

English Literature CLEP Prep Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. Who wrote The Awakening?

- A. F. Scott Fitzgerald**
- B. Ernest Hemingway**
- C. Kate Chopin**
- D. Henry James**

2. Who wrote the novel Great Expectations?

- A. Mark Twain**
- B. Charlotte Bronte**
- C. Charles Dickens**
- D. Emily Bronte**

3. Who wrote the epic poem Beowulf?

- A. Geoffrey Chaucer**
- B. Homer**
- C. Shakespeare**
- D. Unknown**

4. Who wrote the novel Frankenstein?

- A. Mary Shelley**
- B. Oscar Wilde**
- C. William Wordsworth**
- D. Jane Austen**

5. What is the difference between tone and mood in literature?

- A. Mood is the feeling conveyed to the reader; tone is the author's overall attitude**
- B. Tone is the feeling conveyed to the reader; mood is the author's overall attitude**
- C. Mood is the overall setting; tone is the kind of language used**
- D. Tone is the overall setting; mood is the kind of language used**

6. What form does "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge take?

- A. Epic**
- B. Drama**
- C. Sonnet**
- D. Ballad**

7. What is the author of The Tempest?

- A. John Milton**
- B. Geoffrey Chaucer**
- C. William Shakespeare**
- D. Charlotte Bronte**

8. playwright wrote Macbeth?

- A. William Shakespeare**
- B. John Milton**
- C. Geoffrey Chaucer**
- D. Oscar Wilde**

9. What is the name of the evil group in Beowulf?

- A. Grendel**
- B. Sköll**
- C. Gegen**
- D. Fafnir**

10. What is the title of the novel written by Jane Austen?

- A. War and Peace**
- B. Jane Eyre**
- C. Emma**
- D. The Catcher in the Rye**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who wrote The Awakening?

- A. F. Scott Fitzgerald**
- B. Ernest Hemingway**
- C. Kate Chopin**
- D. Henry James**

Kate Chopin wrote The Awakening. We can eliminate options A, B, and D because those authors did not write The Awakening. Option A, F. Scott Fitzgerald, wrote The Great Gatsby. Option B, Ernest Hemingway, wrote For Whom the Bell Tolls. Option D, Henry James, wrote The Portrait of a Lady. Therefore, the only remaining option, C, must be the correct answer.

2. Who wrote the novel Great Expectations?

- A. Mark Twain**
- B. Charlotte Bronte**
- C. Charles Dickens**
- D. Emily Bronte**

Great Expectations is a well-known novel written by Charles Dickens. While Mark Twain, Charlotte Bronte, and Emily Bronte are also well-known authors, they did not write this particular novel. Mark Twain is most known for his novels The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, Charlotte Bronte is best known for Jane Eyre, and Emily Bronte is known for her novel Wuthering Heights. Therefore, the correct answer is C, Charles Dickens.

3. Who wrote the epic poem Beowulf?

- A. Geoffrey Chaucer**
- B. Homer**
- C. Shakespeare**
- D. Unknown**

Beowulf is an epic poem that was written in Old English and tells the story of a hero named Beowulf. While many authors and poets have been speculated to have written it, the true author is unknown. Option A, Geoffrey Chaucer, was a famous English poet, but he lived in the 14th century, centuries after Beowulf was written. Option B, Homer, was a Greek poet who wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey, but Beowulf is not a Greek epic. Option C, Shakespeare, was a renowned English playwright and poet, but he lived in the 16th and 17th centuries, also long after the composition of Beowulf. This leaves option D, Unknown, as the correct answer.

4. Who wrote the novel Frankenstein?

- A. Mary Shelley**
- B. Oscar Wilde**
- C. William Wordsworth**
- D. Jane Austen**

Mary Shelley is the correct answer because she wrote Frankenstein and it is her most famous work. Option B is incorrect because Oscar Wilde did not write Frankenstein, but rather is known for writing plays such as *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Option C is incorrect because William Wordsworth was a poet, not a novelist. Lastly, option D is incorrect because Jane Austen is known for writing novels such as *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility*, but not Frankenstein.

5. What is the difference between tone and mood in literature?

- A. Mood is the feeling conveyed to the reader; tone is the author's overall attitude**
- B. Tone is the feeling conveyed to the reader; mood is the author's overall attitude**
- C. Mood is the overall setting; tone is the kind of language used**
- D. Tone is the overall setting; mood is the kind of language used**

Tone refers to the author's attitude or feelings towards the subject matter of the text, while mood is the emotional atmosphere or ambiance created by the text for the reader. A is the only option that correctly describes this difference. While B and D are similar, they are incorrect because they mix up the definitions of tone and mood. Tone is the author's attitude, not the reader's feeling, and mood is the reader's feeling, not the author's overall attitude. Similarly, C is incorrect because mood is not the overall setting of a text, but rather the emotional atmosphere created by the setting. Additionally, tone is not the type of language used but rather the attitude or feelings conveyed through the language. By process of elimination, A is the best answer that accurately describes the difference between tone and mood in literature.

6. What form does "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge take?

- A. Epic**
- B. Drama**
- C. Sonnet**
- D. Ballad**

"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" is a famous poem written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. It is often referred to as a ballad, which is a type of poem that tells a story and typically follows a specific rhyme scheme. Therefore, option D, "Ballad," is the correct answer. Option A, "Epic," is incorrect because while the poem does tell a story, it is not long enough to be considered an epic as it is only a few pages in length. Option B, "Drama," is also incorrect because drama refers to a genre of literature that is typically meant to be performed on stage. The poem is not written in a format that could be performed as a play. Option C, "Sonnet," is also incorrect because a sonnet is a specific type of poem that follows a specific rhyme and syllable scheme. "The R

7. What is the author of The Tempest?

- A. John Milton**
- B. Geoffrey Chaucer**
- C. William Shakespeare**
- D. Charlotte Bronte**

William Shakespeare is the author of The Tempest. Option A, John Milton, wrote Paradise Lost. Option B, Geoffrey Chaucer, wrote Canterbury Tales. Option D, Charlotte Bronte, wrote Jane Eyre. Although all of these are notable literary works, they are not the author of The Tempest. Therefore, C is the correct answer.

8. playwright wrote Macbeth?

- A. William Shakespeare**
- B. John Milton**
- C. Geoffrey Chaucer**
- D. Oscar Wilde**

William Shakespeare is the correct answer because he is the only one out of the options who is widely known for writing plays, including the famous tragedy Macbeth. John Milton is primarily known for his epic poem Paradise Lost, Geoffrey Chaucer for The Canterbury Tales, and Oscar Wilde for his works of fiction and poetry. Therefore, they are not known for writing plays, let alone Macbeth.

9. What is the name of the evil group in Beowulf?

- A. Grendel**
- B. Sköll**
- C. Gegen**
- D. Fafnir**

In Beowulf, Grendel is the name of the evil group. Other options such as Sköll, Gegen, and Fafnir are not correct because they either refer to individual characters or are not mentioned in the text. Sköll is a wolf in Norse mythology, Gegen is a rare surname, and Fafnir is a dragon in Norse and Germanic mythology. Therefore, it is important to pay attention to the context and details when answering questions about literature.

10. What is the title of the novel written by Jane Austen?

- A. War and Peace**
- B. Jane Eyre**
- C. Emma**
- D. The Catcher in the Rye**

Jane Austen is a well-known author of several novels from the 19th century, including "Pride and Prejudice" and "Sense and Sensibility." The novel discussed in this question is specifically written by Jane Austen, which eliminates the first three options as they are written by different authors. Option D, "The Catcher in the Rye," is a novel written by J.D. Salinger and has no connection to Jane Austen. Therefore, the correct answer is C, "Emma."

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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://englishliteraturecleppractice.examzify.com>

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

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