GRE ADVANCED VOCABULARY 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. What does the word epithet denote?

A. A form of praise

B. A defamatory or abusive word or phrase

C. A display of emotions

D. An act of coming out

2. Which of the following terms involves attributing a fault to someone?

A. Idyll

B. Impugn

C. Fallow

D. Extirpate

3. What term describes a sound that is loud and resounding?

A. Resonant

B. Plangent

C. Melodic

D. Echoic

4. Which of the following best describes something that is facile?

A. Done with excessive effort

B. Performed adroitly and without effort

C. Confusing and complicated

D. Challenging and difficult

5. What does equipoise refer to?

A. Unusual lightness

B. A lack of social grace

C. A state of equality or balance

D. Strong disapproval

6. What condition does a 'wizened' person typically exhibit?

A. Wrinkles and aging signs

B. Youthful features and vitality

C. Robust health and strength

D. Vibrancy and dynamism

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7. What word best describes a design with elaborate, flowing patterns?

A. Arabesque

B. Apogee

C. Anodyne

D. Apostate

8. What does the term caparison mean?

A. To celebrate

B. To adorn or bedizen

C. To confer

D. To dismiss

9. If someone showcases great insight, which of the following words best describes them?

A. Diffident

B. Acumen

C. Acerbic

D. Ascetic

10. What word would you use to describe someone who lacks the ability to feel emotional stimuli?

A. Empathetic

B. Callous

C. Insensible

D. Compassionate

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the word epithet denote?

A. A form of praise

B. A defamatory or abusive word or phrase

C. A display of emotions

D. An act of coming out

The word "epithet" fundamentally refers to a descriptive term or phrase, particularly one that characterizes a person or thing. While it can sometimes be used neutrally or even positively, it is often associated with derogatory or inflammatory terms used to insult or demean someone. This aligns with the understanding that an epithet can be a defamatory or abusive word or phrase, which makes the choice about a negative context particularly relevant here. In contrast, the notion of a form of praise conjures a more positive connotation that is not typical of the common usage of "epithet." Similarly, a display of emotions is unrelated, as it pertains more to feelings than descriptive language. Finally, the act of coming out has no connection to the meaning of epithet, as it deals with personal or social identity rather than language. Thus, the focus on negative descriptors aligns perfectly with the essence of what "epithet" represents in many contexts.

2. Which of the following terms involves attributing a fault to someone?

A. Idyll

B. Impugn

C. Fallow

D. Extirpate

The term that involves attributing a fault to someone is "impugn." This word originates from the Latin "impugnare," meaning "to attack" or "to challenge." When you impugn someone's character or motives, you are essentially questioning their integrity or accusing them of wrongdoing. It conveys a sense of doubt or criticism regarding someone's actions or reputation, making it particularly relevant to the idea of attributing fault. In contrast, "idyll" refers to a simple, peaceful scene, often in nature, and does not relate to fault or accusation. "Fallow" describes land that is left uncultivated and again bears no relevance to attributing fault. "Extirpate" means to remove or eradicate completely, which may involve faults in a different context, but does not imply a direct attribution of fault in the way that "impugn" does. Hence, "impugn" is the best fit for the question posed.

3. What term describes a sound that is loud and resounding?

A. Resonant

B. Plangent

C. Melodic

D. Echoic

The term that best describes a sound that is loud and resounding is "resonant." When a sound is resonant, it means that it has a rich, deep, and clear quality, often causing it to sound fuller and more powerful. This can apply to both musical notes and general sounds that carry well or fill an environment boldly. While "plangent" does describe a sound, it carries a connotation of being mournful or sorrowful, which does not align with the idea of just being loud and resounding. The word "melodic" relates specifically to melody and tunefulness rather than volume or resonance. "Echoic" refers to the quality of producing echoes, which is more about the repetition and reflection of sound rather than its inherent loudness or resonance. Thus, "resonant" is the most fitting choice for a sound that is both loud and resounding.

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4. Which of the following best describes something that is facile?

A. Done with excessive effort

B. Performed adroitly and without effort

C. Confusing and complicated

D. Challenging and difficult

The term "facile" refers to something performed with ease and skill, often implying a degree of superficiality. When something is described as facile, it suggests that it is executed adroitly, meaning that it is done smoothly, skillfully, and without apparent effort. This can be in reference to physical tasks, intellectual accomplishments, or even arguments and explanations that seem persuasive but may lack depth. In contrast, other choices imply difficulty or confusion, which directly contradicts the meaning of "facile." Thus, while the other options speak to complexity and effort, the correct choice captures the essence of the term, highlighting ease and proficiency in performance.

