

A Separate Peace Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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	16

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.

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!

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. Which character is described as the first to enlist?**
 - A. Gene**
 - B. Brinker**
 - C. Leper**
 - D. Finny**

- 2. Devon is the destination for the Fall session referenced in the material. Which institution does this name refer to?**
 - A. Yale**
 - B. Devon**
 - C. Harvard**
 - D. Princeton**

- 3. What is going on in the world while the story is being told?**
 - A. The Great Depression**
 - B. World War II**
 - C. The Space Race**
 - D. The Cold War**

- 4. What do Gene and Brinker decide to do?**
 - A. Go to college**
 - B. Enlist in the army**
 - C. Travel abroad**
 - D. Start a business**

- 5. Which critical approach emphasizes close reading of the text itself, often ignoring authorial intent and historical context?**
 - A. New Criticism**
 - B. Trope**
 - C. New Historicism**
 - D. Gender**

- 6. Can Finny play sports after the accident?**
- A. No**
 - B. Yes**
 - C. Sometimes**
 - D. Only skiing**
- 7. What does Finny plan in the middle of winter?**
- A. A ski trip**
 - B. The Winter Carnival**
 - C. A talent show**
 - D. A football tournament**
- 8. Which approach examines how a work reflects the historical time period in which it is set?**
- A. New Criticism**
 - B. Aestheticism**
 - C. New Historicism**
 - D. Reader Response**
- 9. Which term refers to the actual words on a page?**
- A. Subtext**
 - B. Context**
 - C. Text**
 - D. Narrative**
- 10. What does Gene not do at Finny's funeral?**
- A. Cry**
 - B. Laugh**
 - C. Sing**
 - D. Sleep**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which character is described as the first to enlist?

- A. Gene
- B. Brinker
- C. Leper**
- D. Finny

The question is about how the war intrudes into Devon and which character acts on that intrusion first. Leper Lepellier is described as the first to enlist, a detail that highlights a key contrast in the boys' responses to World War II. Leper is quiet, inward, and often unsure of himself, yet he wants to prove his masculinity and be part of something bigger than the sheltered life at Devon. Signing up for enlistment is his way of taking decisive action, making the war feel real in a way the others haven't yet allowed themselves to acknowledge. This early move sets in motion the novel's shift from adolescence to a harsher, more uncertain reality, and signals that war will test each boy's character. The other boys don't fit as the first to enlist because they remain more cautious or skeptical about the war's immediacy, or they show resistance to the idea of leaving Devon's comforting routine. Gene and Finny, in particular, are tied to their everyday life and to each other, while Brinker becomes involved in school governance and social tests rather than stepping forward to enlist first. So Leper's action stands out as the initial impulse to take part in the war, making him the correct answer.

2. Devon is the destination for the Fall session referenced in the material. Which institution does this name refer to?

- A. Yale
- B. Devon**
- C. Harvard
- D. Princeton

Devon refers to the private boarding school that is the setting of the story. In this material, Devon is not a city or a person but the name of the school where the fall term takes place. The Fall session described would be the autumn term at that school, which is a central context in the narrative. The other options—Yale, Harvard, and Princeton—are real universities, not the fictional Devon School used in this material, so they don't fit as the location described.

3. What is going on in the world while the story is being told?

A. The Great Depression

B. World War II

C. The Space Race

D. The Cold War

This question tests your grasp of the historical backdrop of the story. The events unfold in 1942, during World War II, and that wartime context shapes how the characters act, think, and feel. Even though they're at a private school, news of enlistment, war-related anxiety, and a sense of national mobilization color conversations, choices, and growth throughout the narrative. That wartime setting explains mood, priorities, and the pressure the characters experience, setting apart it from other periods. The Great Depression belongs to the 1930s, so it wouldn't match the 1942 atmosphere. The Space Race happens in the 1950s-60s, long after the story's time. The Cold War spans the postwar era but centers on geopolitical tension rather than the immediate wartime world the characters inhabit. World War II is the moment that directly corresponds to the story's events and tone.

4. What do Gene and Brinker decide to do?

A. Go to college

B. Enlist in the army

C. Travel abroad

D. Start a business

War-time pressures push Gene and Brinker toward action, and they decide to enlist in the army. In this part of the story, the Devon boys face the pull of national service as a test of courage and maturity. Brinker, organized and pragmatic, sees enlistment as a concrete step to prove themselves, and Gene goes along, partly to belong and partly to confront his own doubts about manhood and duty. This choice shifts them from the safety of the Devon campus to the broader responsibilities of war, highlighting how the era forces young men to redefine themselves. They aren't pursuing college plans, travel, or starting a business at this moment—their path is shaped by enlistment in response to the war.

