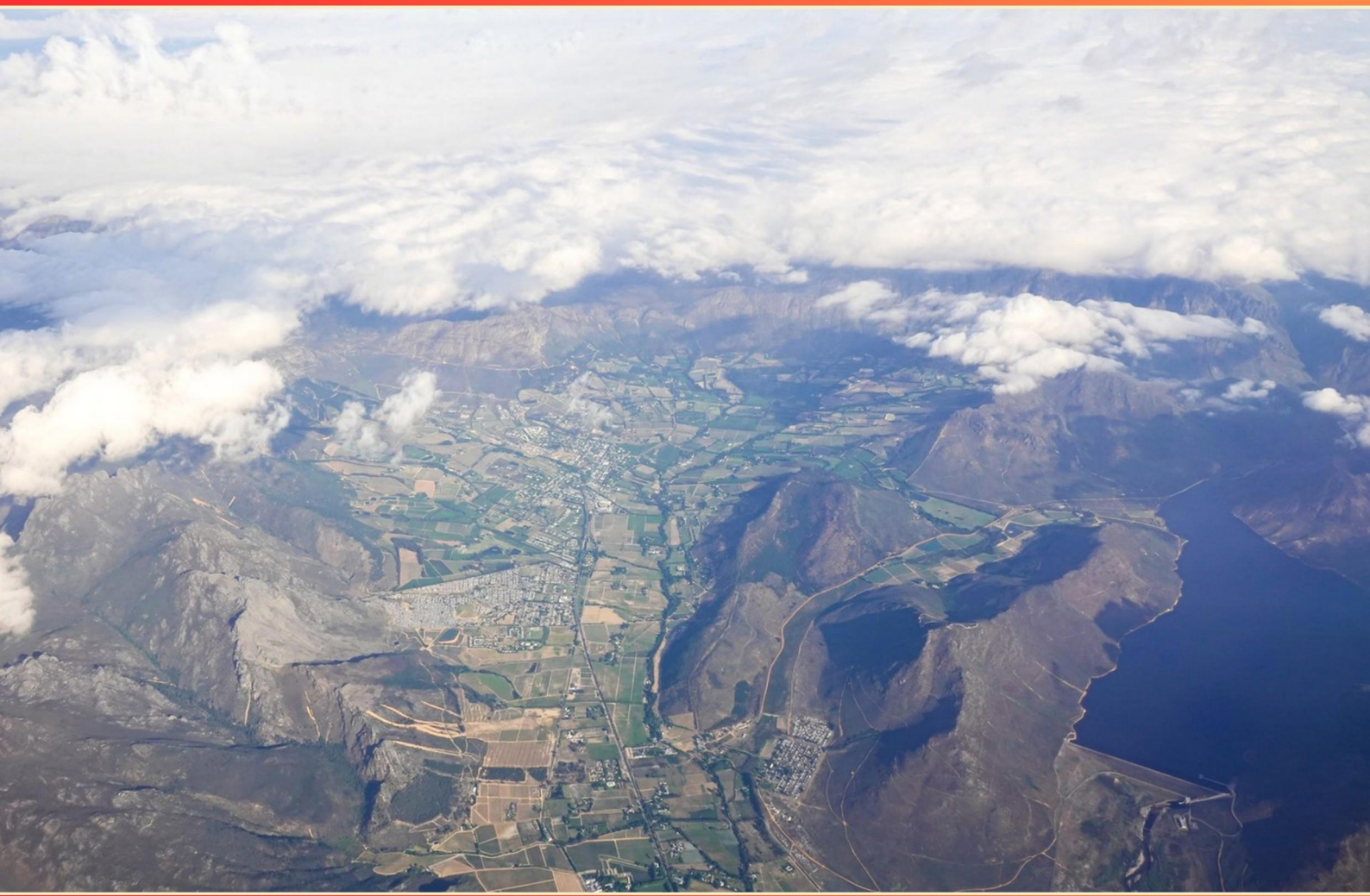
PRAXIS EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES: CONTENT KNOWLEDGE (5571 / 5572) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

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. In the Northern Hemisphere, what is the direction of air flow around a high-pressure system?

