WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY (WGU) GEOG1312 D199 INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL AND HUMAN GEOGRAPHY PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://wgu-geog1312-d199.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. What do primary and secondary economic activities represent?

A. Trading and exporting resources

B. Taking and processing resources

C. Providing and managing services

D. Innovating and policymaking

2. Which type of consumers are herbivores that eat green plants?

A. Carnivores

B. Omnivores

C. Primary consumers

D. Decomposers

3. Which model describes the stages of economic modernization in a country?

A. Demographic Transition Model

B. Rostow's Model

C. World Systems Theory

D. Dependency Theory

4. What does 'hegemony' signify in a geopolitical context?

A. Economic interdependence among nations

B. Leadership or dominance of one person or state over others

C. A cooperative agreement between multiple countries

D. The use of military power to influence other states

5. What does map scale indicate?

A. How to interpret the symbols used on a map

B. How distances on a map correspond to real-world distances

C. How to use a map for navigation

D. How the map was created

6. What does a frequency polygon depict?

A. A series of discrete points

B. A smoothed graph of a histogram

C. A calculation of mean values

D. A bar representation of data

SAMPLE

7. What term describes states that do not have a direct outlet to a major body of water?

A. Landlocked states

B. Coastal states

C. Island states

D. Urban states

8. What does longitude refer to in geography?

A. Imaginary lines running east-west

B. Imaginary lines running north-south

C. Height above sea level

D. Distance from the equator

9. What does collective security promote among member states?

A. Cultural exchange and cooperation

B. Use of economic sanctions against aggressors

C. A unified response to threats against any member

D. Independent military operations

10. What type of graph uses vertical rectangles to represent data?

A. Scatterplot

B. Dot plot

C. Bar graph

D. Pie chart

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What do primary and secondary economic activities represent?

A. Trading and exporting resources

B. Taking and processing resources

C. Providing and managing services

D. Innovating and policymaking

Primary and secondary economic activities are fundamental concepts in understanding how economies utilize resources. The correct choice highlights the roles these activities play in the production and processing of goods. Primary economic activities involve the extraction and harvesting of natural resources. This includes activities such as agriculture, mining, forestry, and fishing. These activities are the foundational stage of the economy, where raw materials are gathered for use. Secondary economic activities, on the other hand, take these raw materials sourced from primary activities and process them into finished goods. This encompasses manufacturing and construction. For example, transforming iron ore into steel or processing agricultural products into food items are essential parts of this secondary sector. The focus on taking and processing resources illustrates the sequential flow from raw material acquisition to finished products, which is central to economic development and industrialization. The other answer choices discuss aspects of trade, services, or innovation, but they do not encapsulate the core operations represented by primary and secondary economic activities as effectively as the correct option.

2. Which type of consumers are herbivores that eat green plants?

A. Carnivores

B. Omnivores

C. Primary consumers

D. Decomposers

Herbivores that eat green plants are classified as primary consumers in ecological terms. Primary consumers are organisms that primarily consume producers, which are typically plants or algae that can photosynthesize. Since herbivores feed directly on these green plants, they occupy the second trophic level in an ecosystem, playing a crucial role in energy transfer from producers to higher trophic levels, such as carnivores or omnivores that may eat both plants and animals. This distinction highlights the importance of primary consumers in maintaining the balance of an ecosystem by controlling plant populations and providing energy to higher-level consumers.

SAMPLE

3. Which model describes the stages of economic modernization in a country?

A. Demographic Transition Model

B. Rostow's Model

C. World Systems Theory

D. Dependency Theory

The correct choice describes Rostow's Model, which outlines a linear process comprising five distinct stages that nations go through as they modernize economically. This model was developed by economist Walt Rostow in the 1960s and frames economic development as a progression from traditional societies based on agriculture to modern, industrialized economies. Rostow identified these stages as: 1. The Traditional Society: Characterized by subsistence agriculture and limited technology. 2. The Preconditions for Take-off: Involves the development of more productive agricultural practices and the beginnings of industrialization. 3. The Take-off: Defined by rapid industrial growth, improvements in manufacturing, and increased investment in infrastructure. 4. The Drive to Maturity: Marked by the diversification of the economy and the development of a robust industrial sector. 5. The Age of High Mass Consumption: Characterized by widespread consumerism with a focus on services and high levels of personal income. This model is significant because it provides a framework to understand how economies evolve over time through specific and predictable stages, allowing for the analysis of economic policies and the socio-economic transformations nations experience. In contrast, the other options present different perspectives on development. The Demographic Transition Model addresses changes in population growth and structures, World

4. What does 'hegemony' signify in a geopolitical context?

A. Economic interdependence among nations

B. Leadership or dominance of one person or state over others

C. A cooperative agreement between multiple countries

D. The use of military power to influence other states

The concept of 'hegemony' in a geopolitical context refers specifically to the leadership or dominance of one person, state, or governing entity over others. This dominance can manifest in various forms, including political influence, cultural authority, and economic power. A hegemon is typically able to shape the norms, rules, and structures within a specific region or globally, often establishing a status quo that benefits itself and its allies while exerting influence or control over other states. This leadership can arise from various sources, such as military strength, economic prosperity, or cultural appeal. For example, a nation that holds significant military capability may establish itself as a hegemon by promoting stability and security in a region, often influencing the policies of neighboring countries. Additionally, hegemony can also be about soft power, where a state gains influence through persuasion and attraction rather than coercion. The other options relate to forms of international relations but do not capture the essence of hegemony specifically. Economic interdependence might describe relationships between countries, while a cooperative agreement suggests collaboration rather than dominance. The use of military power could relate to aspects of hegemony, but it does not encompass the broader notion of establishing a prevailing influence or leadership over others that characterizes the term

SAMPLE

5. What does map scale indicate?

A. How to interpret the symbols used on a map

B. How distances on a map correspond to real-world distances

C. How to use a map for navigation

D. How the map was created

Map scale indicates how distances on a map correspond to real-world distances, serving as a crucial tool for understanding the size and relationship of features depicted on the map. The scale allows users to measure and translate distances from the map into real-life distances, providing a means to understand the geographical context and spatial relationships of the areas represented. For example, a scale of 1:100,000 means that 1 unit on the map equals 100,000 of the same units in reality, enabling users to derive accurate measurements and navigate effectively based on the map's representation of space. This function is essential for travelers, cartographers, and researchers who need to visualize and quantify the physical world in relation to the graphical representation in front of them.

6. What does a frequency polygon depict?

A. A series of discrete points

B. A smoothed graph of a histogram

C. A calculation of mean values

D. A bar representation of data

A frequency polygon is a graphical representation that displays the distribution of a dataset. It is created by connecting the midpoints of each interval or class in a histogram with straight lines. This means that it visualizes the same data as a histogram but does so in a way that emphasizes trends and patterns over continuous intervals. Choosing to depict the data as a smoothed line rather than as individual bars allows for a clearer understanding of the overall distribution. This method is particularly useful for identifying the shape of the distribution, such as whether it is normal, skewed, or bimodal, and it can highlight fluctuations in frequency more efficiently than discrete bars. The other options present different concepts: discrete points refer to a scatter plot, mean values are related to measures of central tendency rather than a distribution visualization, and a bar representation describes a histogram more than a frequency polygon. Thus, the option highlighting a smoothed graph of a histogram accurately describes what a frequency polygon does.

7. What term describes states that do not have a direct outlet to a major body of water?

A. Landlocked states

B. Coastal states

C. Island states

D. Urban states

The term that describes states that do not have a direct outlet to a major body of water is "landlocked states." These states are completely surrounded by land and lack any coastlines that would provide access to oceans, seas, or large lakes. As a result, they often face unique challenges regarding trade and transportation, as they must rely on neighboring states for shipping goods, which can increase transportation costs and affect their economic activities. In contrast, coastal states have direct access to the ocean and benefit from maritime trade. Island states, by definition, are entirely surrounded by water and often have their own unique geographical and economic contexts. Urban states typically refer to regions with high population density and urbanization, which doesn't directly relate to the presence or absence of water bodies. Hence, the emphasis on landlocked states highlights their specific geographic characteristic of being enclosed by land without maritime access.

SAMPLE

8. What does longitude refer to in geography?

A. Imaginary lines running east-west

B. Imaginary lines running north-south

C. Height above sea level

D. Distance from the equator

In geography, longitude refers specifically to imaginary lines that run north-south, which are known as meridians. These lines measure the angular distance east or west of the Prime Meridian, which is designated at 0 degrees longitude. Longitude is critical for navigation and mapping, as it, combined with latitude (which runs east-west), allows for a precise location on the Earth's surface. The correct choice highlights the significance of these lines in providing coordinates for any location across the globe. The other options address concepts that relate to geography but do not define longitude accurately. For instance, height above sea level pertains to elevation, while distance from the equator refers to latitude. These concepts, although important, are distinct from the definition of longitude in the context of geographic coordinates.

9. What does collective security promote among member states?

A. Cultural exchange and cooperation

B. Use of economic sanctions against aggressors

C. A unified response to threats against any member

D. Independent military operations

Collective security is a concept in international relations that aims to ensure the safety and security of all member states through mutual agreements. The principle underlying collective security is that an attack on one member is viewed as an attack on all members, prompting a unified response. This shared responsibility encourages nations to work together to counter threats, thereby deterring aggression and fostering a sense of solidarity among members. When member states agree to a collective security arrangement, they commit to collaborate and respond collectively to any acts of aggression, which helps maintain peace and stability in the region. This cooperative approach is fundamental because it not only strengthens the security of individual states but also reinforces international norms against aggression and conflict.

10. What type of graph uses vertical rectangles to represent data?

A. Scatterplot

B. Dot plot

C. Bar graph

D. Pie chart

A bar graph employs vertical rectangles, or bars, to visually represent data. Each bar's height corresponds to the value it represents, allowing for easy comparison between different categories or groups. The choice of using vertical rectangles makes it straightforward to see differences in magnitude across the various categories being analyzed. This format is particularly effective for categorical data, where individual bars can represent distinct groups or classes. In contrast, a scatterplot displays data points as dots on a two-dimensional coordinate system, which is useful for showing relationships between two continuous variables. A dot plot represents individual data points using dots along a number line, giving a clear representation of distribution but not using rectangles. A pie chart shows parts of a whole in a circular format, which does not utilize bars at all. Thus, the distinctive feature of the bar graph is its use of vertical rectangles, making it the correct choice for this question.

SAMPLE

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://wgu-geog1312-d199.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE