APA FORMAT RESEARCH PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. What should follow a citation in a block quote?

A. A footnote with additional explanation.

B. A direct reference to the original source.

C. A citation in parentheses after the last punctuation mark.

D. A summary of the quoted content.

2. The continuous use of technical vocabulary, even in irrelevant places, is considered what?

A. Attribution.

B. Colloquial expressions.

C. Redundancy.

D. Jargon.

3. What is required of an author when discussing controversial issues in an introduction?

A. Present both sides of the issue.

B. Develop sound ad hominem arguments.

C. Cite authorities out of context.

D. Disguise his or her bias.

4. How can you create a proper citation for a thesis or dissertation in APA style?

A. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of thesis or dissertation (Publication No. xxx). Database Name

B. Author, A. A. Title of dissertation. (Year). University

C. Author, A. A. (Year). Dissertation title, retrieved from Database Name

D. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of thesis or dissertation. Publisher

5. What is the correct way to cite a work with three or more authors in-text in APA format?

A. Include all authors' last names and publication year

B. Use the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the publication year

C. Use the first author's first name and "et al."

D. Cite the work as an anonymous source

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6. How should a work with more than two authors and fewer than six authors be cited in-text after the initial citation?

A. All the authors every time the reference occurs in text.

B. All the authors the first time the reference occurs in text; use the surname of the first author followed by et al. in subsequent citations.

C. The surname of the first author followed by et al. every time the reference occurs in text.

D. None of the above.

7. Identify the example with correct use of 'both' and 'and.'

A. The scientific report was difficult to both read and to understand

B. The math problems were both easy to analyze and to solve

C. The scores were both difficult to calculate and analyze

D. The building instructions were difficult to both read and understand

8. How should the author's name appear in an in-text citation when a source has one author?

A. Author's surname only.

B. Full name of the author.

C. Author's first initial plus last name.

D. None of the above.

9. When is it appropriate to use "et al." in an APA-style citation?

A. In the first citation of a work with three or more authors.

B. In all citations of works with multiple authors.

C. In the first citation of a work with two authors.

D. Only in the reference list.

10. What should a research paper's conclusion accomplish in APA style?

A. Reiterate all the points discussed in the introduction.

B. Summarize findings and suggest implications for future research.

C. Reveal any remaining unanswered questions.

D. Provide a detailed analysis of all sources cited.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should follow a citation in a block quote?

A. A footnote with additional explanation.

B. A direct reference to the original source.

C. A citation in parentheses after the last punctuation mark.

D. A summary of the quoted content.

After a block quote, a citation in parentheses after the last punctuation mark is required to properly attribute the source of the quoted material. This practice aligns with APA format guidelines, which emphasize the importance of giving credit to original authors while maintaining the flow of the text. By placing the citation after the closing punctuation, it signals to the reader which specific passage the citation refers to without interrupting the integrity of the quote itself. This citation typically includes the author's last name, the year of publication, and the page number from where the quote was taken, ensuring that the reader can track the original source for further reference or verification. This approach enhances the credibility of the research by clearly documenting the origin of the quoted material.

2. The continuous use of technical vocabulary, even in irrelevant places, is considered what?

A. Attribution.

B. Colloquial expressions.

C. Redundancy.

D. Jargon.

The continuous use of technical vocabulary in contexts where it may not be relevant is referred to as jargon. Jargon consists of specialized terms and phrases used within particular fields or professions. When it is employed excessively or inappropriately, it can create barriers to understanding for those who are not familiar with the terminology. This is especially important in academic and professional writing, where clarity and accessibility are essential for effective communication. Using jargon without justification can muddle the message and alienate audiences who do not share the same expertise, thereby making the communication less effective.

