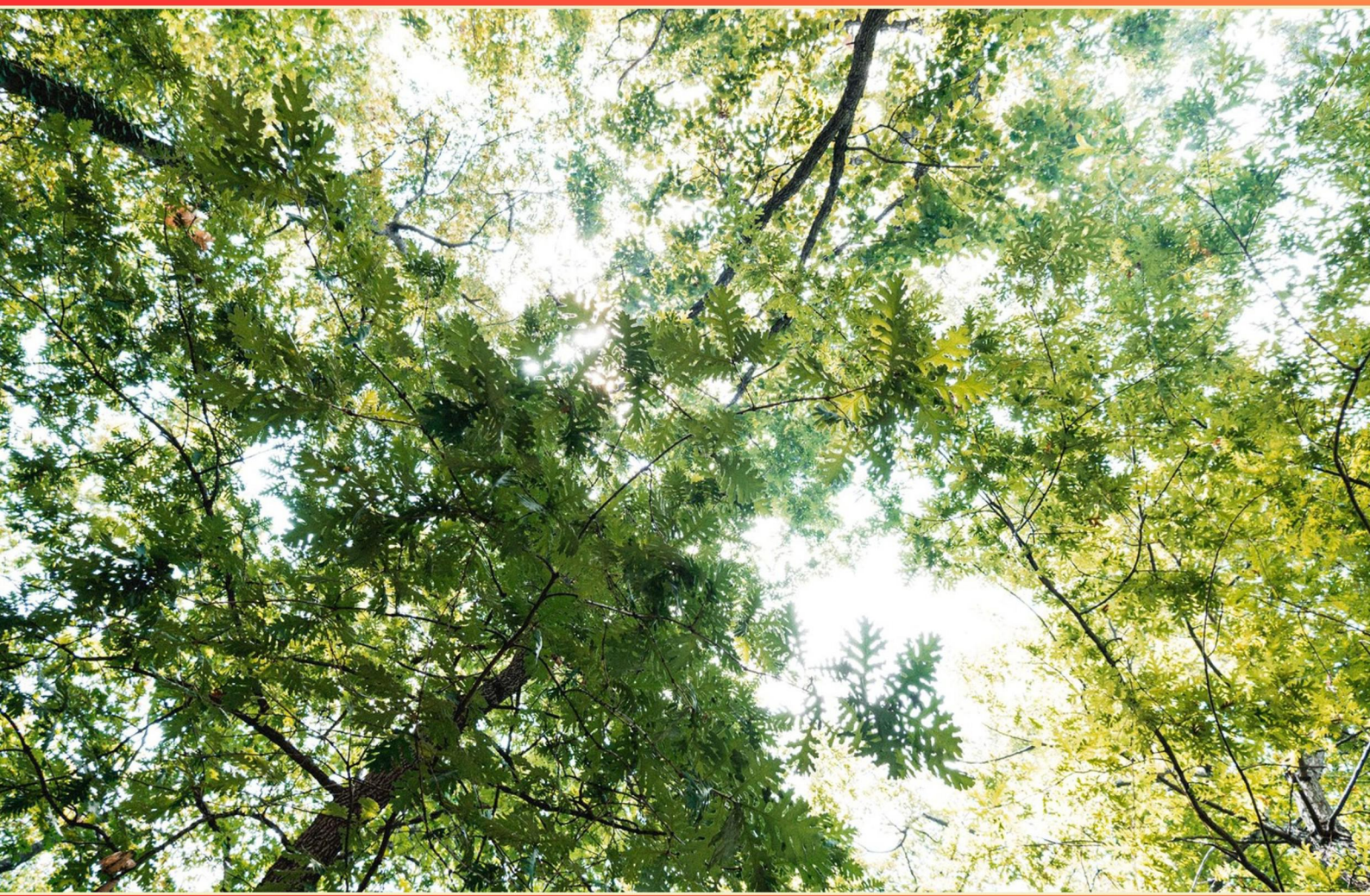
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (ENVS) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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 16

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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. **Which principle of smart-growth encourages an increase in the use of locally grown foods?**

   A. Provide several transportation choices

   B. Build new homes and stores on existing abandoned or brownfield properties

   C. Promote the integration of homes, stores, light industry, and offices

   D. Set physical boundaries on urban sprawl and preserve open spaces

2. **Which of the following practices can help reduce carbon emissions in energy production?**

   A. Using coal as a primary source

   B. Increasing reliance on natural gas

   C. Burning more fossil fuels

   D. Restricting renewable energy sources

3. **Compaction of soil in a garden has which of the following effects on plants?**

   A. Decreases aeration, decreases infiltration, and increases runoff.

   B. Increases aeration, decreases infiltration, and increases runoff.

   C. Increases aeration, increases infiltration, and decreases runoff.

   D. Decreases aeration, increases infiltration, and decreases runoff.

4. **What meteorological condition is primarily associated with air pollution disasters?**

   A. A temperature inversion

   B. Increased industrial production

   C. Shutdown of a power plant

   D. High winds

5. **Saltwater intrusion occurs mainly in:**

   A. Coastal regions where the water table is falling.

   B. During large flooding events in surface water.

   C. When surface water seeps into groundwater.

   D. Coastal regions where the water table remains high.

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6. Which characteristics are indicative of urban sprawl?

A. Abundant shopping malls, unclear town boundaries, and dense, congested traffic

B. Unclear town boundaries

C. Abundant shopping malls

D. Dense, congested traffic

7. The rerouting of the Mississippi to increase the efficiency of movements of steamboats and barges was the result of the?

A. Medical Revolution

B. Green Revolution

C. Industrial Revolution

D. Environmental Revolution

8. Which of the following represents intangible capital?

A. Pollination

B. Coal and petroleum

C. The library of the Smithsonian Institution

D. Solar energy

9. One noteworthy achievement of chemistry research and environmental policies is the control of which atmospheric issue?

A. Nitrogen oxides and the control of acid precipitation

B. The reduction of ozone pollution over major cities

C. The use of fossil fuels and reversal of global climate changes

D. CFCs and the destruction of the ozone

10. What is the primary issue with rabbits introduced to Australia?

A. They evolved into three new species

B. They evolved with marsupials

C. They were eliminated by a lethal virus

D. They exemplify high biotic potential of some introduced species

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which principle of smart-growth encourages an increase in the use of locally grown foods?

A. Provide several transportation choices

B. Build new homes and stores on existing abandoned or brownfield properties

C. Promote the integration of homes, stores, light industry, and offices

D. Set physical boundaries on urban sprawl and preserve open spaces

The principle that encourages an increase in the use of locally grown foods is closely aligned with setting physical boundaries on urban sprawl and preserving open spaces. This strategy fosters the protection of agricultural lands and natural areas, which can contribute to the availability of locally produced food. By limiting urban sprawl, communities can maintain closer proximity to farms, making it easier for consumers to access fresh produce and reducing the carbon footprint associated with transporting food over long distances. Preserving open spaces and agricultural land not only supports local farming initiatives but also enhances the quality of life for residents by providing them with fresh, healthy food options. This principle also aligns with sustainability efforts, as it encourages practices that reduce reliance on industrial agriculture and promote environmental stewardship. Thus, maintaining physical boundaries helps to promote local economies through agricultural viability, reinforcing the connection between urban planning and food systems.

2. Which of the following practices can help reduce carbon emissions in energy production?

A. Using coal as a primary source

B. Increasing reliance on natural gas

C. Burning more fossil fuels

D. Restricting renewable energy sources

Increasing reliance on natural gas can help reduce carbon emissions in energy production compared to other fossil fuels like coal. Natural gas burns more cleanly than coal and emits significantly less carbon dioxide (CO_2) per unit of energy produced. This is due to its higher hydrogen content and lower carbon content, which results in fewer overall carbon emissions when combusted. Additionally, transitioning from coal to natural gas can serve as a transitional strategy towards adopting renewable energy sources. Whenever possible, natural gas can be paired with technology such as carbon capture and storage (CCS) to further minimize emissions. It can also act as a backup energy source to complement intermittent renewable energy supplies, helping to stabilize the grid while supporting the shift towards more sustainable practices. In contrast, using coal as a primary energy source, burning more fossil fuels, and restricting renewable energy sources all lead to higher carbon emissions, which is counterproductive to efforts aimed at mitigating climate change. Each of those practices exacerbates environmental degradation and increases greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, highlighting the importance of adopting cleaner energy alternatives like natural gas in the transition towards more sustainable energy systems.

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3. Compaction of soil in a garden has which of the following effects on plants?

A. Decreases aeration, decreases infiltration, and increases runoff.

B. Increases aeration, decreases infiltration, and increases runoff.

C. Increases aeration, increases infiltration, and decreases runoff.

D. Decreases aeration, increases infiltration, and decreases runoff.

Compaction of soil significantly influences the physical properties of the soil, which in turn affects plant health and growth. When soil is compacted, the particles are pressed tightly together, which leads to a reduction in the amount of pore space available. This means there is less air in the soil, resulting in decreased aeration. Aeration is essential for plant roots as they require oxygen to conduct respiration, a process critical for growth and energy production. With reduced aeration due to compaction, roots may struggle to obtain the oxygen they need, leading to stunted growth or even root death. Moreover, compaction impairs the soil's ability to absorb water, drastically decreasing infiltration. Instead of water percolating through the soil profile where it can be utilized by plant roots, water tends to flow over the surface of the compacted soil, increasing runoff. This not only leads to water loss (as it does not reach the plants) but can also cause erosion and nutrient loss from the soil. Thus, the correct understanding of the impact of soil compaction is that it decreases aeration, decreases infiltration, and increases runoff, all of which are detrimental to plant health and garden productivity.

4. What meteorological condition is primarily associated with air pollution disasters?

A. A temperature inversion

B. Increased industrial production

C. Shutdown of a power plant

D. High winds

A temperature inversion is primarily associated with air pollution disasters because it creates a stable atmospheric condition that traps pollutants close to the ground. Normally, air temperature decreases with altitude, allowing pollutants to disperse into the upper atmosphere. However, during a temperature inversion, a layer of warm air sits above cooler air at the surface. This warm layer acts like a lid, preventing the cooler air and its associated pollutants from rising. As a result, pollutants accumulate in the cooler air layer, leading to higher concentrations of smog, particulates, and other harmful substances, which can cause significant health issues and environmental degradation. Increased industrial production, while it may contribute to higher pollution levels, does not directly cause the atmospheric conditions that lead to disasters. The shutdown of a power plant may reduce emissions temporarily, but it would not typically instigate an air pollution crisis. High winds can help disperse pollutants and improve air quality rather than concentrating them, countering the negative effects of air pollution. Thus, a temperature inversion is the most significant meteorological condition contributing to air pollution disasters.

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5. Saltwater intrusion occurs mainly in:

A. Coastal regions where the water table is falling.

B. During large flooding events in surface water.

C. When surface water seeps into groundwater.

D. Coastal regions where the water table remains high.

Saltwater intrusion primarily occurs in coastal regions where the water table is falling, as this situation creates a pressure imbalance between the freshwater aquifers and the encroaching saltwater from the ocean. When the groundwater levels in these areas decrease—often due to over-extraction of freshwater for agricultural, industrial, or municipal use—the natural barrier that keeps saltwater at bay weakens. As a result, seawater can flow into the freshwater aquifer, leading to contamination. This phenomenon is significant for the sustainability of freshwater resources in coastal communities. If the water table remains high, as indicated in one of the other choices, there is usually enough pressure in the freshwater aquifer to prevent saltwater from intruding. Understanding the dynamics of groundwater usage and the interface between saltwater and freshwater is crucial for managing and safeguarding water resources in coastal areas.

6. Which characteristics are indicative of urban sprawl?

A. Abundant shopping malls, unclear town boundaries, and dense, congested traffic

B. Unclear town boundaries

C. Abundant shopping malls

D. Dense, congested traffic

Urban sprawl is characterized by a spread of urban development into suburban or rural areas, leading to a low-density pattern of growth. The first choice includes abundant shopping malls, unclear town boundaries, and dense, congested traffic, all of which are key indicators of urban sprawl. Abundant shopping malls suggest that development has expanded beyond traditional urban centers to accommodate consumers in outlying areas. This often goes hand-in-hand with residential development that spreads outward, promoting reliance on automobiles for commuting and shopping. Unclear town boundaries indicate a merging of urban and suburban areas, where urban development extends into previously rural or undeveloped land, blurring the distinctions between different municipalities and regions. Dense, congested traffic is a common consequence of urban sprawl, as more people living in outlying areas typically rely on cars for transportation. This can lead to increased traffic congestion as more vehicles are on the roads, further emphasizing the challenges associated with sprawl, such as increased air pollution and longer commute times. Together, these characteristics create a comprehensive picture of urban sprawl, demonstrating how it affects urban planning and environmental sustainability.

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7. The rerouting of the Mississippi to increase the efficiency of movements of steamboats and barges was the result of the?

A. Medical Revolution

B. Green Revolution

C. Industrial Revolution

D. Environmental Revolution

The Industrial Revolution marked a significant transformation in how industries operated and how goods were transported. During this period, there was an increased demand for efficient transportation methods to facilitate trade and the movement of raw materials and finished products. The rerouting of the Mississippi River to enhance the efficiency of steamboats and barges created a more navigable shipping route, which contributed to the expansion of commerce in the United States. This modification of the river reflects the technological advancements and widespread changes in infrastructure typical of the Industrial Revolution, as new machines and engineering techniques made it possible to alter natural landscapes for human use. Increased steamboat operations on the Mississippi were crucial for moving agricultural products from the interior of America to markets, reinforcing the connection between industrial growth and transportation improvements. In contrast, the other options pertain to different transformations: the Medical Revolution focused on advancements in healthcare and disease management, the Green Revolution involved changes in agricultural production techniques, and the Environmental Revolution addresses ecological awareness and sustainability concerns. None of these revolutions directly relate to the enhancement of industrial transportation efficiency on the Mississippi River.

8. Which of the following represents intangible capital?

A. Pollination

B. Coal and petroleum

C. The library of the Smithsonian Institution

D. Solar energy

Intangible capital refers to non-physical assets that provide value to individuals or organizations, often related to knowledge, skills, relationships, or cultural heritage. The library of the Smithsonian Institution serves as an excellent example of intangible capital because it encompasses a wealth of informational resources, historical documents, and cultural artifacts that contribute to education, research, and cultural preservation. This knowledge base and the relationships fostered through access to information and educational programs enhance societal value beyond mere physical assets. In contrast, pollination, while essential for many ecosystems and agricultural systems, represents a natural service rather than an intangible asset in the same context. Coal and petroleum are tangible, physical assets that can be measured and extracted from the earth. Solar energy, similarly, refers to a renewable energy source that can be harnessed and utilized but does not fit the definition of intangible capital. Thus, the library of the Smithsonian Institution is distinct in its representation of intangible capital, as it embodies the value of knowledge and cultural heritage.

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9. One noteworthy achievement of chemistry research and environmental policies is the control of which atmospheric issue?

A. Nitrogen oxides and the control of acid precipitation

B. The reduction of ozone pollution over major cities

C. The use of fossil fuels and reversal of global climate changes

D. CFCs and the destruction of the ozone

The control of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) and the subsequent reduction of ozone layer depletion stands out as a significant achievement in both chemistry research and environmental policy. CFCs were widely used as refrigerants, propellants in aerosol sprays, and in foam-blowing applications. However, once released into the atmosphere, they were found to cause significant damage to the stratospheric ozone layer. The discovery of the ozone-depleting potential of CFCs led to the establishment of international agreements, most notably the Montreal Protocol in 1987, which successfully phased out the production and consumption of many ozone-depleting substances. This international cooperation and the advances in scientific understanding led to a significant reduction in CFC emissions, demonstrating a successful application of chemistry to solve an urgent environmental issue. As a result, the ozone layer has been showing signs of recovery, illustrating the positive impact of effective environmental policies based on sound scientific research. Understanding this achievement reinforces the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in addressing environmental challenges, combining scientific research with regulatory frameworks to achieve sustainable outcomes.

10. What is the primary issue with rabbits introduced to Australia?

A. They evolved into three new species

B. They evolved with marsupials

C. They were eliminated by a lethal virus

D. They exemplify high biotic potential of some introduced species

The primary issue with rabbits introduced to Australia is that they exemplify the high biotic potential of some introduced species. When rabbits were brought to Australia, they thrived in the new environment due to their reproductive capabilities, which allowed their population to explode rapidly. This led to significant ecological consequences, including competition with native species for resources, destruction of vegetation, and severe impacts on the agriculture sector. The ability of rabbits to reproduce quickly and adapt to various environments illustrates how invasive species can disrupt local ecosystems and highlight the challenges of managing introduced species. While the evolution of new species or interactions with native marsupials are interesting considerations, they do not capture the immediate ecological and agricultural impacts resulting from the overwhelming presence of the rabbits. Additionally, although diseases like lethal viruses have been introduced over time to manage rabbit populations, they were not the primary issue when considering the initial introduction. Therefore, understanding the significance of biotic potential is crucial for addressing the challenges posed by invasive species in ecosystems.

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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://environmentalscience.examzify.com

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

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