APA WRITE AND CITE 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. **Identify the error in this sentence: The research, including dozens of interviews conducted over the past two years.**

   A. Spelling error

   B. Subject/verb agreement

   C. Fragment/run-on

   D. No error.

2. **Which of the following is necessary for a proper citation of a webpage?**

   A. Author's name and publication year only

   B. Webpage title only

   C. URL only

   D. Author's name, publication year, title, and URL

3. **What information is included in a table's title in APA format?**

   A. A summary of the findings

   B. A concise description of the table's content

   C. Names of all authors involved

   D. The date the table was created

4. **In which scenario is it acceptable to use a direct quote in APA style?**

   A. When the paraphrase is too difficult to articulate.

   B. When the original source's wording is particularly significant, and the meaning could be lost in paraphrase.

   C. When your own understanding of the material is too vague.

   D. When the content is lengthy and needs truncating.

5. **What is the correct order of elements in an APA reference list entry for a book?**

   A. Author, Year, Title, Publisher.

   B. Title, Author, Year, Publisher.

   C. Publisher, Title, Author, Year.

   D. Author, Title, Publisher, Year.

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6. In APA style, how should digital object identifiers (DOIs) be formatted?

A. Displayed as a number

B. Displayed as a URL, starting with doi:

C. Displayed as a URL, starting with https://doi/

D. Displayed as a URL, starting with https://doi.org/

7. Which type of error is present in the sentence: The group of students are studying hard?

A. Spelling error

B. Subject/verb agreement

C. Fragment/run-on

D. No error

8. Which sentence represents more effective writing?

A. The fact that John was not usually late made his absence today somewhat unexpected.

B. John's usual punctuality made today's absence surprising.

C. John was always on time until today.

D. It was unusual for John to be late.

9. Which of the following is NOT required in an APA-style citation for a journal article?

A. The DOI or URL of the article

B. The article's title

C. The author's affiliation

D. The journal's title

10. Which statement indicates correct usage of a running head and header in APA format?

A. The words "Running head" appear on every page.

B. The label "Running head" is required on every page.

C. The abbreviated caption should be listed in the upper left, and the page number in the upper right margin.

D. The running head should be centered on the title page.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Identify the error in this sentence: The research, including dozens of interviews conducted over the past two years.

A. Spelling error

B. Subject/verb agreement

C. Fragment/run-on

D. No error.

The sentence in question is a fragment because it lacks a main clause that provides a complete thought. A complete sentence generally needs both a subject and a verb, and it should express a complete idea. In this case, "The research, including dozens of interviews conducted over the past two years" does not convey a complete idea and leaves the reader expecting more information. To correct this fragment, you would need to provide additional information that completes the thought, such as "The research, including dozens of interviews conducted over the past two years, reveals significant findings." This revision turns the fragment into a full sentence, resolving the issue.

2. Which of the following is necessary for a proper citation of a webpage?

A. Author's name and publication year only

B. Webpage title only

C. URL only

D. Author's name, publication year, title, and URL

A proper citation of a webpage in APA format requires several key elements to ensure that readers can locate the source accurately. These elements are the author's name, the publication year, the title of the webpage, and the URL. Including the author's name provides credit to the individual or organization responsible for the content. The publication year gives context regarding the currency of the information, which is essential as webpages can be updated frequently. The title of the webpage is vital because it provides the specific subject of the content being referenced. Lastly, the URL is necessary for directing readers to the exact source online. By combining all these elements, you enable anyone reading your work to trace the original source without ambiguity, making the citation comprehensive and properly formatted according to APA guidelines.

3. What information is included in a table's title in APA format?

A. A summary of the findings

B. A concise description of the table's content

C. Names of all authors involved

D. The date the table was created

In APA format, the title of a table serves the purpose of providing a concise description of the table's content. This means the title should briefly but clearly convey what the reader can expect to find in the table, summarizing its main theme or data set without going into excessive detail or offering interpretations of the data. This clarity helps readers quickly grasp the relevance of the table to the text and contributes to the overall organization of the work, making the information more accessible and understandable. While other elements like summaries of findings, author names, and creation dates may be important in other contexts, they do not belong in the title of a table under APA guidelines. Focusing on providing a clear and succinct title that accurately describes the table's contents aligns with the objective of effective communication in scholarly writing.

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4. In which scenario is it acceptable to use a direct quote in APA style?

A. When the paraphrase is too difficult to articulate.

B. When the original source's wording is particularly significant, and the meaning could be lost in paraphrase.

C. When your own understanding of the material is too vague.

D. When the content is lengthy and needs truncating.

Using a direct quote in APA style is most appropriate when the original source's wording is especially significant, as this preserves the unique phrasing of the original author and conveys meaning that might be altered if paraphrased. This approach is crucial when the exact language has a specific impact, such as in literary analysis or when citing a particularly powerful statement. By quoting directly, the integrity and nuance of the original text are maintained, allowing readers to grasp not just the idea but also the way it was articulated by the author. In contrast, while scenarios involving difficulty in paraphrasing or lack of understanding might suggest using a direct quote, those reasons do not align with the primary purpose of quoting, which is to highlight the importance of exact phrasing. The length of content, implying truncation, doesn't offer a valid justification for quoting directly either, as it might encourage the inclusion of irrelevant portions rather than focusing on critical content. This reinforces why option B is the most appropriate rationale for using a direct quote in APA style.

