FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH (FCE) 2 OPEN CLOZE 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. Which word best completes the sentence to express a preference: They would rather go by train _____ fly?

A. when

B. than

C. before

D. if

2. When you're driving, concentrate __ the road!

A. On

B. In

C. At

D. About

3. One way to understand the role of sleep is to look at _____ happens if we don't get it.

A. that

B. how

C. what

D. when

4. She went to her boss and apologised _____ being so slow.

A. about

B. to

C. for

D. with

5. The police ran _____ the thief.

A. Before

B. After

C. To

D. Into

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6. The manager insisted that the project would proceed ___ schedule.

A. In

B. By

C. On

D. At

7. Men fought over gold more than a century _____.

A. Ago

B. Before

C. Since

D. During

8. Which word completes the sentence: The Emperor Napolean got by on four hours of sleep a night, and the scientist Thomas Edison claimed it was _____ waste of time?

A. the

B. an

C. a

D. some

9. Lack of sleep has serious effects _____ our brain's ability to function.

A. in

B. to

C. at

D. on

10. The town _____ a new library last year.

A. Opened

B. Built

C. Erected

D. Founded

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which word best completes the sentence to express a preference: They would rather go by train _____ fly?

A. when

B. than

C. before

D. if

This tests how we express a clear preference using would rather. After would rather, we use the base form of the verb, and we link the two options with than to show the contrast between them. In this sentence, the speaker prefers traveling by train to flying, so the word that fits is than, connecting "go by train" with the alternative "fly." The other options don't create a proper contrast: when refers to time, before also signals timing, and if introduces a condition. So than is the natural connector to express the comparison of two possible actions.

2. When you're driving, concentrate __ the road!

A. On

B. In

C. At

D. About

The key idea here is the natural pairing of "concentrate" with the preposition that shows what you're directing your attention toward. When you're driving, you need to direct your mental effort toward what's happening on the road, so the common and correct collocation is concentrate on the road. Using the other prepositions doesn't fit the meaning. "In" would imply being inside something or within a place, which isn't how we describe focusing attention. "At" points to a location or a point, not the object of focus. "About" would mean regarding or concerning something, not directing your concentration toward it. So, the best choice expresses the usual way we say you should focus while driving: concentrate on the road.

3. One way to understand the role of sleep is to look at _____ happens if we don't get it.

A. that

B. how

C. what

D. when

The key idea here is using what to introduce a content clause after a phrase like look at. In this sentence, what stands for "the things that," so the pair look at what happens describes examining the consequences or events that occur if we don't get sleep. That makes the sentence natural and complete: you're directing the listener to consider the specific outcomes. Why the other options don't fit: that wouldn't give a natural follow-up to look at in this context, and how or when would produce awkward or ungrammatical phrases (look at how happens / look at when happens). The structure with what is the smooth, idiomatic choice for referring to the events involved.

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4. She went to her boss and apologised _____ being so slow.

A. about

B. to

C. for

D. with

The phrase apologise for is the standard way to express regret about something you did or about a situation. After for you use a noun or a verb in the -ing form to name the reason. In this sentence the reason is the state of being slow, so being so slow fits perfectly as the thing she regrets. The person she's speaking to is already clear (her boss), so the sentence focuses on what she's apologising for, not to whom. Other prepositions don't work here. Saying apologised about would be non-idiomatic for this verb in this context, and apologised with would not connect correctly to the reason either. Using the -ing form after for is the natural construction.

5. The police ran _____ the thief.

A. Before

B. After

C. To

D. Into

Phrasal verbs with run show motion and the idea of pursuing someone. The natural choice here is after, forming the common phrase run after, which means to chase someone. So "The police ran after the thief" conveys the officers chasing him to catch him. The other prepositions shift the meaning: before would imply being ahead of or happening earlier than the thief, which doesn't describe chasing; to would mean moving toward the thief, not pursuing him; into would usually mean colliding with or entering him, which again isn't about pursuing.

6. The manager insisted that the project would proceed ___ schedule.

A. In

B. By

C. On

D. At

This item tests choosing the right preposition with a timetable to show that something is happening as planned. The natural expression with a schedule is on schedule, meaning the project is progressing according to the planned timetable and on time. That's why the sentence reads smoothly as "The manager insisted that the project would proceed on schedule." The other prepositions don't form the common collocation you need here. In, by, or at with schedule aren't used to express adherence to a timetable in this sense. If you wanted to describe being late or early, you'd use behind schedule or ahead of schedule, respectively.

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7. Men fought over gold more than a century _____.

A. Ago

B. Before

C. Since

D. During

Choosing a time expression that correctly places an event in the past is the key idea here. More than a century ago is a standard, natural way to say something happened over 100 years in the past relative to today. It matches the idea of a completed past event without tying it to a continuing situation. The other options don't fit the same sense. Before needs a reference point to connect with, and without one it sounds incomplete or odd. Since marks a starting point that continues up to now, which would change the meaning to something begun long ago and still relevant. During requires a specific period or duration to be defined, and without that context it doesn't convey a clear past distance in the same way.

8. Which word completes the sentence: The Emperor Napolean got by on four hours of sleep a night, and the scientist Thomas Edison claimed it was _____ waste of time?

A. the

B. an

C. a

D. some

The main idea here is choosing the right article before a singular countable noun. A waste of time is a single, countable idea, so you need an indefinite article to introduce it. Since waste begins with a consonant sound, the correct choice is a, not an. Using the definite article the would imply a specific, known waste of time, which isn't what the sentence is expressing. Some would be odd here because it's used with plural nouns or with uncountable nouns to mean "some amount," not with a singular countable noun like waste. So the natural phrasing is: it was a waste of time.

9. Lack of sleep has serious effects _____ our brain's ability to function.

A. in

B. to

C. at

D. on

The main idea tested here is which preposition naturally links the noun "effects" to what is being affected. In English, when something has an impact on another thing, we use "effects on" to show that relationship. So in this sentence, the impact of lack of sleep is directed toward "our brain's ability to function," making the phrase "effects on our brain's ability to function" the natural choice. The other prepositions don't fit the usual pattern: "in" would suggest inside something rather than affecting it, "to" isn't used to express impact in this construction, and "at" isn't used to link effects to their target in this context.

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10. The town _____ a new library last year.

A. Opened

B. Built

C. Erected

D. Founded

This is about describing the construction of a building. The most natural way to express that idea is that the town built a new library last year. Built is the standard verb for creating or constructing a building, and it keeps the focus on the physical act of making the library. Opened would focus more on starting use or operation, which isn't the primary action described in this sentence. Erected exists but sounds more formal or technical and doesn't fit everyday usage as smoothly. Founded targets starting an institution or organization rather than constructing a building. So built fits best, giving a clear, natural statement about constructing the library.

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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://fce2opencloze.examzify.com

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

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