IATSE LOCAL 322 STAGEHAND PROFICIENCY EXAM (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 curtain is described as the curtain closest to the audience?

A. The curtain closest to the audience.

B. A thin curtain used to attenuate light.

C. The curtain that hides the fly gallery.

D. The curtain used to divide the stage into sections.

2. What is the correct way to hang a gown or period dress if it does not have hanging loops?

A. Some garments may have a special hangar system. Often, they need to be hung in a manner that keeps creases from forming which may include folding the gown or dress in half and carefully threading it through a hanger so that it hangs at the waist line.

B. Hang the gown on a standard hanger.

C. Hang the gown by folding it over the hanger directly at the waist.

D. Some garments may require special hangers and following the wardrobe master's directions if unsure.

3. What is the proper way to hang men's pants?

A. Hang them by the waistband only.

B. Match the seams at the cuffs. Thread the hanger between the two legs of the pants and fold a single leg up until the bottom cuff reaches the crotch. Fold the other leg through the hanger so that it rests on the other side evenly.

C. Fold the pants and lay flat on a shelf.

D. Hang by the belt loops on a standard hanger.

4. Who do Department Heads report to on a call?

A. The Audience

B. The Steward

C. The General Manager

D. The Stage Manager

5. Which items are essential when handling dry ice?

A. Gloves & tongs; face shield, etc.

B. Gloves only

C. Face shield only

D. No PPE needed

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6. Which component is the pulley in a counterweight system directly above the arbor and guides lift wires to the loft blocks?

A. Loft block

B. Deadhung

C. Head block

D. Pipe weight

7. Which term refers to a rigging point attached to cables to keep them out of the way or to relieve strain?

A. Spanset

B. Pickle

C. Cable prop

D. Cable pick

8. Which historical event is cited as part of IATSE's formation?

A. The 1886 strike by New York TPU members and actor solidarity leading to acceptance of worker requests

B. A 1950s industry-wide convention in Chicago

C. A 1990s online union organizing push

D. A 1920s legislative act establishing stage unions

9. Which term describes the cover for the orchestra pit made of Scrim material?

A. Hat catcher

B. Pipe extensions

C. Ghost light

D. Flyman

10. Which term refers to something hanging from a fixed single point straight up and down?

A. Deadhung

B. Loft block

C. Pipe extensions

D. Ghost light

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which curtain is described as the curtain closest to the audience?

A. The curtain closest to the audience.

B. A thin curtain used to attenuate light.

C. The curtain that hides the fly gallery.

D. The curtain used to divide the stage into sections.

The key idea here is how curtains are used and where they sit in relation to the audience. A curtain that's near the front of the stage is often chosen to manage light softly for the viewers. A thin curtain designed to attenuate light sits close to the audience to reduce glare and control brightness without fully blocking the view, making it the best match for a curtain described as the one closest to the audience. The other curtains serve different roles and are located differently: one is mounted higher up to hide the fly gallery, another is used to partition the stage, and the main front curtain is primarily for revealing the performance, not for light attenuation.

2. What is the correct way to hang a gown or period dress if it does not have hanging loops?

A. Some garments may have a special hangar system. Often, they need to be hung in a manner that keeps creases from forming which may include folding the gown or dress in half and carefully threading it through a hanger so that it hangs at the waist line.

B. Hang the gown on a standard hanger.

C. Hang the gown by folding it over the hanger directly at the waist.

D. Some garments may require special hangers and following the wardrobe master's directions if unsure.

When a gown or period dress lacks hanging loops, the priority is to support the garment in a way that protects its shape and fabric. Some pieces require special hangers or supports, and following the wardrobe master's directions ensures you use the right hardware and method for that specific garment. This careful approach prevents creases, sagging, or distortion that can come from folding or using a standard hanger that doesn't fit the garment's construction. If you're unsure, rely on the wardrobe master's guidance so the dress is stored safely and ready for quick dressing on stage.

3. What is the proper way to hang men's pants?

A. Hang them by the waistband only.

B. Match the seams at the cuffs. Thread the hanger between the two legs of the pants and fold a single leg up until the bottom cuff reaches the crotch. Fold the other leg through the hanger so that it rests on the other side evenly.

C. Fold the pants and lay flat on a shelf.

D. Hang by the belt loops on a standard hanger.

The technique tested is about keeping pants wrinkle-free and properly supported when stored. Threading a hanger through the legs and using the hanger to support both legs evenly distributes the weight of the fabric, prevents creases along the inseam and hems, and preserves the pants' natural drape. By lifting one leg up to the crotch and then threading the other leg through the hanger so both legs rest evenly on either side, the pants hang with balanced support and less stress on any single area. This method avoids putting stress on the waistband or belt loops, which can cause distortion or sag, and it avoids the wrinkles that can come from simply folding and laying flat or from hanging by the waistband or belt loops alone.

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4. Who do Department Heads report to on a call?

A. The Audience

B. The Steward

C. The General Manager

D. The Stage Manager

On a call, the primary relationship for crew matters is with the steward. The steward is the union representative assigned to oversee crew concerns, enforce contract rules, handle safety and work-hours issues, and relay grievances or questions between the crew and management. Department Heads rely on that liaison to ensure everything stays within contract terms and safety standards, so they report to the steward for these matters. The Stage Manager still directs the show's daily operations and cues, but when it comes to crew rights, contract compliance, and welfare on the call, the steward is the official point of contact. The audience and general manager aren't the reporting lines for this crew relationship, and while the Stage Manager oversees show execution, the particular reporting chain for crew governance on a call is through the steward.

5. Which items are essential when handling dry ice?

A. Gloves & tongs; face shield, etc.

B. Gloves only

C. Face shield only

D. No PPE needed

Handling dry ice requires protective gear because it is extremely cold and can cause frostbite, and it also releases CO_2 gas as it sublimates. Wearing insulated gloves protects your hands from direct contact with the cold surface, which can cause serious skin burns. Using tongs keeps your hands away from the ice entirely, reducing the risk even further and helping you move or place pieces safely. A face shield or eye protection is important too, since dry ice can slip or be handled in a way that might flick a piece toward your face, and exposure to the cold can affect your eyes or face. In addition to these protections, good ventilation is important to prevent CO_2 buildup in a confined space, and never seal dry ice in an airtight container. Putting all these elements together—gloves, tongs, and face protection—provides the most complete safety when handling dry ice.

6. Which component is the pulley in a counterweight system directly above the arbor and guides lift wires to the loft blocks?

A. Loft block

B. Deadhung

C. Head block

D. Pipe weight

In a counterweight rigging system, the lift lines start by curving upward from the arbor and are redirected by the upper pulley block mounted directly above the arbor. That block is the head block. It sits at the top and changes the direction of the lift wires from vertical to toward the loft blocks, where the lines then travel to guide the battens. The loft blocks themselves are the pulleys up in the fly loft, not the one directly above the arbor. The other terms don't describe a pulley in that top, directing position.

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7. Which term refers to a rigging point attached to cables to keep them out of the way or to relieve strain?

A. Spanset

B. Pickle

C. Cable prop

D. Cable pick

Keeping overhead cables clear and reducing strain comes down to creating a dedicated attachment point on the cable so you can position and support it safely. A cable prop is exactly that kind of device: a rigging point that attaches to a cable to hold it away from the stage, walkways, or other gear, and to relieve tension by giving you a stable, elevated anchor for routing or supporting the line. By placing a cable prop at appropriate spots, you prevent sag and abrasion at contact points and make it easier to dress cables neatly and re-route them as needed during load changes or replenishment. A Spanset is a strap used to create an anchoring point around a load, typically for lifting or securing, but it isn't a dedicated attachment point built into the cable itself for keeping the cable clear. Cable picks or similarly named items aren't the standard term for this purpose and don't describe a practical attachment point on the cable. So, the device described—a rigging point attached to cables to keep them out of the way or relieve strain—fits best with cable prop.

8. Which historical event is cited as part of IATSE's formation?

A. The 1886 strike by New York TPU members and actor solidarity leading to acceptance of worker requests

B. A 1950s industry-wide convention in Chicago

C. A 1990s online union organizing push

D. A 1920s legislative act establishing stage unions

The main idea being tested is how IATSE came together from early labor actions that showed the power of workers uniting across roles. The 1886 strike in New York, with the Theatrical Producers' Union members and actors standing in solidarity, illustrates the moment when workers across different parts of the theater world joined forces and won concessions. That kind of cross-group unity demonstrated the value of a single, broader organization to coordinate bargaining, improve working conditions, and protect members across the industry. It's the historical spark that leads to forming a national alliance for theatrical workers. The other events described don't align with the period or the spark that started IATSE's formation.

9. Which term describes the cover for the orchestra pit made of Scrim material?

A. Hat catcher

B. Pipe extensions

C. Ghost light

D. Flyman

In theatre work, masking the orchestra pit with a scrim panel is a common setup. The piece used to cover the pit is called a hat catcher. It's a scrim-panel cover mounted to hide the musicians from the audience while still allowing light to pass through when needed, and it can be raised or lowered into place as scenes require. The other terms refer to different things: a ghost light is the single light left on for safety when the theatre is dark; pipe extensions are rigging hardware used to extend lengths or reach; and a flyman is a crew member who handles flying scenery, not the cover itself.

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10. Which term refers to something hanging from a fixed single point straight up and down?

A. Deadhung

B. Loft block

C. Pipe extensions

D. Ghost light

When a piece is hung from a single fixed point overhead and hangs straight down, that is dead hung. This term describes the method of suspension: one attachment point, with gravity keeping the fixture vertical and stationary rather than twisting or traveling along a fly system. It's typically used for items that should stay aligned and not move through pulleys or additional rigging. The other terms describe different rigging concepts that don't match the straight-down, single-point hang. A loft block is a pulley used to change the direction of a rope in the fly system. Pipe extensions are extra sections added to lengthen a pipe or batten. A ghost light is a small light left on backstage when the theater is dark to serve as a safety cue and deterrent for theft.

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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://iatselocal322stagehand.examzify.com

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

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