

WJEC Geography Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. Water that is moving in the water cycle is called what?**
 - A. Flow**
 - B. Lag Time**
 - C. Catchment**
 - D. Base Flow**

- 2. Which abbreviation stands for the rate at which deaths occur in a population?**
 - A. GDP**
 - B. CBD**
 - C. DR**
 - D. BR**

- 3. Which term is described as 'Shows areas in a city'?**
 - A. CBD**
 - B. Burgess concentric model**
 - C. Inner City**
 - D. Functional zone**

- 4. What term describes the process by which a dry region becomes drier, vegetation dies, and soil becomes prone to erosion?**
 - A. Desertification**
 - B. Drought**
 - C. Erosion**
 - D. Deforestation**

- 5. What is the process of wearing away of material by water?**
 - A. Load**
 - B. Erosion**
 - C. Gorge**
 - D. Tributaries**

- 6. Which coastal process refers to the return flow of water from the shore back to the sea after a wave breaks?**
- A. Swash**
 - B. Backwash**
 - C. Tide**
 - D. Rip current**
- 7. The process of wearing away rock by small particles carried by water**
- A. Erosion**
 - B. Weathering**
 - C. Abrasion**
 - D. Attrition**
- 8. What term describes rock that contains numerous pores that store groundwater?**
- A. Porous**
 - B. Permeable**
 - C. Aquifer**
 - D. Shale**
- 9. Which term describes the broader consequences of economic change?**
- A. Social Impact**
 - B. Political**
 - C. Industrial**
 - D. Economic Impact**
- 10. What term describes the drainage area that feeds a river system?**
- A. Delta**
 - B. Watershed**
 - C. Catchment**
 - D. Basin**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Water that is moving in the water cycle is called what?

- A. Flow**
- B. Lag Time**
- C. Catchment**
- D. Base Flow**

Movement of water through the cycle is called flow. It covers the way water moves through rivers, soils, and groundwater, and returns to the atmosphere via evaporation and transpiration. The other terms describe specific aspects: lag time is the delay between rainfall and the river's response, not the general movement; catchment is the area that collects water for a river, not the movement itself; base flow is the groundwater-fed portion of stream discharge that keeps rivers flowing during dry periods, a particular component of flow rather than the overall movement.

2. Which abbreviation stands for the rate at which deaths occur in a population?

- A. GDP**
- B. CBD**
- C. DR**
- D. BR**

The main idea here is identifying the mortality measure that shows how many people die in a population over a period. That is the death rate, usually expressed per 1,000 people each year. The abbreviation for this is DR, standing for death rate. This makes it the best choice because it directly represents mortality, unlike birth rate (which relates to births), GDP (economic output), or CBD (typically a district in a city).

3. Which term is described as 'Shows areas in a city'?

- A. CBD**
- B. Burgess concentric model**
- C. Inner City**
- D. Functional zone**

The idea being tested is how urban land uses can be shown spatially as zones arranged around the city center. The Burgess concentric model fits this description because it visualizes a city as a series of circular rings around the central business district, mapping where different types of areas—ranging from the core CBD outward to transitional, working-class, residential, and commuter zones—would be located. This explicit layout of areas in relation to the center is what makes it the best match for the prompt. Other terms don't describe a diagram of how areas are laid out in a city. The central business district refers to the core area itself, not the broader arrangement of zones. The inner city is a general label for the central urban area, not a model showing concentric zones. The functional zone is a broader concept about how land uses are divided by function, but it doesn't by itself depict the city's area distribution in rings.

4. What term describes the process by which a dry region becomes drier, vegetation dies, and soil becomes prone to erosion?

A. Desertification

B. Drought

C. Erosion

D. Deforestation

Desertification describes the long-term degradation of drylands, where a region becomes drier, vegetation dies, and soils lose structure and become more prone to erosion. It combines climatic factors like reduced rainfall with human activities such as overgrazing, deforestation, and unsustainable farming, which strip away soil moisture, organic matter, and protective vegetation. With vegetation gone and soils weakened, erosion by wind and water accelerates, further reducing productivity and reinforcing the degraded state. Drought is a temporary lack of rainfall, not a lasting change in land health. Erosion is the process of soil being worn away, which can occur in many settings but doesn't by itself describe the broader decline in land condition. Deforestation involves loss of forests and can contribute to desertification, but the term we're after specifically defines the broader transformation of a dry region into a more desert-like, degraded landscape.

