

COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY EXAM 2 PRACTICE (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://cognitivepsych2.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	15

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.

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What does the lexical decision task probe?**
 - A. It tests phonological decoding only.
 - B. It measures semantic memory retrieval.
 - C. Task requiring a quick decision if a string is a word; probes lexical access, orthographic processing, and speed of recognition.
 - D. It assesses motor coordination.
- 2. What is proactive interference?**
 - A. Old memory interferes with new memory
 - B. New memory interferes with old memory
 - C. No interference occurs
 - D. Interference only affects short-term memory
- 3. In Baddeley and Hitch's model, which component functions as the central coordinating system?**
 - A. Central executive
 - B. Phonological loop
 - C. Visuospatial scratchpad
 - D. Episodic Buffer
- 4. Which method localizes brain function by measuring changes in blood flow?**
 - A. fMRI localizes function via blood flow; ERP/EEG have poor spatial resolution.
 - B. ERPs localize function via blood flow.
 - C. Lesion studies measure diffusion.
 - D. PET provides structural anatomy.
- 5. Which brain region is involved in retrieval mechanisms?**
 - A. Medial temporal
 - B. Occipital
 - C. Cerebellum
 - D. Frontal

- 6. HM's case helped establish that there is a separate memory system that can be learned even when declarative memory is impaired. Which term describes this memory system?**
- A. Declarative memory
 - B. Short-term memory
 - C. Working memory
 - D. Non-declarative memory
- 7. The medial temporal lobes are used by which memory system?**
- A. Procedural memory
 - B. Priming
 - C. Non Declarative memory
 - D. Declarative (Explicit) memory
- 8. Which scenario demonstrates a conjunction fallacy?**
- A. The conjunction fallacy occurs when people rate a single event as more probable than its conjunction.
 - B. The conjunction fallacy occurs when people rate a conjunction as more probable than a single event.
 - C. The conjunction fallacy occurs when people ignore probability altogether.
 - D. The conjunction fallacy occurs when people correctly apply base-rate information.
- 9. Which task is commonly used to assess switching of executive attention (set-shifting)?**
- A. Wisconsin Card Sorting Task
 - B. N-Back Task
 - C. Stroop Task
 - D. Go/No-Go Task
- 10. Which method offers the best temporal resolution for measuring memory processing?**
- A. ERP provides the best temporal resolution for memory processing; fMRI is slower.
 - B. fMRI provides better temporal resolution than ERP.
 - C. Lesion studies provide temporal resolution.
 - D. PET provides real-time electrical activity.

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What does the lexical decision task probe?

- A. It tests phonological decoding only.
- B. It measures semantic memory retrieval.
- C. Task requiring a quick decision if a string is a word; probes lexical access, orthographic processing, and speed of recognition.**
- D. It assesses motor coordination.

The main idea this task tests is how quickly and accurately you can determine whether a string of letters is a real word, meaning it taps into the mental lexicon and the process of recognizing orthographic form. When you see a string, you engage lexical access: you map the orthographic input onto stored word representations, and you rely on rapid recognition to decide "word" vs "not a word." That makes the task a direct measure of how fast and efficiently you retrieve lexical information, including how you process letter patterns that signal valid words. Phonological decoding isn't the focus here because the goal isn't to sound out the letters or convert them into phonemes. Semantic memory retrieval isn't the primary target either because you're not required to recall a meaning or concept for every item; you just decide if the string is a real word. Motor coordination plays a role in the response, but the core cognitive process being probed is how quickly the orthographic input accesses lexical knowledge.

2. What is proactive interference?

- A. Old memory interferes with new memory**
- B. New memory interferes with old memory
- C. No interference occurs
- D. Interference only affects short-term memory

Proactive interference is when older information disrupts the learning or recall of newer information. Because the existing, older memory uses similar cues, it competes with the new memory during encoding or retrieval, making it harder to remember the new item. For example, your old password might interfere with recalling your new password. This description matches old memory interfering with new memory. If new information disrupted older memories, that would be retroactive interference. Interference can affect both short-term and long-term memory, not just one type, and it isn't that no interference occurs.

3. In Baddeley and Hitch's model, which component functions as the central coordinating system?

- A. Central executive**
- B. Phonological loop
- C. Visuospatial scratchpad
- D. Episodic Buffer

The main idea here is that the central executive acts as the control center for working memory. It doesn't hold much information itself; instead, it directs attention, decides what to focus on, switches tasks, and coordinates processing across the other parts of the system. When you're solving a problem, the central executive decides which strategies to use, how to allocate cognitive resources, and how to integrate information from different sources. It works with the verbal information stored in the phonological loop (which handles sounds and speech) and with the visual-spatial data kept in the visuospatial sketchpad (which handles images and spatial relations). There's also the episodic buffer, added later, that binds information from these subsystems into coherent episodes and links to long-term memory, but it doesn't serve as the central coordinating force. So the component that best fits the role of coordinating and directing processing is the central executive.

4. Which method localizes brain function by measuring changes in blood flow?

- A. fMRI localizes function via blood flow; ERP/EEG have poor spatial resolution.**
- B. ERPs localize function via blood flow.
- C. Lesion studies measure diffusion.
- D. PET provides structural anatomy.

Brain function localization using blood-flow changes is what fMRI captures. When a brain region becomes active, its neurons need more oxygen, and the vascular system responds by increasing blood flow to that area. This creates a change in the balance of oxygenated versus deoxygenated blood, which the fMRI detects as the BOLD signal. The result is a map that shows which areas are engaged during a task with good spatial precision. In contrast, ERP and EEG record electrical activity from the scalp, providing precise timing but less accurate pinpointing of where in the brain the activity originates because electrical signals diffuse through brain tissue and the skull. Lesion studies infer function from damaged areas, not from real-time blood flow changes. Diffusion imaging maps water movement to reveal white-matter pathways, not blood flow. PET scans measure metabolic activity with radioactive tracers and can localize function, but they don't measure blood flow changes directly like fMRI does. So the method that localizes function by measuring changes in blood flow is fMRI.

5. Which brain region is involved in retrieval mechanisms?

- A. Medial temporal
- B. Occipital
- C. Cerebellum
- D. Frontal**

Retrieving memories relies on our ability to actively search for and evaluate potential candidates, which is a function of the frontal lobes. The frontal regions, especially the prefrontal cortex, steer how we cue the memory search, decide which candidates to consider, and monitor whether a recall seems accurate. This executive control over retrieval is what makes the frontal area the key player in retrieval mechanisms. The medial temporal structures (like the hippocampus) are crucial for storing and reconstructing memory content and work with the frontal lobes during retrieval, but the process of guiding and verifying that search is primarily a frontal function. The occipital region handles visual processing, and the cerebellum is more about coordination and timing, so they don't fit as well with the idea of retrieval control.

6. HM's case helped establish that there is a separate memory system that can be learned even when declarative memory is impaired. Which term describes this memory system?

- A. Declarative memory
- B. Short-term memory
- C. Working memory
- D. Non-declarative memory**

Non-declarative memory is about learning that you don't consciously recall. HM's hippocampal damage crippled his ability to form new explicit memories, yet he could still acquire new skills through practice—improved performance on tasks without remembering having done them before. That kind of learning, procedural and skill-based, lives in non-declarative memory. It includes motor skill learning, priming, and certain kinds of conditioning, and it can persist even when declarative memory for facts and events is impaired. In contrast, short-term or working memory deal with holding and manipulating information in the moment, and declarative memory refers to explicit knowledge you can consciously recall. So the preserved system in HM is non-declarative memory.

7. The medial temporal lobes are used by which memory system?

- A. Procedural memory
- B. Priming
- C. Non Declarative memory
- D. Declarative (Explicit) memory**

The medial temporal lobes, especially the hippocampus and nearby cortical areas, are essential for conscious, reportable memories—facts and events that you can declare or recall intentionally. This is the realm of declarative (explicit) memory, including semantic memory for general knowledge and episodic memory for personal experiences. When these regions are damaged, people often have trouble forming new declarative memories, which is a hallmark of anterograde amnesia. Procedural memory, by contrast, involves skills and actions and relies more on the basal ganglia and cerebellum, not the medial temporal lobes. Priming is a form of implicit memory that enhances responses to a stimulus after prior exposure and tends to depend on neocortical circuits rather than the hippocampus. Non-declarative memory is the broader category that includes these implicit systems, separate from conscious recall. Therefore, the medial temporal lobes are best linked with declarative (explicit) memory.

8. Which scenario demonstrates a conjunction fallacy?

- A. The conjunction fallacy occurs when people rate a single event as more probable than its conjunction.
- B. The conjunction fallacy occurs when people rate a conjunction as more probable than a single event.**
- C. The conjunction fallacy occurs when people ignore probability altogether.
- D. The conjunction fallacy occurs when people correctly apply base-rate information.

Conjunction fallacy happens when people treat the probability of two events happening together as higher than the probability of one of those events alone. In probability, $P(A \text{ and } B)$ cannot exceed $P(A)$ or $P(B)$, yet the fallacy occurs when a description feels highly representative and leads someone to rate the conjunction as more likely. The choice that reflects this exactly says a conjunction is judged more probable than a single event. That matches the classic error people make when they compute likelihoods based on how representative a scenario feels rather than on actual probability rules. The other ideas aren't about this specific misjudgment: rating a single event as more probable than the conjunction is the opposite error; ignoring probability altogether is a broader lapse; and correctly applying base-rate information is not a fallacy at all.

9. Which task is commonly used to assess switching of executive attention (set-shifting)?

- A. Wisconsin Card Sorting Task**
- B. N-Back Task
- C. Stroop Task
- D. Go/No-Go Task

Switching of executive attention is about cognitive flexibility—the ability to shift thinking and adapt to new rules or tasks. The Wisconsin Card Sorting Task is built to probe that exact skill. In this task, you sort cards by a rule that can be color, shape, or number, and you only learn the rule from feedback after each guess. After several correct responses, the rule changes without warning, so you must detect the new dimension and switch your sorting strategy. This ongoing requirement to abandon the old rule, figure out the new one, and adjust behavior demonstrates set-shifting and adaptive control of attention. If someone keeps sorting by the old rule despite the feedback, that shows difficulty with switching, which is exactly what this task is designed to reveal. Other tasks tap different aspects of executive control—N-back is about updating working memory, Stroop about inhibiting automatic responses, and Go/No-Go about response inhibition—so they don't target switching of attention in the way the Wisconsin Card Sorting Task does.

10. Which method offers the best temporal resolution for measuring memory processing?

- A. ERP provides the best temporal resolution for memory processing; fMRI is slower.**
- B. fMRI provides better temporal resolution than ERP.
- C. Lesion studies provide temporal resolution.
- D. PET provides real-time electrical activity.

Temporal resolution is about how precisely we can track when brain activity happens during memory processing. Memory tasks unfold in milliseconds, so a method that can capture events on that timescale is crucial. ERP records electrical activity from the scalp with millisecond precision, letting you see the fast sequence of memory-related neural events as they occur. fMRI, while excellent at showing where in the brain activity takes place, relies on the slower hemodynamic response and smears timing over seconds, so its temporal precision is much poorer. PET operates even more slowly, reflecting metabolic changes over longer intervals. Lesion studies reveal whether a brain region is necessary for memory but don't provide timing information at all. Because of the need to resolve rapid neural events, ERP offers the best temporal resolution for measuring memory processing.

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://cognitivepsych2.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE