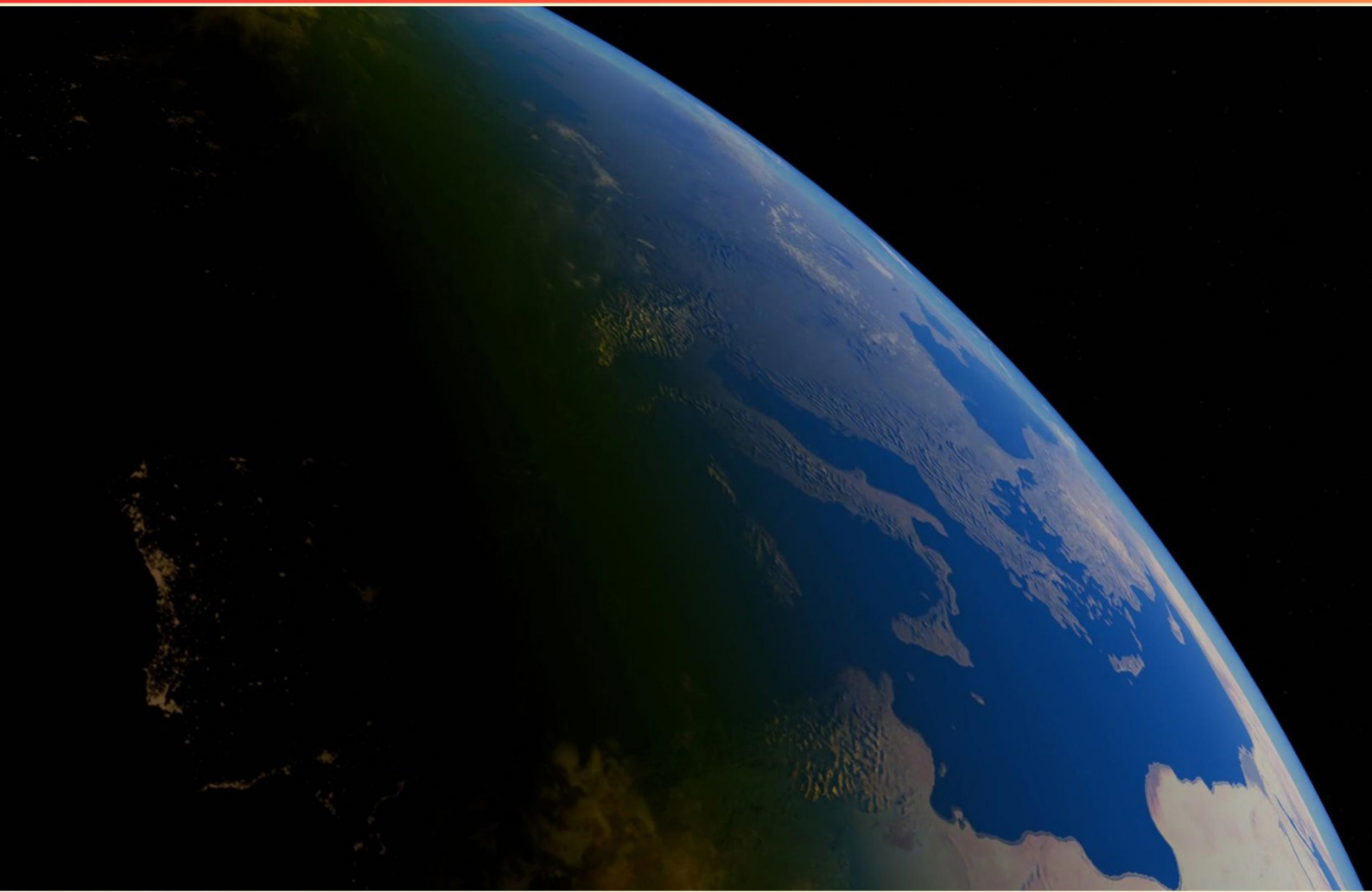


UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA (UCF) GEO1200 PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY MIDTERM PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://ucf-geo1200-midterm.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the longest parallel of latitude called?**
 - A. Tropic of Cancer
 - B. Equator
 - C. Arctic Circle
 - D. Tropic of Capricorn
- 2. What term is used to describe the driest dunes found in a certain climate zone?**
 - A. Arid
 - B. Desert
 - C. Tropical
 - D. Equatorial
- 3. Where is the majority of Earth's fresh water found?**
 - A. Glaciers and ice sheets
 - B. Rivers and lakes
 - C. Atmosphere
 - D. Groundwater
- 4. At what latitude do the great deserts of the world typically line up?**
 - A. 30 degrees
 - B. 60 degrees
 - C. 15 degrees
 - D. 45 degrees
- 5. What percentage of the Earth's atmosphere is made up of nitrogen?**
 - A. 78%
 - B. 21%
 - C. 1%
 - D. 5%

- 6. Which air mass is generally associated with high humidity and originates over warm ocean waters?**
- A. Maritime Equatorial (mE)
 - B. Continental Polar (cP)
 - C. Maritime Polar (mP)
 - D. Continental Tropical (cT)
- 7. What occurs to temperature as altitude increases in the troposphere?**
- A. It increases
 - B. It decreases
 - C. It stabilizes
 - D. It fluctuates
- 8. What is referred to when cool water is replaced by warm, sterile water in the ocean?**
- A. La Niña
 - B. El Niño
 - C. Upwelling
 - D. Thermocline
- 9. What quality of a surface does 'albedo' refer to?**
- A. Temperature
 - B. Light reflection
 - C. Moisture retention
 - D. Soil composition
- 10. What direction does the meridian of longitude run?**
- A. North to south
 - B. East to west
 - C. Diagonal
 - D. Circular

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the longest parallel of latitude called?

