

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (UOFT) UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ANT100Y1 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY MIDTERM PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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	16

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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 antigenic drift associated with?**
 - A. Large changes in traits
 - B. Accumulation of small mutations in viruses
 - C. Patterns of inheritance
 - D. Rapid species evolution
- 2. Which category do humans belong to within the primate classification?**
 - A. Platyrrhines
 - B. Tarsiiformes
 - C. Catarrhines
 - D. New World monkeys
- 3. Which of these hominins is known for the practice of burial and floral offerings?**
 - A. Homo erectus
 - B. Homo ergaster
 - C. Homo neanderthalensis
 - D. Homo sapiens
- 4. What nickname is given to Homo floresiensis?**
 - A. The Hobbit
 - B. The Giant
 - C. The Dwarf Man
 - D. The Little One
- 5. What characterizes a pebble tool?**
 - A. Rounded stone cobble with several flakes removed
 - B. Large core tool shaped like a pointed oval
 - C. Thick flake with steep retouch
 - D. Very small blades hafted into handles
- 6. Which of the following does NOT describe the theory of catastrophism?**
 - A. It suggests natural disasters shape landforms
 - B. It accounts for the extinction of some species
 - C. It claims species can evolve significantly over time
 - D. It allows for changes in species without denying their biblical age

- 7. What is the primary distinction between archaeology and heritage?**
- A. Archaeology focuses on literature; heritage focuses on artifacts.
 - B. Archaeology is about excavation; heritage is about storytelling.
 - C. Archaeology emphasizes preservation-by-record; heritage emphasizes preservation-on-site.
 - D. Archaeology is ancient; heritage is contemporary.
- 8. What is the correct sequence of stages in mitosis?**
- A. Metaphase, Prophase, Telophase, Anaphase
 - B. Prophase, Metaphase, Anaphase, Telophase
 - C. Anaphase, Telophase, Prophase, Metaphase
 - D. Telophase, Anaphase, Prophase, Metaphase
- 9. In terms of species definitions, what is a primary advantage of the phylogenetic species concept?**
- A. It focuses on ecological roles.
 - B. It emphasizes morphological similarities.
 - C. It combines genetic data and evolutionary relationships.
 - D. It requires only observational data.
- 10. What is a core in stone tool terminology?**
- A. A sharp edge used for cutting
 - B. An artifact from which flakes are removed
 - C. A decorative element on tools
 - D. A type of ancient nodule for decoration

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is antigenic drift associated with?

- A. Large changes in traits
- B. Accumulation of small mutations in viruses**
- C. Patterns of inheritance
- D. Rapid species evolution

Antigenic drift is associated with the accumulation of small mutations in viruses, particularly RNA viruses like influenza. Over time, these minor genetic changes can alter the virus's surface proteins, which are recognized by the immune system. As a result, the virus can evade the immune responses generated by previous infections or vaccinations, leading to challenges in the body's ability to recognize and fight off the virus. This gradual process is essential for explaining why vaccines may need to be updated regularly, as the virus can change enough that prior immunity may not be effective. The other options do not accurately describe antigenic drift. Large changes in traits may relate more to antigenic shift, which involves the reassortment of genes between different virus strains, leading to significant changes. Patterns of inheritance do not apply, as antigenic drift concerns viral mutation rather than genetic transmission. Lastly, rapid species evolution is too broad and does not capture the specific, indeed gradual, nature of mutations that define antigenic drift. Thus, the focus on the accumulation of small mutations effectively highlights the mechanism and implications of antigenic drift in virology.

2. Which category do humans belong to within the primate classification?

- A. Platyrrhines
- B. Tarsiiformes
- C. Catarrhines**
- D. New World monkeys

Humans belong to the category of Catarrhines within the primate classification. This group includes Old World monkeys and apes, which have distinct evolutionary traits. Catarrhines are characterized by their downward-facing nostrils, as well as specific dental and skeletal features that differentiate them from other primates. Humans specifically fall under the subcategory of hominoids, which includes apes. In contrast, Platyrrhines are often referred to as New World monkeys, and they are primarily found in South and Central America. Tarsiiformes refer to a group that includes tarsiers and are considered a more primitive branch within the primate family. New World monkeys are distinct from Catarrhines, mainly due to their geographical habitat and certain biological traits. Thus, humans' placement as Catarrhines is accurate as it reflects our closest phylogenetic relationship to old world primates and apes.