3. What is required of an author when discussing controversial issues in an introduction?

A. Present both sides of the issue.

B. Develop sound ad hominem arguments.

C. Cite authorities out of context.

D. Disguise his or her bias.

Presenting both sides of an issue in the introduction of a research paper is essential for establishing a balanced perspective on controversial topics. This approach helps to provide a comprehensive overview, allowing readers to understand the complexity of the issue at hand. By acknowledging differing viewpoints, the author demonstrates critical thinking, sets a foundation for informed discussion, and enhances the credibility of the work. When both sides are presented, it also encourages critical dialogue and allows readers to engage with the material more effectively, fostering an environment where they can form their own opinions based on well-rounded information. This practice aligns with academic standards of fairness and objectivity, which are crucial in scholarly writing. In contrast, the other options do not contribute to a fair and scholarly discussion. Developing ad hominem arguments focuses on attacking opponents rather than their ideas, which undermines the integrity of the discourse. Citing authorities out of context misrepresents information and can mislead readers, damaging the author's credibility. Disguising bias compromises transparency and can hinder the author's ability to engage with the audience responsibly.

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4. How can you create a proper citation for a thesis or dissertation in APA style?

A. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of thesis or dissertation (Publication No. xxx). Database Name

B. Author, A. A. Title of dissertation. (Year). University

C. Author, A. A. (Year). Dissertation title, retrieved from Database Name

D. Author, A. A. (Year). Title of thesis or dissertation. Publisher

The correct approach for citing a thesis or dissertation in APA style is to include specific elements that provide clarity and allow readers to locate the work. The first option encompasses these essential details: the author's name, year of publication, title of the thesis or dissertation, publication number, and the database from which the thesis can be accessed. In APA style, including the publication number is crucial because it enables readers to retrieve the document directly from databases like ProQuest. Additionally, specifying the database name is a best practice, as it offers clear guidance on where to find the work. Other citation formats may lack important components like the publication number or database identification, making retrieval more difficult for readers. The details outlined in this correct answer reflect the comprehensive approach that APA style requires for citing unique academic works like theses and dissertations, ensuring that all relevant information is included for clarity and traceability.

5. What is the correct way to cite a work with three or more authors in-text in APA format?

A. Include all authors' last names and publication year

B. Use the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the publication year

C. Use the first author's first name and "et al."

D. Cite the work as an anonymous source

In APA format, citing a work with three or more authors in-text is done by using the first author's last name followed by "et al." and the publication year. This approach simplifies the citation process for works with multiple authors, as listing all authors would be impractical and cumbersome in the text. By using "et al.," which is a Latin term meaning "and others," the reference remains concise while still attributing the work to the original authors. This method ensures that readers understand that the work represents a collaborative effort, allowing the writer to maintain clarity and focus on the content rather than getting bogged down with lengthy author lists. This guideline aligns with the APA style's emphasis on clarity and ease of understanding. Other responses may lead to needless repetition or incorrect citation. For example, listing all authors' last names can be overwhelming when a source has several contributors. Using the first author's first name is not consistent with APA standards, which require you to use the last name for citations. Citing a work as an anonymous source is also incorrect unless the work genuinely has no authorship attributed, which is not applicable here.

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6. How should a work with more than two authors and fewer than six authors be cited in-text after the initial citation?

A. All the authors every time the reference occurs in text.

B. All the authors the first time the reference occurs in text; use the surname of the first author followed by et al. in subsequent citations.

C. The surname of the first author followed by et al. every time the reference occurs in text.

D. None of the above.

The correct choice provides a clear and concise guideline rooted in APA style for citing works with multiple authors. In APA format, for a work with more than two authors but fewer than six authors, the first citation in the text requires mentioning all authors' surnames. This allows readers to immediately identify all contributors to the work being referenced. For subsequent citations, using the surname of the first author followed by "et al." simplifies the citation and avoids redundancy, which enhances readability. This practice is important in academic writing as it maintains clarity while also streamlining the text for the reader, who may not need to hear every author's name repeatedly after the initial reference. The reasoning behind this guideline is to balance the need for proper attribution of authorship with the practicality of reading and understanding texts. It reflects the principles of respect for intellectual contributions while also facilitating ease of access to the information cited.

