

TEXAS REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR (RPLS) 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 instrument would a land surveyor typically use to establish horizontal angles?**
 - A. Barometer
 - B. Levels
 - C. Tripod
 - D. Theodolite
- 2. What is the least squares method used for in surveying?**
 - A. To maximize errors in measurements
 - B. To minimize the errors in measurements during the adjustment process
 - C. To compare different land analysis techniques
 - D. To calculate land value estimates
- 3. What rule is referenced in the natural resource code regarding survey definitions?**
 - A. Thirty Foot Rule
 - B. Fifty Foot Regulation
 - C. Standing Measure
 - D. Land Use Rule
- 4. What is the purpose of the Homestead Act of 1862?**
 - A. To provide 160 acres of land to families
 - B. To establish a system of land ownership
 - C. To regulate land sales
 - D. To define surveying standards
- 5. What does the term 'easting' refer to?**
 - A. Distance measured east from a defined meridian
 - B. Distance measured north from a defined baseline
 - C. Angle of intersection
 - D. A defined property boundary

- 6. What is the significance of the Texas Land Survey System?**
- A. It governs the tax assessment of land
 - B. It defines methods for legal land description
 - C. It establishes zoning laws in Texas
 - D. It regulates land use based on environmental factors
- 7. Which of the following is NOT a statutory period for Adverse Possession?**
- A. 3 years
 - B. 10 years
 - C. 15 years
 - D. 25 years
- 8. After 1854, what was the amount of land available for preemption?**
- A. 160 acres
 - B. 320 acres
 - C. 640 acres
 - D. 80 acres
- 9. What do prescriptive rights allow for?**
- A. Acquisition through authorized use of land.
 - B. Acquisition through ownership transfer.
 - C. Acquisition through unauthorized use of land.
 - D. Acquisition through purchase.
- 10. How many survey feet are equivalent to one meter?**
- A. 2.54 survey feet
 - B. 3.280833333 survey feet
 - C. 39.3701 survey feet
 - D. 10.7639 survey feet

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What instrument would a land surveyor typically use to establish horizontal angles?

- A. Barometer
- B. Levels
- C. Tripod

D. Theodolite

The theodolite is the instrument typically used by land surveyors to establish horizontal angles. It is an essential tool that provides precise measurements of angles in both the horizontal and vertical planes. The design of a theodolite allows for accurate alignment with specified points and facilitates the calculation of angles necessary for determining boundary lines and creating land maps. The functionality of the theodolite includes a telescope for sighting distant markers while also featuring graduated circles for measuring angles. Its versatility and precision make it indispensable in various surveying applications, including construction, civil engineering, and land development. In contrast, other instruments listed, such as barometers, are primarily used to measure atmospheric pressure and have no direct application in measuring angles. Levels are used to establish horizontal planes and ensure that surfaces are flat but do not measure angles. A tripod, while vital for stabilizing surveying equipment, does not perform any measurement tasks itself. Understanding the specific applications of these tools is key for effective surveying practices.

2. What is the least squares method used for in surveying?

- A. To maximize errors in measurements
- B. To minimize the errors in measurements during the adjustment process**
- C. To compare different land analysis techniques
- D. To calculate land value estimates

The least squares method is a statistical technique used in surveying to minimize the sum of the squares of the differences (residuals) between observed values and the values predicted by a model. In the context of surveying, it is particularly utilized during the adjustment process of measurements to ensure that the final position of survey points is as accurate as possible. By applying the least squares method, surveyors can effectively distribute and minimize errors across all measurements, leading to a more reliable and precise result. This overall reduction in error improves the integrity of the data collected and allows for more accurate representations of the surveyed area. Utilizing this method means that any adjustments made during the surveying process are based on statistical principles that seek an optimal solution, rather than simply averaging or selecting arbitrary values from the data set. This is crucial in applications where precise measurements are necessary, such as when establishing property boundaries or designing infrastructure.

3. What rule is referenced in the natural resource code regarding survey definitions?

- A. Thirty Foot Rule**
- B. Fifty Foot Regulation
- C. Standing Measure
- D. Land Use Rule

The correct choice refers to the "Thirty Foot Rule," which is significant in the context of Texas natural resource regulations. This rule generally pertains to the requirements for determining boundary lines and surveying when it comes to natural resources management. In Texas, this rule is crucial because it establishes a standard distance from which measurements and calculations regarding property boundaries must be made. This distance helps ensure that land surveyors adhere to a consistent methodology, which is essential for the accuracy of land surveys and for legal determination of property lines. Utilizing this established distance supports proper land management and resource allocation, ensuring compliance with state laws. Understanding rules like the Thirty Foot Rule is vital for land surveyors, as these regulations guide their work in demarcating property boundaries, taking into account various factors including ownership rights and environmental protections.

4. What is the purpose of the Homestead Act of 1862?

- A. To provide 160 acres of land to families**
- B. To establish a system of land ownership
- C. To regulate land sales
- D. To define surveying standards

The Homestead Act of 1862 was significant because it aimed to promote westward expansion and settlement in the United States. This legislation offered 160 acres of public land to any adult citizen or intended citizen who could cultivate and improve the land for a period of five years. The intention was to encourage farming and development in the west, making land more accessible to individuals and families, and fostering economic growth in these regions. While the other options touch on aspects related to land, they do not capture the primary goal of the Homestead Act. It was not focused on establishing a system of land ownership, regulating land sales, or defining surveying standards. Instead, the act directly facilitated individual land ownership by providing citizens an opportunity to claim land and cultivate it, which was instrumental in shaping the demographic and economic landscape of the United States during that era.

5. What does the term 'easting' refer to?

- A. Distance measured east from a defined meridian**
- B. Distance measured north from a defined baseline
- C. Angle of intersection
- D. A defined property boundary

The term 'easting' specifically refers to the distance measured east from a defined meridian, which is a key concept in geographic coordinate systems and land surveying. In these systems, the earth is divided into longitudinal lines which are used as reference points for measurements. The easting value indicates how far one is located eastward from the origin or a specific meridian line, typically expressed in meters or feet. Understanding easting is essential for navigating and mapping accurately within a grid system, such as the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) system, where coordinates are given in easting and northing dimensions. This precision allows surveyors to pinpoint locations on the earth's surface effectively. In comparison, the other options relate to different surveying concepts. The measurement of distance north from a defined baseline refers to 'northing,' which differentiates it from easting. The angle of intersection pertains to angular measurements in surveying rather than geographic coordinates. Lastly, a defined property boundary describes the physical limits of a property but does not relate directly to coordinate measurement systems.

6. What is the significance of the Texas Land Survey System?

- A. It governs the tax assessment of land
- B. It defines methods for legal land description**
- C. It establishes zoning laws in Texas
- D. It regulates land use based on environmental factors

The significance of the Texas Land Survey System primarily lies in its role in defining methods for legal land description. This system provides a standardized framework for describing land boundaries and property lines, which is essential for determining ownership and facilitating transactions in real estate. Accurate legal descriptions help prevent disputes over property boundaries and ensure that land can be clearly identified in legal documents. This systematic approach enables surveyors to convey precise information about land parcels, allowing for reliable recording of property deeds, effective land use planning, and compliance with legal requirements. The Texas Land Survey System is particularly important in a state where land has been subdivided and transferred numerous times since the days of the Spanish land grants, making clear and precise descriptions crucial for property rights. In contrasting it with the other choices, while tax assessment, zoning laws, and environmental regulations may intersect with land use, they do not define property in the way that the description methods provided by the Land Survey System do. These aspects tend to operate upon the framework established by the survey methods rather than being part of the foundational system itself.

7. Which of the following is NOT a statutory period for Adverse Possession?

- A. 3 years
- B. 10 years
- C. 15 years**
- D. 25 years

Adverse possession is a legal doctrine that allows a person to claim ownership of land under certain conditions, typically involving the actual possession of the property for a specified period of time, use that is open and notorious, and continuous. In Texas, the statutory periods for adverse possession are defined in the Property Code. The correct answer reflects that a 15-year period is not recognized under Texas law for establishing a claim of adverse possession. In Texas, the recognized statutory periods are typically 3 years, 10 years, and 25 years. The rationale behind these specific timeframes is founded on common law principles that balance the interests of property rights against the potential for land to become neglected or abandoned over time. To clarify, the 3-year period applies when an individual holds land under a title that is void or defective but colorably valid. Ten years is the period for possession under a claim of right, and 25 years applies to situations of continuous and uninterrupted possession beyond dispute or challenge. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for anyone involved in land surveying, as these timeframes can significantly impact property rights and disputes over land claims.

8. After 1854, what was the amount of land available for preemption?

- A. 160 acres**
- B. 320 acres
- C. 640 acres
- D. 80 acres

The correct answer is 160 acres, which aligns with the Preemption Act of 1854. This legislation allowed individuals to claim land for farming and settlement ahead of others, with the stipulation that they would pay the federal government for the land. The act permitted settlers to preempt land that was already occupied or claimed by them, but limited the amount to 160 acres per individual. This amount was established to encourage settler expansion while ensuring that land would not be hoarded by a few individuals. In the context of the other options, they do not reflect the limits established by the Preemption Act of 1854. For example, 320 acres or 640 acres were larger than what was permitted under this specific act for individual preemption claims. Additionally, 80 acres, while less than 160 acres, was also not the specified maximum limit set by the legislation. Therefore, the choice of 160 acres is accurate within the historical context of land preemption policies introduced in that era.

9. What do prescriptive rights allow for?

- A. Acquisition through authorized use of land.
- B. Acquisition through ownership transfer.
- C. Acquisition through unauthorized use of land.**
- D. Acquisition through purchase.

Prescriptive rights are a legal doctrine that allows a person to claim a right over the property of another based on continuous and unauthorized use of that property for a certain period of time, as established by law. This concept is often found in property law where a user may gain legal rights to access or use land if their use has been open, notorious, hostile, and continuous for the required statutory period, even without the permission of the property owner. The essence of prescriptive rights lies in the fact that, despite the lack of ownership or permission, the user can establish a right to the land simply through their long-standing use of it. This principle contradicts the belief that only formal agreements or ownership can grant rights to land, hence making unauthorized use the foundation for acquiring these rights.

10. How many survey feet are equivalent to one meter?

- A. 2.54 survey feet
- B. 3.280833333 survey feet**
- C. 39.3701 survey feet
- D. 10.7639 survey feet

The conversion from meters to survey feet hinges on the relationship between the metric and imperial units of measurement. In surveying, one meter is equivalent to approximately 3.280833333 survey feet. This value comes from the fact that one meter is equal to 3.280839895 feet, and for surveying purposes, it is common to round this to a more manageable number. Survey feet specifically allow for precise calculations suited to work involving land and property, and using this factor aids in converting measurements accurately. Using this relationship ensures accurate results when transitioning between metric and imperial systems, enabling land surveyors to maintain the integrity and precision of their work across differing unit systems. The other options represent incorrect values for the conversion from meters to survey feet.

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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://texasregisteredprolandsurveyor.examzify.com>

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

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