3. Which of these hominins is known for the practice of burial and floral offerings?

- A. Homo erectus
- B. Homo ergaster
- C. Homo neanderthalensis
- D. Homo sapiens

The practice of burial and floral offerings is primarily associated with Homo neanderthalensis, also known as Neanderthals. Archaeological evidence suggests that Neanderthals engaged in ritualistic burial practices. They often buried their dead with care, sometimes including items such as tools, animal remains, and even flowers, indicating a level of cultural complexity and a possible belief in an afterlife or reverence for the deceased. This behavior reflects an understanding of mortality and social bonds that was previously thought to be unique to modern humans, but Neanderthals demonstrated these practices as well. Their burials suggest a cognitive capacity for symbolic thought and the emotional expression associated with loss. This cultural practice sets Neanderthals apart from other hominins, who may not have exhibited the same degree of ritualistic behavior. Homo erectus and Homo ergaster did not display evidence of burial practices in the same manner as Neanderthals, and while Homo sapiens certainly engage in burial rites, the question specifically focuses on the hominin associated with these early practices, which points directly to Neanderthals as having been known for this behavior.

4. What nickname is given to Homo floresiensis?

- A. The Hobbit
- B. The Giant
- C. The Dwarf Man
- D. The Little One

Homo floresiensis is commonly referred to as "The Hobbit" primarily due to its small stature, which resembles the fictional character created by J.R.R. Tolkien. This hominin species, discovered on the island of Flores in Indonesia, stood at approximately 3.5 feet tall, which is significantly shorter than modern humans. The nickname emphasizes their diminutive size, making it easier to remember and relate to the unique characteristics of this species as compared to other hominins. The term "Hobbit" has gained widespread acceptance in both scientific and popular literature, making it an effective shorthand for Homo floresiensis. This references both their physical traits and their distinctive place in the evolutionary narrative of human development.

5. What characterizes a pebble tool?

A. Rounded stone cobble with several flakes removed

B. Large core tool shaped like a pointed oval

C. Thick flake with steep retouch

D. Very small blades hafted into handles

A pebble tool is characterized by its rounded stone cobble with several flakes removed from it. This description emphasizes the essence of pebble tools, which are traditionally associated with early human tool-making practices. The process involves striking the surface of a naturally rounded stone to create sharp edges, which can be used for cutting, grinding, or scraping. The rounded shape of the tool allows for easy handling and use, reflecting an evolutionary step in the development of technology among early humans. The presence of several flakes removed indicates that the tool has been deliberately shaped through flaking, demonstrating intentionality and skill in tool production. In contrast, the other options describe different types of tools that do not match the characteristics of a pebble tool. For instance, a large core tool shaped like a pointed oval typically emphasizes the core aspect rather than the rounded nature of pebble tools. A thick flake with steep retouch suggests a specific adaptation for particular functions that are distinct from the general use of pebble tools. Very small blades hafted into handles represent a different stage of tool evolution and complexity, which diverges from the simpler design of a pebble tool created from cobble stones. Each type serves its purpose within the broader archaeological understanding of human technological advancement.

6. Which of the following does NOT describe the theory of catastrophism?

A. It suggests natural disasters shape landforms

B. It accounts for the extinction of some species

C. It claims species can evolve significantly over time

D. It allows for changes in species without denying their biblical age

The theory of catastrophism is rooted in the idea that the Earth's features and the species that inhabit it have been shaped primarily by a series of sudden, short-lived, and violent events, such as natural disasters. This perspective suggests that major geological events, like floods or volcanic eruptions, can dramatically alter landscapes and ecosystems, leading to the extinction of certain species and the emergence of new ones. The first two statements align well with the principles of catastrophism. The notion that natural disasters shape landforms is fundamental to the theory, as these cataclysmic events are seen as the primary forces behind significant geological changes. Additionally, the theory accounts for the extinction of species, explaining that drastic events could lead to the sudden disappearance of organisms that could not adapt quickly enough to the new conditions. The fourth statement talks about the compatibility of catastrophism with the biblical age of the Earth, emphasizing that while catastrophes can cause rapid changes, they do not negate the longstanding belief in a divinely ordained timeframe for the creation of the Earth and its inhabitants. In contrast, the claim that species can evolve significantly over time, as indicated in the correct choice, does not align with the traditional understanding of catastrophism. This idea implies a gradual process of change and adaptation

7. What is the primary distinction between archaeology and heritage?

- A. Archaeology focuses on literature; heritage focuses on artifacts.
- B. Archaeology is about excavation; heritage is about storytelling.
- C. Archaeology emphasizes preservation-by-record; heritage emphasizes preservation-on-site.**
- D. Archaeology is ancient; heritage is contemporary.

