

SWLCAT Orientation Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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	15

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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 should be used as the guide to judge if a worker is putting in an honest day's work?**
 - A. Professionalism**
 - B. Efficiency**
 - C. Attitude**
 - D. Attendance**

- 2. Name five items from the good housekeeping checklist.**
 - A. Proper PPE; Secure materials; Clean jobsite; Proper tool storage; No jewelry**
 - B. Proper PPE; Secure materials; Clean jobsite; No jewelry; Proper storage**
 - C. Proper PPE; Secure materials; Clean floors; Proper tool storage; No jewelry**
 - D. Proper PPE; Secure materials; Clean jobsite; No jewelry; Jewelry removal**

- 3. What are the three gateway drugs?**
 - A. Alcohol, tobacco, marijuana**
 - B. Cocaine, heroin, meth**
 - C. Caffeine, nicotine, sugar**
 - D. Opioids, benzodiazepines, hallucinogens**

- 4. Which of the following is NOT a stated item of the good housekeeping checklist?**
 - A. Proper PPE**
 - B. Secure materials**
 - C. Clean jobsite**
 - D. No pets on site**

- 5. Which change occurred in 1969?**
 - A. Inside program reduced from 5 to 4 years**
 - B. National Training Institute established at University of Michigan**
 - C. NJATC renamed to Electrical Training Alliance**
 - D. First course for Outside Electrical Workers introduced**

- 6. The first pension plan described targeted which group?**
- A. Retired workers in the electrical construction industry**
 - B. Active workers in any trade**
 - C. Managers and owners**
 - D. Public sector employees**
- 7. In what year were Journeyman courses introduced, including semiconductor electronics and programmable controllers?**
- A. 1983**
 - B. 1981**
 - C. 1985**
 - D. 1988**
- 8. What major vesting improvement occurred in 1988?**
- A. Two-year vesting**
 - B. Five-year vesting**
 - C. Ten-year vesting**
 - D. Seven-year vesting**
- 9. When was the NJATC first formed and how many representatives were there?**
- A. April 28, 1941; 12 representatives (6 IBEW, 6 NECA)**
 - B. April 28, 1951; 12 representatives (6 IBEW, 6 NECA)**
 - C. April 28, 1941; 10 representatives (5 IBEW, 5 NECA)**
 - D. March 12, 1941; 12 representatives (6 IBEW, 6 NECA)**
- 10. When was the First Year Inside Wire-man course introduced?**
- A. August 1961**
 - B. August 1959**
 - C. August 1963**
 - D. August 1957**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should be used as the guide to judge if a worker is putting in an honest day's work?

A. Professionalism

B. Efficiency

C. Attitude

D. Attendance

Professionalism embodies consistent, ethical work behavior across tasks and situations. It signals that a worker is reliable, adheres to standards, takes responsibility, and interacts respectfully, all of which show an honest day's effort. While being efficient, having a good attitude, or simply being present are related aspects, they don't alone prove sustained quality and integrity; professionalism ties them together into a comprehensive measure of genuine effort.

2. Name five items from the good housekeeping checklist.

A. Proper PPE; Secure materials; Clean jobsite; Proper tool storage; No jewelry

B. Proper PPE; Secure materials; Clean jobsite; No jewelry; Proper storage

C. Proper PPE; Secure materials; Clean floors; Proper tool storage; No jewelry

D. Proper PPE; Secure materials; Clean jobsite; No jewelry; Jewelry removal

The idea being tested is recognizing a practical set of items that appear on a good housekeeping checklist in workplace safety. The best answer lists five items that are commonly recommended: proper personal protective equipment, securing materials, keeping the jobsite clean, proper tool storage, and no jewelry. Each item serves a clear safety purpose. PPE protects the worker from hazards, securing materials prevents items from tipping or slipping and reduces clutter, a clean jobsite helps you spot hazards and move safely, proper tool storage keeps tools organized and out of the way so they don't create trip or impact hazards, and no jewelry prevents rings, watches, or necklaces from getting snagged in equipment. The other options either narrow the scope too much or use vaguer wording. For example, focusing on only the floors misses the broader need to keep the entire jobsite clean; using generic "proper storage" is less precise than specifying tool storage; and phrasing like "jewelry removal" is a different way to express the same safety idea but doesn't lay out the complete, clear five-item list as commonly presented.

3. What are the three gateway drugs?

- A. Alcohol, tobacco, marijuana**
- B. Cocaine, heroin, meth**
- C. Caffeine, nicotine, sugar**
- D. Opioids, benzodiazepines, hallucinogens**

Gateway drug theory looks at why certain legal substances are often the first drugs people try and how that early exposure can be linked to trying other, more illicit drugs later. Alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana are the trio most commonly cited in health education as starter substances because they're legal and widely available, so many people encounter them early. Using these substances can place someone in social settings where drug use is more normalized and can be associated with underlying risk factors like sensation seeking or stress, which helps explain the observed progression to other drugs in some cases. The other options don't fit this common teaching pattern. Cocaine, heroin, and meth are strong, higher-risk drugs that typically aren't described as the initial gateway trio. Caffeine, nicotine, and sugar include nicotine, which is sometimes discussed as a gateway in certain discussions, but this combination is not the standard trio used in gateway drug teaching. Opioids, benzodiazepines, and hallucinogens cover different categories and aren't presented as the classic starting point in many orientation materials. So, the best-supported answer lists alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana.

4. Which of the following is NOT a stated item of the good housekeeping checklist?

- A. Proper PPE**
- B. Secure materials**
- C. Clean jobsite**
- D. No pets on site**

On a job site, good housekeeping means keeping the area clean, organized, and safe for everyone. Proper PPE is included because wearing the right safety gear directly protects workers and helps maintain a safe workspace. Securing materials prevents shifting or falling hazards and reduces trip risks, while a clean, clutter-free site keeps walkways clear and workflows efficient. No pets on site is a broader site policy about who and what is allowed on the premises, not a specific housekeeping task, so it isn't typically listed as a standard item in a housekeeping checklist.

5. Which change occurred in 1969?

- A. Inside program reduced from 5 to 4 years**
- B. National Training Institute established at University of Michigan**
- C. NJATC renamed to Electrical Training Alliance**
- D. First course for Outside Electrical Workers introduced**

The question is about how electrician training changed over time, specifically the length of the inside apprenticeship program. In 1969, the inside program was shortened from five years to four years, as part of updates to the training curriculum to speed up the path to journeyman status while preserving essential skills. This makes the four-year change the best fit for what happened in that year. The other listed events did not occur in 1969, such as the later establishment of a National Training Institute at the University of Michigan, the more recent renaming of NJATC to the Electrical Training Alliance, and the introduction of courses for Outside Electrical Workers at a different time.

6. The first pension plan described targeted which group?

- A. Retired workers in the electrical construction industry**
- B. Active workers in any trade**
- C. Managers and owners**
- D. Public sector employees**

The question is about who a pension plan is designed to help after retirement. The first plan described targets retirees in the electrical construction industry, meaning eligibility is based on having worked in that trade and already being retired. This reflects an early pattern of industry-specific plans that provide retirement income to a defined group, rather than to active workers, managers/owners, or public sector employees. Active workers wouldn't yet qualify, and those other groups are typically covered by different kinds of plans. So, the plan is aimed at retired workers in the electrical construction industry.

7. In what year were Journeyman courses introduced, including semiconductor electronics and programmable controllers?

- A. 1983**
- B. 1981**
- C. 1985**
- D. 1988**

This item asks when Journeyman courses first started to include semiconductor electronics and programmable controllers. The correct year is 1983. During the early 1980s, training programs began expanding to cover newer electronics and automation topics as industry moved toward more digital and automated systems. The introduction of semiconductor electronics and programmable controllers into the Journeyman track reflects that shift, and historical records point to 1983 as the starting year for these modules. Why the other years don't fit: 1981 would be before this expansion, while 1985 and 1988 come after the initial rollout, so they wouldn't reflect the moment when these courses were first introduced.

8. What major vesting improvement occurred in 1988?

- A. Two-year vesting
- B. Five-year vesting**
- C. Ten-year vesting
- D. Seven-year vesting

Vesting is about when you truly own the employer's retirement contributions. In 1988, the major change was to establish a five-year vesting schedule as the standard. This means you are fully vested in employer contributions after five years of service, so if you leave before hitting that mark, you don't have full ownership of those contributions. This accelerated the protection workers had, compared with longer vesting periods that were common before. For example, after five years you gain full rights to the employer's contributions, whereas leaving earlier could forfeit a larger portion. This shift made retirement benefits more secure and portable for many employees.

9. When was the NJATC first formed and how many representatives were there?

- A. April 28, 1941; 12 representatives (6 IBEW, 6 NECA)**
- B. April 28, 1951; 12 representatives (6 IBEW, 6 NECA)
- C. April 28, 1941; 10 representatives (5 IBEW, 5 NECA)
- D. March 12, 1941; 12 representatives (6 IBEW, 6 NECA)

The question tests the historical formation and initial structure of the NJATC, showing how the organization began as a joint effort between labor and management in the electrical industry and how those early governance seats were shared. The NJATC was formed on April 28, 1941, to create standardized apprenticeship and training programs across the industry. At its outset, it had twelve representatives, evenly divided between the two sides: six from IBEW and six from NECA. This balanced representation embodies the collaborative nature of the joint effort. Other dates and counts don't match the historical record—some options propose a different formation year, or a different number of initial representatives, or a different specific day—so they don't fit as the correct description of the NJATC's origin.

10. When was the First Year Inside Wire-man course introduced?

- A. August 1961**
- B. August 1959
- C. August 1963
- D. August 1957

This item focuses on when the First Year Inside Wire-man course first began. The training records show the course was introduced in August 1961, making that month and year the initial launch for this track. The other dates correspond to either earlier offerings of different programs or later revisions, not the original introduction of this particular course. Seeing August 1961 as the launch date fits the era when standardized trade training was being formalized and new intake cycles were set at the start of the academic year.

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://swlcatorientation.examzify.com>

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

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