

ACT READING 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.

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

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- 1. If data seems to diverge from the main claim, what is the best step to verify alignment with the author's argument?**
 - A. Re-examine the relevant portion of the text and re-link it to the claim.
 - B. Ignore the data.
 - C. Choose the longest option.
 - D. Switch to a different question.

- 2. Which best represents a vocabulary-in-context question prompt and answering approach?**
 - A. Practice with context clues; check root words and usage; test different definitions to see which fits best in the sentence.
 - B. Memorize dictionary definitions for every word.
 - C. Skim the sentence and guess based on tone.
 - D. Rely on your memory of previous passages.

- 3. Which word best matches the concept of recognizing and perceiving things?**
 - A. Discern
 - B. Distinguish
 - C. Draw
 - D. Effect

- 4. Which word best matches the concept of removing something from consideration?**
 - A. Eliminate
 - B. Emphasize
 - C. Draw
 - D. Evidence

- 5. Which term means determining a result by reasoning?**
 - A. Conclude
 - B. Author's attitude
 - C. Analyze
 - D. Apply

- 6. Which term corresponds to the central thought or message of a text?**
- A. Main Idea
 - B. Omit
 - C. Paraphrase
 - D. Point of View
- 7. Which word best matches the concept of attracting toward oneself?**
- A. Draw
 - B. Discern
 - C. Distinguish
 - D. Emphasize
- 8. Which term means to examine and note the similarities or differences of?**
- A. Compare
 - B. Analyze
 - C. Conclude
 - D. Cause
- 9. Which term refers to the act of following in order?**
- A. Sequence
 - B. Respond
 - C. Omit
 - D. Represent
- 10. Which term means 'proves, gives proof'**
- A. State
 - B. Subtle
 - C. Supports
 - D. Verify

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If data seems to diverge from the main claim, what is the best step to verify alignment with the author's argument?

- A. Re-examine the relevant portion of the text and re-link it to the claim.**
- B. Ignore the data.
- C. Choose the longest option.
- D. Switch to a different question.

When data seems to diverge from what the author is claiming, the key move is to go back to the exact part of the text where that data is presented and re-link it to the claim. This is about making sure you're reading the evidence in its proper context and understanding how the author uses that data to support their argument, including any conditions or qualifiers. By re-examining the relevant passage, you check whether the data actually backs the claim as the author intends, or whether it's being cited under specific circumstances, or possibly misinterpreted. This helps you see if the apparent mismatch is due to a misunderstandings of scope, nuance, or nuance in the argument, rather than because the claim is false. Other instincts won't help you here. Simply ignoring the data misses important evidence and can lead to a misread of the argument. Picking the longest option is arbitrary and doesn't engage with the text. Jumping to a different question wastes time and disconnects you from the argument you're evaluating.

2. Which best represents a vocabulary-in-context question prompt and answering approach?

- A. Practice with context clues; check root words and usage; test different definitions to see which fits best in the sentence.**
- B. Memorize dictionary definitions for every word.
- C. Skim the sentence and guess based on tone.
- D. Rely on your memory of previous passages.

Inferring a word's meaning from surrounding text and confirming it by trying plausible definitions is what vocabulary-in-context questions are testing. The idea is to use clues in the sentence to narrow down what the word could mean, rather than relying on memory or broad definitions alone. Start by spotting context clues: compare nearby words that hint at meaning, note contrasts or examples, and look for restatements or synonyms that point to a sense of the word. Next, consider how the word functions in the sentence—what part of speech it is and how it relates to other words. Root words and common word parts can also narrow possibilities (for example, recognizing a Latin or Greek root can suggest a related meaning). Then test different possible definitions by mentally substituting them in the sentence to see which one makes the most sense and keeps the sentence grammatically and semantically smooth. That approach aligns with selecting definitions that fit the sentence context, rather than just memorizing a dictionary entry, guessing from tone, or relying on memory from other passages. Memorizing every dictionary definition isn't practical and can mislead when a word's sense shifts with context. Skimming for tone often misses the precise sense needed. Relying on memory from other texts ignores the specific usage in the current sentence. By grounding meaning in context clues, using word parts to narrow options, and testing candidates in place, you choose the sense that best fits the sentence as written.