The primary distinction between archaeology and heritage lies in their approaches to preservation and interpretation. Archaeology is primarily concerned with the scientific study of past human cultures through their material remains, which often involves excavation and analysis of artifacts, structures, and environmental data. This process of excavation allows archaeologists to gather historical information and foster understanding of ancient societies. On the other hand, heritage focuses on the preservation and celebration of cultural significance, which can include both tangible aspects (such as sites and artifacts) and intangible aspects (like traditions and practices) of cultures. Heritage emphasizes the importance of conserving these elements in their original context, advocating for their ongoing relevance and meaning in contemporary society. Thus, the correct answer highlights that archaeology emphasizes a process of preservation through documentation and analysis, while heritage prioritizes the preservation of cultural resources in their original settings, maintaining their connection to current communities and identities. This distinction illustrates the different goals and methods employed by professionals in each field.

8. What is the correct sequence of stages in mitosis?

- A. Metaphase, Prophase, Telophase, Anaphase
- B. Prophase, Metaphase, Anaphase, Telophase**
- C. Anaphase, Telophase, Prophase, Metaphase
- D. Telophase, Anaphase, Prophase, Metaphase

The sequence of stages in mitosis is essential for understanding how cells divide and replicate. In this process, the accurate order begins with prophase, where chromatin condenses into visible chromosomes, and the nuclear envelope begins to break down. Next is metaphase, during which the chromosomes align at the cell's equatorial plane, ensuring that they are positioned for equal separation. This is followed by anaphase, where the sister chromatids are pulled apart toward opposite poles of the cell. Lastly, telophase occurs, which involves the reformation of the nuclear envelope around each set of separated chromosomes, leading to the eventual division of the cytoplasm. This sequence is critical because each stage prepares and facilitates the transitions needed for successful mitotic division. If the sequence were altered, it could disrupt the balance and integrity of cell division, potentially leading to genetic anomalies. Furthermore, understanding this process is foundational in fields such as genetics, cell biology, and medicine, highlighting the importance of the precise order of these stages.

9. In terms of species definitions, what is a primary advantage of the phylogenetic species concept?

- A. It focuses on ecological roles.
- B. It emphasizes morphological similarities.
- C. It combines genetic data and evolutionary relationships.**
- D. It requires only observational data.

The phylogenetic species concept is advantageous primarily because it integrates genetic data and evolutionary relationships, allowing for a more nuanced understanding of biological diversity. By examining the genetic makeup of organisms and their evolutionary history, this concept can more accurately delineate species based on shared ancestry and evolutionary processes. This contrasts with other species definitions that might rely solely on physical traits, ecological niches, or observational data, which can sometimes be misleading or insufficient for identifying distinct species. The incorporation of genetic information means that subtle differences that may not be evident morphologically can be recognized, thus providing a clearer and more robust framework for classifying living organisms.

10. What is a core in stone tool terminology?

- A. A sharp edge used for cutting
- B. An artifact from which flakes are removed**
- C. A decorative element on tools
- D. A type of ancient nodule for decoration

In stone tool terminology, a core refers to the main mass of stone from which flakes are removed during the tool-making process. The core is the source material that a toolmaker shapes by striking specific areas to detach sharp flakes, which can then be used as tools or modified further. Understanding cores is fundamental in studying lithic technology because they reveal the techniques and decisions made by prehistoric peoples in creating tools. The other options describe aspects of stone tools but do not accurately capture the definition of a core. For instance, a sharp edge used for cutting pertains to the function of a finished tool rather than the core itself. A decorative element or a type of nodule suggests non-functional characteristics or aesthetics rather than practical tool-making processes, which are not relevant to the definition of a core in this context. Thus, identifying a core as the artifact from which flakes are removed correctly emphasizes its essential role in the creation of stone tools.

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.

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

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