- A. Tropic of Cancer
- B. Equator**
- C. Arctic Circle
- D. Tropic of Capricorn

The longest parallel of latitude is the Equator, which is located at 0 degrees latitude. It is significant because it divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres and is the reference point from which all other lines of latitude are measured. The Equator has a length of approximately 40,075 kilometers (around 24,901 miles), making it the longest of all the parallels. In contrast, the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn are located at approximately 23.5 degrees north and south latitude, respectively, and are shorter than the Equator. The Arctic Circle, situated at about 66.5 degrees north latitude, marks the southernmost point of the region where the sun does not set on the summer solstice, and it is also shorter than the Equator. Hence, the Equator stands out as the longest parallel of latitude, which is why it is the correct answer.

2. What term is used to describe the driest dunes found in a certain climate zone?

- A. Arid
- B. Desert**
- C. Tropical
- D. Equatorial

The term "Desert" refers to a specific climate zone characterized by extremely low precipitation, making it one of the driest environments on Earth. Deserts can feature various landforms, including sand dunes, which are often associated with these arid areas. The conditions found in deserts lead to sparse vegetation and high evaporation rates, contributing to the overall dryness of the dunes present in such environments. In contrast, while the term "Arid" describes a climate with limited moisture, it is broader and can apply to various regions that are not necessarily classified as deserts. The other terms, "Tropical" and "Equatorial," pertain to climates that are typically warm and experience significant rainfall, which does not align with the features of dry dunes. Thus, "Desert" is the most accurate term to describe the specific types of dunes found in the driest climate zones.

3. Where is the majority of Earth's fresh water found?

- A. Glaciers and ice sheets**
- B. Rivers and lakes
- C. Atmosphere
- D. Groundwater

The majority of Earth's fresh water is found in glaciers and ice sheets. This is significant because it accounts for about 68.7% of all fresh water on the planet. These large, frozen reservoirs are predominantly located in polar regions, such as Antarctica and Greenland, where temperatures allow for the accumulation and preservation of ice. Glaciers and ice sheets provide a crucial source of fresh water, especially in regions that rely on melting ice for their water supply during warmer months. Understanding this distribution is important in the context of climate change, as melting ice due to rising global temperatures can significantly impact fresh water availability, sea levels, and ecosystems. In contrast, while groundwater ranks as the largest source of accessible fresh water for human use, it constitutes about 30.1% of fresh water. Rivers and lakes hold only a small fraction, around 0.3%, while the atmosphere contains an even tinier amount. This highlights the relative abundance of fresh water locked in glacial formations compared to other sources.

4. At what latitude do the great deserts of the world typically line up?

- A. 30 degrees**
- B. 60 degrees
- C. 15 degrees
- D. 45 degrees

The great deserts of the world are typically found around 30 degrees latitude, both north and south of the equator. This latitude is associated with the descending arm of the Hadley cells, which are large-scale atmospheric circulation patterns. Warm air rises at the equator, creating an area of low pressure. As this air moves towards the poles, it cools and sinks at approximately 30 degrees latitude. The descending air is dry because it loses much of its moisture as it rises, resulting in arid conditions and the formation of deserts. This pattern is evident in many of the world's major deserts, such as the Sahara in Africa, the Arabian Desert, and the Sonoran Desert in North America. Each of these deserts is on or near the 30-degree latitude mark due to similar climatic conditions created by the Hadley cell circulation. The other latitudes listed—60 degrees, 15 degrees, and 45 degrees—do not correspond to the same prevailing climatic conditions conducive to desert formation. At 60 degrees, for instance, the air tends to be cooler and more humid, leading to forested and wetter environments rather than deserts.

5. What percentage of the Earth's atmosphere is made up of nitrogen?

- A. 78%**
- B. 21%
- C. 1%
- D. 5%

The composition of Earth's atmosphere is primarily influenced by nitrogen, which constitutes a significant majority of its volume. Approximately 78% of the atmosphere is nitrogen. This high percentage plays a crucial role in the overall balance and health of the atmosphere, as nitrogen is a key component of the air we breathe but is not directly usable by most living organisms in its gaseous form. The remaining portion of the atmosphere is made up of oxygen, carbon dioxide, argon, and other trace gases. Oxygen accounts for about 21% of the atmosphere, which supports life through respiration, while argon and carbon dioxide make up much smaller percentages. The other choices—1% and 5%—underrepresent the actual percentage of nitrogen, reinforcing the importance of understanding atmospheric composition in physical geography and its implications for ecological systems and climate.

6. Which air mass is generally associated with high humidity and originates over warm ocean waters?

- A. Maritime Equatorial (mE)**
- B. Continental Polar (cP)
- C. Maritime Polar (mP)
- D. Continental Tropical (cT)

The air mass that is associated with high humidity and originates over warm ocean waters is the Maritime Equatorial (mE) air mass. This type of air mass forms in tropical regions over warm seas, where it absorbs moisture from the ocean, resulting in high humidity content. Because it originates in a warm environment, it carries significant heat and moisture, which contributes to weather phenomena like thunderstorms and heavy precipitation when it moves over land or interacts with other air masses. The Maritime Equatorial air mass's characteristics make it particularly influential in tropical weather systems, including cyclones, and help explain the humid conditions found in equatorial regions. The warm ocean surface significantly impacts the air mass, and as it moves, it can lead to variations in temperature and humidity, especially in coastal areas. Other air masses in the choices listed do not have these characteristics: - Continental Polar (cP) originates over land in high-latitude regions and is typically cold and dry. - Maritime Polar (mP) comes from colder ocean waters, resulting in cool and moist conditions but not as warm or humid as mE. - Continental Tropical (cT) forms over land in lower latitudes but is characterized by hot and dry conditions, lacking the moisture typically associated with maritime air

7. What occurs to temperature as altitude increases in the troposphere?

- A. It increases
- B. It decreases**
- C. It stabilizes
- D. It fluctuates

In the troposphere, temperature decreases with increasing altitude. This trend is primarily due to the way the atmosphere is heated. The Earth's surface absorbs solar radiation and transfers this heat to the air directly above it. As you move higher in the troposphere, the air is farther from the heat source, resulting in lower temperatures. This decrease in temperature with height is known as the environmental lapse rate, which typically averages around 6.5 degrees Celsius per kilometer. Understanding this phenomenon is crucial for grasping concepts related to weather patterns, climate zones, and atmospheric phenomena. It explains why mountainous areas often have cooler temperatures than lowland regions at the same latitude. The layers of the atmosphere above the troposphere behave differently, with temperature generally increasing with altitude in the stratosphere due to ozone absorption of UV radiation, but this does not apply to the troposphere itself.

8. What is referred to when cool water is replaced by warm, sterile water in the ocean?

- A. La Niña
- B. El Niño**
- C. Upwelling
- D. Thermocline

The phenomenon where cool water is replaced by warm, sterile water in the ocean is characterized by El Niño. During an El Niño event, the usual patterns of ocean currents and temperature are disrupted, leading to a significant warming of surface waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. This warming can inhibit the upwelling of colder, nutrient-rich waters from the depths of the ocean. As a result, marine life that thrives in these cooler waters may be negatively impacted, leading to a decrease in biological productivity. El Niño is part of a larger climatic cycle known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which includes both El Niño and its counterpart, La Niña, the latter being associated with cooler ocean temperatures. Understanding these temperature shifts is crucial, as they have wide-ranging impacts not only on marine ecosystems but also on global weather patterns, including precipitation and storm intensity across different regions.

9. What quality of a surface does 'albedo' refer to?

- A. Temperature
- B. Light reflection**
- C. Moisture retention
- D. Soil composition

Albedo refers to the measure of reflectivity of a surface, particularly how much sunlight is reflected by that surface back into the atmosphere. It is expressed as a fraction or percentage, where a surface with high albedo reflects most of the incoming solar radiation, while a surface with low albedo absorbs more solar radiation. For example, fresh snow has a high albedo because it reflects most of the sunlight, whereas dark asphalt has a low albedo because it absorbs more heat. Understanding albedo is crucial in physical geography as it affects local climate and temperature, playing a significant role in energy balance, surface heating, and the overall dynamics of the Earth's atmosphere. It's also a key factor in studies related to climate change, as changes in land use or cover can alter the albedo effect, impacting global temperatures. In contrast, the other options focus on different physical properties—temperature relates to heat, moisture retention refers to a surface's ability to hold water, and soil composition pertains to the minerals and organic matter present in the soil. Each of these factors is important in its own right but does not define the concept of albedo.

10. What direction does the meridian of longitude run?

- A. North to south
- B. East to west**
- C. Diagonal
- D. Circular

The correct answer is that the meridian of longitude runs north to south. Meridians are the lines on a map that connect the North Pole and South Pole. Longitude measures the angular distance of a point east or west of the Prime Meridian, which is set at 0 degrees. Each meridian is an arc that spans from pole to pole, indicating a specific location in the longitudinal system of geographic coordinates. In contrast, the other options describe orientations that do not pertain to the nature of longitude. East to west refers to lines of latitude, which run parallel to the equator and measure the distance north or south of it. Diagonal and circular would not accurately characterize the straight, vertical alignment of the lines of longitude. Understanding the orientation of meridians is crucial for navigation and for grasping how we define locations on the Earth's surface.

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://ucf-geo1200-midterm.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE