DET GRANT PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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

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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. Irrevocable trusts _____ be modified without the consent of the settlor pursuant to either the Equitable Deviation Doctrine or the Claflin doctrine.

A. ONLY WHEN THE BENEFICIARIES CONSENT

B. CANNOT

C. ONLY IF THE TRUSTEE AGREES

D. CAN

2. What term describes the process of combining the decedent's estate with advancements to compute equal shares?

A. Hotchpot

B. Residue

C. Probate

D. Per stirpes

3. Even with sole and absolute discretion to distribute income and principal, a trustee's discretion is bounded by what principle?

A. Court must approve all distributions.

B. The income must be distributed equally.

C. The sole discretion means no further limits.

D. The duty of good faith with a view to the trust purpose and beneficiaries' interests.

4. The clause 'anyone who contests this will is to receive $100'—which is the most accurate statement about its enforceability?

A. The court will always enforce it.

B. The clause is enforceable if the contestant had no probable cause.

C. The clause is enforceable only if the contestant had probable cause.

D. The clause is generally not enforced if the contestant had probable cause.

5. Which statement is true about anti-lapse and survivorship language?

A. Survivorship language always avoids anti-lapse

B. Anti-lapse cannot apply if survivorship language is present

C. Survivorship language does not necessarily avoid anti-lapse

D. Anti-lapse always applies regardless of survivorship

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6. Which type of devise is a fixed amount paid from a named source?

A. Specific devise

B. General devise

C. Demonstrative devise

D. Residuary devise

7. Which fact would best bolster Y's argument that T breached the trustee's duty of impartiality between X and Y?

A. T failed to diversify the investments.

B. T failed to maintain the buildings owned by the trust or to retain a reserve for depreciation.

C. T increased distributions to X at the expense of Y.

D. T refused to invest in any of the trust's assets.

8. What are the most common requirements for a valid will?

A. In writing; signed by the testator; attested by at least two witnesses

B. Oral; signed by the testator; attested by one witness

C. In writing; notarized; witnessed

D. Written form; signed by the testator; attested by witnesses (not necessarily two)

9. Under intestacy rules when a surviving spouse and descendants exist, how is the remainder distributed after setting aside the spouse's share?

A. The spouse receives the remainder.

B. The descendants receive the remainder, in equal shares.

C. The spouse receives a fixed share and the descendants share the remainder.

D. The state takes the remainder.

10. Which type of devise is a fixed amount of cash payable from a designated fund, not tied to a particular asset?

A. Demonstrative devise

B. Specific devise

C. General devise

D. Residuary devise

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Irrevocable trusts _____ be modified without the consent of the settlor pursuant to either the Equitable Deviation Doctrine or the Claflin doctrine.

A. ONLY WHEN THE BENEFICIARIES CONSENT

B. CANNOT

C. ONLY IF THE TRUSTEE AGREES

D. CAN

An irrevocable trust can be modified without the settlor's consent, but only in limited, court-supervised situations designed to honor the trust's purpose despite changed circumstances. The Equitable Deviation Doctrine lets a court adjust the terms or distributions when strict compliance would defeat the settlor's intent because of new facts or conditions, as long as the modification still serves the trust's overall purpose. The Claflin doctrine allows modification or even termination if doing so would further the beneficiaries' interests and not defeat the trust's essential aim, again under court oversight. Taken together, these doctrines provide a path to adapt the trust without the settlor's agreement when rigid adherence would be impractical or harm the beneficiaries. This is why the statement that modification can occur is correct, whereas options insisting on beneficiary consent, trustee agreement, or absolute prohibition don't reflect these established exceptions.

2. What term describes the process of combining the decedent's estate with advancements to compute equal shares?

A. Hotchpot

B. Residue

C. Probate

D. Per stirpes

Hotchpot describes pooling the decedent's estate with advancements to compute equal shares. Advancements are lifetime gifts to heirs that are treated as if they were part of the estate when dividing assets. By bringing those advances into the hotchpot, the total value is considered as a single pool, and each heir's share is adjusted so everyone ends up with an equal portion. This method prevents someone who already received a gift during life from appearing to receive more than others in the final distribution. Residue refers to what remains after debts, expenses, and specific bequests are satisfied, not the calculation of equal shares with advancements. Probate is the legal process of proving a will and appointing an executor, not the method of distributing gifts. Per stirpes is a distribution method by representation through branches of the family, not the pooling of estate and advancements for equal shares.

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3. Even with sole and absolute discretion to distribute income and principal, a trustee's discretion is bounded by what principle?

A. Court must approve all distributions.

B. The income must be distributed equally.

C. The sole discretion means no further limits.

D. The duty of good faith with a view to the trust purpose and beneficiaries' interests.

Discretionary power in a trust isn't unlimited. Even when a trustee has sole and absolute discretion to distribute income and principal, that discretion is bounded by a fiduciary duty to act in good faith and to advance the trust's purpose while considering the beneficiaries' interests. In practice, this means the trustee must exercise distributions for the benefit of the beneficiaries and in line with what the trust was created to achieve, avoiding self-dealing, caprice, or any action that conflicts with the trust's goals. Courts generally defer to the trustee's business judgment, but they can intervene if a distribution is made in bad faith or contrary to the trust's terms and purpose. This duty to act with good faith and with a view to the trust and its beneficiaries is what keeps discretionary power from becoming arbitrary.

4. The clause 'anyone who contests this will is to receive $100'—which is the most accurate statement about its enforceability?

