CITI RESEARCH STUDY DESIGN 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. **Dr. Baker aims to study cancer survivors' satisfaction with online cancer support groups. Considering the diverse backgrounds of respondents, what is the best approach?**

   A. Limit questions to yes/no answers

   B. Use multiple-choice questions exclusively

   C. Use open-ended questions to explore a range of experiences

   D. Focus solely on quantitative data

2. **If a respondent skipped some of the questions on a subscale, which of the following should occur?**

   A. The subscale score should be calculated as if all items were answered.

   B. The subscale score should be a weighted sum of the item responses provided.

   C. No score should be given for that subscale.

   D. Average scores should be computed using only available items.

3. **What is referred to as a variable that is measured in an experiment?**

   A. Independent variable

   B. Confounding variable

   C. Dependent variable

   D. Extraneous variable

4. **Why may telephone surveys using random digit dialing be less effective now?**

   A. Cost of conducting surveys

   B. Lack of trained interviewers

   C. Caller-ID devices and home phone reductions

   D. Decreased public interest in surveys

5. **What type of data is generally considered quantitative?**

   A. Interview transcripts

   B. Survey responses with numerical data

   C. Focus group discussions

   D. Personal journals

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6. A research team collects quantitative and qualitative data, codes the qualitative data, and examines correlations with quantitative data. What type of mixing is this?

A. Mixing in the design

B. Mixing in the analysis

C. Mixing in the interpretation

D. Independent methods

7. Which of the following is NOT viewed as a potential disadvantage of Likert-type scales?

A. Forcing respondents to choose between two options

B. Potential for central tendency bias

C. Limited response framework

D. Difficulty in scale interpretation

8. How should a study examining an exercise program for cardiovascular disease be categorized?

A. Descriptive

B. Experimental

C. Preventive

D. Retrospective

9. What is the role of control variables in research?

A. To add complexity to the study

B. To keep all variables at varying levels

C. To reduce the influence of extraneous factors on the dependent variable

D. To change the independent variable during the study

10. A group of researchers studying the age, gender, and socioeconomic status of café patrons is employing which type of research design?

A. Experimental Research

B. Correlational Research

C. Descriptive Research

D. Qualitative Research

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Dr. Baker aims to study cancer survivors' satisfaction with online cancer support groups. Considering the diverse backgrounds of respondents, what is the best approach?

A. Limit questions to yes/no answers

B. Use multiple-choice questions exclusively

C. Use open-ended questions to explore a range of experiences

D. Focus solely on quantitative data

Using open-ended questions to explore a range of experiences is the most effective approach for Dr. Baker's study on cancer survivors' satisfaction with online support groups. This method allows participants to express their thoughts and emotions in their own words, capturing the nuances and diversity of their individual experiences. It facilitates a deeper understanding of their feelings, specific concerns, and varying backgrounds, which are essential in qualitative research. Open-ended questions encourage respondents to provide richer and more detailed information, leading to insights that might not emerge from more structured question formats. This is particularly important in research settings where participants come from diverse backgrounds, as it ensures that the study captures the complexity of their experiences and perspectives. In contrast, limiting questions to yes/no answers or using multiple-choice questions exclusively might restrict the depth of the responses and result in the loss of valuable information. Focusing solely on quantitative data also neglects the qualitative aspects that can provide critical context and understanding of participant satisfaction. Thus, the overall richness and variety of the data gathered through open-ended questions significantly outweigh the benefits of the other approaches in this specific research context.

2. If a respondent skipped some of the questions on a subscale, which of the following should occur?

A. The subscale score should be calculated as if all items were answered.

B. The subscale score should be a weighted sum of the item responses provided.

C. No score should be given for that subscale.

D. Average scores should be computed using only available items.

The best approach when a respondent has skipped some questions on a subscale is to compute the subscale score as a weighted sum of the item responses provided. This method adjusts for the missing data by ensuring that the overall score reflects the relevant responses without penalizing the respondent for unanswered items. When calculating scores, it's important to maintain the integrity of the data by taking into account only the responses that have been provided, which in turn allows for a fair and representative scoring of the participant's views or experiences on that subscale. By using a weighted sum, the remaining items can contribute appropriately to the overall score, preserving the subscale's validity. This approach also enhances data reliability by minimizing the impact of item non-response on the final score, thereby allowing researchers to effectively analyze and interpret the findings even with incomplete responses.

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3. What is referred to as a variable that is measured in an experiment?

A. Independent variable

B. Confounding variable

C. Dependent variable

D. Extraneous variable

In the context of an experiment, the variable that is measured is known as the dependent variable. This variable is the primary focus of the study and represents the outcome that researchers are interested in observing, based on changes made to other variables. When researchers manipulate an independent variable—the factor they study to see how it affects the dependent variable—they collect data on the dependent variable to evaluate the impact of that manipulation. For example, if a researcher is investigating how different amounts of sunlight affect plant growth, the amount of growth measured in the plants would be the dependent variable, as it's what the researcher is trying to determine as a response to changes in sunlight exposure. The other types of variables mentioned serve different purposes in research design. The independent variable is what the researcher manipulates or changes. Confounding variables are extraneous factors that may influence the dependent variable, potentially leading to incorrect conclusions if not controlled. Extraneous variables are other variables that could affect the results but are not the primary focus of the study. Understanding the role of the dependent variable is crucial for conducting experiments and interpreting results correctly.

4. Why may telephone surveys using random digit dialing be less effective now?

A. Cost of conducting surveys

B. Lack of trained interviewers

C. Caller-ID devices and home phone reductions

D. Decreased public interest in surveys

Telephone surveys utilizing random digit dialing may be less effective now primarily due to the prevalence of caller ID devices and the decreasing number of households that maintain traditional home phones. Caller ID allows potential respondents to see who is calling and often leads them to ignore or reject calls from unknown numbers. This results in a diminished response rate as individuals may choose not to answer calls from surveyors or spam numbers. Additionally, the trend of households moving away from landlines and relying more on mobile phones complicates the survey process. Many people now use their cell phones exclusively, which may not be reached effectively through random digit dialing methods that were designed for landline usage. Consequently, this shift significantly impacts the ability to gather a representative sample of the population through these surveys, ultimately rendering them less effective in yielding reliable and comprehensive data.

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5. What type of data is generally considered quantitative?

A. Interview transcripts

B. Survey responses with numerical data

C. Focus group discussions

D. Personal journals

Quantitative data refers to data that can be quantified, meaning it is expressed in numerical form and can be subjected to statistical analysis. This type of data typically arises from measures that result in numerical outputs, such as counts, ratings, or scales that allow for quantitative assessments and comparisons. In the context of survey responses with numerical data, these responses are often systematically collected using structured questionnaires or scales. The resulting data from these surveys can include ratings on a Likert scale (like 1 to 5) or categorical data that can be converted into numerical formats. Because this data can be easily analyzed using statistical methods, it is classified as quantitative. In contrast, other answer choices involve qualitative data, which is descriptive and often non-numeric. Interview transcripts, focus group discussions, and personal journals provide rich, detailed insights into personal experiences, opinions, and narratives but do not lend themselves to the same statistical treatment as quantitative data. Thus, survey responses with numerical data stands out as the only quantitative option.

6. A research team collects quantitative and qualitative data, codes the qualitative data, and examines correlations with quantitative data. What type of mixing is this?

A. Mixing in the design

B. Mixing in the analysis

C. Mixing in the interpretation

D. Independent methods

The scenario describes a research team that combines quantitative and qualitative data through a process where qualitative data is coded and then analyzed alongside quantitative data to examine correlations. This approach highlights the phase of analysis where the two types of data interact and inform each other. Mixing in the analysis refers specifically to the integration of quantitative and qualitative data during the analytical process. In this context, by coding qualitative responses and investigating their relationship with quantitative measures, the researchers are actively synthesizing the two data types to draw more comprehensive insights. This integration allows for a richer understanding of the research questions at hand. Considering the other options, mixing in the design would pertain to how the study is structured and how qualitative and quantitative components are incorporated from the beginning, rather than focusing on the analytical phase. Mixing in the interpretation involves synthesizing findings from various data sources to convey overall conclusions but does not directly address the analytical methods used in correlating data. Independent methods would imply that the data types are handled separately without any interplay between them, which contradicts the described approach of examining correlations. Thus, the correct categorization of the described activity is indeed mixing in the analysis.

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7. Which of the following is NOT viewed as a potential disadvantage of Likert-type scales?

A. Forcing respondents to choose between two options

B. Potential for central tendency bias

C. Limited response framework

D. Difficulty in scale interpretation

The correct choice identifies a statement that does not reflect a common criticism of Likert-type scales. Forcing respondents to choose between two options typically pertains to a dichotomous scale, such as "yes/no" or "agree/disagree." While Likert-type scales usually invite respondents to select from a range of options (for example, from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree"), they do not inherently force a dichotomous choice. Therefore, this characteristic does not align with the common disadvantages associated with Likert-type scales. In contrast, other options represent recognized issues with these scales. Central tendency bias refers to the tendency of respondents to avoid extreme categories and select middle options, which can skew results. A limited response framework indicates that respondents may feel constrained by the pre-defined options, potentially leading to a lack of nuance in their responses. Difficulty in scale interpretation highlights that respondents might struggle with understanding what each point on the scale signifies, particularly if the scale has many gradations. These concerns are regularly discussed in relation to the use of Likert-type scales in research.

8. How should a study examining an exercise program for cardiovascular disease be categorized?

A. Descriptive

B. Experimental

C. Preventive

D. Retrospective

In categorizing a study examining an exercise program for cardiovascular disease, the designation as "preventive" reflects the primary objective of such research. The exercise program is designed to prevent or mitigate cardiovascular disease, which aligns with the goal of preventive studies that focus on strategies aimed at reducing the risk of developing health conditions. Preventive studies typically assess interventions intended to maintain or improve health before disease onset, making them crucial in public health for reducing the future incidences of diseases. In this context, the study plays a significant role in evaluating how physical activity might contribute to cardiovascular health, providing valuable insight for health recommendations and interventions tailored to at-risk populations. The other categories such as descriptive, experimental, and retrospective serve different research purposes and may not fully encompass the specific intention behind examining exercise as a means of preventing cardiovascular issues. For example, descriptive studies generally focus on summarizing characteristics of a population or phenomenon, while experimental studies usually involve controlled trials to establish causation. Retrospective studies typically analyze existing data to understand outcomes after-the-fact, rather than proactively seeking to prevent a disease. Hence, categorizing this study as preventive accurately reflects its focus on intervention and health promotion.

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9. What is the role of control variables in research?

A. To add complexity to the study

B. To keep all variables at varying levels

C. To reduce the influence of extraneous factors on the dependent variable

D. To change the independent variable during the study

Control variables play a vital role in research by helping to reduce the influence of extraneous factors that could affect the dependent variable. When a researcher has control over these additional variables, it allows for a clearer assessment of the relationship between the independent and dependent variables. By isolating the effect of the independent variable, researchers can more confidently attribute any changes in the dependent variable directly to that independent variable, hence enhancing the validity of the study's conclusions. For instance, if a study is examining the effect of a new teaching method on student performance, control variables might include factors such as the students' prior knowledge, socio-economic status, or even the teaching environment. Controlling for these factors allows the researcher to focus on the impact of the teaching method itself, rather than confounding effects from unrelated variables. This meticulous control thereby strengthens the overall reliability and interpretability of the research findings.

10. A group of researchers studying the age, gender, and socioeconomic status of café patrons is employing which type of research design?

A. Experimental Research

B. Correlational Research

C. Descriptive Research

D. Qualitative Research

Descriptive research is focused on providing an accurate portrayal of characteristics of a particular population or phenomenon. In this case, the researchers are examining specific attributes of café patrons, namely age, gender, and socioeconomic status. This type of study aims to gather information about the existing conditions or the demographic profile of the café goers without manipulating any variables or exploring relationships between them. By using descriptive research, the investigators can identify trends or distributions within the population, such as how many patrons fall into different age groups or what the gender breakdown looks like. This method is essential for generating data that can be useful for further analyses or for informing business decisions, marketing strategies, or public policy related to café operations. This approach differs from experimental research, which involves manipulation of variables to determine cause-and-effect relationships, and correlational research, which examines the relationships between variables but does not provide the detailed characteristics that descriptive research does. Qualitative research, on the other hand, typically focuses on understanding underlying reasons, opinions, and motivations, rather than quantifying demographic data.

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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:

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

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