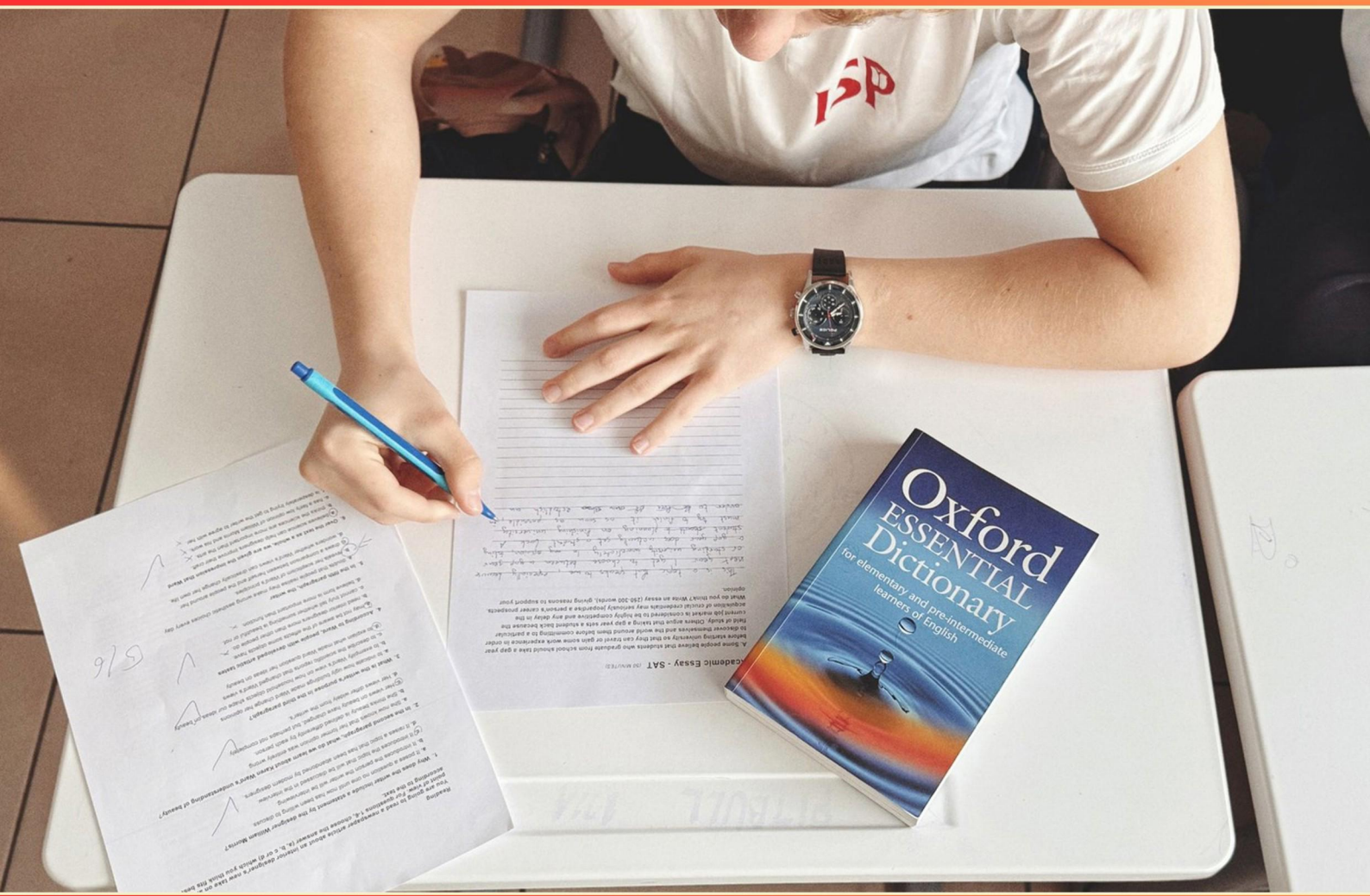
NCEES PS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

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.

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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. An Informative Term in a deed is used to describe or clarify what?

A. The controlling term

B. A boundary line length

C. The owner's name

D. The map scale

2. What is the difference between LRFD and ASD in steel design?

A. LRFD uses load and resistance factors to ensure safety; ASD uses fixed nominal strengths with a separate factor of safety.

B. LRFD uses no safety factors; ASD uses load factors.

C. ASD uses load factors but LRFD uses nominal strengths.

D. LRFD and ASD are identical in approach.

3. A tract divided into two or more parcels is known as what?

A. Subdivision

B. Easement

C. Encroachment

D. Lease

4. In the rectangular government survey system, the Base Line runs in which direction relative to the Principal Meridian?