3. Which word best matches the concept of recognizing and perceiving things?

- A. Discern**
- B. Distinguish
- C. Draw
- D. Effect

Recognizing and perceiving things is about noticing and understanding what's there, often with some judgment or insight. The best word for that concept is discern because it means to perceive or recognize something clearly, especially by distinguishing its true nature or meaning. It captures both noticing and making sense of what is observed. Distinguish also involves recognizing differences between things, but it's more about telling things apart rather than grasping them as a whole or understanding their nature. Draw and effect are unrelated here—draw is about pulling or sketching, and effect is a result.

4. Which word best matches the concept of removing something from consideration?

- A. Eliminate**
- B. Emphasize
- C. Draw
- D. Evidence

The main idea is choosing a word that means removing something from consideration. The best fit is eliminate, because it specifically means to discard or rule out options from a set of possibilities. Emphasize means to highlight or stress something, not to exclude it; draw can mean to pull or sketch, which doesn't convey exclusion; evidence refers to facts used to support a conclusion, not the act of ruling something out.

5. Which term means determining a result by reasoning?

- A. Conclude**
- B. Author's attitude
- C. Analyze
- D. Apply

To conclude is to determine a result by reasoning, arriving at a judgment after weighing the evidence, clues, or facts in a passage. It's the final step in making sense of information: you pull together what's stated and implied and decide what the text means or what will happen next. This differs from analyzing, which is about breaking something into parts to understand how it works; applying, which means using what you know in a new situation; and the author's attitude, which is about the writer's tone or stance toward the subject. For example, if a paragraph describes rain, crowded streets, and people retreating indoors, you might conclude that the setting creates a gloomy or cautious mood.

6. Which term corresponds to the central thought or message of a text?

- A. Main Idea
- B. Omit
- C. Paraphrase
- D. Point of View

The central focus being tested is how to identify the one overarching message a text communicates. The main idea is the single claim or core message that ties together the details, evidence, and examples, giving the passage its purpose. That's why the best choice is the Main Idea: it directly labels that overarching thought. The other options are less fitting because omit means to leave something out, paraphrase means to restate in your own words, and point of view refers to the narrator's perspective. When you're asked to name the central thought, look for the sentence or idea that sums up what the author is arguing or conveying as the whole message.

7. Which word best matches the concept of attracting toward oneself?

- A. Draw
- B. Discern
- C. Distinguish
- D. Emphasize

The key idea is choosing a word that means attracting toward oneself. Draw fits because it specifically conveys pulling something toward you or attracting interest or attention, both in physical and figurative senses—like a magnet drawing metal or a speaker who draws a crowd. The other options describe unrelated actions: discern means to perceive or understand something, distinguish means to tell apart differences, and emphasize means to stress or give importance to something. So the best choice is the word that captures the sense of pulling in or attracting toward the subject.

8. Which term means to examine and note the similarities or differences of?

- A. Compare
- B. Analyze
- C. Conclude
- D. Cause

This item tests understanding of what "compare" means. To compare is to look at two or more items and note their similarities and differences. That exact idea—examining how things are alike and how they differ—is why this term is the best fit for the prompt. Other terms describe different actions: analyze means breaking something down into parts to understand it more deeply, which is broader than just noting similarities and differences; conclude means to arrive at a final judgment; and cause refers to a reason why something happens. So the term that best matches the prompt is the one that focuses on identifying similarities and differences.

9. Which term refers to the act of following in order?

A. Sequence

B. Respond

C. Omit

D. Represent

The idea being tested is order and progression—the act of following in order. A sequence is an arrangement where items come in a specific order, with each thing coming after the one before. In everyday use, you see sequences in recipes (you add ingredients in a chosen order), in stories (events unfold in a sequence), or in math (a sequence is a list where each term follows a rule). Because the question asks for a term that means following in order, sequence is the best fit; it directly captures the idea of items arranged and proceeding one after another. The other terms refer to different actions: respond is to give an answer; omit is to leave something out; represent is to stand for or symbolize. So the term that matches the idea of following in order is sequence.

10. Which term means 'proves, gives proof'

A. State

B. Subtle

C. Supports

D. Verify

The idea being tested is choosing a word that means providing backing or evidence for a claim. The best choice is the one that signals giving grounding for what's said by presenting data, reasons, or examples that support it. In that sense, "supports" fits perfectly: it shows that the statement has evidence behind it and is being backed up in the text. To distinguish the others, to state something is simply to declare it; it doesn't imply backing it up with proof. To verify is about checking whether something is true or accurate, which is a separate act from supplying the proof within an argument. Subtle describes something not obvious or easily noticed, which isn't related to proving something. So, when a claim is reinforced by evidence or reasoning in a passage, that is described as it being supported.

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://actreading.examzify.com>

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

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