IATSE LOCAL 15 – ENTRY 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. **DisplayPort is used for digital video; which option is the common DisplayPort compatibility seen on laptops?**

   A. USB

   B. DisplayPort

   C. DVI

   D. HDMI

2. **What feature do many deck carts have to secure staging pieces as they are lifted into the cart?**

   A. Built-in scale

   B. Automatically locking latches

   C. Folding sides

   D. Remote locking mechanism

3. **When storing a Fast Fold screen, what is important?**

   A. The screen surface should touch the black borders

   B. The screen surface should touch itself, not the black borders

   C. The screen should be stored rolled up

   D. The screen should be stored flat with borders touching

4. **Which connector is used for powering and controlling lighting accessories such as gobo rotators and color scrollers?**

   A. 3-Pin XLR

   B. HDMI

   C. 5-Pin XLR (DMX)

   D. USB-C

5. **Why should you not attempt to catch a falling flat?**

   A. It is safe to try to catch the flat if you act quickly.

   B. Catching is recommended.

   C. The flat will be less damaged.

   D. It will break the flat and injure themselves.

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6. Which type of microphone is typically preferred for loud vocals and drums due to its ruggedness?

A. Dynamic microphone

B. Condenser microphone

C. Ribbon microphone

D. Boundary microphone

7. Which lighting technology has become ubiquitous due to power savings, heat reduction, and not needing gel?

A. Incandescent bulbs

B. Halogen lamps

C. LED

D. Fluorescent tubes

8. Which lighting fixture is typically used to wash a stage from below, often producing a wide wash?

A. Flood

B. Groundrow/Striplight

C. PAR

D. Fresnel

9. In a convention, a General Session can be a complex live event featuring what?

A. A small breakout session

B. A backstage tour

C. High-profile speakers and entertainment on the same stage

D. An off-site networking lunch

10. Which hex sizes are listed as common?

A. 3/16, 1/4, 5/16

B. 1/8, 3/16, 1/2

C. 1/4, 5/16, 3/8

D. 3/8, 1/2, 5/8

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. DisplayPort is used for digital video; which option is the common DisplayPort compatibility seen on laptops?

A. USB

B. DisplayPort

C. DVI

D. HDMI

DisplayPort is the digital video interface used to output high-quality video from a laptop to an external display. On many laptops, the common video-out capability you'll see is DisplayPort—whether as a dedicated DP port or as DisplayPort signaling carried over USB-C with DP alt mode. This is why it's the best match for "common DisplayPort compatibility seen on laptops." USB by itself isn't a video interface, DVI is an older standard, and HDMI is a separate interface—even though adapters exist, the question is centered on DisplayPort compatibility, which aligns with the DisplayPort option.

2. What feature do many deck carts have to secure staging pieces as they are lifted into the cart?

A. Built-in scale

B. Automatically locking latches

C. Folding sides

D. Remote locking mechanism

When loading staging pieces into a deck cart, the key need is to keep those pieces from shifting or falling during the lift and transport. Automatically locking latches provide that safeguard by engaging as the pieces are raised and seated in the cart. They snap into place and hold everything steady, so the load stays secure without requiring an extra manual step from the crew. This combination of reliability and speed is what makes automatic locking latches the best fit for securing staging pieces during lift. A built-in scale serves weight measurement rather than security, so it doesn't help with preventing movement. Folding sides can contain material but don't actively lock or secure the load during the lift. Remote locking mechanisms can exist on some setups, but they're less universal and depend on additional systems; they don't address the immediate, automatic securing action that latches provide.

3. When storing a Fast Fold screen, what is important?

A. The screen surface should touch the black borders

B. The screen surface should touch itself, not the black borders

C. The screen should be stored rolled up

D. The screen should be stored flat with borders touching

Protect the projection surface by keeping it from rubbing against the frame edges. The idea is to have the screen fabric contact itself rather than the black borders so the wear and friction stay on the fabric surface where it's designed to be, not on the border. This helps prevent scuffing, edge wear, or creases that could affect image quality when you set it up again. In practice, store the screen so the image area folds or rests against itself, not against the borders. This preserves both the surface and the masking border for future use.

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4. Which connector is used for powering and controlling lighting accessories such as gobo rotators and color scrollers?

A. 3-Pin XLR

B. HDMI

C. 5-Pin XLR (DMX)

D. USB-C

This question is about how lighting accessories on a stage rig receive control signals. Gobo rotators and color scrollers are typically controlled through DMX, a standard lighting control protocol. The data for DMX is carried over a 5-pin XLR connector, which is why the 5-Pin XLR (DMX) option is the correct pick. This connector is designed to reliably carry the DMX signal across the lighting network, letting a console or dimmer pack address individual devices and set their behavior. Power for these accessories usually comes from a separate supply or the fixture itself, not from the DMX data line, so the key point here is that the control signal—the DMX data line—uses the 5-pin XLR. Other options don't fit because HDMI and USB-C aren't used for DMX control, and while some gear may use a 3-pin XLR in nonstandard setups, the widely accepted and compatible standard for DMX control in these lighting accessories is the 5-pin XLR.

5. Why should you not attempt to catch a falling flat?

A. It is safe to try to catch the flat if you act quickly.

B. Catching is recommended.

C. The flat will be less damaged.

D. It will break the flat and injure themselves.

When something heavy and rigid like a flat is falling, don't try to catch it. The momentum and weight mean it's likely to strike you or your hands, causing serious injury, and it can also break the flat, creating sharp debris or splinters. The safer move is to step back, keep clear of the fall path, and let it drop while alerting others and the crew so they can handle the situation. This approach protects you and minimizes damage to the flat and surroundings.

6. Which type of microphone is typically preferred for loud vocals and drums due to its ruggedness?

A. Dynamic microphone

B. Condenser microphone

C. Ribbon microphone

D. Boundary microphone

Dynamic microphones are built as rugged workhorses that can handle high sound pressure levels, which is why they're typically preferred for loud vocalists and drums. Their moving-coil design is sturdy and able to withstand rough handling and stage abuse without distorting or failing. They're also less sensitive to ambient noise and usually don't require phantom power, making them practical for live situations. In contrast, condenser microphones are more sensitive and delicate, and ribbon microphones are even more fragile and less suited to high SPL, while boundary microphones are designed for room ambiance rather than close, loud sources.

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7. Which lighting technology has become ubiquitous due to power savings, heat reduction, and not needing gel?

A. Incandescent bulbs

B. Halogen lamps

C. LED

D. Fluorescent tubes

LED lighting has become everywhere because it combines power efficiency, much lower heat output, and flexible color control that often doesn't require color gels. LEDs convert more of the electrical energy into usable light rather than heat, so fixtures stay cooler and use less power for the same brightness. They also offer rapid, digital color mixing and adjustable color temperature, letting you achieve any look without resorting to placing gels in front of traditional fixtures. This trio of efficiency, cooler operation, and versatile color control is what makes LEDs the dominant choice in modern lighting. Incandescent and halogen lamps waste more power as heat, while fluorescent tubes, though efficient, don't provide the same ease of color control and dimming behavior for many on-set or stage applications.

8. Which lighting fixture is typically used to wash a stage from below, often producing a wide wash?

A. Flood

B. Groundrow/Striplight

C. PAR

D. Fresnel

When you want a broad, even wash that comes up from the stage floor, a groundrow or striplight is the fixture you reach for. Placed on the floor or along the downstage edge, it's designed to be aimed upward, which lets its light spread across a wide area with minimal hot spots. The long, linear design provides a continuous source of light, producing that wide, uniform wash that covers the stage from below and helps illuminate actors and scenery from a low angle. Other fixtures like floods, PARs, or Fresnels are typically used in different positions or for different beam qualities—they don't inherently deliver the same floor-level, wide wash when mounted on the ground.

9. In a convention, a General Session can be a complex live event featuring what?

A. A small breakout session

B. A backstage tour

C. High-profile speakers and entertainment on the same stage

D. An off-site networking lunch

General sessions are the main, formal gathering at a convention, often presented on a single large stage with a mix of speeches, announcements, and entertainment. This setup can be complex because it involves coordinating multiple elements—high-profile speakers, musical or other performances, presenters, and on-stage acts—along with lighting, sound, timing, and cues to keep the program smooth and engaging. The option that describes high-profile speakers and entertainment on the same stage reflects that blend of prominent personalities and live performance in one coordinated on-stage event. The other choices describe activities that are smaller in scope, behind-the-scenes, or off-site, and don't capture the on-stage, multi-element nature of a general session.

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10. Which hex sizes are listed as common?

A. 3/16, 1/4, 5/16

B. 1/8, 3/16, 1/2

C. 1/4, 5/16, 3/8

D. 3/8, 1/2, 5/8

Common hex sizes are the ones you're most likely to find together in standard wrench sets because they cover the most frequently encountered fasteners. The trio 3/16, 1/4, and 5/16 inches appears together in many kits and catalogs, representing a practical mid-range group that handles a large share of hardware you'll work with in equipment and stage rigging. This makes them a go-to "common" set. The other options pull in sizes that aren't as routinely paired with that mid-range cluster. Larger sizes like 3/8 or 1/2 inch are less commonly needed for everyday fasteners in many setups, while including a much smaller size isn't as representative of the widely listed common trio. So this combination best matches what's typically described as common hex sizes.

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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://iatselocal15entry.examzify.com

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

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