

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU) WPC 300 PROBLEM SOLVING AND ACTIONABLE ANALYTICS CLASS NUMBER PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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.

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!

Questions

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- 1. Holding a single dimension fixed to examine the other two dimensions is known as which operation?**
 - A. Pivot
 - B. Roll-up
 - C. Dice
 - D. Slice
- 2. Which option best describes the relationship between hypotheses and analyses?**
 - A. Analyses should be guided by clear, testable hypotheses.
 - B. Hypotheses should be formed after analyses.
 - C. Hypotheses are irrelevant to analyses.
 - D. Analyses should ignore hypotheses.
- 3. Whys as a problem-solving method were developed at which company?**
 - A. Toyota
 - B. Google
 - C. IBM
 - D. General Electric
- 4. In a multi dimensional analytical operation, analyzing a smaller version of a cube is called:**
 - A. Slice
 - B. Pivot
 - C. Dice
 - D. Drill-down
- 5. What are the parameters of the standard normal distribution described in the material?**
 - A. Mean 0 and standard deviation 1
 - B. Mean 1 and standard deviation 0
 - C. Mean 2 and standard deviation 1
 - D. Mean 0 and standard deviation 2

- 6. Which of the following is an example of nominal data?**
- A. Zip code
 - B. IQ score
 - C. Speed of a car
 - D. Course grade (A+, A, B+, B, C+, C)
- 7. How have managerial skills evolved in the 21st century?**
- A. Focused on negotiation
 - B. Focused on complex problem solving
 - C. Focused on strategy
 - D. Focused on execution
- 8. Which heuristic is used in situations involving compounding growth?**
- A. Exponential growth model
 - B. Rule of 70
 - C. Rule of 72
 - D. Gordon growth model
- 9. Which statement best describes the role of time perspective in projects?**
- A. Time perspective is not important.
 - B. Time management is optional.
 - C. Deadlines should always be extended.
 - D. The project should stay on track from a time perspective.
- 10. Data can be used to disaggregate problems by revealing multiple dimensions of the problem. True or False?**
- A. False
 - B. Not sure
 - C. Sometimes
 - D. True

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Holding a single dimension fixed to examine the other two dimensions is known as which operation?

- A. Pivot
- B. Roll-up
- C. Dice
- D. Slice**

Slicing is holding a single dimension fixed to examine the other two. By locking one dimension to a specific value, the data cube collapses into a two-dimensional view across the remaining dimensions, making it easier to analyze patterns for that particular context. For example, fixing Time to 2023 creates a Product by Geography matrix for that year. This differs from rotating axes (pivot), which changes the orientation of the view; rolling up, which aggregates data along a hierarchy; and dice, which selects a subcube by fixing multiple dimensions.

2. Which option best describes the relationship between hypotheses and analyses?

- A. Analyses should be guided by clear, testable hypotheses.**
- B. Hypotheses should be formed after analyses.
- C. Hypotheses are irrelevant to analyses.
- D. Analyses should ignore hypotheses.

The main idea is that analyses should be guided by clear, testable hypotheses. When you specify a prediction about how variables relate before looking at the data, you set a concrete goal for your analysis: what to measure, which relationships to test, and which methods to use. This preregistration helps keep the study focused, reduces bias, and makes findings interpretable and reproducible. If hypotheses are formed after examining the data, you may chase patterns that are just random noise and inflate the chances of false positives. Ignoring hypotheses leaves the analysis without direction or connection to theory, making results harder to interpret meaningfully.

3. Whys as a problem-solving method were developed at which company?

- A. Toyota**
- B. Google
- C. IBM
- D. General Electric

The main idea here is root-cause analysis through iterative questioning. The five whys technique was developed within Toyota as part of the Toyota Production System to uncover the underlying reason a problem occurred, rather than just addressing its symptoms. You start with the problem, ask why it happened, note the answer, then ask why that happened, and keep going until you reach a fundamental process issue. This approach keeps the focus on improving the process itself and on actionable fixes rather than assigning blame. Because this method grew out of Toyota's lean manufacturing practices and is widely taught as a standard tool for continuous improvement, Toyota is the correct origin. Other companies like Google, IBM, and General Electric have their own problem-solving methods, but the five whys is most closely tied to Toyota.

4. In a multi dimensional analytical operation, analyzing a smaller version of a cube is called:

- A. Slice
- B. Pivot
- C. Dice**
- D. Drill-down

In OLAP, you work with data cubes and reshape them to focus on specific aspects. When you want a smaller version of the cube by selecting particular values across several dimensions, you're performing a dice. This creates a subcube that preserves the multi-dimensional structure but contains only the data that meets the chosen criteria (for example, a specific combination of region, product line, and time period). A slice, by contrast, fixes a single dimension and yields a two-dimensional view. A drill-down moves to a more detailed level within a dimension, increasing granularity. A pivot rotates the axes to view data from a different perspective.

5. What are the parameters of the standard normal distribution described in the material?

- A. Mean 0 and standard deviation 1**
- B. Mean 1 and standard deviation 0
- C. Mean 2 and standard deviation 1
- D. Mean 0 and standard deviation 2

The standard normal distribution is the normal distribution scaled so its center is at zero and its spread is one. In other words, it has a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one. This makes it the reference shape we compare other normal variables to by standardizing them with $Z = (X - \mu)/\sigma$, so probabilities can be read from the same table. Deviating from zero mean or unit spread changes the location or the width of the curve, so the other options don't match the standard reference.

6. Which of the following is an example of nominal data?

- A. Zip code**
- B. IQ score
- C. Speed of a car
- D. Course grade (A+, A, B+, B, C+, C)

Nominal data are categories used for labeling observations that do not have a natural order or numeric meaning. A zip code serves as a label for a geographic area; it identifies where someone lives but there is no inherent ranking or measurable quantity associated with it, and you can't perform meaningful arithmetic on it. That makes it nominal data. The other options involve numbers with order or magnitude. An IQ score is a numeric value with meaningful differences between scores, typically treated as interval (and often as ratio) data. Speed of a car represents a measurable quantity with a true zero and comparable intervals, i.e., ratio data. A course grade shows a clear order (A+ higher than A, etc.), which is ordinal data, where you know the ranking but not the exact difference between steps.

7. How have managerial skills evolved in the 21st century?

- A. Focused on negotiation
- B. Focused on complex problem solving**
- C. Focused on strategy
- D. Focused on execution

Managing in the 21st century centers on handling complex, rapidly changing environments. The standout capability is complex problem solving: clearly defining ill-structured problems, dissecting interdependencies, gathering and interpreting data, generating and evaluating options, and iterating to implement effective solutions. This shift reflects the move from routine tasks to navigating ambiguity, technology-driven change, and cross-functional collaboration. Negotiation, strategy, and execution remain important, but they are part of the broader process of solving complex problems—your ability to frame the right problem, design a workable solution, and drive it to outcomes. For example, leading a digital transformation requires understanding business needs, mapping processes, coordinating technology, people, and data, testing hypotheses, and adjusting as you learn. That combination best captures how managerial skills have evolved in the 21st century.

8. Which heuristic is used in situations involving compounding growth?

- A. Exponential growth model
- B. Rule of 70
- C. Rule of 72**
- D. Gordon growth model

When you're estimating how long it takes for an amount to double with compounding growth, a handy rule to use is the Rule of 72. It says to divide 72 by the annual growth rate (in percent) to get the approximate number of years to double. This works as a quick shortcut because, from the exact formula $(1 + r)^t \approx 2$, taking natural logs gives $t \approx \ln(2) / \ln(1 + r)$. For small r , $\ln(1 + r) \approx r$, so $t \approx 0.693 / r$, and using 72 instead of 69.3 provides a convenient rounded figure that matches common growth rates well. For example, at a 6% annual growth rate, the Rule of 72 estimates about 12 years to double ($72 \div 6 = 12$). At 9%, it estimates about 8 years ($72 \div 9 = 8$). The constant 72 is chosen because it balances accuracy across typical rates and factors nicely for mental math. The other options are different concepts: an exact exponential growth model is the precise math behind compounding, not a quick estimation heuristic; the Gordon growth model is a stock valuation method assuming perpetual growth; the Rule of 70 is another similar heuristic, but the Rule of 72 tends to be more accurate across common rates, which is why it's the preferred quick rule for compounding growth.

9. Which statement best describes the role of time perspective in projects?

- A. Time perspective is not important.
- B. Time management is optional.
- C. Deadlines should always be extended.
- D. The project should stay on track from a time perspective.**

Time perspective in projects is about treating time as a controllable resource—planning schedules, setting milestones, tracking progress, and adjusting as needed to meet the calendar. When a project stays on track from a time perspective, the team actively manages the schedule, coordinates tasks, and makes timely decisions to prevent delays. This helps avoid surprises, supports prioritization, and keeps stakeholders aligned with realistic deadlines. The other ideas don't fit because saying time perspective isn't important ignores how deadlines shape decisions and resource allocation. Making time management optional undermines the ability to deliver on schedule. And always extending deadlines without a plan can erode accountability and visibility into the project's progress.

10. Data can be used to disaggregate problems by revealing multiple dimensions of the problem. True or False?

- A. False
- B. Not sure
- C. Sometimes

D. True

Disaggregating data by revealing multiple dimensions lets you see how a problem varies across different groups and contexts. By breaking information into parts—such as location, time period, age, gender, income, or product category—you can detect patterns that totals hide. This nuance helps identify where issues are most acute, which populations are affected, or when trends change, so actions can be targeted rather than one-size-fits-all. For example, overall sales might rise, but looking by region could show certain areas still lag behind, signaling where to focus resources. Or health data might show higher incidence in specific age groups or communities that a single overall rate would overlook. While data limitations can affect what you can disaggregate, the ability of data to reveal multiple dimensions is why this approach is so valuable.

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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-wpc300.examzify.com>

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

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