5. What does equipoise refer to?

A. Unusual lightness

B. A lack of social grace

C. A state of equality or balance

D. Strong disapproval

Equipoise refers to a state of equality or balance. The term is often used in contexts where there is a need for fairness, such as in ethical discussions, scientific experiments, or any situation requiring a fair assessment of competing forces or arguments. When equipoise is achieved, it signifies that opposing elements hold equal weight or influence, creating a balanced and stable situation. This concept is critical in various fields, including ethics, where it underlines the importance of maintaining neutrality and impartiality. The other options do not capture the essence of equipoise. Unusual lightness pertains to a physical characteristic rather than a state of balance. A lack of social grace relates to social skills and poise, which is far removed from the idea of equality or balance. Strong disapproval conveys a sentiment of rejection or negativity, contrasting sharply with the neutrality suggested by equipoise. Thus, the correct answer reflects the intended meaning most accurately.

6. What condition does a 'wizened' person typically exhibit?

A. Wrinkles and aging signs

B. Youthful features and vitality

C. Robust health and strength

D. Vibrancy and dynamism

A 'wizened' person typically exhibits signs of aging, most notably characterized by wrinkles and other features that indicate a life of experience and time. The term 'wizened' is often used to describe someone who appears shriveled or shrunken due to age, which aligns with the idea of having visible signs of aging. Such a description evokes images of an elderly individual whose life experiences have manifested in their physical appearance, making it a clear connection to the realities of aging. The other options suggest traits associated with youthfulness or vigor, which contrast starkly with the essence of what 'wizened' conveys. Thus, the understanding of 'wizened' directly leads to recognizing the correct association with age and its physical manifestations.

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7. What word best describes a design with elaborate, flowing patterns?

A. Arabesque

B. Apogee

C. Anodyne

D. Apostate

The word "Arabesque" is the most suitable choice for describing a design characterized by elaborate, flowing patterns. This term refers specifically to artistic designs that feature intricate, ornamental motifs often inspired by Islamic art, which includes curvilinear forms and swirling patterns. Arabesque designs are prevalent in various art forms, including architecture, textiles, and furniture, and are celebrated for their aesthetic beauty and complexity. On the other hand, "Apogee" refers to the highest point in an orbital path, which does not relate to design or patterns. "Anodyne" describes something that alleviates pain or is soothing, which is unrelated to the visual characteristics of a design. Lastly, "Apostate" refers to someone who renounces a religious or political belief, which has no connection to the description of artistic design. Thus, "Arabesque" emerges as the clear and appropriate choice for a design that features intricate and flowing patterns.

8. What does the term caparison mean?

A. To celebrate

B. To adorn or bedizen

C. To confer

D. To dismiss

The term "caparison" refers specifically to the act of adorning or decorating a horse, particularly in a ceremonial or sumptuous manner, often involving elaborate coverings or trappings. In a broader context, it can also mean to dress or deck out in fancy clothing. The emphasis on embellishment and beautification aligns closely with the definition of "to adorn or bedizen," making this choice the most fitting answer. The term evokes imagery of decorative style and opulence, particularly in equestrian contexts, which reinforces why this definition is appropriate. Understanding this term involves recognizing the connotation of decoration and ostentation that it carries.

9. If someone showcases great insight, which of the following words best describes them?

A. Diffident

B. Acumen

C. Acerbic

D. Ascetic

The term that best describes someone who showcases great insight is "acumen." This word refers to the ability to make good judgments and quick decisions, particularly in a specific domain like business or a particular aspect of life. When a person has acumen, they demonstrate a sharpness of mind and a keen insight into complex situations, which aligns perfectly with the idea of showcasing great insight. In contrast, the other options—such as "diffident," which describes someone who is shy or lacking in self-confidence; "acerbic," which refers to a sharp, biting, or sarcastic tone; and "ascetic," which describes a person who practices severe self-discipline and abstains from indulgence—do not capture the essence of having deep or profound insight. Thus, "acumen" is the most suitable choice as it pertains directly to insight and keen understanding.

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10. What word would you use to describe someone who lacks the ability to feel emotional stimuli?

A. Empathetic

B. Callous

C. Insensible

D. Compassionate

The term that best describes someone who lacks the ability to feel emotional stimuli is "insensible." This word connotes a state of being impervious to feelings, sensations, or understanding emotions — indicating a profound numbness to emotional reactions. An insensible person may not respond to emotional cues or stimuli, which aligns with the notion of lacking emotional sensitivity. In contrast, "empathetic" refers to the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. "Callous" describes someone who is emotionally insensitive or unfeeling but doesn't capture the idea of a complete inability to feel. "Compassionate" signifies a strong awareness and concern for others' suffering, which is the opposite of the state described in the question. Thus, "insensible" is the most fitting choice for someone who cannot feel emotional stimuli.

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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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