5. What is the process of wearing away of material by water?

A. Load

B. Erosion

C. Gorge

D. Tributaries

The process being described is erosion. Erosion is how water wears away rocks and soil and then transports those materials downstream. It happens through mechanisms like hydraulic action (the water's force knocking away rock), abrasion (particles grinding surfaces), and solution (minerals dissolved by water). This distinguishes it from the other terms: load is the material carried by the water, a gorge is a deep, narrow valley formed by long-term erosion, and tributaries are branches of a river that split flow. So erosion best captures the idea of wearing away by water.

6. Which coastal process refers to the return flow of water from the shore back to the sea after a wave breaks?

A. Swash

B. Backwash

C. Tide

D. Rip current

When a wave breaks, water rushes up the beach and then gravity pulls water back down toward the sea along the shore. This returning flow is called backwash. It moves water and sediment back toward the ocean, helping to shape the beach in the swash zone. Swash describes the uprush of water up the beach, not the return flow. Tide refers to the regular, longer-term rise and fall of sea level due to gravitational forces, not the immediate after-effect of a single breaking wave. Rip currents are narrow, strong seaward flows through the surf zone, not the general back-and-forth movement of water on the shore.

7. The process of wearing away rock by small particles carried by water

- A. Erosion**
- B. Weathering**
- C. Abrasion**
- D. Attrition**

Abrasion is the mechanical wearing away of rock by friction from particles carried by a fluid such as water. In a river, moving sand, gravel, and other clasts grind against bedrock, acting like a continuous natural file that smooths and erodes the surface. This specific mechanism fits the idea of rock being worn away by the small particles in water. Weathering would be rock breakdown in place without transport, so it doesn't fit. Erosion is the broad process of material removal, which includes abrasion but doesn't name the particular grinding action. Attrition involves particles colliding with each other, producing smaller fragments, rather than rock surfaces being worn down by contact with the transported load.

8. What term describes rock that contains numerous pores that store groundwater?

- A. Porous**
- B. Permeable**
- C. Aquifer**
- D. Shale**

Porosity describes the pore spaces in rock that can hold groundwater. If rock has many pores, it is described as porous, meaning there's plenty of space to store water in those openings. Permeability is a separate idea that focuses on how easily water can move through the rock via connected pores. An aquifer is a whole layer that can store and transmit groundwater, not just a description of the rock itself. Shale typically has low porosity and low permeability, so it doesn't fit as well for a rock that stores groundwater. So the best term is porous.

9. Which term describes the broader consequences of economic change?

- A. Social Impact**
- B. Political**
- C. Industrial**
- D. Economic Impact**

The broad consequences of economic change are captured by economic impact. This term specifically refers to the range of effects that shifts in the economy have on a place, people, and markets—things like jobs, incomes, prices, investment, and even related social conditions. It's the best fit because it names the overall set of economic outcomes that follow economic change, whereas the other options describe narrower domains: social impact focuses on social effects, political concerns governance and policy, and industrial relates to manufacturing sectors.

10. What term describes the drainage area that feeds a river system?

A. Delta

B. Watershed

C. Catchment

D. Basin

The essential idea is the area of land where rainfall drains into a river and its tributaries. That area is called the catchment. It's the zone from which every drop of water eventually makes its way into the river system, shaped by the landscape that guides flow toward the river. The boundary that separates one catchment from another is the watershed, which is part of how we understand and map catchments, but the term we're after for the drained area itself is catchment. By contrast, a delta is a landform at the river's mouth where sediment settles as it enters a larger body of water, and a basin can be used similarly in some contexts but isn't the precise term for the area that feeds the river in this sense.

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://wjecgeography.examzify.com>

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

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