



Certified Graphic Design Professional (CGRD)

Ten Sample Questions

These ten questions are written at the difficulty of the live exam. Six carry a figure, a data table, a configuration or a code listing; four are plain scenario questions, as on the live paper. Every one is a scenario a working graphic design professional would meet, and none of them appears in the live question bank.

The live exam is multistage adaptive: how you score on one stage selects the difficulty of the next, so no two candidates sit the same paper. It is a performance-based exam: each form can carry up to 5 to 12 performance-based questions alongside the multiple-choice questions, which means you build, sequence or complete something rather than only choosing from a list. Answers and full explanations follow each question here; the live exam does not disclose item-level answers.

Question 1

Domain 1: Design Foundations

DATA

Sarah Miller maps each design principle to its effect, with one effect missing.

Principle	Effect
Contrast	Draws the eye
Alignment	(to choose)
Repetition	Builds consistency
Proximity	Groups related items

Table 1.1 Principles and effects.

What does alignment provide?

- ☐ A Random placement
- ☐ B More colours
- ☐ C Visual order
- ☐ D Extra texture

Correct answer: C

Alignment connects elements along shared edges or lines, giving the layout visual order and a clean structure. Contrast draws the eye, repetition builds consistency, and proximity groups related items.

Question 2

Domain 2: Typography

DATA

James Carter compares type terms against their meanings, with one meaning missing.

Term	Meaning
Kerning	Space between two letters
Leading	(to choose)
Tracking	Space across a run
x-height	Height of lowercase body

Table 2.1 Type terms and meaning.

What does leading control?

- ☐ A Line spacing
- ☐ B Stroke weight
- ☐ C Font family
- ☐ D Letter shape

Correct answer: A

Leading is the vertical space between lines of text, so it controls line spacing and readability of a block. Kerning adjusts two letters, tracking spaces a whole run, and x-height measures lowercase letters.

Question 3

Domain 3: Color and Composition

CONFIG

Emma Wilson lists the colour values chosen for a poster headline.

```
mode   RGB
hex    #1F6FEB
R      31
G      111
B      235
```

Listing 3.1 Headline colour values.

Which colour mode suits screen display?

- ☐ A CMYK ink
- ☐ B RGB
- ☐ C Spot colour

D Grayscale only

Correct answer: B

RGB mixes red, green and blue light and matches how screens emit colour, so it suits on-screen display. CMYK is built for ink on paper, spot colour names a premixed ink, and grayscale drops all hue.

Question 4

Domain 3: Color and Composition

DATA

David Brown maps each colour scheme to its wheel relationship, with one missing.

Scheme	Relationship
Complementary	Opposite on the wheel
Analogous	(to choose)
Triadic	Three evenly spaced
Monochrome	One hue, many tints

Table 4.1 Schemes and wheel position.

How are analogous colours placed?

- A** Directly opposite
- B** Random spots
- C** Next to each other
- D** One hue only

Correct answer: C

Analogous colours sit next to each other on the wheel and share a common feel, so they blend gently in a design. Complementary hues sit opposite, triadic hues space evenly, and monochrome uses one hue.

Question 5

Domain 6: Production, Formats and Delivery

CONFIG

Olivia Davis lists the export settings for a photo destined for the web.

```
format    JPEG
quality   80
colour    sRGB
dpi       72
size      1600px wide
```

Listing 5.1 Web export settings.

Which format best fits a photo on the web?

- A** JPEG
- B** Print PDF

- ☐ C Native source
- ☐ D BMP raw

Correct answer: A

JPEG compresses photographs well and keeps file size small for fast web loading, so it fits this photo. A print PDF and a native source file are heavy for the web, and BMP is uncompressed and large.

Question 6

Domain 4: Tools and Workflow

DATA

Ava Thompson maps each file type to its nature, with one nature missing.

File type	Nature
SVG	Vector, scales cleanly
PNG	(to choose)
PSD	Layered editable file
PDF	Portable print output

Table 6.1 File types and nature.

What best describes a PNG?

- ☐ A Vector paths
- ☐ B Layered source
- ☐ C Raster with alpha
- ☐ D Print booklet

Correct answer: C

PNG is a raster image that supports an alpha channel for transparency, so it is a raster with alpha. SVG stores vector paths, PSD keeps editable layers, and PDF packages print-ready output.

Question 7

Domain 1: Design Foundations

A flyer crams text edge to edge with no breathing room, and readers find it hard to scan. What foundation would help most?

- ☐ A Add white space
- ☐ B Use more fonts
- ☐ C Brighten colours
- ☐ D Enlarge the logo

Correct answer: A

White space gives elements room to breathe and guides the eye through a layout, so adding it makes a crammed flyer easier to scan. More fonts, brighter colours, or a bigger logo add noise rather than clarity.

Question 8

Domain 2: Typography

A brand uses five different display fonts across one brochure, and the pages look inconsistent and busy. What is the sound fix?

- ☐ A Add a sixth font
- ☐ B Limit the fonts
- ☐ C Bold everything
- ☐ D Shrink all text

Correct answer: B

A tight type system with one or two families keeps a brochure consistent and calm, so limiting the fonts fixes the busy look. Adding a font, bolding everything, or shrinking text does not restore order.

Question 9

Domain 5: Branding and Layout

A company redesigns each page of its report with its own colours and spacing, so the report feels like many brands at once. What best restores unity?

- ☐ A Style guide
- ☐ B More clip art
- ☐ C New logo daily
- ☐ D Random layouts

Correct answer: A

A style guide sets shared colours, type and spacing so every page reads as one brand, restoring unity across the report. More clip art, a changing logo, or random layouts would deepen the inconsistency.

Question 10

Domain 6: Production, Formats and Delivery

A poster looks sharp on screen but prints blurry because the images were only 72 dpi. What print setting should the designer use?

- ☐ A Lower to 50 dpi
- ☐ B Keep 72 dpi
- ☐ C Use 300 dpi
- ☐ D Drop to grayscale

Correct answer: C

Print needs a higher resolution, and 300 dpi gives crisp detail at final size, so it fixes the blurry poster. Screen resolution of 72 dpi is too coarse for print, and lowering dpi or dropping colour does not add detail.