5. Which critical approach emphasizes close reading of the text itself, often ignoring authorial intent and historical context?

A. New Criticism

B. Trope

C. New Historicism

D. Gender

Focusing on how a text functions on its own terms, this approach treats a literary work as an autonomous artifact whose meaning emerges from its internal features—structure, imagery, symbolism, and formal patterns—rather than from the author’s life or the historical moment in which it was produced. It argues that the author’s intent is not a reliable guide to meaning, and external contexts should be set aside so the text’s own language and formal relationships reveal its significance. This mid-20th-century formalist method is associated with critics like Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren and centers on close, careful analysis of how elements like irony, tension, and unity work together within the text. Other options don’t fit because they emphasize outside factors: a trope is simply a figure of speech, New Historicism foregrounds historical context and how power structures influence meaning, and gender-focused approaches examine how gender shapes interpretation and representation.

6. Can Finny play sports after the accident?

A. No

B. Yes

C. Sometimes

D. Only skiing

The question tests how a serious accident reveals a character’s new physical limits and how that reshapes who they are. After Finny’s fall, his leg injury isn’t a temporary setback; it changes the trajectory of his life as an athlete. The doctors and the narrative make it clear that he cannot return to competitive sports, even though he longs to keep playing and refuses to let that reality fully sink in at first. This isn’t about one sport or about a momentary pause—it’s about a permanent limit that upends his dream of being a lifelong, celebrated athlete. The weight of that loss matters in the story because it exposes how tightly Finny’s identity is bound to his athletic prowess, and how pride and denial interact with hard physical truth. So, the best answer reflects that reality: he cannot play sports after the accident. The other possibilities don’t fit because they either contradict the medical reality the book presents, or they suggest inconsistency or a temporary condition that the text does not support, or they narrow the failure to one sport when the injury affects his ability to participate in sports in general.

7. What does Finny plan in the middle of winter?

- A. A ski trip
- B. The Winter Carnival**
- C. A talent show
- D. A football tournament

Finny's move in the middle of winter reveals his impulse to carve out a joyful world of his own making, even when surroundings are cold and opaque with worry. He proposes staging a Winter Carnival at Devon—a day filled with games, performances, and lighthearted competition that would lift spirits and give everyone a chance to forget the war for a while. This plan showcases his magnetic leadership and his philosophy that life should be lived with spontaneity, charm, and merriment, not consumed by grim reality. The other options don't fit what he channels at that moment; a ski trip, a talent show, or a football tournament aren't the grand, all-encompassing event he envisions as a way to redefine the school's mood and bind the students together. The Winter Carnival is the clearest expression of Finny's desire to create joy and camaraderie as a shield against fear and uncertainty.

8. Which approach examines how a work reflects the historical time period in which it is set?

- A. New Criticism
- B. Aestheticism
- C. New Historicism**
- D. Reader Response

New Historicism treats literature as inseparable from the historical moment it both reflects and engages with. It asks how a work embodies, critiques, or amplifies the social, political, and cultural forces of the time in which its setting is placed, examining how power dynamics, events, and everyday life of that era shape meanings, characters, and scenes. This approach reads the text in dialogue with its historical context, rather than isolating it from history or focusing solely on aesthetics or the reader's personal response. By contrast, the other approaches emphasize the text alone (intrinsic features), art for art's sake, or the reader's interpretation, rather than the way the work mirrors and participates in its historical world.

9. Which term refers to the actual words on a page?

- A. Subtext
- B. Context
- C. Text**
- D. Narrative

The actual words on a page are called the text. This is the literal written material you can read or quote directly, the surface-level content of what's printed. Subtext refers to meanings that aren't stated outright but are suggested beneath the words. Context means the surrounding circumstances—the setting, background, or situation—that influence how we interpret the text. Narrative is the story itself—the sequence of events and actions that unfold. So the words themselves are the text, distinct from the implied meaning (subtext), the surrounding circumstances (context), or the told story (narrative).

10. What does Gene not do at Finny's funeral?

- A. Cry**
- B. Laugh**
- C. Sing**
- D. Sleep**

Gene's reaction at Finny's funeral highlights his struggle with guilt and his habit of suppressing painful emotions. He does not cry because he has learned to keep his feelings tightly guarded, partly to appear strong in a world that expects stoicism and bravado during the war years. Admitting sorrow would also imply acknowledging his role in Finny's downfall, something Gene isn't ready to face openly. That tension between inner grief and outward restraint is a key part of his character arc, showing how guilt shapes his responses to loss. Laughing, singing, or sleeping wouldn't fit the solemn, mournful moment or his internal state, so crying is the one action he does not indulge in at the funeral.

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://aseparatepeace.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE