ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU) SOS110 SUSTAINABLE WORLD FINAL PRACTICE EXAM (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 is the formation process of coal?

A. It forms from compressed sand and clay

B. It is derived from ancient marine organisms

C. Peat undergoes heat and pressure over time

D. It is created from decomposed leaves and plant matter

2. Which term describes benefits such as pollination and clean air provided by ecosystems?

A. Natural resources

B. Ecosystem services

C. Environmental hazards

D. Human interventions

3. How does climate change directly impact agriculture?

A. It improves crop yields

B. It alters growing seasons and increases pests

C. It stabilizes the climate for farming

D. It enhances soil quality

4. What role do oil and tobacco companies often play in political campaigns?

A. They advocate for environmental policies

B. They provide lobbying funds to support candidates

C. They discourage corporate sponsorship

D. They focus solely on grassroots campaigns

5. Which of the following is an example of a non-renewable resource?

A. Wind energy

B. Solar power

C. Fossil fuels

D. Hydropower

6. What does 'full-cost pricing' aim to include in its assessment?

A. Only production costs associated with goods

B. Social and cultural impacts of production

C. Production costs, health costs, and ecosystem service loss

D. Only environmental clean-up costs after damage occurs

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7. What do "food miles" specifically measure?

A. The environmental impact of food production

B. The distance food travels from production to consumption

C. The amount of time food takes to spoil

D. The cost of transporting food products

8. What is the relationship between sustainability and innovation?

A. Innovation leads to higher pollution levels

B. There is no clear connection between the two

C. Both are needed together to protect the environment

D. Innovation usually undermines sustainability efforts

9. Which of the following is essential for successful community-based management (CBM)?

A. Large government oversight

B. A strong local community bond

C. Limited participation from community members

D. A centralized decision-making authority

10. How can cognitive dissonance be resolved?

A. By ignoring the conflicting cognitions

B. By using logical reasoning exclusively

C. By changing either an attitude or a behavior

D. By doubling down on the existing beliefs

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the formation process of coal?

A. It forms from compressed sand and clay

B. It is derived from ancient marine organisms

C. Peat undergoes heat and pressure over time

D. It is created from decomposed leaves and plant matter

Coal formation primarily involves the transformation of organic material, specifically plant matter, into peat, which then undergoes physical and chemical changes over geological time under the influence of heat and pressure. This process begins with the accumulation of plant debris in swampy or marshy environments, where conditions are conducive to preserving organic matter. Over millions of years, layers of sediment build up over the peat, exerting pressure that causes the organic material to undergo a process known as "coalification." During coalification, peat is transformed into different types of coal—lignite, sub-bituminous, bituminous, and anthracite—each representing varying degrees of heat and pressure applied over time. As heat and pressure increase, volatile compounds are driven off, and carbon content increases, resulting in higher energy content and a denser material, which is characteristic of coal. This process is fundamental to understanding natural resource formation and is significant for energy production and environmental studies. The other options refer to processes that do not correctly describe the coal formation process: for instance, the first choice involves non-organic materials, the second focuses on marine organisms rather than terrestrial plants, and the last option, while it mentions plant matter, does not capture the critical stages of peat conversion through heat and pressure

2. Which term describes benefits such as pollination and clean air provided by ecosystems?

A. Natural resources

B. Ecosystem services

C. Environmental hazards

D. Human interventions

The term that best describes benefits such as pollination and clean air provided by ecosystems is "ecosystem services." Ecosystem services encompass the various advantages that humans obtain from natural environments, highlighting the essential functions that ecosystems perform which support life and enhance human well-being. These services can be categorized into four main types: provisioning services (such as food and water), regulating services (such as climate regulation and pollution control), supporting services (such as nutrient cycling and soil formation), and cultural services (such as recreational and spiritual benefits). By recognizing ecosystem services, we can appreciate the intrinsic value of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, which play a critical role in sustaining human health and economy. This understanding is crucial for promoting conservation efforts and developing sustainable practices that protect these valuable natural processes. The other options represent different concepts. "Natural resources" refer to materials or substances occurring in nature that can be exploited for economic gain. "Environmental hazards" pertain to potential threats or dangers posed by environmental conditions. "Human interventions" involve actions taken by people to modify or manage natural systems, which can sometimes detract from the natural services provided by ecosystems.

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3. How does climate change directly impact agriculture?

A. It improves crop yields

B. It alters growing seasons and increases pests

C. It stabilizes the climate for farming

D. It enhances soil quality

Climate change has a significant effect on agriculture, primarily through its impact on growing seasons and the prevalence of pests. As temperatures rise and weather patterns shift, the traditional growing seasons for many crops can become altered, leading to both earlier and longer growing seasons in some regions while potentially shortening them in others. This variability can affect crop production, as plants may not thrive under the new conditions. Additionally, climate change creates a more favorable environment for certain pests and diseases that can threaten crops. Warmer temperatures can lead to an increase in pest populations and their geographical spread, as they may invade areas where they previously could not survive. This means that farmers may need to adapt their pest management strategies to deal with these new challenges, which can further impact crop yields. In contrast, the other choices suggest positive effects of climate change on agriculture, such as improving crop yields or stabilizing the climate, which is not aligned with the prevailing scientific understanding. The complexities of climate change typically pose more risks to agriculture than benefits, emphasizing the challenges that farmers face in an evolving climate. Enhanced soil quality is also not directly connected to climate change, as its impact tends to be negative or neutral rather than positive in the context of climate-related shifts.

4. What role do oil and tobacco companies often play in political campaigns?

A. They advocate for environmental policies

B. They provide lobbying funds to support candidates

C. They discourage corporate sponsorship

D. They focus solely on grassroots campaigns

Oil and tobacco companies play a significant role in political campaigns primarily by providing lobbying funds to support candidates. This financial support is a strategic move, allowing these companies to influence legislators and public policy in ways that align with their interests. By contributing to political campaigns, they gain access to decision-makers and can push for legislation that favors their industries, such as tax breaks, deregulation, or opposition to stringent environmental policies. This practice is part of a broader phenomenon where corporations, particularly those in controversial sectors like oil and tobacco, seek to maintain favorable operating conditions by directly funding candidates who are likely to support their agendas. Lobbying often includes not just financial contributions but also the provision of research, policy papers, and other resources that can shape the political discourse surrounding those industries. Engagement in grassroots campaigns (as mentioned in another choice) does occur, but it typically complements their larger strategy involving significant financial contributions and lobbying efforts to maximize influence at higher levels of governance.

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5. Which of the following is an example of a non-renewable resource?

A. Wind energy

B. Solar power

C. Fossil fuels

D. Hydropower

Fossil fuels are classified as non-renewable resources because they are formed over millions of years from the remains of ancient plants and animals. Once extracted and used, they cannot be replenished within a human timescale, leading to depletion as reserves are consumed. This contrasts with renewable resources, which can be naturally replenished or regenerated in a relatively short time frame. Wind energy, solar power, and hydropower are all examples of renewable resources because they rely on natural processes that are continually available and can be harnessed without fear of running out.

6. What does 'full-cost pricing' aim to include in its assessment?

A. Only production costs associated with goods

B. Social and cultural impacts of production

C. Production costs, health costs, and ecosystem service loss

D. Only environmental clean-up costs after damage occurs

Full-cost pricing is an economic approach that seeks to account for the complete costs associated with the production, consumption, and disposal of goods and services. This includes not only the direct production costs but also the indirect costs that arise from health impacts and environmental degradation. The correct choice encompasses the idea that full-cost pricing aims to capture a broader range of impacts linked to production processes. This includes health costs, which can arise from pollution or other harmful effects on communities, as well as the loss of ecosystem services, which refers to the benefits that society derives from natural environments, such as clean air and water, pollination of crops, and climate regulation. By incorporating these additional costs, full-cost pricing seeks to promote sustainability by providing a more accurate representation of the true cost of goods and encouraging more responsible consumption and production patterns. In contrast, focusing solely on production costs would ignore the significant externalities that affect society and the environment. Limiting the assessment to only social and cultural impacts or just environmental clean-up costs would also fail to capture the comprehensive economic implications of production activities, thus missing the essence of what full-cost pricing aims to achieve.

7. What do “food miles” specifically measure?

A. The environmental impact of food production

B. The distance food travels from production to consumption

C. The amount of time food takes to spoil

D. The cost of transporting food products

“Food miles” specifically measure the distance food travels from production to consumption. This concept is important in discussions about sustainability and environmental impact because the longer food travels, the more energy is consumed in transportation, which typically results in higher carbon emissions. This distance can be seen as a metric for understanding the environmental footprint associated with food choices. By focusing on the distance, the term highlights the potential trade-offs between local versus imported food sources, showing how buying locally produced food can reduce overall food miles and, consequently, environmental impact. In contrast, the other choices do not accurately capture the specific meaning of food miles. The environmental impact of food production encompasses a wider array of factors, including agricultural methods and inputs, while the time food takes to spoil pertains to freshness rather than distance traveled. The cost of transporting food products, though relevant to economic discussions, is separate from the mere measurement of the distance involved in getting food from where it is grown to where it is consumed.

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8. What is the relationship between sustainability and innovation?

A. Innovation leads to higher pollution levels

B. There is no clear connection between the two

C. Both are needed together to protect the environment

D. Innovation usually undermines sustainability efforts

The relationship between sustainability and innovation is fundamentally intertwined, as both elements are crucial for creating effective solutions to environmental challenges. When innovation is applied in the context of sustainability, it can lead to the development of new technologies, processes, and practices that efficiently use resources, reduce waste, and minimize ecological impacts. For example, advancements in renewable energy technologies, sustainable agriculture, and waste management often stem from innovative thinking aimed at addressing sustainability issues. This synergy allows for the transformation of industries and the promotion of practices that align with sustainable development goals. By working hand-in-hand, innovation can help to reshape economies and public policies to protect natural ecosystems while promoting social equity and economic viability. Such collaboration is essential in navigating complexities such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion, highlighting why the pairing of sustainability with innovation is necessary for a sustainable future.

9. Which of the following is essential for successful community-based management (CBM)?

A. Large government oversight

B. A strong local community bond

C. Limited participation from community members

D. A centralized decision-making authority

A strong local community bond is fundamental for successful community-based management (CBM) because it fosters trust, collaboration, and collective responsibility among community members. When individuals in a community have strong ties to one another, they are more likely to engage actively in the management processes, share resources, and support each other in decision-making. This cohesion enables collaborative problem-solving and allows for a more tailored approach to addressing local needs and challenges. In contrast, large government oversight or centralized decision-making can undermine local participation and ownership, making community members feel disconnected from the management process. These aspects can lead to a lack of engagement and motivation among residents to participate in decision-making or take action in community initiatives. Limited participation from community members is counterproductive, as true community-based management relies on the active involvement and input of all stakeholders. Successful CBM hinges on empowering local communities, thus making strong community bonds essential to its effectiveness.

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10. How can cognitive dissonance be resolved?

A. By ignoring the conflicting cognitions

B. By using logical reasoning exclusively

C. By changing either an attitude or a behavior

D. By doubling down on the existing beliefs

Cognitive dissonance occurs when an individual experiences conflicting thoughts, beliefs, or attitudes, leading to psychological discomfort. To resolve this discomfort, one effective approach is to change either an attitude or a behavior. This adjustment helps to align the individual's beliefs and actions, thereby reducing the tension created by the dissonance. For instance, if a person values a healthy lifestyle but smokes cigarettes, they might resolve their cognitive dissonance by either quitting smoking (changing the behavior) or convincing themselves that smoking is not as harmful as it is portrayed (changing the attitude). This adjustment allows for a more cohesive internal belief system, ultimately alleviating the dissonance. This process of reconciling conflicting cognitions is crucial for maintaining psychological well-being and can significantly impact decision-making and personal growth.

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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://asu-sos110final.examzify.com

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

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