NURSING APPLICATION OF RESEARCH AND CRITICAL ANALYSIS (N120) EXAM 1 PRACTICE (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

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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. Saliency effect refers to

A. Tendency to forget details over time
B. Tendency to recall only negative information
C. Tendency to remember information that is personally relevant
D. Tendency to overemphasize statistical significance

2. Which statement best characterizes opening codes?

A. Relates codes to categories
B. Uses a fixed codebook
C. Inductive approach with data-driven word marking
D. Quantifies data

3. What is the primary purpose of Grounded Theory?

A. To describe lived experiences
B. To test a hypothesis
C. To describe cultural behavior
D. To generate comprehensive explanations grounded in data

4. Qualitative design is characterized by which of the following?

A. There is a single objective reality
B. Multiple realities are true and occur within context (subjective)
C. Data analysis is not ongoing
D. The researcher is not the research instrument

5. Which statement is NOT listed as a barrier to evidence-based practice?

A. Inadequate time and supportive caseloads.
B. Inadequate EBP knowledge and skills.
C. A lack of EBP mentors to work with providers at the point of care.
D. Inadequate resources and support from higher administration.

6. Substantive Theory is best described as?

A. More abstract, across contexts
B. A universal theory
C. A statistical model
D. Relates to a specific situation only

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7. Which coding method uses the language of participants as labels?

A. Opening codes

B. In-vivo coding

C. Axial coding

D. Descriptive coding

8. Which statement best describes the purpose of Step 5 in evidence-based practice (EBP)?

A. Integrate the evidence with clinical expertise and patient preferences and values

B. Disseminate EBP results

C. Evaluate the outcomes of the practice decisions or changes based on evidence

D. Assess the patient

9. Research questions in qualitative studies drive which aspect of the study?

A. Budget

B. Method

C. Timeline

D. Population

10. Which statement describes the PICOT format?

A. Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome

B. Population, Intervention, Time, Outcome

C. Population, Intervention, Comparison, Time

D. Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome, Time

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Saliency effect refers to

A. Tendency to forget details over time

B. Tendency to recall only negative information

C. Tendency to remember information that is personally relevant

D. Tendency to overemphasize statistical significance

The saliency effect is the tendency to remember information that is personally relevant. When something directly connects to a person's life or concerns—like how a health issue affects their daily routine—it grabs attention and is encoded more deeply, so it's more likely to be recalled later. In practice, tailoring explanations and reminders to fit a patient's own situation makes the information stand out and stick, improving memory and adherence. This isn't about forgetting details over time, which is a general forgetting pattern. It isn't about recalling only negative information, which would be negativity bias. And it isn't about overemphasizing statistical significance, which relates to how results are interpreted rather than memory for personal content.

2. Which statement best characterizes opening codes?

A. Relates codes to categories

B. Uses a fixed codebook

C. Inductive approach with data-driven word marking

D. Quantifies data

Opening codes in qualitative analysis refer to the initial phase where labels are created from the data itself. The essential idea is an inductive approach: codes emerge directly from participants' words and meanings rather than being pre planned. This data driven word marking allows nuances to surface and keeps interpretation grounded in the text. That's why the statement describing open coding as inductive with data driven labeling best fits. Using a fixed codebook would imply starting with predetermined codes (a deductive approach) rather than letting codes arise from the data. Quantifying the data isn't the defining aim of opening codes, since open coding focuses on understanding meaning and labeling segments, not counting occurrences. Later steps may cluster codes into categories or themes, but the opening phase centers on deriving initial labels straight from the data.

3. What is the primary purpose of Grounded Theory?

A. To describe lived experiences

B. To test a hypothesis

C. To describe cultural behavior

D. To generate comprehensive explanations grounded in data

Grounded Theory aims to build a theory that explains how and why processes unfold in real-world settings by systematically collecting and analyzing data and letting patterns emerge. The emphasis is on generating a comprehensive explanation that is deeply rooted in the data, with concepts and theories that arise from participants' actions and the context, rather than being imposed from prior ideas. This approach differs from simply describing lived experiences, which concentrates on portraying what people go through without linking it to an explanatory framework. It also differs from testing a hypothesis, which starts with a preconceived idea to confirm or refute. And it isn't limited to describing cultural behavior as a static description; it seeks to uncover the processes, interactions, and conditions that produce those behaviors, forming a theory grounded in the evidence.

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4. Qualitative design is characterized by which of the following?

A. There is a single objective reality

B. Multiple realities are true and occur within context (subjective)

C. Data analysis is not ongoing

D. The researcher is not the research instrument

Qualitative design centers on how people experience and interpret their world; reality is viewed as constructed and contextual, so multiple realities are true for different individuals. Researchers seek deep understanding through rich descriptions and themes, and analysis is iterative, happening alongside data collection to refine insights as patterns emerge. Because truth is subjective and context-dependent, the researcher's interpretations and interactions become part of the data, meaning the researcher is the instrument in qualitative studies. This approach contrasts with the idea of a single objective reality, and it requires ongoing analysis rather than a one-shot conclusion.