A. Counter-clockwise

B. Clockwise

C. Inward toward the center

D. Outward from the center

2. Which set correctly lists the three stages of a river?

A. Upper (youthful), Middle (mature), Lower (old)

B. Beginning, middle, end

C. Source, channel, delta

D. Fresh, mature, ancient

3. When did the first shelled organisms appear?

A. Ordovician-Silurian

B. Cambrian (520 million years ago)

C. Silurian

D. Devonian

4. Where are hydrothermal vents typically found?

A. In freshwater rivers

B. In deserts

C. On the ocean floor

D. In the upper atmosphere

5. Which four periods are listed oldest to youngest among the first four?

A. Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian

B. Cambrian, Silurian, Ordovician, Devonian

C. Ordovician, Cambrian, Silurian, Devonian

D. Cambrian, Ordovician, Devonian, Silurian

6. Approximately what percentage of Earth's atmosphere is oxygen?

A. 78%

B. 21%

C. 0.9%

D. 0.1%

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7. What happens during fusion in the Sun involving hydrogen-2 and hydrogen-3?

A. Matter is absorbed without energy release

B. A large amount of energy is released and energy travels to Earth as radiation

C. Fusion produces oxygen and nitrogen

D. Fusion consumes energy and cools the Sun

8. Which of the following is not an atmospheric layer?

A. Troposphere

B. Stratosphere

C. Lithosphere

D. Exosphere

9. The layer in the stratosphere at approximately 20 miles that contains a concentration of ozone sufficient to block most ultraviolet radiation from the sun is called what?

A. Ionosphere

B. Ozone layer

C. Troposphere

D. Exosphere

10. Which layer lies between crust and core and is roughly 2900 kilometers thick?

A. Crust

B. Outer Core

C. Mantle

D. Inner Core

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In the Northern Hemisphere, what is the direction of air flow around a high-pressure system?

A. Counter-clockwise

B. Clockwise

C. Inward toward the center

D. Outward from the center

Winds around a high-pressure center in the Northern Hemisphere circulate clockwise because the Coriolis effect deflects moving air to the right as it travels. At the surface, air in a high-pressure region tends to sink, which causes it to spread outward from the center. That combination—air sinking and then diverging outward—produces a clockwise, outward flow around the high-pressure center. For contrast, a low-pressure system involves air rising and moving inward toward the center, which makes the flow counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere.

2. Which set correctly lists the three stages of a river?

A. Upper (youthful), Middle (mature), Lower (old)

B. Beginning, middle, end

C. Source, channel, delta

D. Fresh, mature, ancient

The three stages of a river are described as youth, maturity, and old age, which correspond to the upper, middle, and lower course of the river. In the upper (youthful) course, the slope is steep and erosion dominates, creating features like V-shaped valleys and rapid flow. In the middle (mature) course, the valley widens, the gradient decreases, and the river erodes laterally while deposition and meandering begin to form. In the lower (old) course, the gradient is gentle, deposition overtakes erosion, and the river creates a wide floodplain with a slower flow. This makes the set listing upper (youthful), middle (mature), and lower (old) the correct description. The other options describe nonstandard groupings or different river parts rather than the three-stage progression.

3. When did the first shelled organisms appear?

A. Ordovician-Silurian

B. Cambrian (520 million years ago)

C. Silurian

D. Devonian

Shells first appear in the fossil record during the Cambrian period, about 520 million years ago. This marks the emergence of mineralized external skeletons that fossilize well, leading to a rapid diversification known as the Cambrian explosion. The later time blocks—Ordovician-Silurian, Silurian, and Devonian—occur after this initial appearance, so they can't be the earliest moment shelled organisms show up. That's why Cambrian around 520 million years ago is the correct timeframe.

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4. Where are hydrothermal vents typically found?

A. In freshwater rivers

B. In deserts

C. On the ocean floor

D. In the upper atmosphere

Hydrothermal vents form where seawater seeps into cracks in the ocean floor, is heated by underlying magma, and exits as hot, mineral-rich fluid. This process happens at plate boundaries, especially along mid-ocean ridges, deep on the seabed. The unique combination of seawater, high temperature, and chemical nutrients supports rich vent ecosystems that rely on chemosynthesis rather than sunlight. That's why they're found on the ocean floor. They don't occur in freshwater rivers, deserts, or the upper atmosphere, because those environments don't provide the hot, mineral-rich fluids interacting with molten rock beneath the sea that create vent systems.

5. Which four periods are listed oldest to youngest among the first four?

A. Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian

B. Cambrian, Silurian, Ordovician, Devonian

C. Ordovician, Cambrian, Silurian, Devonian

D. Cambrian, Ordovician, Devonian, Silurian

Think about how we determine the ages of rock layers: younger layers are deposited on top of older ones, and fossils help us match rocks across regions. The four earliest Paleozoic periods are Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, and Devonian. Based on the fossil record and how rocks have been correlated globally, Cambrian is the oldest, followed by Ordovician, then Silurian, and Devonian as the youngest of the four. This sequence reflects the progression of life and the types of fossils each period is known for, as well as the way rock layers stack over time. So the oldest-to-youngest order among these four is Cambrian, then Ordovician, then Silurian, then Devonian. If a key shows a different arrangement, the important idea to grab is that Cambrian comes first, with the others following in that established progression.

6. Approximately what percentage of Earth's atmosphere is oxygen?

A. 78%

B. 21%

C. 0.9%

D. 0.1%

Oxygen makes up about one-fifth of the air by volume, so roughly 21% of Earth's atmosphere is oxygen. Air is a mixture of gases measured by how much of the total number of molecules each gas represents. At sea level, the atmosphere is about 78% nitrogen, about 21% oxygen, and the rest—around 1%—are trace gases like argon, carbon dioxide, neon, and others. That means oxygen is the second most abundant gas in the air, comprising about 21% of it. Altitude and conditions can shift the partial pressure of oxygen, but the proportion remains close to 21% across most of the atmosphere.

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7. What happens during fusion in the Sun involving hydrogen-2 and hydrogen-3?

A. Matter is absorbed without energy release

B. A large amount of energy is released and energy travels to Earth as radiation

C. Fusion produces oxygen and nitrogen

D. Fusion consumes energy and cools the Sun

Fusion of light nuclei releases energy because some mass is converted into energy during the process. When hydrogen-2 (deuterium) and hydrogen-3 (tritium) fuse, they form helium-4 and a neutron, and a substantial amount of energy is released—enough to power the star's radiation. That energy comes out as the kinetic energy of the reaction products and as radiation (gamma rays initially), which in the Sun eventually makes its way outward and becomes the sunlight we receive on Earth. Even though the Sun mainly uses a different fusion pathway (proton–proton reactions), the key idea is the same: fusion produces a large energy release carried away as radiation. The other possibilities imply no energy release or cooling, or produce other elements, which doesn't match how fusion energy works.

8. Which of the following is not an atmospheric layer?

A. Troposphere

B. Stratosphere

C. Lithosphere

D. Exosphere

The lithosphere is not an atmospheric layer; it's the rigid outer shell of the Earth—the crust and upper mantle—part of the geosphere. The troposphere, stratosphere, and exosphere are all layers of Earth's atmosphere, with the troposphere closest to the surface (weather happens there), the stratosphere above it (contains the ozone layer), and the exosphere as the outermost, extremely thin boundary toward space. So the non-atmospheric one is the lithosphere.

9. The layer in the stratosphere at approximately 20 miles that contains a concentration of ozone sufficient to block most ultraviolet radiation from the sun is called what?

A. Ionosphere

B. Ozone layer

C. Troposphere

D. Exosphere

Think about how the atmosphere is layered and how ozone plays a special role in blocking UV light. In the stratosphere there is a region where ozone (O3) is relatively concentrated, and this ozone absorbs most of the sun's ultraviolet radiation, especially the harmful UV-B and UV-C wavelengths. This protective zone sits roughly in the lower to middle stratosphere, around 20 miles (about 32 kilometers) above Earth, which is why we call it the ozone layer. The other options refer to parts of the atmosphere defined by different features: the ionosphere is a charged layer important for radio waves, the troposphere is where weather happens, and the exosphere is the outermost, very thin layer. None of those describe the ozone-rich layer that shields us from UV light the way the ozone layer does.

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10. Which layer lies between crust and core and is roughly 2900 kilometers thick?

A. Crust

B. Outer Core

C. Mantle

D. Inner Core

The main layer between the crust and the core is the mantle. It stretches from just beneath the crust down to the outer core, roughly 2,900 kilometers thick. The crust sits on top as a thin shell, while the core sits at the center and is split into an outer liquid part and an inner solid part. The mantle is largely solid rock, but it can flow slowly over geological timescales, driving convection that moves tectonic plates. That combination of position and substantial thickness makes the mantle the correct layer.

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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://praxis5571and5572.examzify.com

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

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