US GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL (USGBC) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://usgbc.examzify.com

Table of Contents

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

1. During Preliminary Review, which outcome occurs?

A. The project administrator receives a preliminary rating and requests for additional information per credit.

B. The project administrator receives a preliminary rating and requests for final certification.

C. No information is requested.

D. Final certification is issued after Preliminary Review.

2. What is the difference between on-site and off-site renewable energy in LEED?

A. On-site energy is generated on the project site; off-site energy is purchased or connected through a regional grid or supplier

B. On-site energy must be solar power

C. Off-site energy is energy produced on a different site but not connected

D. Off-site energy cannot contribute to LEED credits

3. What is the format of the LEED AP exam?

A. A 4 hour, 2 part computer-based test (part one is the LEED Green Associate exam).

B. Two 2-hour oral exams.

C. A single 2-hour written exam.

D. An online 1-hour quiz.

4. What is the credit category abbreviation for Indoor Environmental Quality?

A. ID

B. LT

C. WE

D. EQ

5. Are prerequisites mandatory in LEED projects?

A. Yes, prerequisites are mandatory minimum requirements.

B. Prerequisites are optional and only apply to certain credits.

C. Prerequisites are determined by the owner after design.

D. Prerequisites are mandatory minimum requirements that must be met.

6. Why are LEED rating systems harmonized?

A. To reduce certification options.

B. To make it easy to switch between rating systems.

C. To limit projects to a single system.

D. To accelerate the certification timeline.

7. What is the role of on-site renewable energy in LEED EA credits?

A. On-site generation can contribute to energy performance and reduce grid energy use.

B. It has no impact on LEED credits.

C. On-site generation is not allowed in LEED projects.

D. It only affects indoor air quality.

8. Combined Review is available for which rating systems?

A. Available for all LEED rating systems.

B. Only available for LEED BD+C and ID+C.

C. Only available for LEED BD+C and ID+C.

D. Not available for LEED ND.

9. What is a LEED Prerequisite?

A. An optional LEED Green Building Rating System component whose achievement results in the earning of points toward certification.

B. A mandatory prerequisite that must be met before certification.

C. A pilot test credit used to experiment with new requirements.

D. A regional priority credit category.

10. Who is responsible for assembling the project submittal package and submitting it for certification review?

A. Green Raters

B. Owner

C. LEED for Homes Provider

D. USGBC

Answers

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

Explanations

1. During Preliminary Review, which outcome occurs?

A. The project administrator receives a preliminary rating and requests for additional information per credit.

B. The project administrator receives a preliminary rating and requests for final certification.

C. No information is requested.

D. Final certification is issued after Preliminary Review.

During Preliminary Review, the project is given an early assessment of the submitted documentation, resulting in a preliminary rating and a set of requests for information for the credits that need more detail. This helps the project team understand what is currently supported and what additional documentation or clarifications are needed before moving toward certification. Final certification is not issued at this stage, and the review typically includes information requests rather than a completed certification.

2. What is the difference between on-site and off-site renewable energy in LEED?

A. On-site energy is generated on the project site; off-site energy is purchased or connected through a regional grid or supplier

B. On-site energy must be solar power

C. Off-site energy is energy produced on a different site but not connected

D. Off-site energy cannot contribute to LEED credits

The key idea is where the renewable energy is generated and how it reaches the building. On-site energy is produced directly on the project site—for example, rooftop solar panels or a small wind turbine feeding the building. Off-site energy is generated elsewhere and delivered to the project through the grid or via a green power contract, such as purchasing renewable energy or Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) that correspond to the building's consumption. This distinction matters for how LEED credits are earned, since off-site purchases can still count toward credits if they are verifiable and match the project's energy use. The option that on-site must be solar is too narrow, and the idea that off-site energy is not connected or cannot contribute to LEED credits is inaccurate; off-site energy is typically connected through the grid and can contribute when procured as green power or RECs.

3. What is the format of the LEED AP exam?

A. A 4 hour, 2 part computer-based test (part one is the LEED Green Associate exam).

B. Two 2-hour oral exams.

C. A single 2-hour written exam.

D. An online 1-hour quiz.

The format being tested is how the LEED AP exam is delivered and structured. The LEED AP with specialty uses a two-part, computer-based exam that lasts four hours in total. The first portion covers the broad LEED knowledge found in the Green Associate content, establishing a baseline understanding across LEED topics. The second portion then focuses on the chosen specialty, testing how that niche applies to real projects. The exam is administered at Prometric test centers, is computer-based, and is not an oral exam or a short online quiz. This two-part, four-hour format best reflects how the certification is actually administered, making it the correct description.

4. What is the credit category abbreviation for Indoor Environmental Quality?

A. ID

B. LT

C. WE

D. EQ

In LEED documentation, each credit category has a standard two-letter abbreviation. Indoor Environmental Quality is abbreviated as EQ, which is why that option is the correct one. This category covers aspects that affect occupant health and comfort, like air quality, ventilation, thermal comfort, lighting, acoustics, and moisture control. The other letters correspond to different areas—WE is Water Efficiency, and LT or ID aren't the recognized abbreviations for Indoor Environmental Quality in LEED.

5. Are prerequisites mandatory in LEED projects?

A. Yes, prerequisites are mandatory minimum requirements.

B. Prerequisites are optional and only apply to certain credits.

C. Prerequisites are determined by the owner after design.

D. Prerequisites are mandatory minimum requirements that must be met.

Prerequisites set the minimum performance bar for a LEED project. They establish what must be achieved to pursue certification, across all credits and rating systems. They are mandatory minimum requirements that must be met, and they define the baseline the project must reach regardless of which credits are pursued. Because of this, prerequisites drive early design decisions and must be addressed during design and construction, with verification through documentation and review. They aren't optional or limited to certain credits, and they aren't something the owner decides after design. Instead, LEED defines them up front and they must be satisfied to be eligible for certification. In practice, this means you plan for these thresholds as you develop the project, ensuring systems, materials, and operations meet the required performance from the start.

6. Why are LEED rating systems harmonized?

A. To reduce certification options.

B. To make it easy to switch between rating systems.

C. To limit projects to a single system.

D. To accelerate the certification timeline.

Harmonizing LEED rating systems creates a single, common framework across different rating systems so project teams can apply similar credits, terminology, and criteria regardless of the system being used. This shared structure makes it practical to move from one rating system to another if the project scope changes or if a portfolio needs to pursue a different path, without having to relearn entirely separate rules. In other words, it's about flexibility and consistency across systems, so switching between rating systems is smooth and straightforward. This approach isn't about reducing options, limiting projects to one system, or speeding up the certification timeline as the primary goal. It's about making transitions between rating systems easy by aligning expectations and practices.

7. What is the role of on-site renewable energy in LEED EA credits?

A. On-site generation can contribute to energy performance and reduce grid energy use.

B. It has no impact on LEED credits.

C. On-site generation is not allowed in LEED projects.

D. It only affects indoor air quality.

On-site renewable energy is recognized by LEED as a way to directly offset a building's energy use. When you generate energy on the site—such as with solar photovoltaics or other renewables—you reduce the amount of energy drawn from the grid. That reduction lowers the building's annual site energy, which LEED accounts for in the Energy and Atmosphere credits. Projects can earn points by improving energy performance and, specifically, through credits that reward Renewable Energy Production (and, separately, Green Power/Carbon Offsets). This means on-site generation is allowed, encouraged, and has a real impact on LEED credit achievement. It's not about indoor air quality; that's a different aspect of LEED.

8. Combined Review is available for which rating systems?

A. Available for all LEED rating systems.

B. Only available for LEED BD+C and ID+C.

C. Only available for LEED BD+C and ID+C.

D. Not available for LEED ND.

Combined Review is a path that lets the design and construction components of a project be evaluated together in one submission for LEED credits, and this option is available specifically for projects pursuing the BD+C (Building Design + Construction) or the ID+C (Interior Design + Construction) rating systems. It isn't offered for the Neighborhood Development track or other LEED rating systems, which use separate review processes. So the best answer is that Combined Review is available only for BD+C and ID+C, not for ND or every LEED system. If you're aiming to streamline credit evaluation across building design and interior fit-out within those two tracks, this option is the one to consider.

9. What is a LEED Prerequisite?

A. An optional LEED Green Building Rating System component whose achievement results in the earning of points toward certification.

B. A mandatory prerequisite that must be met before certification.

C. A pilot test credit used to experiment with new requirements.

D. A regional priority credit category.

A LEED Prerequisite is a mandatory requirement that must be met before certification can be pursued. Prerequisites set the minimum performance and compliance baseline for a project, ensuring essential aspects like health, safety, and basic environmental performance are addressed. If a prerequisite isn't satisfied, the project cannot be certified, regardless of how many points are earned from credits. This differs from credits, which are optional and earned to accumulate points toward certification. The other options describe elements that are part of the credit system—optional components that contribute to a rating, experimental pilot credits, or regional priority credit categories—not the mandatory baseline that prerequisites establish.

10. Who is responsible for assembling the project submittal package and submitting it for certification review?

A. Green Raters

B. Owner

C. LEED for Homes Provider

D. USGBC

In LEED for Homes, the Green Rater is the on-site third party verifier whose job includes compiling the required documentation and submitting the project submittal package to LEED Online for certification review. They gather plans, test results, commissioning reports, and field verification records, ensure everything meets the credits and prerequisites, and then submit the package so USGBC can review it. The owner is typically the client and funder, not the person assembling the submittal. The LEED for Homes Provider offers training and support for raters but does not itself assemble and submit the package. USGBC conducts the formal certification review after submission.

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://usgbc.examzify.com

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