

MMC2121 GRAMMAR PRACTICE 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.

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!

Questions

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1. The project has been on hold ____ January.
 - A. in
 - B. since
 - C. through
 - D. before
2. Which sentence uses 'affect' as a verb in past tense?
 - A. The policy affected the community.
 - B. The policy affect the community.
 - C. The policy effects the community.
 - D. The policy effect the community.
3. Which sentence uses passive voice?
 - A. I made mistakes.
 - B. Mistakes were made.
 - C. The team corrected the mistakes.
 - D. They analyzed data.
4. If I WERE president, students would get free tickets. Which form indicates subjunctive mood?
 - A. WERE
 - B. WAS
 - C. IS
 - D. ARE
5. Choose the correctly formed sentence.
 - A. The athletes who had trained for three years were upset.
 - B. The athletes whom had trained for three years were upset.
 - C. The athletes whomever had trained for three years were upset.
 - D. The athletes who had trained for three years were upset, they were late.
6. Which term starts a modifying phrase?
 - A. Noun
 - B. Pronoun
 - C. Adverb
 - D. Preposition

- 7. Which sentence correctly demonstrates the serial comma in non-journalism style listing three items?**
- A. We have a red, white, and blue flag.
 - B. We have a red, white and blue flag.
 - C. We have a red white and blue flag.
 - D. We have a red, white, blue flag.
- 8. Which sentence correctly reflects the rule not to place a comma between a title and a name?**
- A. House Speaker, Henry Clay brokered important compromises.
 - B. House Speaker Henry Clay brokered important compromises.
 - C. Henry Clay, House Speaker brokered important compromises.
 - D. Henry Clay House Speaker brokered important compromises.
- 9. Which sentence uses passive voice that hides the actor?**
- A. The engineer repaired the sensor.
 - B. They fixed the sensor.
 - C. The project completed successfully.
 - D. Mistakes were made.
- 10. Outside formal academic writing, the semicolon is most commonly used to:**
- A. To group related items in a series.
 - B. To join independent clauses without a conjunction.
 - C. To introduce a list.
 - D. To indicate a pause stronger than a comma.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The project has been on hold ____ January.

- A. in
- B. since**
- C. through
- D. before

The key idea here is that the present perfect describes a state that started in the past and continues up to the present, and we use since to mark the starting point of that duration. The project has been on hold since January means the hold began in January and is still in effect now. Since is paired with a precise starting time to show how long something has lasted up to the present. The other options don't fit that sense of ongoing duration from a definite start. In January marks a specific time point but doesn't convey ongoing duration to the present. Through January could imply the hold lasted up to the end of January but doesn't inherently express that it continues to today. Before January would place the starting point earlier than January, not at January, which doesn't match the intended timeline.

2. Which sentence uses 'affect' as a verb in past tense?

- A. The policy affected the community.**
- B. The policy affect the community.
- C. The policy effects the community.
- D. The policy effect the community.

The concept tested is choosing the past tense form of the verb affect. The correct sentence uses affected, which is the past tense of affect, showing that the action happened in the past. The subject The policy is a singular third-person subject, but past tense doesn't add an -s, so affected is the right form here. The other options mix up tense or use the word effect in a way that changes meaning or parts of speech (effect as a noun, or effect as the verb to effect), which isn't the required past-tense form of affect.

3. Which sentence uses passive voice?

- A. I made mistakes.
- B. Mistakes were made.**
- C. The team corrected the mistakes.
- D. They analyzed data.

Passive voice is shown when the subject of the sentence receives the action rather than does it, and the verb typically uses a form of "to be" plus a past participle, with the agent sometimes left out. In this sentence, the subject is "Mistakes," which are the recipient of the action "made." The verb form "were made" uses a form of "to be" (were) plus the past participle (made), and it doesn't state who did the making. That omission of the agent and the receiver-as-subject structure signal passive voice. The other sentences let the subject perform the action, which is active voice: "I made mistakes" has the subject "I" doing the making; "The team corrected the mistakes" has the team actively correcting; "They analyzed data" has "they" performing the analysis.

4. If I WERE president, students would get free tickets. Which form indicates subjunctive mood?

- A. WERE
- B. WAS
- C. IS
- D. ARE

Subjunctive mood is used to express hypothetical or counterfactual situations. In English, a classic way to show that a condition is not real is to use the past subjunctive in the if-clause, with the verb “be” taking the form were regardless of the subject. In this sentence, the phrase If I were president signals a non-real, imagined scenario, and the form were is the marker of that subjunctive mood. Using were is standard for expressing such hypotheticals, even though in casual speech some might say If I was president. The other forms—was, is, are—reflect actual time frames (past indicative or present) and would not convey the same unreal, hypothetical meaning. The would in the main clause indicates the consequence of the hypothetical situation, but the key mood marker in the if-clause is the form were.

5. Choose the correctly formed sentence.

- A. The athletes who had trained for three years were upset.
- B. The athletes whom had trained for three years were upset.
- C. The athletes whomever had trained for three years were upset.
- D. The athletes who had trained for three years were upset, they were late.

This question tests using a relative clause for people and keeping the pronoun in the subject position. The relative pronoun who is correct here because it refers to people and serves as the subject of the clause describing the athletes. The clause who had trained for three years correctly indicates that their training happened before they were upset, with had trained in the past perfect showing the sequence of events. Since this is a restrictive description—specifying which athletes—the clause is joined directly to the noun without a comma. Why the other forms don't fit: whom would be an object pronoun, not the subject of the relative clause, so whom had trained is ungrammatical in this context. whomever isn't the right form for this simple defining clause. And the version that adds a comma before they were late creates a run-on by joining two independent clauses with only a comma. The meaning also shifts from a specific group to two separate statements.

6. Which term starts a modifying phrase?

- A. Noun
- B. Pronoun
- C. Adverb
- D. Preposition

A modifying phrase is one that adds extra detail about another word in the sentence. A very common way this happens is through a prepositional phrase, which begins with a preposition. That opening word—like in, on, with, without, before, after—signals the relationship the phrase will describe (location, time, means, etc.) and the rest of the phrase provides the object of the preposition. Because the preposition is the word that starts this kind of modifying phrase, it's the best answer. For example, in the garden modifies the noun, and with her friends modifies the action. While adverbial phrases or other noun-based phrases can modify in some contexts, the standard starter for a modifying phrase is a preposition.

7. Which sentence correctly demonstrates the serial comma in non-journalism style listing three items?

- A. We have a red, white, and blue flag.
- B. We have a red, white and blue flag.
- C. We have a red white and blue flag.
- D. We have a red, white, blue flag.

The serial comma, also called the Oxford comma, is the comma that appears before the conjunction in a list of three or more items. In non-journalism writing, this comma is typically used to clearly separate each item. The best sentence shows red, white, and blue with a comma after red and after white, right before the conjunction and. That small comma before the final item makes it unmistakable that three distinct colors are being listed, not a phrase that could be read as a single unit. The other forms either omit that final comma, which is common in some styles but not in formal non-journalism writing, or lack the coordinating conjunction to tie the list together, so they don't demonstrate the serial comma as clearly.

8. Which sentence correctly reflects the rule not to place a comma between a title and a name?

- A. House Speaker, Henry Clay brokered important compromises.
- B. House Speaker Henry Clay brokered important compromises.
- C. Henry Clay, House Speaker brokered important compromises.
- D. Henry Clay House Speaker brokered important compromises.

When a title directly precedes a name, it's part of identifying the person and should stay attached to the name without a pause. In this sentence, Henry Clay is identified as the House Speaker, so "House Speaker" directly modifies "Henry Clay" and no comma is needed. Adding a comma after the title would make it seem like the title is a separate, nonessential aside, which muddies the identification and reads awkwardly. If you wanted the title to be treated as nonessential and set off by commas, you'd place the commas around the title after the name (for example, "Henry Clay, House Speaker, brokered..."), but that's a different construction. The natural, correct form to identify the person with the title before the name is to omit the comma.

9. Which sentence uses passive voice that hides the actor?

- A. The engineer repaired the sensor.
- B. They fixed the sensor.
- C. The project completed successfully.
- D. Mistakes were made.

The main idea here is how passive voice hides who performs the action. In passive voice, the subject is the receiver of the action, and the doer can be left out. Mistakes were made uses a form of to be (were) plus the past participle (made). The focus is on the mistakes themselves, not on who made them, so the actor is intentionally not stated. That's the hallmark of passive constructions where the agent is hidden. The other sentences show clear active voice or a different structure. The engineer repaired the sensor places the actor—the engineer—before the verb, making it explicitly active. They fixed the sensor also clearly names who did it. The project completed successfully has the subject perform an intransitive action and doesn't present a passive form with an unnamed agent; it's not hiding an actor in the same way. So the sentence that uses passive voice with the actor left out is the one about mistakes, because it centers on the action and its result rather than on who did it.

10. Outside formal academic writing, the semicolon is most commonly used to:

- A. To group related items in a series.**
- B. To join independent clauses without a conjunction.
- C. To introduce a list.
- D. To indicate a pause stronger than a comma.

The semicolon is best understood as a way to link two closely related independent clauses into one sentence without using a coordinating conjunction. It signals a stronger connection than a period but doesn't require a joining word, letting the two ideas flow together smoothly. This use is common in everyday writing because it keeps related thoughts together without breaking them into two sentences. A second useful function is to separate items in a complex list, especially when the items themselves contain commas, which helps avoid confusion. So, when you're deciding how to structure a sentence with related ideas, or you're listing items that already have commas, a semicolon helps keep the meaning clear.

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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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