FIRST CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH (FCE) 2 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. Name a typical task you will encounter in the Writing paper.

A. Answer multiple choice reading comprehension

B. Writing a short piece such as a letter or email

C. Listening to a conversation and answering questions

D. Completing a grammar transformation

2. What event changed the speaker's lack of inspiration?

A. Hearing a Song Called 'Simply the Best'

B. Reading a Slogan

C. Tasting Tea From a Tea Bag

D. Calling Her Boss

3. In Speaking, why is turn-taking important?

A. It shows fluency, politeness, and the ability to manage conversation.

B. It allows you to dominate the conversation.

C. It isn't important.

D. It only affects pronunciation.

4. It was an American, in 1919. At _____ time, the bags were mainly used by tea companies to allow customers to try the tea before buying it.

A. That

B. Which

C. When

D. Where

5. But _____ we spend a third of our lives sleeping, it seems that...

A. Like

B. Although

C. There

D. When

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6. He warned her _____ if she didn't think of something in the next twenty-four hours, there would be trouble.

A. That

B. Which

C. Who

D. Where

7. What is the main objective of the Reading and Use of English paper?

A. To test speaking skills

B. To assess listening skills

C. To test reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and the ability to understand and manipulate written English.

D. To measure handwriting legibility

8. How should you approach Word Formation practice for the Use of English?

A. Study common word families (noun/verb/adjective/adverb) and create practice items.

B. Memorize vocabulary words without considering forms.

C. Ignore prefixes and suffixes.

D. Memorize unrelated phrases.

9. They prepared a letter of apology ____ being late.

A. For

B. To

C. Of

D. About

10. Which technique is advised to minimize anxiety on exam day?

A. It guarantees you will never miss anything.

B. It trains you to manage attention, anticipate questions, and avoid slowing down.

C. It reduces the need to listen carefully.

D. It makes listening tasks easier without practice.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Name a typical task you will encounter in the Writing paper.

A. Answer multiple choice reading comprehension

B. Writing a short piece such as a letter or email

C. Listening to a conversation and answering questions

D. Completing a grammar transformation

Writing tasks on this paper focus on producing a short piece of writing, such as a letter or email, aimed at a specific reader. This tests your ability to communicate a clear message, choose the right tone for the audience (formal or informal), and present ideas in a logical, reader-friendly way with a proper opening, development, and closing. You'll also need to manage the length and use appropriate linking to make the text coherent. The other activities—reading a text and answering questions, listening to a conversation, or transforming grammar—are tasks from other parts of the exam and involve different skills rather than producing a written piece.

2. What event changed the speaker's lack of inspiration?

A. Hearing a Song Called 'Simply the Best'

B. Reading a Slogan

C. Tasting Tea From a Tea Bag

D. Calling Her Boss

A change like this usually comes from a strong emotional trigger that shifts mood and mindset. Hearing a song—especially one with themes of achievement or motivation—can instantly energize the imagination and rekindle enthusiasm. Music can evoke memories, boost adrenaline, and reframe thinking, so hearing that song acts as a powerful prompt that replaces the speaker's lack of inspiration with momentum and ideas. Reading a slogan tends to be quick and less emotionally impactful, often just a brief nudge rather than a spark. Tasting tea from a tea bag is a sensory comfort that might relax or placate, but it doesn't typically ignite creative drive. Calling her boss could increase stress or conflict, which usually dampens inspiration rather than sparks it. So, the song is the best match because its emotional resonance and associations are the kind of trigger that can reignite inspiration.

3. In Speaking, why is turn-taking important?

A. It shows fluency, politeness, and the ability to manage conversation.

B. It allows you to dominate the conversation.

C. It isn't important.

D. It only affects pronunciation.

Turn-taking is central because conversation is a shared activity, and how you manage who speaks when shows your overall communication skills. When you take turns smoothly, you demonstrate fluency by keeping the flow of talk natural, listening to others, and responding at the right moments. It also signals politeness, since you avoid interrupting and give others space to contribute. Importantly, it shows you can manage a conversation—recognizing when to speak, how to invite input from others, and how to link ideas across turns so the discussion stays coherent. In an exam like Speaking, these interactive abilities are crucial indicators of effective communication, not just language accuracy. It's not about dominating the floor, it's about sharing the conversation; it's not unimportant, and it's more than just pronunciation, since smooth turn-taking underpins how well you convey ideas and engage with others.

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4. It was an American, in 1919. At _____ time, the bags were mainly used by tea companies to allow customers to try the tea before buying it.