5. What is the correct order of elements in an APA reference list entry for a book?

A. Author, Year, Title, Publisher.

B. Title, Author, Year, Publisher.

C. Publisher, Title, Author, Year.

D. Author, Title, Publisher, Year.

The correct order of elements in an APA reference list entry for a book starts with the author, followed by the year of publication, then the title of the book, and finally the publisher's name. This format is essential in APA style as it organizes the information in a way that clearly identifies the authorship, the publication date, the work itself, and where one can find the book. This structure allows readers to immediately ascertain who wrote the work, when it was published, the title of the work, and which publisher is associated with it. Following this format is crucial for maintaining consistency and clarity in academic writing, enabling readers to locate sources more easily. In contrast, the other options present the elements in varying sequences that do not align with APA guidelines, leading to confusion and potential difficulties in source retrieval. The established order ensures that the most critical information is prioritized, fulfilling the standards of scholarly work.

6. In APA style, how should digital object identifiers (DOIs) be formatted?

A. Displayed as a number

B. Displayed as a URL, starting with doi:

C. Displayed as a URL, starting with https://doi/

D. Displayed as a URL, starting with https://doi.org/

In APA style, digital object identifiers (DOIs) must be formatted as URLs that begin with "https://doi.org/." This specific format not only provides a consistent and clear retrieval path for readers but also aligns with contemporary web standards. By utilizing the "https://doi.org/" prefix, it ensures that the DOI links are directly accessible via standard web browsers without any potential confusion, as some earlier formats may have omitted the necessary "https://" component. The choice to represent DOIs this way reflects APA's commitment to clarity and accessibility in scholarly communication. This formatting helps authors and readers easily locate sources, enhancing the reliability of citations in academic writing.

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7. Which type of error is present in the sentence: The group of students are studying hard?

A. Spelling error

B. Subject/verb agreement

C. Fragment/run-on

D. No error

The sentence "The group of students are studying hard" contains a subject-verb agreement error. In this case, "group" is a collective noun that represents a single entity or unit. Therefore, it should be paired with a singular verb. The correct form would be "The group of students is studying hard." Understanding subject-verb agreement is essential in ensuring that sentences are grammatically correct, allowing for clear communication of ideas. Collective nouns can sometimes be tricky, as they refer to multiple individuals but are treated as a single unit when determining verb form. Recognizing this type of error helps in producing precise and accurate writing.

8. Which sentence represents more effective writing?

A. The fact that John was not usually late made his absence today somewhat unexpected.

B. John's usual punctuality made today's absence surprising.

C. John was always on time until today.

D. It was unusual for John to be late.

The second sentence, which states that "John's usual punctuality made today's absence surprising," exemplifies more effective writing because it is concise, direct, and clearly conveys the intended meaning. It efficiently states the relationship between John's typical behavior and the unexpected nature of his absence without unnecessary qualifiers or passive constructions. The use of the word "surprising" captures the emotional response to the situation succinctly. In comparison, the first option is less effective due to its wordiness and vague phrasing. The construction "The fact that" weakens the statement and makes it more cumbersome than needed. The third option is also straightforward but lacks some nuance about the emotional impact of John's absence. Lastly, the fourth option correctly conveys that something is out of the ordinary, but it is less specific about the implications of that unusual behavior regarding John's absence. Overall, the second sentence stands out for its clarity and effectiveness in communicating the core idea.

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9. Which of the following is NOT required in an APA-style citation for a journal article?

A. The DOI or URL of the article

B. The article's title

C. The author's affiliation

D. The journal's title

In APA style, a citation for a journal article includes specific key components to ensure that readers have the necessary information to locate the source. One of these components is the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or URL of the article, which provides a direct link to the source. The article's title is also essential as it identifies the specific piece of research being referenced, and the journal's title is critical as it indicates where the article was published within the broader context of academic literature. The author's affiliation, while important in the context of understanding the background and credibility of the research presented, is not a required component of the reference list citation. Instead, the focus is on the publication details such as the title of the article, the journal name, volume number, page range, and the DOI or URL when available. Therefore, omitting the author's affiliation from a citation does not violate APA style guidelines, making it the correct choice in response to the question.

10. Which statement indicates correct usage of a running head and header in APA format?

A. The words "Running head" appear on every page.

B. The label "Running head" is required on every page.

C. The abbreviated caption should be listed in the upper left, and the page number in the upper right margin.

D. The running head should be centered on the title page.

The correct answer highlights the proper format for a running head and header in APA style. In APA format, the running head is a shortened version of the title of your paper, and it should be positioned in the upper left margin of every page. Alongside this, the page number appears in the upper right margin. This specific arrangement ensures that readers can easily identify the title of the paper and locate the page number, which is essential for navigation, especially across multiple pages. The other options suggest formats that do not align with current APA guidelines. For instance, insisting on the words "Running head" appearing on every page or requiring that label is outdated, as the phrase is no longer necessary in the running head after the title page. Additionally, stating that the running head should be centered on the title page contradicts the guidelines, which specify that the running head must be flush left and the page number flush right. Understanding these details is crucial for adhering to APA formatting requirements effectively.

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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://apawriteandcite.examzify.com

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

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