

SYSTEM ANALYST PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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 a common unit of measurement for the work completed by one person in a day?**
 - A. Hour
 - B. Person-day
 - C. Task-unit
 - D. Work-day
- 2. Which method of developing systems is associated with modular and reusable code?**
 - A. Functional programming
 - B. Object-oriented analysis
 - C. Procedural programming
 - D. Structured analysis
- 3. Which term refers to all companies that provide materials, services, and functions needed to deliver a product to a customer?**
 - A. Supply chain
 - B. Distribution network
 - C. Value chain
 - D. Logistics system
- 4. What provides essential protection and maintenance for system hardware and software?**
 - A. Service management
 - B. Systems support and security
 - C. Software analysis
 - D. Database management
- 5. Which element is critical for effective project monitoring by project managers?**
 - A. Budget analysis
 - B. Team coordination
 - C. Client communication
 - D. Resource allocation

- 6. True or False: Most large companies rely on a systems review committee to evaluate systems requests.**
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Depends on the company size
 - D. False only in startups
- 7. Which of the following questions would help in predicting a system's operational feasibility?**
- A. Will the new system improve customer satisfaction?
 - B. Will the new system integrate with existing technologies?
 - C. Will the new system result in a workforce reduction?
 - D. Will the new system enhance data security?
- 8. What is the objective of a computer resources committee?**
- A. To approve budgets for projects
 - B. To evaluate systems projects
 - C. To monitor project progress
 - D. To manage team dynamics
- 9. What does total cost of ownership (TCO) refer to in systems development?**
- A. Initial purchase price of the system
 - B. Direct and indirect expenses associated with a system
 - C. Only indirect expenses related to operations
 - D. Maintenance costs over time
- 10. What is the primary focus of a case for action?**
- A. To analyze past performance
 - B. To justify expenses
 - C. To outline project requirements
 - D. To summarize project requests and recommendations

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a common unit of measurement for the work completed by one person in a day?

- A. Hour
- B. Person-day**
- C. Task-unit
- D. Work-day

The most widely accepted unit of measurement for the work completed by one person in a day is the person-day. This term quantifies the amount of work a single individual can accomplish within a standard workday. It is commonly used in project management and systems analysis to estimate the time and resources needed for completing a project or a specific task. The concept of the person-day is especially useful because it allows for better planning and allocation of human resources. By using this metric, managers can efficiently break down larger projects into manageable parts, assign tasks based on individual capacity, and estimate overall project duration. This helps in tracking progress and understanding workload distribution. In contrast, while hours are a basic unit of time, they do not directly represent the context of work done by a person in a day without further qualification. Task-unit and work-day references are less standard when specifically measuring individual productivity over a full day's work. The person-day is explicitly related to a single person's effort, making it the ideal choice in this scenario.

2. Which method of developing systems is associated with modular and reusable code?

- A. Functional programming
- B. Object-oriented analysis**
- C. Procedural programming
- D. Structured analysis

The correct answer is associated with object-oriented analysis, which emphasizes the modularization of code through the use of objects. In object-oriented analysis, systems are developed by modeling real-world entities as "objects" that encapsulate both data and behavior. This approach allows for the creation of reusable components, as classes can be designed with specific functionalities that can be reused in different parts of an application or in different projects altogether. The modular nature of objects facilitates easier maintenance and scalability of the system. Changes can often be made to one part of the code with minimal impact on others, which enhances flexibility in the development process. This focus on reusability not only saves time and resources but also improves code quality by promoting consistency throughout the system's architecture. In contrast, other methods such as functional programming, procedural programming, and structured analysis do not emphasize modularity and reusability to the same extent, limiting their effectiveness in creating adaptable and maintainable systems.

3. Which term refers to all companies that provide materials, services, and functions needed to deliver a product to a customer?

- A. Supply chain**
- B. Distribution network
- C. Value chain
- D. Logistics system

The term that encompasses all companies providing materials, services, and functions necessary to deliver a product to a customer is the supply chain. A supply chain includes various organizations and activities involved in sourcing raw materials, manufacturing products, and distributing them to end consumers. It extends from the initial suppliers of raw materials to the manufacturers, then to wholesalers, and finally to retailers and customers. Understanding this concept is crucial, as effective management of the supply chain can enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve customer satisfaction. The integration of these various elements ensures that products are produced and available to customers in a timely manner, thereby meeting market demand. In contrast, while terms like distribution network and logistics system are related to the movement and storage of goods, they represent more specific aspects of the broader supply chain. The distribution network focuses on the channels through which products flow to reach customers, and the logistics system emphasizes the planning and execution of the movement of goods. The value chain, on the other hand, refers more to the series of activities that add value to a product, from conception to delivery, rather than the full network of companies involved in those processes.

4. What provides essential protection and maintenance for system hardware and software?

- A. Service management
- B. Systems support and security**
- C. Software analysis
- D. Database management

The choice of systems support and security is pivotal because it encompasses the critical functions required to maintain and protect system hardware and software. This area not only includes ensuring that the systems are operating effectively but also involves implementing security measures to safeguard against threats such as malware, unauthorized access, and data breaches. Systems support typically refers to the ongoing services that ensure the optimal functioning of IT infrastructure. This includes regular updates, patches, backups, and troubleshooting. Security measures within this domain focus on protecting the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of data, which is essential for both hardware and software components. In contrast, while service management pertains to delivering IT services efficiently, it does not specifically prioritize the protection of the systems themselves. Software analysis is more centered around evaluating and improving software functionality and performance rather than maintaining or securing it. Database management, though crucial for handling data in databases, does not cover the broader scope of hardware and system software maintenance and protection. Thus, systems support and security is the most comprehensive answer for ensuring sustained protection and maintenance of both hardware and software systems.

