ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU) CIS105 COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MIDTERM PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://asu-cis105midterm.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1
Table of Contents 2
Introduction 3
How to Use This Guide 4
Questions 5
Answers 8
Explanations 10
Next Steps 16

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Which feature allows users to visualize data trends over time in a spreadsheet?

A. Data table

B. Chart

C. Pivot table

D. Formula

2. Which of the following is not typically considered a plug-in for gaming websites?

A. Java

B. Flash

C. HTML

D. Unity

3. What does the acronym GUI stand for?

A. General User Interface

B. Graphical User Interface

C. Graphical Unified Installation

D. Global User Interaction

4. Which topology is the least commonly used?

A. Star

B. Bus

C. Ring

D. Mesh

5. What term describes a collection of computer files grouped together?

A. Folders

B. Directories

C. Libraries

D. Archives

SAMPLE

6. What is a common name for a hierarchy of directories?

A. Tree

B. Network

C. Graph

D. Map

7. What is the term for the table of contents of a hard drive?

A. File Allocation Table

B. Directory Structure

C. File Index

D. Disk Map

8. Information is visually represented on a monitor using which method?

A. Text User Interface

B. Graphical User Interface

C. Command Line Interface

D. Web Interface

9. Which device is commonly used to connect multiple devices in a local area network (LAN)?

A. Hub

B. Switch

C. Router

D. Modem

10. Who is the person responsible for a network's smooth operation?

A. Network Technician

B. Network Administrator

C. System Analyst

D. Software Developer

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which feature allows users to visualize data trends over time in a spreadsheet?

A. Data table

B. Chart

C. Pivot table

D. Formula

The feature that allows users to visualize data trends over time in a spreadsheet is the chart. Charts are designed to represent data graphically, making it easier to identify patterns, trends, and outliers at a glance. By plotting data points on axes, charts can illustrate how values change over a specified period, providing a visual context that helps users comprehend longitudinal data effectively. While other options like data tables organize information effectively, they do not provide a visual representation and thus are less suitable for observing trends. Similarly, pivot tables are powerful tools for summarizing and analyzing data but are primarily used for data manipulation rather than visualization. Formulas are essential for performing calculations but do not inherently provide a visual output. Therefore, the best choice for visualizing data trends over time is a chart.

2. Which of the following is not typically considered a plug-in for gaming websites?

A. Java

B. Flash

C. HTML

D. Unity

The correct answer is C, HTML, because HTML (HyperText Markup Language) is the foundational markup language used to create web pages and structure content on the internet. It is not a plug-in; rather, it is an integral part of web development that allows developers to define elements such as text, images, and links directly within a webpage. In contrast, Java, Flash, and Unity are all technologies that involve external components or software that need to be installed in the user's web browser to enhance or enable gaming experiences. Java can be used to create interactive applications, Flash was historically used for animations and games, and Unity is a game development platform that can create both 2D and 3D content, often requiring a plug-in to run in older web browsers. HTML, being the core language for structuring websites, does not fit into the category of plug-ins designed specifically for games.

3. What does the acronym GUI stand for?

A. General User Interface

B. Graphical User Interface

C. Graphical Unified Installation

D. Global User Interaction

The acronym GUI stands for Graphical User Interface. This term refers specifically to a type of user interface that allows users to interact with electronic devices through graphical elements such as icons, windows, buttons, and menus, rather than through text-based commands. A graphical user interface enhances usability and accessibility by providing a visual way to interact with the system, making it easier for users to navigate tools and applications. Graphical User Interfaces are integral to modern operating systems, software applications, and website designs, as they enable users to accomplish tasks more intuitively. This contrasts with command-line interfaces, which require users to input text commands, often making them less accessible to those who may not have technical expertise. The emphasis on visual representation in GUI design has significantly shaped the experience of technology for the average user, reflecting the importance of user-friendly design in technology development.

SAMPLE

4. Which topology is the least commonly used?

A. Star

B. Bus

C. Ring

D. Mesh

The least commonly used topology among the options provided is the ring topology. In a ring topology, each device is connected to exactly two other devices, forming a circular pathway for data transmission. This setup can lead to issues such as data collisions or single points of failure, as the entire network can be disrupted if one connection fails. While ring topology has advantages in certain applications, like predictable latency due to data traveling in one direction, it is less favored in modern networking due to these vulnerabilities and a lack of scalability compared to other topologies. For instance, star topology is widely used because it is easy to install and manage, allowing devices to connect centrally to a hub or switch. Similarly, bus topology, though less common than star, is simple and cost-effective for small networks. Mesh topology, while complex and more expensive, offers high redundancy and reliability, making it favorable for critical applications. In summary, the ring topology is less commonly adopted in contemporary networks due to its susceptibility to failures and limitations in scalability, making it the correct choice among the given options.

5. What term describes a collection of computer files grouped together?

A. Folders

B. Directories

C. Libraries

D. Archives

The term that accurately describes a collection of computer files grouped together is "Folders." Folders are used within operating systems and software applications to organize files systematically, making it easier for users to locate, manage, and access their documents and data. By placing files into folders, a user can create a structured hierarchy, allowing for categorization based on specific themes, projects, or types of content. This aids in maintaining organization and decluttering the workspace on a computer. While the term "Directories" also refers to a collection of files and is often used in the context of file systems, in common usage, "Folders" is the more familiar term that users interact with in graphical interfaces. "Libraries" can refer to collections of documents or resources, but they often imply a curated set of materials or specialized functions within certain applications. "Archives" typically denote stored files, often for long-term retention, and may not relate directly to the grouping of files for regular use. Thus, "Folders" is the most straightforward and widely recognized term for this concept.

SAMPLE

6. What is a common name for a hierarchy of directories?

A. Tree

B. Network

C. Graph

D. Map

The term "Tree" describes a hierarchy of directories because it visually represents how data is organized within a filesystem. In this model, each directory can contain subdirectories and files, much like branches stemming from a single trunk in a tree. The root directory serves as the starting point, and as you navigate through subdirectories, they represent the branches growing from that trunk. This structure allows for efficient organization and easy traversal of files within a computer, reflecting the parent-child relationships between the different levels of directories. In contrast, the other terms do not accurately describe the structure of directories. A "Network" refers to a system of interconnected computers or devices, not a hierarchical organization of files. A "Graph" is a more complex structure that can represent various relationships between nodes but does not specifically imply a hierarchy. Lastly, a "Map" typically refers to a representation of geographical data or a display of paths, which doesn't capture the essence of hierarchical directory structures. Thus, "Tree" is the most appropriate term for this concept.

7. What is the term for the table of contents of a hard drive?

A. File Allocation Table

B. Directory Structure

C. File Index

D. Disk Map

The correct term for the table of contents of a hard drive is the File Allocation Table (FAT). This structure is crucial for file management on a hard drive. It keeps track of where files are stored on the disk and helps the operating system manage memory by noting which areas of the disk are occupied and which are free. When files are saved on the disk, the FAT is updated to reflect their locations, facilitating quick access and organization of files. The choice of a Directory Structure refers more broadly to the arrangement of files and folders within a file system rather than specifically denoting the table used to track file allocation. A File Index could suggest a more generic system for indexing files but does not accurately describe the management of storage space like the File Allocation Table does. Similarly, a Disk Map may imply a representation of the data layout on the disk but is not the technical term used for the structure that directly tracks file allocation. Understanding the role of the FAT is essential for comprehending how data is managed and retrieved on storage devices.

SAMPLE

8. Information is visually represented on a monitor using which method?

A. Text User Interface

B. Graphical User Interface

C. Command Line Interface

D. Web Interface

The correct answer is the Graphical User Interface (GUI). A GUI allows users to interact with electronic devices through graphical elements like windows, icons, buttons, and menus, providing a more intuitive and visually engaging way to access and manipulate information. This visual representation enhances user experience by allowing easier navigation and understanding of complex data. In contrast, the Text User Interface primarily utilizes text-based commands, which can be less user-friendly for those unfamiliar with command syntax. The Command Line Interface is also text-based and requires users to type specific commands to perform tasks, making it less approachable for the average user. Lastly, while a Web Interface can incorporate graphical elements, it is generally a broader category that includes both graphical and non-graphical elements; however, it does not specifically define the visual representation of information as clearly as the GUI does within the context of typical computing environments.

9. Which device is commonly used to connect multiple devices in a local area network (LAN)?

A. Hub

B. Switch

C. Router

D. Modem

A switch is commonly used to connect multiple devices within a local area network (LAN) because it is specifically designed to manage data traffic between these devices efficiently. When a switch receives data packets, it reads the destination addresses contained in these packets and forwards them only to the specific device that needs them. This reduces unnecessary data traffic and improves network performance compared to other devices. Switches operate at the data link layer of the OSI model, allowing them to connect a variety of devices such as computers, printers, and servers within the same network. They can handle multiple device connections simultaneously, making them ideal for creating robust and efficient local networks. While a hub may also be used to connect multiple devices, it lacks the intelligence to manage data traffic, meaning that it broadcasts data to all devices on the network, which can lead to network congestion. Routers are used primarily for connecting different networks and managing traffic between them, whereas modems are used to connect a network to the internet. Thus, in the context of a LAN, the switch stands out as the optimal device for connecting multiple endpoints effectively.

SAMPLE

10. Who is the person responsible for a network's smooth operation?

A. Network Technician

B. Network Administrator

C. System Analyst

D. Software Developer

The role of a network administrator is crucial for ensuring a network's smooth operation. This individual is responsible for the daily management, maintenance, and troubleshooting of the network infrastructure. This includes monitoring network performance, implementing security measures, configuring network hardware and software, and ensuring that users have reliable access to network services. Network administrators possess a deep understanding of network protocols, topology, and performance optimization. Their expertise allows them to quickly identify and resolve issues, conduct routine maintenance, and implement necessary upgrades or changes. This proactive approach is essential for minimizing downtime and maintaining high levels of performance and reliability in the network. While a network technician may assist with maintenance and troubleshooting, and a system analyst focuses on analyzing and improving systems, the network administrator's comprehensive oversight and managerial role is what directly contributes to the seamless operation of the network. Software developers, on the other hand, primarily focus on creating applications and software solutions and are not typically involved in the day-to-day management of network systems.

SAMPLE

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://asu-cis105midterm.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE