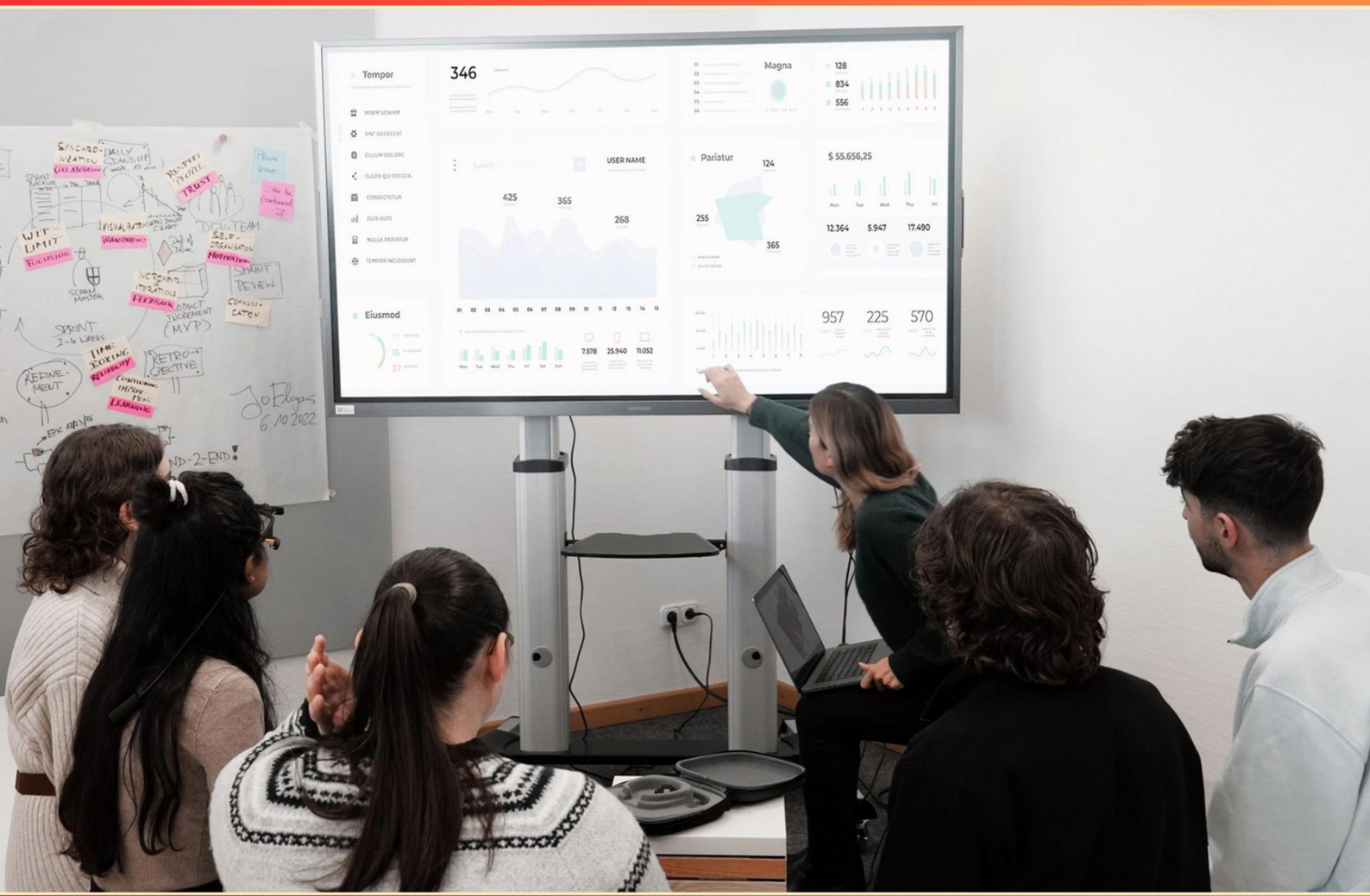
# SAS BASE EXAM CERTIFICATION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

## 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 another method to read data aside from PROC IMPORT?**

A. FILE statement

B. LIBNAME statement

C. DATA statement

D. QUERY statement

**2. What is the purpose of the TITLE statement in SAS?**

A. To assign a label to a data set

B. To specify a title for the output

C. To indicate the format of the output

D. To define a custom output location

**3. Does the length function in SAS count blanks?**

A. Yes, it counts all characters including blanks

B. No, leading and trailing blanks are not counted

C. Only trailing blanks are counted

D. Only leading blanks are counted

**4. Which function is used to join two strings with a specified delimiter and removes blanks?**

A. CATS

B. CATX

C. CAT

D. CONCAT

**5. How do you concatenate datasets in SAS?**

A. By using the SET statement in a DATA step

B. Using the MERGE statement in a DATA step

C. Using the SQL UNION command

D. By appending datasets with PROC APPEND

**6. How can you check for unique values in a dataset in SAS?**

A. By using PROC FREQ to generate frequency counts

B. By applying the UNIQUE function

C. By creating a custom FORMAT

D. By using the DISTINCT keyword

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**7. What does the colon (:) represent in an informat while reading nonstandard data?**

A. To read a specific number of characters

B. To ensure SAS reads until the delimiter

C. To signify a numeric format

D. To indicate a character format

**8. In a SUM function, which type of value is included in the result?**

A. All values are summed

B. Only non-missing values are included

C. Only the first value is calculated

D. Future values are accounted for

**9. What is the functionality of the STRIP function in SAS?**

A. Returns only leading blanks

B. Returns only trailing blanks

C. Returns a string without leading or trailing blanks

D. Counts the number of blanks in a string

**10. How do you combine datasets side-by-side in SAS?**

A. By using the SQL JOIN statement

B. By employing the MERGE statement in a DATA step

C. By using the APPEND procedure

D. By defining a combined dataset in PROC DATA

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# Answers

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

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# Explanations

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## 1. What is another method to read data aside from PROC IMPORT?

A. FILE statement

B. LIBNAME statement

C. DATA statement

D. QUERY statement

*The LIBNAME statement is used to assign a libref (library reference) to a directory containing SAS data sets or other supported files, effectively making it easier to reference those files for reading or writing data. This approach allows users to access various types of data sources, including those that might be stored in specific file formats (like Excel spreadsheets or databases), thus enhancing data accessibility within SAS. When a LIBNAME statement is set up correctly, it creates a connection to a location where SAS can find the data, enabling you to use the DATA step or other procedures to manipulate or analyze that data. In contrast to PROC IMPORT, which is specifically designed to read external files into SAS, using the LIBNAME statement gives you flexibility in managing how data is accessed in the SAS environment. Other methods that involve data manipulation or retrieval exist, but the LIBNAME statement provides a systematic way to access data that can then be utilized within various SAS procedures and programming steps.*

## 2. What is the purpose of the TITLE statement in SAS?

A. To assign a label to a data set

B. To specify a title for the output

C. To indicate the format of the output

D. To define a custom output location

*The purpose of the TITLE statement in SAS is to specify a title for the output. When generating reports or output from a SAS program, adding a title allows the user to provide context or identification for the content that follows. This can enhance the readability of reports, making them easier to understand and interpret. When the TITLE statement is used, it can include static text as well as dynamic elements such as variables or values from the data being analyzed, offering flexibility in presentation. This makes it an essential feature for anyone looking to create professional and informative output in their SAS projects. Other options, while related to output, do not accurately describe the function of the TITLE statement within SAS, focusing instead on different aspects of SAS programming and data management.*

## 3. Does the length function in SAS count blanks?

A. Yes, it counts all characters including blanks

B. No, leading and trailing blanks are not counted

C. Only trailing blanks are counted

D. Only leading blanks are counted

*The length function in SAS is designed to return the number of characters in a string, but it specifically excludes leading and trailing blanks. This means that when calculating the length of a character variable, any spaces that appear before the first non-space character or after the last non-space character in the string do not contribute to the total count. For example, if you have the string " Hello World ", the length function would return a count of 11, representing the characters in "Hello World" without counting the leading three spaces or the trailing three spaces. This is fundamental to understanding how SAS processes string data, as it helps in cleaning and formatting strings for analysis or reporting without the interference of unnecessary whitespace. In contrast to the other options: option A incorrectly suggests that all characters are counted; option C and option D mistakenly imply that only certain types of whitespace (either trailing or leading) are accounted for, which is not aligned with the function's behavior.*

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## 4. Which function is used to join two strings with a specified delimiter and removes blanks?

A. CATS

B. CATX

C. CAT

D. CONCAT

*The function that is used to join two strings with a specified delimiter while also removing any leading and trailing blanks from both strings is the CATX function. This function is particularly useful when you need a clean concatenation, where the output should not include any extraneous spaces, which can often be the case when directly concatenating strings. When using CATX, you provide the delimiter as the first argument followed by the strings you want to join. The function will effectively trim any unnecessary spaces from the strings and insert the specified delimiter between them. For example, if you have two strings with extra spaces, CATX will clean those up and produce a neatly formatted single string. Other functions like CATS and CAT don't serve the exact purpose since CATS combines strings while removing spaces but doesn't allow specifying a delimiter, and CAT simply concatenates strings without removing any spaces. CONCAT is also not suited for this task as it combines strings without space removal or additional delimiters. Hence, CATX is the function that meets the criteria outlined in the question.*

## 5. How do you concatenate datasets in SAS?

A. By using the SET statement in a DATA step

B. Using the MERGE statement in a DATA step

C. Using the SQL UNION command

D. By appending datasets with PROC APPEND

*When concatenating datasets in SAS, using the SET statement in a DATA step is the standard approach. The SET statement allows you to stack datasets on top of each other, effectively creating one continuous dataset that combines all the observations from the specified datasets. For instance, if you have two datasets named `dataset1` and `dataset2`, using a statement like `DATA combined; SET dataset1 dataset2; RUN;` will create a new dataset called `combined` that includes all observations from both `dataset1` and `dataset2`. This is a straightforward and commonly used method for concatenation in SAS, making it an essential technique for data manipulation. While other methods like the MERGE statement can combine datasets based on matching key variables, this is not true concatenation, as it aligns observations based on those keys instead of simply stacking them. The SQL UNION command is also not used for direct concatenation within a DATA step and typically applies in SQL context, which requires different syntax. Similarly, PROC APPEND is a procedure designed to add new observations from one dataset to an existing dataset, but use of SET is the more fundamental method for concatenation that allows for inline data processing and is thus the correct choice for the question posed.*

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## 6. How can you check for unique values in a dataset in SAS?

A. By using PROC FREQ to generate frequency counts

B. By applying the UNIQUE function

C. By creating a custom FORMAT

D. By using the DISTINCT keyword

*Using PROC FREQ is a reliable method to check for unique values in a dataset. This procedure generates frequency counts for each distinct value of a specified variable, allowing you to see not only the unique values but also how many times each value appears in the dataset. When you examine the output of PROC FREQ, any value that appears only once can be identified easily, directly indicating which values are unique. The UNIQUE function is not primarily designed for identifying unique values in a dataset context. It is a more general function used to evaluate whether the values in a list are unique and does not produce a comprehensive frequency distribution. Creating a custom FORMAT does not inherently check for uniqueness; rather, it alters how data is displayed. While it might assist with formatting distinct values once identified, it doesn't provide a method to discover unique entries within the dataset directly. Using the DISTINCT keyword is specific to SQL queries within SAS for selecting unique records from a database; however, it does not apply directly to data steps or PROC steps used in traditional SAS procedures like PROC FREQ. Thus, when interested in assessing unique values in a dataset broadly, PROC FREQ is the most straightforward and effective method.*

## 7. What does the colon (:) represent in an informat while reading nonstandard data?

A. To read a specific number of characters

B. To ensure SAS reads until the delimiter

C. To signify a numeric format

D. To indicate a character format

*The colon (:) in an informat serves a specific purpose when reading nonstandard data in SAS. Its primary function is to read input until a delimiter is encountered, which allows for more flexible handling of data that may not conform to standard formatting rules. This is particularly useful in situations where the length of the data is variable or unpredictable. For instance, when the colon is used in conjunction with an informat, it prompts SAS to read the data character by character, stopping only when it reaches a specified delimiter, such as a space, comma, or other defined separator. This capability is critical when dealing with data that includes varying lengths of text strings or when the data fields are not consistently formatted. In contrast, other options either suggest reading a fixed number of characters or imply format types without accounting for the flexibility the colon provides with delimiters. Therefore, the essence of the colon in an informat lies in its ability to facilitate the reading of nonstandard data efficiently by accommodating variations in data layout and ensuring that the entire content up to a delimiter is captured correctly.*

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## 8. In a SUM function, which type of value is included in the result?

A. All values are summed

B. Only non-missing values are included

C. Only the first value is calculated

D. Future values are accounted for

*The SUM function in SAS is designed to calculate the total of a set of values while specifically excluding any missing values from the computation. This feature makes it particularly useful when dealing with datasets that may contain gaps or missing entries. When the function encounters a missing value, it simply disregards it in the summation process, ensuring that only valid numerical entries contribute to the final result. This approach helps to maintain the integrity of numerical analyses, allowing for more accurate and meaningful statistical outcomes. The other options do not accurately describe the behavior of the SUM function; for instance, the inclusion of all values would lead to potentially misleading results in cases where data is incomplete, and accounting for future or only the first value is not relevant to the SUM function's intended operation.*

## 9. What is the functionality of the STRIP function in SAS?

A. Returns only leading blanks

B. Returns only trailing blanks

C. Returns a string without leading or trailing blanks

D. Counts the number of blanks in a string

*The STRIP function in SAS is designed to remove both leading and trailing blanks from a string, ensuring that the result is a clean version of the input string without any spaces at either end. This functionality is particularly useful when working with text data, where extraneous spaces can lead to unexpected results or issues in data processing, comparisons, and reporting. In practical terms, when you apply the STRIP function to a character variable, it scans the string from the beginning and the end, eliminating any spaces that may be present. The function returns the modified string, which allows for more accurate processing of data, such as concatenating strings or performing searches where spacing may affect outcomes. Other options do not accurately describe the capabilities of the STRIP function. Instead, they convey aspects related to space management in strings but miss the complete functionality that STRIP provides by removing both leading and trailing spaces. Thus, it's important to clearly understand that the STRIP function is specifically aimed at producing a trimmed string, which is reflected in the correct answer.*

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## 10. How do you combine datasets side-by-side in SAS?

A. By using the SQL JOIN statement

B. By employing the MERGE statement in a DATA step

C. By using the APPEND procedure

D. By defining a combined dataset in PROC DATA

*The method to combine datasets side-by-side in SAS is achieved by employing the MERGE statement within a DATA step. This approach allows you to merge two or more datasets that share a common variable, often referred to as a key variable. The MERGE statement stacks datasets horizontally, where it aligns records based on the values of those key variables. This is particularly useful when you want to consolidate related information spread across different datasets into one comprehensive dataset. For instance, if you have one dataset containing customer information and another containing corresponding sales data, merging them based on a unique customer identifier allows you to create a unified view of customer details alongside their sales. The other methods mentioned, such as using the SQL JOIN statement, while capable of combining datasets, typically create a new dataset based on the relational attributes rather than merely merging them side by side as per the definition in SAS. The APPEND procedure instead focuses on stacking datasets vertically, adding new rows rather than combining columns. The concept of defining a combined dataset in PROC DATA does not accurately describe any existing procedure in SAS meant for dataset combination and lacks clarity in its functionality.*

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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://sasbase.examzify.com

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

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