5. Which statement is NOT listed as a barrier to evidence-based practice?

A. Inadequate time and supportive caseloads.

B. Inadequate EBP knowledge and skills.

C. A lack of EBP mentors to work with providers at the point of care.

D. Inadequate resources and support from higher administration.

The question tests which factor is not typically listed as a barrier to evidence-based practice. The point about a lack of mentors at the point of care isn't usually cited as a barrier. Mentorship is more often viewed as a support or strategy to help clinicians apply evidence, while barriers are practical constraints that directly hinder EBP use. In contrast, insufficient time and heavy caseloads limit opportunities to search, appraise, and implement evidence; gaps in knowledge and skills impede the ability to critically appraise and apply findings; and inadequate resources plus poor administrative and organizational support restrict access to evidence, training, and protected time. So the mentoring gap is not commonly categorized as a barrier, making it the correct choice.

6. Substantive Theory is best described as?

A. More abstract, across contexts

B. A universal theory

C. A statistical model

D. Relates to a specific situation only

Substantive theory is developed to explain a phenomenon within a specific context and is grounded in the data from that setting. It provides explanations for how concepts relate in that particular situation and isn't claimed to apply across all contexts. That context-bound nature makes it best described as relating to a specific situation only. In contrast, theories described as universal or formal aim for broad applicability, and statistical models focus on quantitative relationships rather than grounded, context-specific explanations.

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7. Which coding method uses the language of participants as labels?

A. Opening codes

B. In-vivo coding

C. Axial coding

D. Descriptive coding

Using participants' exact language as labels is in-vivo coding. This approach preserves the authentic terms participants use to describe their experiences, so the codes themselves carry their meanings and nuances rather than being filtered through the researcher's words. It helps maintain the voice of the participants and can reveal subtle distinctions in how they frame their experiences, which is especially valuable during open coding when ideas are just surfacing from the data. Over time, these in-vivo labels may be refined or grouped into broader categories, but the initial labeling stays anchored in the participants' own expressions. Other methods typically rely on researcher-generated labels or concise summaries rather than the participants' phrasing, so they don't capture the exact wording that communicates specific meanings the participants assign to their experiences.

8. Which statement best describes the purpose of Step 5 in evidence-based practice (EBP)?

A. Integrate the evidence with clinical expertise and patient preferences and values

B. Disseminate EBP results

C. Evaluate the outcomes of the practice decisions or changes based on evidence

D. Assess the patient

The main idea here is that Step 5 focuses on measuring and judging the impact of the evidence-based change you've put into practice. After you've synthesized the best available evidence with clinical judgment and patient preferences and implemented a new approach, you need to collect data to see whether the change actually improves outcomes. This means looking at patient outcomes, safety, satisfaction, and process metrics, comparing them to baseline, and determining if the change achieved its intended goals. If the results aren't meeting targets, you'd refine the approach and continue the cycle. Disseminating results and integrating evidence with clinical expertise occur at other points in the process, while simply assessing the patient is a routine part of care, not the evaluation focus of this step.

9. Research questions in qualitative studies drive which aspect of the study?

A. Budget

B. Method

C. Timeline

D. Population

Qualitative research questions set the required depth and scope of inquiry, which directly shapes the study timeline. The questions determine how many participants you need, how many sites to visit, and what kinds of data collection methods are appropriate, and they also influence how long transcription, data immersion, and iterative coding will take. If the questions are broad or seek rich, nuanced understanding, you'll need more data and more time for analysis, extending the timeline to reach meaningful conclusions. Saturation—the point at which additional data no longer yield new insights—also depends on what you're trying to learn, so the timeline adjusts to ensure enough evidence is gathered to answer the questions. While population and method are important considerations tied to the questions, and budget is constrained by resources, the timeline is the aspect that most directly reflects the effort required to answer the research questions.

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10. Which statement describes the PICOT format?

A. Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome

B. Population, Intervention, Time, Outcome

C. Population, Intervention, Comparison, Time

D. Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome, Time

The main idea being tested is how the PICOT format expands a research question to include all the essential elements needed for a focused search and clear study design. PICOT adds a Time component to the familiar PICO structure, so the question not only specifies who is studied, what is done, what it's compared to, and what is measured, but also over what timeframe the outcomes are assessed. This temporal element helps ensure the question is concrete and that studies can be compared on a consistent duration for outcomes. Including all five elements—Population, Intervention, Comparison, Outcome, and Time—provides the most complete and actionable framework. It defines exactly who the findings should apply to, what intervention is being evaluated, what it's compared against, what outcome will demonstrate effect, and the time period over which that outcome is measured. The other options omit Time or one of the core components, which makes the question less precise and harder to search for and compare across studies.

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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://n120exam1.examzify.com

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

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