7. Identify the example with correct use of 'both' and 'and.'

A. The scientific report was difficult to both read and to understand

B. The math problems were both easy to analyze and to solve

C. The scores were both difficult to calculate and analyze

D. The building instructions were difficult to both read and understand

The correct answer demonstrates the appropriate structure for using "both" and "and" in a sentence. In option A, the phrase "both read and understand" presents two parallel actions that share a common experience: the difficulty of the scientific report. This structure allows for a clear and concise connection between "both" elements, indicating that both actions are part of the same sentiment regarding the report. In contrast, the other options struggle with maintaining a smooth parallel structure. For instance, they either do not follow the correct construction guidelines or create awkward phrasings. The proper use of "both" should precede the two items being joined, followed directly by "and" to connect them seamlessly, as seen in the correct choice. Thus, option A adheres to this grammatical principle effectively.

8. How should the author's name appear in an in-text citation when a source has one author?

A. Author's surname only.

B. Full name of the author.

C. Author's first initial plus last name.

D. None of the above.

When citing a source in-text that has one author, the correct format requires only the author's surname to be included. This concise representation helps maintain clarity and brevity in academic writing, ensuring that the reader can easily identify the source without unnecessary information. Following the APA style guidelines, when you first mention the author's work, you should provide the surname followed by the publication year in parentheses. For example, if the author's name is John Smith and the work was published in 2020, the in-text citation would look like this: (Smith, 2020). This approach emphasizes the author's contribution while adhering to the concise nature of in-text citations as prescribed by APA standards. Using the full name or including first initials would be inappropriate in this context, as it deviates from the established format.

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9. When is it appropriate to use "et al." in an APA-style citation?

A. In the first citation of a work with three or more authors.

B. In all citations of works with multiple authors.

C. In the first citation of a work with two authors.

D. Only in the reference list.

Using "et al." in an APA-style citation is appropriate when citing a work that has three or more authors. The term "et al." is derived from the Latin phrase meaning "and others." In APA format, the first time you cite a source with three or more authors, you should list only the first author's last name followed by "et al." This approach simplifies citations and helps to keep the text concise, especially for sources with a large number of contributors. In the context of citing works with fewer than three authors, such as when there are only one or two authors, you would always need to mention all authors' names in the citation. Similarly, using "et al." solely in the reference list is not appropriate, as it is meant for in-text citations. Thus, the reasoning behind employing "et al." in first citations of works with three or more authors aligns with the guidelines laid out in the APA Publication Manual, making this knowledge essential for proper APA citation practice.

10. What should a research paper's conclusion accomplish in APA style?

A. Reiterate all the points discussed in the introduction.

B. Summarize findings and suggest implications for future research.

C. Reveal any remaining unanswered questions.

D. Provide a detailed analysis of all sources cited.

The conclusion of a research paper in APA style is essential for synthesizing the study's findings and correlating them with broader implications within the field. By summarizing the key findings, the conclusion serves as a final reflection on what has been explored, allowing readers to understand the significance of the results. The suggestion of implications for future research is crucial, as it encourages continuing inquiry and demonstrates the potential for advancement in the subject area based on the study's outcomes. This emphasis on summarization and forward-looking suggestions solidifies the research's contribution to existing knowledge and illustrates that research is an ongoing process rather than a conclusive endpoint. In contrast to this, simply reiterating points from the introduction does not provide new insights or forward-thinking discussions. Revealing unanswered questions, while sometimes valuable, is not the primary goal of the conclusion in APA style, which focuses more on synthesis and implications. Additionally, providing a detailed analysis of sources cited is generally not suitable for the conclusion, as this is better suited for the body of the paper where the arguments and evidence are initially presented and discussed.

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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://apaformatresearch.examzify.com

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

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