OLD TESTAMENT (OT) SURVEY 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. What is the primary concern of the book of Lamentations?

A. The restoration of Israel

B. The themes of hope and redemption

C. The defeat and exile of Judah

D. The prosperity of Israel

2. In what year did the city of Jerusalem fall?

A. 586 BC

B. 587 BC

C. 588 BC

D. 589 BC

3. Which queen visited Solomon to test him with hard questions?

A. The queen of Sheba

B. The queen of Egypt

C. The queen of Babylon

D. Queen Esther

4. According to the understanding of the Bible, how should it be perceived?

A. As merely a list of rules and regulations.

B. As a collection of historical documents only.

C. As a narrative and a complex collection of texts.

D. As a philosophical treatise.

5. What significant artifact did the Israelites carry with them in battle, representing God's presence?

A. The Ark of the Covenant

B. The Tabernacle

C. The Brazen Serpent

D. The Altar of Incense

6. Which miracle is NOT associated with the prophet Elisha?

A. Healing Naaman's leprosy

B. Raising the Shunamite's son

C. Parting the Red Sea

D. Providing oil for the widow

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7. Which of the following is not a major geographical area in the Book of Numbers?

A. Moab

B. Egypt

C. Kadesh/Paran

D. Sinai

8. _____ are stories retelling historical events that are intended to give meaning and direction to a given people in the present.

A. Narratives

B. Parables

C. Myths

D. Chronicles

9. What is the primary purpose of narratives in the Old Testament?

A. To provide entertainment

B. To convey historical facts

C. To give meaning and direction

D. To establish laws

10. Who is considered the father of many nations in the Old Testament?

A. Jacob

B. Isaac

C. Abraham

D. Noah

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary concern of the book of Lamentations?

A. The restoration of Israel

B. The themes of hope and redemption

C. The defeat and exile of Judah

D. The prosperity of Israel

The primary concern of the book of Lamentations is indeed the defeat and exile of Judah. This book, traditionally attributed to the prophet Jeremiah, is a poignant expression of grief and sorrow over the destruction of Jerusalem and the subsequent suffering experienced by its people. It illustrates the profound mourning following the Babylonian conquest, highlighting the devastation of the city, the temple, and the loss of lives and homes. Lamentations captures the anguish of the people as they confront the consequences of their sins and the resulting judgment from God. The imagery and language used throughout the verses portray a vivid account of the pain and suffering following their exile, emphasizing themes of loss, lament, and the desolation of the once-thriving city of Jerusalem. While other themes such as hope and restoration could be addressed in broader discussions of the Hebrew Bible, Lamentations primarily focuses on the immediate emotional and physical consequences of Judah's downfall. Thus, the central emphasis remains on the defeat and exile, capturing the collective cry of a devastated nation and calling to mind the circumstances that led to such calamity.

2. In what year did the city of Jerusalem fall?

A. 586 BC

B. 587 BC

C. 588 BC

D. 589 BC

The city of Jerusalem fell in 586 BC during the Babylonian siege, which resulted in the destruction of the First Temple and the exile of many of its inhabitants. This event is a significant turning point in Jewish history, marking the end of the Kingdom of Judah and the beginning of the Babylonian captivity. While there were earlier stages of conflict and siege leading up to the eventual fall, the specific date of 586 BC is most widely accepted by historians and biblical scholars as the year that Jerusalem was overtaken. This date aligns with the accounts found in the historical books of the Old Testament, such as 2 Kings and Jeremiah, which detail the Babylonian conquest and the subsequent exile. The other years listed, such as 587 BC and 588 BC, are often debated in scholarly circles; however, they do not align with the predominant historical consensus regarding the fall of Jerusalem. The year 589 BC also does not correspond to established timelines related to the siege and conquest. Therefore, 586 BC is recognized as the definitive date for the fall of Jerusalem.

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3. Which queen visited Solomon to test him with hard questions?

