indicates that individuals or groups can enjoy a comfortable lifestyle with access to these essentials and more. While "Quality of life" refers to general well-being and encompasses more subjective elements like happiness and fulfillment, "Economic status" emphasizes financial conditions but may not fully reflect the comfort or wealth aspect. "Social equity" focuses on fairness and justice within a society, rather than individual wealth or comfort. Thus, "Standard of living" is the most precise term to capture the economic well-being and comfort experienced by individuals or groups.

3. Who is considered the final user of a product?

- A. Producer**
- B. Retailer**
- C. Wholesale distributor**
- D. Consumer**

The final user of a product is referred to as the consumer. This term signifies the individual or entity that ultimately uses or benefits from the product, distinguishing them from the intermediary entities involved in the distribution process, such as producers, retailers, and wholesale distributors. Producers are responsible for manufacturing or creating the product but do not necessarily use it themselves. Retailers buy products from producers or distributors to sell them to consumers but serve as an intermediary step in the distribution chain. Wholesale distributors typically purchase large quantities of products to sell in bulk to retailers, again acting as intermediaries. In contrast, consumers are the last link in this chain; they purchase the product for personal use and directly consume the goods or services offered. Understanding this distinction is crucial in marketing, economics, and supply chain management, as it helps businesses tailor their strategies to meet the needs and preferences of the final users.

4. What term refers to a group of European countries formed to promote trade and reduce war potential?

- A. United Nations**
- B. World Trade Organization**
- C. NATO**
- D. European Union**

The European Union is the term that refers to a group of European countries formed specifically to promote trade and reduce the potential for conflict among its member states. Established with the aim of fostering economic cooperation, the EU has progressively expanded its role to include promoting peace, stability, and prosperity across Europe. One of the key principles behind the EU is that by creating economic interdependence through trade agreements and a single market, countries will be less likely to engage in conflicts. This has been a crucial factor in the post-World War II era in Europe, as countries that are economically linked tend to prioritize diplomatic solutions over military ones. The other options represent different organizations with different primary focuses. The United Nations primarily aims to promote international peace and security on a global scale, the World Trade Organization focuses on regulating international trade between nations, and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is a military alliance aimed at collective defense. While these organizations contribute to international relations and stability, they do not specifically exist to enhance trade and reduce war potential in the same manner as the European Union does.

5. What term is used for a modern residential area that has seen a rise in new housing construction and often revitalization?

- A. Urban sprawl**
- B. Suburbanization**
- C. Urban regeneration**
- D. Community development**

The term that best describes a modern residential area experiencing new housing construction and revitalization is urban regeneration. Urban regeneration refers to the process of redeveloping and revitalizing urban areas that may be declining or in need of improvement. This often includes not only the construction of new housing but also enhancements to infrastructure, public spaces, and community facilities. The goal is to rejuvenate the area, attract new residents, and improve the quality of life for existing inhabitants. Urban sprawl typically refers to the spread of urban developments into rural areas, often characterized by low-density development and inadequate planning, rather than revitalization of existing areas. Suburbanization focuses on the growth of suburbs, which can involve moving away from urban centers rather than renewing them. Community development is a broader term that encompasses improving social and economic conditions within communities but is not specifically tied to housing construction and urban revitalization.

6. What term describes the predominant use for land in a specific area?

- A. Land use zones**
- B. Land type**
- C. Land designation**
- D. Land utility**

The term that describes the predominant use for land in a specific area is "land use zones." Land use zoning refers to the categorization of land based on its primary purpose, which could include residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and recreational uses. This concept is crucial in urban planning and development, as it helps to organize space in a way that can help manage resources effectively, reduce conflicts between different land uses, and guide sustainable development. Land use zones provide a framework for regulating land development and ensuring that various activities are conducted in areas where they are most suitable, thus promoting order and functionality within communities. This can also facilitate better infrastructure planning, environmental protection, and accessibility for residents, depending on the predominant uses allowed in specific zones. The other terms listed refer to different aspects of land management or classification but do not directly capture the essence of predominant land use in a geographic context. Land type may refer to the physical characteristics of the land, while land designation often implies a formal classification that may not always reflect predominant uses. Land utility suggests how land is used in a more operational sense but lacks the specificity of being a category can be used for planning and regulatory purposes.

7. Which of the following is NOT a method of increasing soil fertility?

- A. Using fertiliser**
- B. Cover cropping**
- C. Footpath erosion**
- D. Composting**

Footpath erosion is not a method of increasing soil fertility. Instead, it can actually degrade the soil quality and reduce fertility. When footpaths form, they compact the soil and can lead to soil degradation through erosion and loss of nutrients. Other options listed, such as using fertiliser, cover cropping, and composting, are all practices aimed at enhancing soil fertility. Using fertiliser adds essential nutrients to the soil, promoting plant growth. Cover cropping helps maintain soil structure and enriches the soil with organic matter when the cover crops are plowed back in. Composting recycles organic waste back into the soil, improving its structure, moisture retention, and nutrient content. Thus, choices A, B, and D are all valid methods for increasing soil fertility, while footpath erosion does the opposite.

8. What does the term 'birth rate' refer to?

- A. The number of deaths per thousand people**
- B. The number of immigrants per year**
- C. The number of live births per thousand of the population**
- D. The total number of children in a population**

The term 'birth rate' specifically refers to the number of live births occurring in a population over a given period, typically expressed per thousand people. This measurement is crucial for understanding population dynamics, as it indicates how many individuals are being born relative to the size of the population at that time. By analyzing birth rates, demographers can gain insights into trends such as population growth or decline, the age structure of the population, and potential future needs for resources and services. This definition distinguishes it clearly from related but different concepts. For instance, death rates measure mortality rather than births, and the number of immigrants pertains to migration rather than natural population increase. The total number of children in a population provides only a snapshot of current demographics without considering birth rates, which reflect reproductive patterns over time.

9. What direction refers to moving against the current of a river?

- A. Downstream**
- B. Upstream**
- C. Crosstream**
- D. Lateral**

Moving against the current of a river is referred to as traveling upstream. This term is used because when you are going upstream, you are moving in the opposite direction of the water flow. This often involves more effort, as you are working against the natural flow of the river. In contrast, traveling downstream means moving with the current, which is typically easier and faster as the water aids in the movement. The terms crosstream and lateral do not accurately describe the direction relative to the flow of the river, as they imply moving across the river or to the side rather than against the current. Thus, the correct terminology for moving against the river's flow is upstream.

10. What term describes the sharp turn in a meandering river?

- A. Ox-bow lake**
- B. Meander**
- C. Stream bend**
- D. Cut-off**

The term that accurately describes the sharp turn in a meandering river is a meander. A meander forms as a river erodes its bank, creating a winding path characterized by curves and bends. As the water flows, it moves faster on the outside of the bend, leading to increased erosion, while the inside of the bend experiences slower water flow, allowing sediment to deposit. This dynamic process contributes to the formation of distinct shapes within the river channel, known as meanders. The term captures both the form and the process of the river's movement through the landscape. While other options like an ox-bow lake refer to a crescent-shaped lake formed from a meander that has been cut off from the river due to erosion, a stream bend is a more general term and does not specifically refer to the sharpness or characteristics of those turns. The term cut-off describes the process whereby a river shortens its course by creating a new channel, often resulting in an ox-bow lake, rather than the concept of the sharp turn itself. Each of these terms contributes to the understanding of river dynamics, but "meander" is the most precise in defining the turns in a meandering river.

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://sqanational5geography.examzify.com>

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

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