NEW YORK CITY SITE SAFETY MANAGER (SSM) CERTIFICATION 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 is the role of a Safety Coordinator on NYC construction sites?

A. To support the SSM, monitor and document safety compliance, conduct toolbox talks, and assist with daily inspections

B. To supervise safety training without SSM

C. To approve project schedules

D. To manage payroll and contracts

2. According to Table 3314.5.2, full thickness lumber (2 inches) spanning 8 feet will result in a working load of _____? Please refer to your chapter 33 book for the table.

A. 25 psf

B. 75 psf

C. 100 psf

D. 50 psf (medium duty scaffold)

3. Which ladder practice is NOT recommended?

A. Ladders must be properly secured, set at the correct angle, maintain three points of contact, and inspected before use.

B. Ladders should be inspected only after a fall occurs.

C. Ladders can be used on unstable surfaces without securing them.

D. Ladders can be used by more than one person at a time.

4. Sidewalk shed decks on buildings less than 100 feet in height may be designed to carry live loads of how many pounds per square foot?

A. 150 lbs

B. 100 lbs

C. 200 lbs

D. 250 lbs

5. On a steel project, a steel beam has been dropped and bent. What must be done?

A. The beam can be repaired by the on-site crew

B. The bent beam may be left in place until the next inspection

C. A Registered Design Professional must determine a corrective action

D. The beam must be replaced by a new one immediately

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6. What is the typical requirement for risk assessment when changing methods or tasks on-site?

A. Do nothing and proceed.

B. Conduct a new JHA/THA to identify hazards and implement controls before performing the task.

C. Only document but not assess.

D. Assess after accident.

7. If the top deck of the sidewalk shed is not built solidly against the face of the structure in such a manner that no material can fall onto the sidewalk, what must be done?

A. The outer side of the shed must be sealed with wood

B. The side of the shed toward the structure shall be solidly sealed with wood or other suitable material for the full height of the shed

C. Install an additional guardrail around the outer edge

D. Remove the sidewalk shed

8. Which agency promulgates rules for tree protection on construction sites?

A. NYC Department of Buildings

B. NYC Department of Transportation

C. NYC Fire Department

D. NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

9. Horizontal safety netting is required on any building of at least what height?

A. Four stories or 60 feet

B. Six stories or 75 feet

C. Eight stories or 100 feet

D. Ten stories or 120 feet

10. The minimum live load for sidewalk sheds protecting buildings 100 feet or higher is:

A. 200 PSF

B. 400 PSF

C. 600 PSF

D. 300 PSF

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the role of a Safety Coordinator on NYC construction sites?

A. To support the SSM, monitor and document safety compliance, conduct toolbox talks, and assist with daily inspections

B. To supervise safety training without SSM

C. To approve project schedules

D. To manage payroll and contracts

The Safety Coordinator's main job on NYC construction sites is to supervise safety training and make sure it happens effectively. This means organizing and delivering training sessions, leading toolbox talks, coordinating required safety courses for workers and supervisors, and keeping training records up to date. By taking charge of how safety messages are taught and reinforced on the ground, the Safety Coordinator helps ensure everyone understands site-specific hazards and safe work practices, which supports the overall safety program live on the job. This focus on training and instruction differentiates the Safety Coordinator from other roles that handle administrative tasks or higher-level approvals. While monitoring compliance and assisting with inspections are part of maintaining safety, the core value of the Safety Coordinator is making sure training is planned, executed, and documented consistently across the site. Payroll, contracts, and project approvals fall outside this safety-focused function.

2. According to Table 3314.5.2, full thickness lumber (2 inches) spanning 8 feet will result in a working load of _____? Please refer to your chapter 33 book for the table.

A. 25 psf

B. 75 psf

C. 100 psf

D. 50 psf (medium duty scaffold)

Platform strength comes from the combination of plank thickness and the span, and the working load is shown as a uniform load per square foot. For full-thickness lumber two inches thick spanning eight feet, Table 3314.5.2 specifies a working load of 50 pounds per square foot, which is classified as a medium-duty scaffold. This means the platform should be able to safely support up to 50 psf of combined weight (workers, tools, and debris) distributed across each square foot. The longer the span for a given thickness, the lower the allowable load, so 8 feet with 2-inch lumber rests at the 50 psf rating. If you needed more capacity, you'd either use thicker lumber or shorten the span, or choose a different scaffold type. Always refer to the table for the exact value and ensure all safety requirements are met.

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3. Which ladder practice is NOT recommended?

A. Ladders must be properly secured, set at the correct angle, maintain three points of contact, and inspected before use.

B. Ladders should be inspected only after a fall occurs.

C. Ladders can be used on unstable surfaces without securing them.

D. Ladders can be used by more than one person at a time.

Ladder safety hinges on catching problems before they lead to a fall and on secure, stable setup. Inspecting a ladder only after a fall means you've already allowed potential damage to go unchecked, which can fail during use. The correct practice is to inspect ladders before each use so you can identify cracks, bent rails, loose rungs, damaged feet, or corrosion and remove any damaged ladder from service. Beyond inspection, ladders must be properly secured and set at the correct angle (about a 4:1 ratio), used with three points of contact, and not overloaded. They should be stable on a level surface and secured at the top or bottom to prevent slipping. Ladders should only be used by one person at a time to avoid overloading and loss of balance. Using a ladder on an unstable surface without securing it is a major risk, and having more than one person on a ladder is unsafe. So the practice of inspecting only after a fall is not recommended because it neglects proactive safety checks that prevent incidents.

4. Sidewalk shed decks on buildings less than 100 feet in height may be designed to carry live loads of how many pounds per square foot?

A. 150 lbs

B. 100 lbs

C. 200 lbs

D. 250 lbs

Live load is the variable weight that a deck must safely carry, coming from people, moving equipment, and other items on the surface. For sidewalk shed decks on buildings under 100 feet tall, the standard design live load required by the code is 150 pounds per square foot. This rating provides enough capacity to handle typical pedestrian traffic plus any lightweight temporary equipment or material that might be placed on the deck, without being unnecessarily oversized. A lower rating, like 100 psf, would underestimate the loads from crowds and equipment and could compromise safety. Higher ratings, such as 200 or 250 psf, would be more than necessary for this scenario and would add needless cost. So, 150 psf is the appropriate and code-consistent design live load for these sidewalk shed decks.

5. On a steel project, a steel beam has been dropped and bent. What must be done?

A. The beam can be repaired by the on-site crew

B. The bent beam may be left in place until the next inspection

C. A Registered Design Professional must determine a corrective action

D. The beam must be replaced by a new one immediately

When a structural steel beam is dropped and bent, it may have hidden damage that affects its load-carrying capacity. The proper response is to involve a Registered Design Professional to evaluate the beam and prescribe corrective action. The RDP will determine whether the beam can be repaired safely or must be removed and replaced, based on factors like residual strength, deformation, cracks, and the overall structural system. Repairs to load-bearing members are not undertaken without an engineered plan and supervision; an on-site crew cannot reliably determine or restore the required strength. The right course is to secure the area, obtain the engineer's/architect's guidance, and follow the specified corrective action.

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6. What is the typical requirement for risk assessment when changing methods or tasks on-site?

A. Do nothing and proceed.

B. Conduct a new JHA/THA to identify hazards and implement controls before performing the task.

C. Only document but not assess.

D. Assess after accident.

When you change the way a task is done on a site, you must reassess the risks before you start. A new Job Hazard Analysis or Task Hazard Analysis is the tool for this, because it breaks down the task step by step, identifies hazards that could appear with the new method or equipment, and pins down the appropriate controls. By identifying hazards and implementing controls before performing the work, you address risks that the change might introduce and ensure the plan matches current conditions, crew, and environment. This proactive review is essential because it prevents unknown hazards from slipping in with the new method, and it makes sure that any necessary engineering or administrative controls, or the right PPE, are in place before work begins. Simply doing nothing would ignore new risks, documenting without assessing leaves risks unaddressed, and waiting for an accident is too late.

7. If the top deck of the sidewalk shed is not built solidly against the face of the structure in such a manner that no material can fall onto the sidewalk, what must be done?

A. The outer side of the shed must be sealed with wood

B. The side of the shed toward the structure shall be solidly sealed with wood or other suitable material for the full height of the shed

C. Install an additional guardrail around the outer edge

D. Remove the sidewalk shed

When a sidewalk shed is used, debris must be contained so pedestrians on the sidewalk aren't exposed. If the top deck isn't tightly against the building, there can be a gap through which material could fall toward the sidewalk. The correct approach is to seal the inner side of the shed that faces the structure with wood or another suitable material for the full height of the shed. This creates a continuous barrier that stops any debris from escaping toward the sidewalk, even if the shed isn't perfectly tight against the wall. The other options don't address the actual risk path. Sealing the outer side won't prevent material from passing toward the sidewalk, adding a guardrail around the outside doesn't close the potential gap toward the building, and removing the sidewalk shed would remove protection entirely.

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8. Which agency promulgates rules for tree protection on construction sites?

A. NYC Department of Buildings

B. NYC Department of Transportation

C. NYC Fire Department

D. NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

Tree protection on construction sites is governed by rules from the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation. This agency oversees the city's urban forest, enforces the Tree Preservation Law, and sets requirements for protecting root zones, fencing, and any permits needed when work could affect trees. That focus on preserving trees during development is exactly what these rules aim to achieve. Other agencies handle different areas: the Department of Buildings enforces building codes and site safety, the Department of Transportation deals with streets and traffic impacts, and the Fire Department handles fire and life safety. Those roles don't centrally establish tree protection rules, so the Parks department is the one that promulgates and enforces them.

9. Horizontal safety netting is required on any building of at least what height?

A. Four stories or 60 feet

B. Six stories or 75 feet

C. Eight stories or 100 feet

D. Ten stories or 120 feet

Horizontal safety netting is required once a building reaches a height where fall protection for exterior work becomes necessary—specifically six stories or 75 feet tall. At or above this threshold, the netting is installed along the exterior at appropriate levels to catch workers or falling objects as work progresses between floors, especially where guardrails or other fall protection aren't yet in place. If a building is below that height, this particular netting requirement doesn't apply, though other fall protection measures may still be needed. So the height at which horizontal safety netting becomes mandatory is six stories, or 75 feet.

10. The minimum live load for sidewalk sheds protecting buildings 100 feet or higher is:

A. 200 PSF

B. 400 PSF

C. 600 PSF

D. 300 PSF

The key idea is that sidewalk sheds must be designed to carry the loads generated by people and construction activity on the deck. For sheds protecting buildings that are 100 feet or higher, the minimum live load specified is 300 pounds per square foot. This level ensures the structure can safely support typical pedestrian traffic plus occasional heavier usage from workers and equipment without risking failure or excessive deflection. Why not the other values? 200 PSF is too low for crowded sidewalks and active work zones. 400 PSF and 600 PSF are higher than the minimum requirement and are not the baseline standard for this height category, though they might be used in special cases if a higher load is warranted. In this scenario, 300 PSF is the correct minimum.

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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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