# ARIZONA HORIZONTAL GAZE NYSTAGMUS (HGN) 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. During the HGN test, what tool does the officer typically use as a stimulus?**

A. A flashlight

B. A pen or finger

C. A small mirror

D. A piece of paper

**2. How does HGN testing fit into the overall DUI investigation process?**

A. It is a secondary test used only after a breathalyzer

B. It is one of the primary field sobriety tests used to assess a driver's level of impairment

C. It is a test solely for determining if a driver has taken drugs

D. It is used only after arrest to confirm alcohol levels

**3. How many clues are produced by a subject in the WAT who steps off the line twice and uses arms to balance twice?**

A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

**4. What behavior is observed when a subject leans against the vehicle during a DWI stop?**

A. A sign of confidence

B. A clue to DWI

C. A sign of impatience

D. A clue of confusion

**5. How can perception of time affect HGN results?**

A. It has no effect on the test results

B. Impairment may change a person's ability to track the stimulus smoothly

C. It improves an individual's performance in the HGN test

D. It can only distort the test if conducted at night

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**6. How does the time of day affect HGN test results?**

A. It has no impact on test results.

B. Impairment levels and eye behavior can vary based on fatigue and natural body rhythms.

C. Only morning tests are reliable.

D. Nighttime results are always invalid.

**7. What is the primary purpose of conducting HGN tests during a sobriety check?**

A. To establish the subject's identity

B. To measure the reaction time of the subject

C. To assess potential alcohol impairment

D. To ensure subjects are compliant

**8. According to the San Diego study, what percentage of the time can the HGN test determine if a subject's BAC is above 0.08?**

A. 80%

B. 85%

C. 88%

D. 92%

**9. Once a person reaches his or her peak BAC, it will drop at a rate of about how much per hour?**

A. 0.025

B. 0.015

C. 0.010

D. 0.020

**10. In the context of HGN testing, what is a potential outcome of environmental distractions?**

A. They can enhance test reliability

B. They may hinder the subject's ability to focus

C. They are irrelevant to the test effectiveness

D. They always lead to accurate results

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# Answers

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

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# Explanations

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## 1. During the HGN test, what tool does the officer typically use as a stimulus?

A. A flashlight

B. A pen or finger

C. A small mirror

D. A piece of paper

*During the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test, the officer typically uses a pen or finger as a stimulus. This choice is correct because the officer needs a clear, focused object that the subject can follow with their eyes. A pen or finger is ideal because it can be held steady and moved smoothly, allowing for a precise assessment of the subject's eye movement and any signs of nystagmus. Using a pen or finger allows for the best execution of the test, as it helps to elicit the involuntary eye movements that are characteristic of impairment from alcohol or other substances. This assessment involves observing the way the eyes move as the officer ensures that the stimulus is moved in a systematic manner from side to side. The other options, such as a flashlight, small mirror, or piece of paper, do not provide the same level of control or effectiveness for this specific test.*

## 2. How does HGN testing fit into the overall DUI investigation process?

A. It is a secondary test used only after a breathalyzer

B. It is one of the primary field sobriety tests used to assess a driver's level of impairment

C. It is a test solely for determining if a driver has taken drugs

D. It is used only after arrest to confirm alcohol levels

*The HGN (Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus) test is classified as one of the primary field sobriety tests utilized during a DUI investigation. Its purpose is to observe the involuntary eye movements that can indicate impairment due to alcohol consumption. When an officer suspects a driver may be under the influence, they typically conduct several field sobriety tests, and HGN is a crucial component because it provides objective indicators of impairment. HGN testing involves assessing the eyes for nystagmus while the driver follows a stimulus, such as a pen or a finger. Specific criteria, such as the angle of onset of nystagmus and the degree of nystagmus at maximum deviation, help establish a correlation between alcohol impairment and eye response. This evidence can be compelling in determining a driver's level of impairment, thereby fitting into the overall DUI investigation process as an essential assessment tool at the roadside. In this context, HGN serves as a legitimate part of the investigative protocol, rather than a secondary test or one used solely after arrest or just for drug detection. By understanding the role of HGN testing, law enforcement can better evaluate driving impairment directly at the scene.*

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## 3. How many clues are produced by a subject in the WAT who steps off the line twice and uses arms to balance twice?

A. 1

B. 2

C. 3

D. 4

*In the Walk-and-Turn (WAT) test, each physical action or deviation from the instructed task is counted as a clue indicating potential impairment. When a subject steps off the line, it counts as one clue for each occurrence. Therefore, if the subject steps off the line twice, that contributes two clues. Additionally, using arms to balance also counts as a clue on its own, and if the subject does this twice, it adds two more clues. Thus, when you combine the clues from stepping off the line and using arms to balance, it results in a total of four clues: two from stepping off the line and two from using arms. This leads to a clearer understanding of how observations in field sobriety tests contribute to the assessment of impairment levels in drivers based on their performance. Recognizing these specific actions allows law enforcement officers to make informed judgments on a subject's fitness to operate a vehicle safely.*

## 4. What behavior is observed when a subject leans against the vehicle during a DWI stop?

A. A sign of confidence

B. A clue to DWI

C. A sign of impatience

D. A clue of confusion

*Leaning against a vehicle during a DWI (Driving While Intoxicated) stop can be indicative of intoxication and serves as a clue to DWI. This behavior often suggests that the individual may have difficulty maintaining balance or standing upright without support, which is commonly associated with impairment. Officers are trained to look for such physical signs as part of their assessment when evaluating a driver's sobriety. When a subject leans on the vehicle, it may indicate a lack of physical coordination or cognitive function, both of which are relevant in determining the likelihood of alcohol or drug impairment. This behavior is considered another piece of evidence in the broader context of the officer's observations during the DWI stop, contributing to their overall assessment of the individual's condition.*

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## 5. How can perception of time affect HGN results?