5. Which element is critical for effective project monitoring by project managers?

- A. Budget analysis
- B. Team coordination**
- C. Client communication
- D. Resource allocation

Effective project monitoring relies heavily on team coordination. Project managers need to ensure that team members are aligned and working collaboratively towards the project's objectives. When there is strong coordination, it facilitates better communication and collaboration among team members, which helps identify potential issues early, keeps everyone informed of their responsibilities, and promotes a productive work environment. It also allows for quick adaptability to any changes that might arise during the project lifecycle, thus maintaining progress toward project milestones. While budget analysis, client communication, and resource allocation are also important aspects of project management, they are often influenced by the overall coordination within the team. Without effective team coordination, the execution of these other elements can become disjointed, leading to misunderstandings, mismanagement of resources, or misalignment with client expectations. Therefore, prioritizing team coordination establishes a solid foundation for successfully monitoring and managing a project.

6. True or False: Most large companies rely on a systems review committee to evaluate systems requests.

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Depends on the company size
- D. False only in startups

The correct response reflects the understanding that not all large companies utilize a systems review committee for evaluating systems requests. While many large organizations might implement such committees to streamline the evaluation process, it is not universally true. Each company may develop its own structure and process for handling systems requests based on its specific needs, culture, and operational mechanisms. In some instances, especially in more agile or innovative environments, companies may opt for alternative methods, such as cross-departmental collaboration or relying on project management frameworks that empower individual teams or managers to make decisions about systems requests without a formal committee. Therefore, the assumption that most large companies use a systems review committee does not hold true universally. By recognizing that company structures can differ significantly, this understanding allows one to appreciate that the approach to evaluating systems requests can vary widely across different organizations and industries.

7. Which of the following questions would help in predicting a system's operational feasibility?

- A. Will the new system improve customer satisfaction?
- B. Will the new system integrate with existing technologies?
- C. Will the new system result in a workforce reduction?**
- D. Will the new system enhance data security?

When assessing a system's operational feasibility, it's essential to understand how the new system will affect current operations and workforce dynamics. The correct answer focuses on the potential outcomes of implementation, particularly regarding personnel changes. Operational feasibility examines whether the organization can effectively operate the system after implementation, including considerations of staffing, workflows, and employee capabilities. In this context, a question about workforce reduction highlights critical factors such as employee morale, training needs, and the overall impact on operations. If the new system leads to workforce reductions, it can significantly affect the organization's ability to function smoothly and maintain productivity, ultimately failing the feasibility of the system from an operational perspective. While the other options raise important considerations about customer satisfaction, integration with existing technologies, and data security, these aspects primarily touch on performance, technical feasibility, and organizational benefits rather than directly addressing the operational capabilities and human resources involved in maintaining and running the system effectively. Thus, they are essential but do not specifically answer the operational feasibility question as fundamentally as the aspect of workforce changes does.

8. What is the objective of a computer resources committee?

- A. To approve budgets for projects
- B. To evaluate systems projects**
- C. To monitor project progress
- D. To manage team dynamics

The primary objective of a computer resources committee is to evaluate systems projects. This involves assessing the viability, potential impacts, and alignment of proposed projects with the organization's strategic goals, budget constraints, and available technologies. The committee typically consists of members from various departments to ensure a well-rounded perspective on how a project might affect different aspects of the organization. Evaluating systems projects means the committee reviews project proposals, analyzes both the technical and business aspects, and determines whether a project should move forward, be adjusted, or be shelved entirely. This process is crucial for making informed decisions that optimize resource allocation and enhance overall project success, ensuring that investments in IT align with the organization's objectives. The options related to budget approval, project monitoring, and managing team dynamics are important aspects of project management but are not the main focus of the committee's role. Those activities can be performed by project managers or specific departments tasked with budget oversight and team leadership, respectively.

9. What does total cost of ownership (TCO) refer to in systems development?

- A. Initial purchase price of the system
- B. Direct and indirect expenses associated with a system**
- C. Only indirect expenses related to operations
- D. Maintenance costs over time

Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) is a comprehensive financial estimate that helps organizations assess the overall costs associated with acquiring and operating a system throughout its life cycle. This includes not only the initial purchase price of the system but also all direct and indirect expenses related to it. Direct expenses can include costs such as hardware, software licenses, and installation, while indirect expenses may encompass training, support, maintenance, energy consumption, and the impact on productivity. By taking into account these various costs, TCO provides a more accurate picture of what it really costs to implement and maintain a system over time, aiding decision-makers in budgeting and financial planning. This multifaceted approach enables organizations to make better-informed choices regarding technology investments, ensuring they understand both short-term and long-term implications. Thus, recognizing TCO is crucial for effective systems development and management.

10. What is the primary focus of a case for action?

- A. To analyze past performance
- B. To justify expenses
- C. To outline project requirements
- D. To summarize project requests and recommendations**

The primary focus of a case for action is to summarize project requests and recommendations. This document serves as a compelling argument that explains why a particular project or change is necessary. It encapsulates the issues or opportunities that prompt the project, the proposed solution, and its anticipated benefits. By summarizing these elements, the case for action provides stakeholders with a clear understanding of the rationale behind the project, which can facilitate decision-making and garner support. In contrast, analyzing past performance typically involves looking at data and outcomes from previous projects rather than making a case for new action. Justifying expenses is more about explaining why specific costs are necessary rather than framing the overall need for a project. Outlining project requirements, while important, focuses more on the specifics of what needs to be accomplished rather than the overarching justification for why the project should proceed. The case for action provides a high-level perspective that integrates these various aspects, making it a crucial document for promoting a new initiative.

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:

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

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