A. That

B. Which

C. When

D. Where

Refer back to a specific moment using a demonstrative before the noun. "At that time" points to the moment already mentioned (in 1919) and is a natural, common way to connect the past reference to what followed. The other options don't fit as smoothly: "at which time" is grammatically possible but sounds formal and less natural here, while "at when time" and "at where time" aren't correct English. So the natural choice is "that," giving the phrase "At that time."

5. But _____ we spend a third of our lives sleeping, it seems that...

A. Like

B. Although

C. There

D. When

This question tests choosing a word that introduces a contrast or concession. Although is used to acknowledge a fact and then present something that contrasts with it. Here, claiming that we spend a third of our lives sleeping is a fact, but the speaker's observation that follows ("it seems that…") signals a contrast to that fact. So the sentence reads smoothly as: But although we spend a third of our lives sleeping, it seems that... The other options don't express the needed contrast: like is for comparisons, there is or there are refers to existence or location, and when signals time.

6. He warned her _____ if she didn't think of something in the next twenty-four hours, there would be trouble.

A. That

B. Which

C. Who

D. Where

When talking about what someone warns about, the verb often needs a content clause that states the message or consequence. Here, the thing he warned her about is the statement that follows: if she didn't think of something in the next twenty-four hours, there would be trouble. The word that introduces this content clause and ties it directly to the verb warn. It functions as the direct object of the verb, detailing exactly what was warned. The other options don't fit because they would start a different kind of clause. Which would introduce a relative clause about a thing, who would refer to a person, and where would refer to a place—none of these convey the content of the warning itself.

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7. What is the main objective of the Reading and Use of English paper?

A. To test speaking skills

B. To assess listening skills

C. To test reading comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and the ability to understand and manipulate written English.

D. To measure handwriting legibility

The main objective is to show that you can understand written English and use grammar and vocabulary accurately within that written context. The Reading and Use of English paper tests how well you comprehend passages—finding main ideas, details, and implied meaning—and how you apply language knowledge to understand and manipulate written text, including grammar forms, word choices, and word formation or transformations. It's about reading skills together with language control, not about speaking, listening, or handwriting. So the best answer describes both reading comprehension and the ability to handle grammar and vocabulary in written English.

8. How should you approach Word Formation practice for the Use of English?

A. Study common word families (noun/verb/adjective/adverb) and create practice items.

B. Memorize vocabulary words without considering forms.

C. Ignore prefixes and suffixes.

D. Memorize unrelated phrases.

Focus on how words change form through prefixes, suffixes, and shifts between noun, verb, adjective, and adverb. This helps you recognize patterns and produce the right form quickly in Use of English tasks. The best approach is to study common word families and actively create practice items, so you see how a root word can become different parts of speech and how small changes alter meaning and function. For example, from a root like nation you can get national (adjective) and nationally (adverb), or from create you get creation (noun) and creative (adjective). This kind of targeted practice builds both recognition and production skills, which is exactly what Word Formation tasks test. Memorizing words without considering their forms won't prepare you for changing forms in sentences, prefixes and suffixes are essential for forming correct words, and unrelated phrases don't train you to manipulate word endings or parts of speech.

9. They prepared a letter of apology _____ being late.

A. For

B. To

C. Of

D. About

The main idea here is using the right preposition with the expression apology for, which links the apology to its reason. When you apologize, you commonly say sorry for something—the reason you're apologizing. So after a phrase like a letter of apology, you introduce the reason with for. In this sentence, being late is the reason, and the gerund phrase being late fits perfectly after for: they prepared a letter of apology for being late. The other prepositions don't fit the natural pattern. To would typically point to the person receiving the apology, not the reason, and about or of wouldn't introduce the cause in this standard collocation.

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10. Which technique is advised to minimize anxiety on exam day?

A. It guarantees you will never miss anything.

B. It trains you to manage attention, anticipate questions, and avoid slowing down.

C. It reduces the need to listen carefully.

D. It makes listening tasks easier without practice.

The key idea is using a practical exam-day routine that gives you control over the test experience. Training to manage attention helps you stay focused on the questions rather than letting nerves wander you off task. Anticipating questions sharpens your reading and listening, so you're ready for what's coming and can respond without hesitation. Keeping a steady pace prevents rushing or freezing, which are common triggers of anxiety. Together, these skills create predictability and confidence during the exam, which naturally lowers anxiety and supports better performance. The other options rely on unrealistic guarantees, imply you can listen less carefully, or suggest tasks become easy without practice, none of which align with using preparation and strategy to stay calm and accurate.

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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://firstcertinenglish2.examzify.com

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

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