RESEARCH AND EVALUATION 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 obtaining informed consent from vulnerable populations, which practice is NOT recommended?

A. Ensure comprehension

B. Obtain appropriate guardianship consent

C. Assent from minors when applicable

D. Completely bypass consent in vulnerable populations

2. What is grounded theory and how does it differ from content analysis?

A. Grounded theory aims to develop theory from data; content analysis describes and quantifies content patterns without theory-building.

B. Grounded theory is a method for statistical testing of hypotheses.

C. Content analysis builds theory from data.

D. Grounded theory uses predefined categories only.

3. Single system research designs are considered qualitative research.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on the design

D. Cannot be determined

4. Which statement reflects the essence of grounded theory?

A. Grounded theory does not involve theory-building.

B. Content analysis emphasizes theory-building.

C. Grounded theory emphasizes theory-building from data.

D. Content analysis uses experimental control.

5. Which practice best aligns with ethical reporting when evaluation results show no improvement but could affect stakeholders?

A. Publish all results without review

B. Withhold results until improvements are made

C. Draft a balanced report to show the program director before dissemination

D. Only report positive aspects

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6. A typical focus of a process evaluation is to identify the degree to which the program is implemented as planned.

A. Impact on outcomes

B. Implementation fidelity

C. Long-term sustainability

D. Cost-effectiveness

7. Which statement about quasi-experimental designs is true?

A. They always use random sampling

B. There is always a control group

C. There is no random sampling; there is sometimes a control group

D. They require random assignment

8. In the X-O-R notation used in group research designs, which symbol represents observation?

A. X

B. O

C. R

D. Y

9. Which statement correctly defines survey weighting?

A. Adjusting results to reflect population structure to correct for differential response rates or selection probabilities.

B. Reducing the sample size to save resources.

C. Transforming survey questions to improve reliability.

D. Assigning weights to questions based on length.

10. Which statement best describes the difference between a systematic review and a meta-analysis?

A. Systematic review summarizes evidence; meta-analysis statistically combines results across studies

B. Meta-analysis summarizes evidence; systematic review statistically combines results across studies

C. Systematic review focuses only on data collection; meta-analysis focuses on data interpretation

D. Meta-analysis replaces the need for a systematic review

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In obtaining informed consent from vulnerable populations, which practice is NOT recommended?

A. Ensure comprehension

B. Obtain appropriate guardianship consent

C. Assent from minors when applicable

D. Completely bypass consent in vulnerable populations

Respecting autonomy and protecting those with limited decision-making capacity are essential when obtaining informed consent. Informed consent means a participant (or their legally authorized representative) understands what participation involves, including any risks and benefits, and agrees to participate voluntarily. When someone cannot consent for themselves, it's appropriate to obtain permission from a guardian or legally authorized representative who can decide in the person's best interests. If a minor is involved and can understand enough to participate meaningfully, seeking their assent honors their developing autonomy and complements parental or guardian consent rather than replacing it. Completely bypassing consent undermines an individual's right to make or have a say in what happens to them, exposes them to risks without their knowledge or agreement, and violates ethical standards and legal protections. That's why it's not recommended under any circumstances.

2. What is grounded theory and how does it differ from content analysis?

A. Grounded theory aims to develop theory from data; content analysis describes and quantifies content patterns without theory-building.

B. Grounded theory is a method for statistical testing of hypotheses.

C. Content analysis builds theory from data.

D. Grounded theory uses predefined categories only.

Grounded theory is an approach that aims to generate new theory from the data itself. Researchers collect and analyze data together, coding line by line and using the process of constant comparison to refine categories. As the analysis unfolds, they use theoretical sampling—seeking new data to illuminate and develop those categories—until a coherent theory emerges that is truly grounded in what participants have said or experienced. The end product is a theory that explains a process or phenomenon as it appears in the data. Content analysis, on the other hand, focuses on describing and quantifying patterns in communication. Researchers develop coding schemes to label content and then count how often certain categories occur or how they relate, providing descriptive or quantitative summaries of the material. It can illuminate patterns or trends, and may even contribute to theory, but its main aim is pattern description rather than building a theory from the ground up. So the best answer captures the essence: grounded theory seeks to develop theory from data, while content analysis describes and quantifies content patterns without inherently creating new theory.

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3. Single system research designs are considered qualitative research.

A. True

B. False

C. Depends on the design

D. Cannot be determined

The main idea here is that the type of research design does not lock you into a single data approach. Single-system (or single-case) research designs focus on one subject or unit observed over time with repeated measurements to assess the effect of an intervention. This design structure is about how data are collected and analyzed across time for one case, not about whether the data are qualitative or quantitative. Because of that flexibility, these designs can produce quantitative data (for example, frequencies, scores, or other numeric measures analyzed for level, trend, and immediacy of effect) or qualitative data (such as rich narrative observations or interview data interpreted to understand the subject's experience). So labeling single-system research designs as inherently qualitative is not accurate.

4. Which statement reflects the essence of grounded theory?

A. Grounded theory does not involve theory-building.

B. Content analysis emphasizes theory-building.

C. Grounded theory emphasizes theory-building from data.

D. Content analysis uses experimental control.

Grounded theory centers on building theory directly from the data. The key idea is that the theory emerges through a systematic, iterative process of collecting and coding data, comparing incidents, and refining categories until a cohesive explanation of the phenomenon appears. Researchers stay close to what participants say and do, letting patterns and relationships arise from the data rather than starting with a preconceived theory. Through steps like open, axial, and selective coding, along with theoretical sampling and saturation, a theory is constructed that is truly grounded in the observed evidence. That's why the option that states theory-building from data captures the essence best. It contrasts with the idea that grounded theory avoids theory-building, which would miss the method's purpose; and with statements about content analysis—whose focus is more on describing or quantifying content rather than generating a theory from the data; or with the notion that content analysis involves experimental control, which isn't its defining feature.

5. Which practice best aligns with ethical reporting when evaluation results show no improvement but could affect stakeholders?

A. Publish all results without review

B. Withhold results until improvements are made

C. Draft a balanced report to show the program director before dissemination

D. Only report positive aspects

Ethical reporting centers on transparency and accuracy, especially when findings have practical implications for people and programs. The best approach is to draft a balanced report that clearly presents what was found (no improvement), explains the context and limitations, and outlines potential implications for stakeholders, then share it with the program director for review before disseminating it more broadly. This path ensures the interpretation is accurate, prevents overstatement or misrepresentation, and gives leadership a chance to provide context, validate conclusions, and agree on next steps or an action plan. It also respects stakeholders by communicating all relevant information in a fair, responsible way. Publishing everything without review risks misinterpretation or undisclosed caveats slipping into the public view. Withholding results until improvements are made delays essential information that stakeholders deserve to know and may hide important context. Reporting only positive aspects is misleading and undermines trust. The balanced, pre-dissemination review approach aligns with responsible evaluation practice by prioritizing honesty, context, and accountability.

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6. A typical focus of a process evaluation is to identify the degree to which the program is implemented as planned.

A. Impact on outcomes

B. Implementation fidelity

C. Long-term sustainability

D. Cost-effectiveness

Process evaluation focuses on how a program is delivered in practice, including whether activities occurred as planned and the quality of implementation. The degree to which the program is implemented as planned is called implementation fidelity. This reflects whether core components were delivered as designed, by trained staff, with the intended frequency and duration. Keeping fidelity high helps determine if observed outcomes (positive or negative) are due to the program itself or to variations in how it was put into action. In contrast, impact on outcomes looks at the effects the program has on participants, which is the domain of outcome or impact evaluation. Long-term sustainability concerns whether the program can be maintained over time beyond initial funding and enthusiasm. Cost-effectiveness weighs the value of outcomes relative to costs, a different facet of evaluation focused on efficiency.

7. Which statement about quasi-experimental designs is true?

A. They always use random sampling

B. There is always a control group

C. There is no random sampling; there is sometimes a control group

D. They require random assignment

Quasi-experimental designs aim to infer causality without randomly assigning participants to treatment and control groups. Because random assignment isn't used, the groups being compared aren't guaranteed to be equivalent at baseline, so researchers rely on nonrandom grouping and often on pre/post measures or existing groups. In practice, you'll see a comparison or control group in many quasi-experimental designs, but not always. Random sampling of participants is not the defining feature here; many quasi-experiments use nonrandom samples drawn from real-world settings. That's why the statement that there is no random sampling and that a control group may be present captures the typical characteristics of quasi-experimental designs more accurately than the others.

8. In the X-O-R notation used in group research designs, which symbol represents observation?

A. X

B. O

C. R

D. Y

In X-O-R notation, the focus is on what happens as the study progresses through different phases. The symbol you use for observation is the one that marks when data are collected and outcomes are recorded. Specifically, the O stands for observation, meaning those points where the dependent variable is measured. The other symbols have distinct roles: X represents the introduction of the treatment or intervention, and R signals reversal or removal of the treatment to see if the observed effects disappear or change. While Y might appear in other statistical contexts as a dependent variable, this shorthand uses X for treatment, O for observation, and R for reversal, so observation is clearly placed at the moments you measure the impact.

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9. Which statement correctly defines survey weighting?

A. Adjusting results to reflect population structure to correct for differential response rates or selection probabilities.

B. Reducing the sample size to save resources.

C. Transforming survey questions to improve reliability.

D. Assigning weights to questions based on length.

Survey weighting is the process of adjusting survey results so they reflect the structure of the larger population you want to describe. This helps correct for differences in who participates or who gets selected, so groups that are underrepresented in the sample get more influence and those that are overrepresented get less. For example, if young adults are less likely to respond, their responses can be given more weight to match their true share in the population. Weights are not about shrinking the sample or altering questions; they re-scale each respondent's contribution to the overall estimates. In practice, weights come from known population margins or probabilities of selection and response, using methods like post-stratification or raking to align the sample with those margins. Keep in mind that large weights can raise the variability of estimates, so standard errors should be adjusted accordingly.

10. Which statement best describes the difference between a systematic review and a meta-analysis?

A. Systematic review summarizes evidence; meta-analysis statistically combines results across studies

B. Meta-analysis summarizes evidence; systematic review statistically combines results across studies

C. Systematic review focuses only on data collection; meta-analysis focuses on data interpretation

D. Meta-analysis replaces the need for a systematic review

The main idea here is understanding how these two research methods relate yet serve different purposes. A systematic review is the careful, transparent process of searching for, appraising, and summarizing all relevant studies on a topic. A meta-analysis is a statistical technique used within some systematic reviews to combine the numerical results from multiple studies into one pooled estimate, increasing precision when the studies are comparable. Not every systematic review includes a meta-analysis, especially if the studies are too heterogeneous or report outcomes in incompatible ways. So the statement that captures this distinction—systematic reviews summarize evidence, while meta-analyses statistically combine results across studies—is the best description.

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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://researchevaluation.examzify.com

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

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