A. It has no effect on the test results

B. Impairment may change a person's ability to track the stimulus smoothly

C. It improves an individual's performance in the HGN test

D. It can only distort the test if conducted at night

*The perception of time can significantly affect HGN results because impairment, such as that caused by alcohol or drugs, can hinder a person's ability to follow a moving stimulus smoothly. When an individual is under the influence, their neurological function is affected, often leading to a lack of coordination and impaired motor skills. This impairment can manifest as difficulty in tracking the moving object with their eyes, causing irregular eye movements that are characteristic of HGN. Individuals who are impaired may have delays in response, making their eye movements less fluid and more jerky, which impacts the basic premise of the HGN test—evaluating the smooth pursuit of the stimulus. Therefore, a person's ability to track the stimulus smoothly will directly determine the outcomes of the test, and alterations in their perception of time can exacerbate these difficulties further. This understanding underlines the importance of conducting the HGN test with a clear awareness of the individual's cognitive states and potential impairments, as these factors can directly influence the test's accuracy in assessing potential intoxication levels.*

## 6. How does the time of day affect HGN test results?

A. It has no impact on test results.

B. Impairment levels and eye behavior can vary based on fatigue and natural body rhythms.

C. Only morning tests are reliable.

D. Nighttime results are always invalid.

*The impact of the time of day on HGN test results is significant because impairment levels and eye behavior can indeed vary due to factors such as fatigue and natural body rhythms. Research indicates that human performance, including motor skills and cognitive functions, can be influenced by the body's circadian rhythms. During different times of the day, individuals may experience varying levels of alertness and attentiveness. For instance, fatigue commonly accumulates throughout the day and can affect coordination and judgment, potentially mimicking or amplifying the symptoms associated with impairment. Similarly, certain individuals may feel more alert and capable in the morning compared to later in the evening or night when they might be more fatigued. Recognizing this variability is crucial for officers conducting HGN tests, as it can influence both the officer's observations and the individual's performance on the test. Understanding these physiological factors helps ensure that the results of the HGN test are interpreted in the context of how time of day may be impacting the individual's state at the moment of the test.*

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## 7. What is the primary purpose of conducting HGN tests during a sobriety check?

A. To establish the subject's identity

B. To measure the reaction time of the subject

C. To assess potential alcohol impairment

D. To ensure subjects are compliant

*The primary purpose of conducting Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) tests during sobriety checks is to assess potential alcohol impairment. The HGN test evaluates the involuntary eye movements that can occur when a person is intoxicated. When someone consumes alcohol, it can affect their central nervous system, leading to observable physical signs, one of which is nystagmus—specifically, the inability of the eyes to smoothly follow a moving object. Law enforcement officers are trained to look for specific indicators during the HGN test, such as the onset of nystagmus at certain angles and the distinctiveness of the nystagmus at maximum deviation. These indicators help determine whether a person is likely impaired by alcohol, which is critical in the context of traffic safety and law enforcement. Thus, the focus on assessing impairment directly relates to the effectiveness of the sobriety check and the safety of individuals on the road.*

## 8. According to the San Diego study, what percentage of the time can the HGN test determine if a subject's BAC is above 0.08?

A. 80%

B. 85%

C. 88%

D. 92%

*The correct answer, which is 88%, is significant because it reflects the reliability of the Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) test as a field sobriety test in determining levels of impairment due to alcohol. This percentage is derived from the San Diego study, which highlighted that when the test indicates the presence of nystagmus, there's an 88% chance that a subject's Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is at or above the legal limit of 0.08%. This statistic emphasizes the effectiveness of the HGN test as a tool for law enforcement in the assessment of suspected DUI offenders. It showcases the correlation between the physiological response of involuntary eye movement and alcohol impairment, lending credibility to the use of the HGN test in roadside evaluations. Understanding this percentage is crucial for anyone involved in DUI enforcement or training, as it underscores the importance of HGN in making informed decisions about sobriety assessments.*

## 9. Once a person reaches his or her peak BAC, it will drop at a rate of about how much per hour?

A. 0.025

B. 0.015

C. 0.010

D. 0.020

*The peak Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) for an individual typically begins to decline after reaching its highest point. The average rate at which BAC decreases is approximately 0.015 grams per deciliter per hour. This rate can vary slightly among individuals based on factors like weight, metabolism, and drinking habits. Understanding this decrease is crucial in contexts such as sobriety assessments and legal considerations related to driving under the influence. While other rates may exist in specific circumstances or for certain individuals, 0.015 is the widely accepted average used by law enforcement and medical professionals to approximate how quickly the effects of alcohol wear off.*

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**10. In the context of HGN testing, what is a potential outcome of environmental distractions?**

A. They can enhance test reliability

B. They may hinder the subject's ability to focus

C. They are irrelevant to the test effectiveness

D. They always lead to accurate results

*In the context of Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) testing, environmental distractions can significantly hinder the subject's ability to focus on the test. HGN tests require the subject to maintain their gaze on a stimulus, such as a pen or an officer's finger, while the practitioner evaluates eye movement. If there are distractions in the environment, such as loud noises, visual stimuli, or other interruptions, they can interfere with the subject's concentration and ability to respond appropriately during the test. This distraction can lead to inconclusive or erratic results, as the subject may exhibit involuntary eye movements not solely attributable to alcohol or substance impairment. Therefore, maintaining a controlled and quiet environment is critical for accurately assessing the HGN indicators of impairment. This outcome underscores the importance of conducting the HGN test in settings that minimize distractions to ensure the reliability and validity of the results.*

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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://azhgn.examzify.com

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

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