A. East-west; the Principal Meridian runs north-south

B. North-south; the Principal Meridian runs east-west

C. Diagonal

D. Circumferential around the baseline

5. In hypothesis testing, what does a Type I error represent?

A. Failing to reject a true null hypothesis.

B. Rejecting a true null hypothesis (false positive).

C. Rejecting a false null hypothesis.

D. Failing to reject a false null hypothesis.

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6. The phrase 'one-half the contour interval' appears in which standard?

A. ALTA/NSPS Survey Standards

B. US National Map Accuracy Standards for Elevation

C. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map guidelines

D. Monumentation and Legal Descriptions Guidelines

7. A diurnal tide is defined as?

A. A tidal cycle of one high tide and one low tide per day

B. Two high tides per day

C. Three low tides per day

D. No tide changes

8. What term best describes land adjacent to a large body of water, such as an ocean or large lake?

A. Riparian landowner

B. Littoral landowner

C. Public Trust Doctrine

D. Tidelands

9. Extrinsic evidence can be used to clarify which type of ambiguities in contracts?

A. Patent ambiguities only

B. Latent ambiguities

C. Ambiguities that are irrelevant to the contract

D. All ambiguities regardless of type

10. Which of the following is described as a non-possessory right that benefits one parcel of land and burdens another?

A. A non-possessory right that benefits one parcel of land and burdens another

B. A right to exclusive possession of land

C. A temporary license to use land

D. An ownership interest in the servient parcel

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. An Informative Term in a deed is used to describe or clarify what?

A. The controlling term

B. A boundary line length

C. The owner's name

D. The map scale

An informative term in a deed is used to describe or clarify the controlling term—the part of the deed that determines exactly what interest is being conveyed and under what conditions. The controlling term sets the scope of the transfer, and the informative term adds detail to avoid ambiguity by explaining limits, exceptions, or notes that apply to that language. Elements like a boundary line length, the owner's name, or the map scale serve different purposes (survey measurements, identifying parties, or map details) and do not guide how the grant is interpreted, so they aren't described or clarified by an informative term. Together, the informative term makes the controlling term clearer and more enforceable.

2. What is the difference between LRFD and ASD in steel design?

A. LRFD uses load and resistance factors to ensure safety; ASD uses fixed nominal strengths with a separate factor of safety.

B. LRFD uses no safety factors; ASD uses load factors.

C. ASD uses load factors but LRFD uses nominal strengths.

D. LRFD and ASD are identical in approach.

LRFD and ASD differ in how safety is incorporated into the design. In LRFD, loads and resistances are both factored: you multiply the loads by load factors and the resistances by resistance factors, and the design condition is a required inequality where the factored resistance exceeds the factored load. This builds reliability directly into the governing equations and aims for a consistent probability of failure across scenarios. In ASD, you use an allowable stress design: the member stresses must not exceed an allowable stress, which is the nominal strength divided by a factor of safety. Here, safety is ensured by keeping actual stresses below a fixed allowable value, rather than by balancing factored loads against factored resistances. So LRFD uses both load and resistance factors to shape the design, while ASD centers on an allowable stress with a separate SF. They're not identical in approach, though with carefully chosen factors they can yield similar results.

3. A tract divided into two or more parcels is known as what?

A. Subdivision

B. Easement

C. Encroachment

D. Lease

When a single piece of land is divided into two or more parcels, the process and result are called a subdivision. This term describes both the action of creating multiple lots and the created lots themselves, usually planned for development, sale, or separate ownership. Subdivisions are typically documented on a plat map that outlines lot boundaries, streets, utilities, and easements, and they must comply with local zoning and subdivision regulations. This concept is distinct from an easement, which is a legal right to use someone else's land for a specific purpose without dividing ownership; from encroachment, which occurs when a structure or improvement crosses onto another's property; and from a lease, which is a temporary right to use property.

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4. In the rectangular government survey system, the Base Line runs in which direction relative to the Principal Meridian?

A. East-west; the Principal Meridian runs north-south

B. North-south; the Principal Meridian runs east-west

C. Diagonal

D. Circumferential around the baseline

In the rectangular government survey system, the land grid is built from perpendicular lines that form neat rectangles. The principal meridian runs north–south and serves as the main reference line for measuring how far east or west a parcel is (ranges). The baseline runs east–west and serves as the reference line for measuring how far north or south a parcel is (townships). Because they cross at right angles to create a true grid, the Baseline must run east–west while the Principal Meridian runs north–south. This orientation is what makes township and range descriptions work consistently. If the Baseline were diagonal or encircled the meridian, the grid wouldn't be rectangular and land descriptions would be inconsistent. For example, a description might refer to Township 3 North, Range 2 East, indicating three townships north of the baseline and two ranges east of the meridian.

5. In hypothesis testing, what does a Type I error represent?

A. Failing to reject a true null hypothesis.

B. Rejecting a true null hypothesis (false positive).

C. Rejecting a false null hypothesis.

D. Failing to reject a false null hypothesis.

In hypothesis testing, a Type I error happens when you reject the null hypothesis even though it's true—this is a false positive. In plain terms, you conclude there is an effect or difference when none actually exists. The chance of making this mistake is the significance level, alpha, set before the test (for example, 0.05). The null hypothesis usually states there is no effect or no difference, so rejecting it implies you've found evidence of an effect, even though it isn't real. This is balanced against the idea of not rejecting true nulls, and there's another related error—failing to reject a false null—which is a Type II error.

6. The phrase 'one-half the contour interval' appears in which standard?

A. ALTA/NSPS Survey Standards

B. US National Map Accuracy Standards for Elevation

C. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map guidelines

D. Monumentation and Legal Descriptions Guidelines

The standard about elevation accuracy uses a rule that vertical error must be limited to one-half the contour interval. Contour interval is the vertical spacing between contour lines on a topographic map, so linking allowable elevation error to half of that spacing keeps elevations derived from the map consistent with the contour representation. For example, if the contour interval is 20 feet, the standard would allow up to 10 feet of vertical error at tested points, reflecting how closely the map's elevations match the actual terrain. Other standards focus on different aspects: land title surveys and boundaries, flood-hazard map guidelines, or monumentation and legal descriptions. They don't hinge on the contour-interval-based vertical accuracy rule, which is why this phrase appears in the elevation accuracy standard.

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7. A diurnal tide is defined as?

A. A tidal cycle of one high tide and one low tide per day

B. Two high tides per day

C. Three low tides per day

D. No tide changes

A diurnal tide is defined by observing one high tide and one low tide over the course of a tidal day. This means the coastal level rises once and falls once each day, which can happen in certain geographic settings due to how the Moon's gravity interacts with the coastline. This is different from a semidiurnal pattern, which has two highs and two lows roughly every day, and from mixed tides, where two highs occur but differ in height. So the hallmark is a single high and a single low per tidal day, which is exactly what diurnal tides describe.

8. What term best describes land adjacent to a large body of water, such as an ocean or large lake?

A. Riparian landowner

B. Littoral landowner

C. Public Trust Doctrine

D. Tidelands

Understanding shoreline terminology helps here. Land that borders oceans or large lakes is described as littoral. The owner of such land is a littoral landowner. This swaps with riparian, which applies to land along rivers or streams. Tidelands refer to areas covered by tides and often involve different regulatory rules, while the Public Trust Doctrine is a broad principle about public access to certain waters, not a label for the landowner type. Since the question points to a non-flowing, large body of water like an ocean or big lake, littoral landowner is the best fit.

9. Extrinsic evidence can be used to clarify which type of ambiguities in contracts?

A. Patent ambiguities only

B. Latent ambiguities

C. Ambiguities that are irrelevant to the contract

D. All ambiguities regardless of type

The key idea is that extrinsic evidence helps when the contract's language itself is clear but the surrounding facts make the meaning uncertain. That situation is a latent ambiguity: the words don't clearly resolve how the contract should operate once facts come into play, so outsiders can look at things like prior dealings, industry usage, or the circumstances of the transaction to determine intent. Extrinsic evidence is allowed to clarify that kind of ambiguity. In contrast, a patent ambiguity is visible just by reading the contract—the language on its face contains an error or is inherently unclear without needing any outside context. Because there's no real ambiguity in the text itself, extrinsic evidence isn't used to interpret it; the contract language should be given its ordinary meaning and any issues addressed by other contractual doctrines or remedies. So extrinsic evidence is used to clarify latent ambiguities, not patent ambiguities.

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10. Which of the following is described as a non-possessory right that benefits one parcel of land and burdens another?

A. A non-possessory right that benefits one parcel of land and burdens another

B. A right to exclusive possession of land

C. A temporary license to use land

D. An ownership interest in the servient parcel

An easement appurtenant is a non-possessory interest in land that benefits one parcel (the dominant estate) and burdens another (the servient estate). It lets the owner of the dominant parcel use a portion of the servient parcel for a specific purpose—such as a right of way—without giving up ownership or possession of either parcel. Because it's attached to the land, the right runs with the property and passes to future owners of the dominant parcel. It's different from a license, which is merely permission to use land and can typically be revoked; it's also distinct from any ownership interest in the servient parcel, since the easement is the burden on the servient land and a right attached to the dominant land, not ownership of the servient land itself. A clear example is a neighbor's right to cross a portion of a property to reach a road. That cross-use creates a non-possessory, appurtenant easement that benefits one parcel and burdens the other.

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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://nceesps.examzify.com

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

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