A. The court will always enforce it.

B. The clause is enforceable if the contestant had no probable cause.

C. The clause is enforceable only if the contestant had probable cause.

D. The clause is generally not enforced if the contestant had probable cause.

A no-contest clause in a will aims to deter people from challenging the will by promising a reward to anyone who contests. But courts balance this against the public policy of allowing legitimate challenges to proceed. When there are probable grounds to contest the will, enforcing the reward would chill a valid claim, so that penalty is generally not enforced in those cases. That's why, if the contestant had probable cause, the clause is not enforced. The other options aren't as accurate because they either push for universal enforcement or misstate when enforcement would occur.

5. Which statement is true about anti-lapse and survivorship language?

A. Survivorship language always avoids anti-lapse

B. Anti-lapse cannot apply if survivorship language is present

C. Survivorship language does not necessarily avoid anti-lapse

D. Anti-lapse always applies regardless of survivorship

The concept being tested is how survivorship requirements interact with anti-lapse rules in estate gifts. Survivorship language says a beneficiary must survive the testator to take the gift, but that doesn't automatically prevent anti-lapse from operating. Anti-lapse is a default rule that, if the predeceased beneficiary left surviving issue who meet the statutory requirements, redirects the gift to that beneficiary's descendants rather than letting it lapse. That's why survivorship language does not necessarily avoid anti-lapse. If a beneficiary dies before the testator but left qualifying descendants, anti-lapse typically makes the gift pass to them, preserving the intended interest through the beneficiary's line. If there are no such descendants, or the will consciously excludes anti-lapse or the jurisdiction's rules don't apply, the gift may lapse or follow another provision. So the true statement is that survivorship language does not necessarily avoid anti-lapse, because the anti-lapse mechanism can still take effect if the predeceased beneficiary left eligible issue.

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6. Which type of devise is a fixed amount paid from a named source?

A. Specific devise

B. General devise

C. Demonstrative devise

D. Residuary devise

Demonstrative devises involve a fixed amount to a beneficiary that is to be paid from a specific named source. The key idea is that the money is tied to a designated fund or property, not taken from the estate as a whole without a specified source. For example, you might state that a certain sum is to be paid from the proceeds of a particular stock or rental property. If that source provides enough, the beneficiary receives the exact amount there. If it doesn't cover the full amount, the balance can be paid from the rest of the estate. This distinguishes it from a specific devise, which conveys a particular asset itself; a general devise, which is a fixed sum from the estate without naming a source; and a residuary devise, which covers what remains after all other bequests.

7. Which fact would best bolster Y's argument that T breached the trustee's duty of impartiality between X and Y?

A. T failed to diversify the investments.

B. T failed to maintain the buildings owned by the trust or to retain a reserve for depreciation.

C. T increased distributions to X at the expense of Y.

D. T refused to invest in any of the trust's assets.

Impartiality means the trustee must manage the trust so that the interests of all beneficiaries are treated with even-handed care, not systematically favored for one side. The fact that the trustee failed to maintain the trust's buildings or to keep a depreciation reserve points to a broader pattern of asset stewardship that could erode the trust's value over time. When the asset base—the core value the trust can distribute from—suffers because maintenance is neglected or because depreciation isn't funded, the outcome is a less fair platform for achieving future distributions to both beneficiaries. This kind of mismanagement signals a lack of even-handed administration, which helps Y argue that the trustee isn't impartially stewarding the trust for X and Y alike.

8. What are the most common requirements for a valid will?

A. In writing; signed by the testator; attested by at least two witnesses

B. Oral; signed by the testator; attested by one witness

C. In writing; notarized; witnessed

D. Written form; signed by the testator; attested by witnesses (not necessarily two)

The main idea tested is the formalities required for a will to be valid. In most jurisdictions, a valid will must be in writing, signed by the person making the will, and witnessed by at least two people who observe the signing and understand that they are witnessing a will. Notarization is generally not required, though it can sometimes be added, it does not replace the need for a writing, a signature, and two witnesses. This is why the option that specifies in writing, signed by the testator, and attested by at least two witnesses best fits the common rule. The other options rely on oral form or on notarization, which do not reflect the standard formal requirements.

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9. Under intestacy rules when a surviving spouse and descendants exist, how is the remainder distributed after setting aside the spouse's share?

A. The spouse receives the remainder.

B. The descendants receive the remainder, in equal shares.

C. The spouse receives a fixed share and the descendants share the remainder.

D. The state takes the remainder.

When someone dies intestate and there is both a surviving spouse and descendants, the law first protects the spouse with a fixed or statutory share. After setting aside that share, the remaining assets go to the decedent's descendants, who divide the remainder in equal shares among them. This arrangement ensures the spouse is provided for while the rest of the estate goes to the children or other descendants. If a descendant has predeceased, many systems route that deceased descendant's portion to their own descendants, but the core idea for the exam scenario is that the remainder goes to the descendants and is shared equally among them.

10. Which type of devise is a fixed amount of cash payable from a designated fund, not tied to a particular asset?

A. Demonstrative devise

B. Specific devise

C. General devise

D. Residuary devise

This item tests how a gift is funded in a will. A demonstrative devise sets a fixed cash amount to be paid from a designated fund or source, rather than tied to a specific asset. The gift follows the designated fund as its source, and if that fund doesn't fully cover the amount, the shortfall can come from the rest of the estate. That combination—a fixed sum and a named funding source—defines a demonstrative devise. This differs from a specific devise, which is tied to a particular asset identified in the will (like a specific ring or parcel of property). A general devise is a fixed sum payable from the estate's general assets without pointing to a designated fund. A residuary devise covers what remains of the estate after all specific, general, and demonstrative gifts are satisfied.

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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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