A. The queen of Sheba

B. The queen of Egypt

C. The queen of Babylon

D. Queen Esther

The queen who visited Solomon to test him with hard questions was indeed the queen of Sheba. This event is recounted in 1 Kings 10:1-2 and 2 Chronicles 9:1-2. The queen of Sheba traveled from her distant homeland, which is believed to be in the region that is now part of modern-day Yemen or Ethiopia, specifically to seek out Solomon's renowned wisdom and wealth. Her visit was not merely a social call; she came with challenging questions, testing Solomon's legendary intellect. The narrative highlights Solomon's ability to answer all her questions satisfactorily, which emphasized his wisdom as a gift from God. Additionally, her visit serves to illustrate the extent of Solomon's fame, as people from far regions were drawn to his court. The other queens mentioned do not have a similar narrative in the Old Testament where they challenge Solomon with questions. The queen of Egypt and the queen of Babylon do not appear in stories related to testing Solomon's wisdom, and Queen Esther's story is entirely separate, focusing on her role in the Persian court rather than interactions with Solomon.

4. According to the understanding of the Bible, how should it be perceived?

A. As merely a list of rules and regulations.

B. As a collection of historical documents only.

C. As a narrative and a complex collection of texts.

D. As a philosophical treatise.

Viewing the Bible as a narrative and a complex collection of texts is fundamental to understanding its purpose and significance. The Bible contains various literary forms, including poetry, law, prophecy, wisdom literature, and history, all woven together to convey profound theological truths and the overarching story of God's relationship with humanity. This narrative aspect emphasizes the historical context, cultural background, and the development of ideas throughout the scriptures. The interactive story of creation, sin, redemption, and restoration showcases the character of God and humanity's journey. By recognizing the Bible as a narrative, one can appreciate the depth of its messages and how they apply to both ancient and contemporary contexts. Considering the other options, viewing the Bible merely as a list of rules and regulations limits its richness and the relational aspects of its teachings. Understanding it solely as a collection of historical documents overlooks the spiritual and theological dimensions woven throughout the text. Lastly, regarding it as a philosophical treatise focuses too narrowly on abstract concepts without acknowledging the narrative, cultural, and relational elements that are integral to its message. Hence, perceiving the Bible as a narrative and complex collection encourages a more holistic and enriching engagement with its contents.

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5. What significant artifact did the Israelites carry with them in battle, representing God's presence?

A. The Ark of the Covenant

B. The Tabernacle

C. The Brazen Serpent

D. The Altar of Incense

The Ark of the Covenant is indeed the significant artifact that the Israelites carried with them in battle, and it symbolizes God's presence among His people. This sacred object was constructed under Moses' direction on Mount Sinai and contained the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, representing God's covenant with Israel. The Ark was not only a physical representation of God's presence but also served as a reminder of His guidance and power. Throughout the Old Testament, particularly in the books of Exodus, Numbers, and Joshua, the Ark is depicted as going before the Israelites into battle, signifying divine support and intervention. For example, when the Israelites marched around the city of Jericho, it was the presence of the Ark that preceded them and ultimately contributed to their victory. In contrast, the Tabernacle functioned as a temporary dwelling place for this divine presence but was not carried into battle as the Ark was. The Brazen Serpent was a means of healing for the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings, while the Altar of Incense was used in the Tabernacle for worship and prayers but did not symbolize God's presence in the same direct way as the Ark.

6. Which miracle is NOT associated with the prophet Elisha?

A. Healing Naaman's leprosy

B. Raising the Shunamite's son

C. Parting the Red Sea

D. Providing oil for the widow

The miracle that is not associated with the prophet Elisha is the parting of the Red Sea. This miraculous event is famously attributed to Moses during the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, showcasing God's power in delivering His people from Pharaoh's army. Elisha, who succeeded Elijah, is known for various other miracles recorded in the books of Kings. For example, he healed Naaman, raised the Shunamite's son, and provided oil for a widow, all of which testify to his prophetic ministry and God's intervention in the lives of individuals and communities during his time. Each of these events demonstrates God's compassion and power, but the parting of the Red Sea is a distinct event belonging to a much earlier timeline in the biblical narrative and reflects a different aspect of God's deliverance through Moses.

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7. Which of the following is not a major geographical area in the Book of Numbers?

A. Moab

B. Egypt

C. Kadesh/Paran

D. Sinai

The correct answer is Egypt because, while it is a significant location in the overarching narrative of the exodus and Israel's journey, it is not considered one of the major geographical areas specifically emphasized in the Book of Numbers. In Numbers, the narrative focuses primarily on the Israelites' experiences in the wilderness and their encampments. The areas of Moab, Kadesh/Paran, and Sinai are central to many of the events and accounts described in this book, such as the Israelites' wanderings, the organization of the camp, the setting for many of the laws given, and the various challenges faced as they approached the Promised Land. Moab serves as the location where the Israelites camped east of the Jordan River before entering Canaan. Kadesh/Paran is significant for its association with the Israelites' 40 years of wandering due to their disobedience, while Sinai is noted for where they received the Law. Therefore, while Egypt is critical to the backstory of Israel's deliverance, it does not feature prominently as a location in the events narrated in Numbers.

8. _____ are stories retelling historical events that are intended to give meaning and direction to a given people in the present.

A. Narratives

B. Parables

C. Myths

D. Chronicles

The choice of narratives as the correct answer is fitting as narratives are indeed stories that recount historical events, seeking to provide insight, meaning, and direction to present-day audiences. In the Old Testament, narratives are a significant means through which theological concepts and historical circumstances are conveyed. They often illustrate key events, such as the creation, the exodus, and the lives of key figures, thereby making the past relevant for the community's identity, beliefs, and moral guidance. Narratives engage the listener or reader by presenting experiences and encounters that facilitate understanding of divine purpose and human behavior. They create connections between past events and present circumstances, ensuring that the lessons learned and meanings derived from those historical events are applied to the contemporary context of the audience. The other options do not align as neatly with the definition provided. Parables are typically short, simple stories used to illustrate moral or spiritual lessons, often with a more didactic purpose than a historical recounting. Myths generally serve to explain the origins of the world or natural phenomena, frequently incorporating gods and supernatural elements, rather than focusing directly on historical events intended for present-day application. Chronicles are a specific type of historical record that may lack the narrative depth and meaning-making intent found in broader narratives. Therefore, narratives

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9. What is the primary purpose of narratives in the Old Testament?

A. To provide entertainment

B. To convey historical facts

C. To give meaning and direction

D. To establish laws

The primary purpose of narratives in the Old Testament is to give meaning and direction. These stories serve not only to recount historical events but also to communicate theological truths and moral lessons that can guide the lives of individuals and communities. For example, the narratives surrounding the lives of key figures like Abraham, Moses, David, and others illustrate themes of faith, obedience, redemption, and God's covenant with His people. Through these stories, readers are encouraged to reflect on their own lives, understand their relationship with God, and recognize the significance of their actions in the context of divine purpose. Narratives in the Old Testament often emphasize God's character, the challenges faced by His people, and how those experiences offer insights into living faithfully according to His will. In this way, they provide a framework for understanding life's complexities and moral decisions, making them profoundly impactful for forming personal and communal identity. While historical facts and laws are certainly elements present in the Old Testament, the overarching narrative serves a didactic purpose, aimed at imparting wisdom and guidance rather than merely recording events or establishing legal codes.

10. Who is considered the father of many nations in the Old Testament?

A. Jacob

B. Isaac

C. Abraham

D. Noah

Abraham is considered the father of many nations in the Old Testament primarily because of God's covenant promises made to him. In Genesis 17:4-5, God tells Abraham that he will be the father of a multitude of nations, signifying that his descendants will not only be numerous but will also extend beyond a single nation. This covenant is foundational to the narratives of both Judaism and Christianity, as Abraham is the patriarch from whom the Israelites descend. Furthermore, his role is celebrated in the New Testament as well, where he is recognized for his faith and obedience to God, which further solidifies his status as a key figure in biblical history. The other figures mentioned—Jacob, Isaac, and Noah—play significant roles in the stories of the Old Testament, but their connections to the concept of being the father of nations are not emphasized in the same way as Abraham's. Jacob, for instance, is known for his twelve sons who become the tribes of Israel, and Isaac is primarily recognized as Abraham's son, continuing the covenant line. Noah has an important role in the story of the flood and is a significant figure in human history, but does not share that specific title or identity as the progenitor of nations like Abraham does.

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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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