PA GENERAL ACADEMIC VOCABULARY 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 does 'collaboration' mean in an academic setting?

A. Working with others to achieve a common research goal.

B. Competition

C. Isolation

D. Inspiration

2. A story's atmosphere or the feeling it evokes is called what?

A. Paraphrase

B. Passage

C. Phrase

D. Mood

3. Which prefix generally means again or back?

A. Re-

B. Un-

C. Pre-

D. Dis-

4. What does the prefix 'micro-' mean?

A. Large

B. Small

C. Between

D. Many

5. Which statement correctly describes the relationship between covariance and correlation?

A. Correlation measures how two variables vary together; covariance standardizes this to a -1 to 1 scale.

B. Covariance is always non-negative.

C. Covariance measures how two variables vary together; correlation standardizes this measure to a -1 to 1 scale and indicates strength and direction.

D. Correlation is simply covariance divided by the sum of the variances.

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6. A restatement of a text or passage in other words is called what?

A. Passage

B. Paraphrase

C. Mood

D. Logical

7. Which term describes details in the text that support a conclusion?

A. Tone

B. Text

C. Trace

D. Textual Evidence

8. Which term means to examine and judge carefully?

A. evaluate

B. evidence

C. excerpt

D. interpret

9. What term best matches the definition 'an assertion, usually supported by evidence' ?

A. Compare

B. Claim

C. Closure

D. Clarify

10. What does the academic word hypothesize mean?

A. To propose a tentative explanation or educated guess that can be tested.

B. To prove beyond doubt.

C. To summarize data.

D. To explain results.

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does 'collaboration' mean in an academic setting?

A. Working with others to achieve a common research goal.

B. Competition

C. Isolation

D. Inspiration

Collaboration in an academic setting means pooling time, skills, and ideas with others to pursue a shared research objective. It involves clear communication, dividing tasks, combining diverse expertise, and jointly interpreting results so the final work reflects multiple perspectives. This description fits because collaboration is fundamentally about cooperative effort toward a common goal, with participants contributing and building on each other's work. Think of it as a team effort, like researchers from different fields joining forces to design an experiment, share data, and co-author a paper. In contrast, competition centers on outperforming others, isolation means working alone, and inspiration is a spark of motivation or a new idea—valuable, but not the same as the actual process of working with others toward a common goal.

2. A story's atmosphere or the feeling it evokes is called what?

A. Paraphrase

B. Passage

C. Phrase

D. Mood

Mood is the emotional atmosphere a story creates for the reader. It's how the writing makes you feel as you read—whether it's eerie, hopeful, tense, cozy, or sad—driven by details like setting, imagery, and word choice. For instance, a dark room, rain, and muffled sounds can make you feel uneasy, shaping the mood of the scene. This is different from tone, which is the author's attitude toward the subject; mood is about the reader's emotional response. The other terms in the list refer to different text features—paraphrase is restating meaning in your own words, a passage is a portion of text, and a phrase is a short group of words—not the feeling the writing evokes.

3. Which prefix generally means again or back?

A. Re-

B. Un-

C. Pre-

D. Dis-

A prefix that means again or back attaches to a base word to show repetition or movement toward a previous state. That is why re- is the best fit: it signals doing something again, as in redo (do again), rewrite (write again), reopen (open again), or reuse (use again). The sense of returning to a prior action or state is common with re- across many words. Other prefixes have different jobs. Un- expresses negation or the opposite of something (unhappy means not happy). Pre- indicates before in time or order (preheat, preview). Dis- often marks negation or separation (disagree, disconnect). They don't convey repetition or returning to a prior act the way re- does.

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4. What does the prefix 'micro-' mean?

A. Large

B. Small

C. Between

D. Many

The meaning of the prefix micro- is that it denotes something very small. It comes from Greek micros meaning small, and it's used in words like microscope or microorganism to indicate tiny size. In many scientific contexts, micro- also marks one millionth (10^-6), but the core idea for vocabulary is simply "small." That's why it aligns with the option meaning small. The other meanings—large, between, or many—don't fit with micro- because micro- does not convey those sizes or quantities.

5. Which statement correctly describes the relationship between covariance and correlation?

A. Correlation measures how two variables vary together; covariance standardizes this to a -1 to 1 scale.

B. Covariance is always non-negative.

C. Covariance measures how two variables vary together; correlation standardizes this measure to a -1 to 1 scale and indicates strength and direction.

D. Correlation is simply covariance divided by the sum of the variances.

Understanding the relationship between covariance and correlation helps you see how two variables relate on both direction and strength. Covariance tells you whether the variables tend to move together (positive covariance) or in opposite directions (negative covariance) and by how much, but its value depends on the units and scales of the variables, so it isn't easy to compare across different data sets. Correlation takes that covariance and standardizes it by dividing by the product of the variables' standard deviations. This makes the result a dimensionless number between -1 and 1, where the sign shows direction (positive means they move together, negative means they move in opposite directions) and the magnitude shows strength (values near -1 or 1 indicate a strong linear relationship, near 0 a weak one). That is exactly what the statement conveys: covariance measures how two variables vary together; correlation standardizes this measure to a -1 to 1 scale and indicates strength and direction. The other ideas aren't correct: covariance can be negative, not always non-negative; correlation is not covariance divided by the sum of variances, but by the product of standard deviations; and standardizing covariance is what yields the -1 to 1 range, not any other divisor.

6. A restatement of a text or passage in other words is called what?

A. Passage

B. Paraphrase

C. Mood

D. Logical

Understanding what a paraphrase is helps you see why this term fits. A paraphrase is when you restate a text's meaning in your own words, keeping the original idea intact but changing the wording and sometimes the sentence structure. This shows you grasp the meaning well enough to express it differently. For example, if the original says, "Climate change is increasing the frequency of severe storms," a paraphrase would be, "More frequent severe storms are occurring because of climate change." The other options don't describe restating in other words: a passage is just a section of text, mood refers to the atmosphere a writer creates, and logical relates to reasoning or thinking rather than rewriting content. So the best fit for "restatement in different words" is paraphrase.

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7. Which term describes details in the text that support a conclusion?

A. Tone

B. Text

C. Trace

D. Textual Evidence

The main idea here is what words or details from a text we can point to that back up a claim we make. Those details, quotes, or events pulled directly from the text are called textual evidence. Using textual evidence helps show that your conclusion isn't just a guess but is grounded in what the author wrote. For example, if you argue that a character is brave, you would cite moments where they face danger or endure hardship. Tone describes the author's attitude, not the proof you use to support a conclusion; the text is simply the material you analyze; trace refers to following clues or hints rather than providing direct support. So the term that best fits is textual evidence.

8. Which term means to examine and judge carefully?

A. evaluate

B. evidence

C. excerpt

D. interpret

To examine and judge carefully means to look at all parts, weigh strengths and weaknesses, and form a reasoned judgment about value or quality. That's what evaluate does. It's a verb that highlights analysis and assessment. The other terms have different focus: evidence is information used to support a claim, an excerpt is a short passage taken from a larger text, and interpret means to explain or understand the meaning of something. So the best fit for "examine and judge carefully" is evaluate. For example, when you're deciding which option to choose, you evaluate each one by weighing its pros and cons.

9. What term best matches the definition 'an assertion, usually supported by evidence' ?

A. Compare

B. Claim

C. Closure

D. Clarify

The main idea here is describing a statement that someone asserts and supports with evidence. A claim is exactly that—a statement offered as true that can be defended with facts, data, or reasoning. In writing and argument, you put forward a claim about your topic and then provide evidence to back it up, showing how the evidence supports the assertion. The other terms don't fit because they describe actions rather than a proposition to be argued: compare involves looking at similarities or differences; closure means reaching a final conclusion or ending; clarify means to make something clearer. An assertion backed by evidence is a claim, such as proposing that school start times should be later and then presenting evidence to support it.

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10. What does the academic word hypothesize mean?

A. To propose a tentative explanation or educated guess that can be tested.

B. To prove beyond doubt.

C. To summarize data.

D. To explain results.

Hypothesize means to propose a tentative explanation or educated guess that can be tested. In research, you state a hypothesis as a specific prediction about how variables are related, often in an if-then form. The important part is that it is testable and not yet proven. This differs from simply summarizing data or explaining results after you've seen the evidence. A hypothesis invites observation, experiments, or data analysis to see whether the prediction holds. For example: If students sleep more than eight hours before a test, then test scores will be higher. This shows a testable, tentative explanation that can be supported or refuted by data.

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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://pagenacadvocab.examzify.com

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

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