

GACE Special Education Reading, English Language Arts, and Social Studies (087) Practice Test (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. Which instructional strategy best helps kindergarteners develop concepts about print?**
 - A. Exposing students to a variety of rhyming texts**
 - B. Finger tapping to count phonemes in words**
 - C. Facilitating guided practice of visualization techniques**
 - D. Modeling how to track during shared reading**

- 2. What major geographic feature in North America separates the rivers and streams that flow toward the Pacific Ocean from those that flow toward the Atlantic Ocean?**
 - A. Appalachian Mountains**
 - B. Continental Divide**
 - C. Great Plains**
 - D. San Andreas Fault**

- 3. During the twentieth century, urbanization and technological advances led to which changes in farming in the United States?**
 - A. More farms and more farmers**
 - B. More farms and fewer farmers**
 - C. Fewer farms and more farmers**
 - D. Fewer farms and fewer farmers**

- 4. Rosa Parks' actions on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, constituted a protest against segregation in which arena?**
 - A. The public transportation system**
 - B. The school system**
 - C. Restaurants and public accommodations**
 - D. Law enforcement units**

- 5. What is the primary function of the legislative branch, as described in the material?**
 - A. Interpreting laws.**
 - B. Writing and passing national laws.**
 - C. Enforcing laws.**
 - D. Interpreting constitutional rights.**

- 6. Which activity best introduces high-frequency words to beginning readers by immediate recognition?**
- A. Sounding out the word**
 - B. Making a picture dictionary**
 - C. Creating new words by adding or deleting sounds**
 - D. Presenting a word visually and asking students to say it**
- 7. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted voting rights to which age group?**
- A. 21 and older**
 - B. 18 and older**
 - C. 16 and older**
 - D. 25 and older**
- 8. A reader predicts that their comprehension will be poor because of limited background on a topic. This demonstrates metacognitive knowledge of?**
- A. Regulation**
 - B. Monitoring**
 - C. Self-correction**
 - D. Oneself as a learner**
- 9. Which of the following is a root cause of historical and continued conflicts in Africa?**
- A. The division of Africa into colonies without regard for ethnic divisions**
 - B. The rapid spread of epidemics such as AIDS**
 - C. The institution of strict racial segregation laws in many countries**
 - D. The migration of many rural Africans into growing urban centers**

10. An informal reading inventory shows fluency below grade level but accuracy at grade level. Which activity best targets fluency development?

- A. Reader's theater activities**
- B. Main idea and supporting detail activities**
- C. Blending and segmenting activities**
- D. Semantic mapping activities**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which instructional strategy best helps kindergarteners develop concepts about print?

- A. Exposing students to a variety of rhyming texts**
- B. Finger tapping to count phonemes in words**
- C. Facilitating guided practice of visualization techniques**
- D. Modeling how to track during shared reading**

Understanding how print works in books is essential for kindergarten readers. Concepts about print include recognizing that text has a specific direction to read, that words are read in order, and that tracking moves you smoothly from one word to the next as you read aloud or silently. Modeling how to track during shared reading shows students exactly how to interact with the text: the reader uses a finger or a pointer to move left to right across the page, from top to bottom as new lines appear, and from one word to the next. This visible tracking helps children see that print carries meaning and that the written word's order matters. It also connects spoken language with written language, reinforcing that words on the page correspond to spoken words and that you read a book in a specific sequence. The other approaches emphasize sounds or comprehension strategies more than how the print itself is organized. Exposing students to rhymes focuses on phonological patterns rather than the physical layout of text. Tapping to count phonemes targets sound structure, not how print flows across a page. Visualizing techniques support meaning-making during reading, not the mechanics of tracking print. So, modeling how to track during shared reading most effectively develops concepts about print in young learners.

2. What major geographic feature in North America separates the rivers and streams that flow toward the Pacific Ocean from those that flow toward the Atlantic Ocean?

- A. Appalachian Mountains**
- B. Continental Divide**
- C. Great Plains**
- D. San Andreas Fault**

Rivers and streams are guided by high points in the land called a drainage divide. In North America, the major line that separates waters flowing toward the Pacific from those headed to the Atlantic is the Continental Divide. This elevated crest runs roughly along the Rocky Mountains, with extensions that shape how much water heads west to the Pacific (like the Columbia and Colorado rivers) and how much heads east toward the Mississippi-Missouri system and ultimately the Atlantic (via the Gulf of Mexico). The other options don't define that continental boundary: the Appalachian Mountains influence eastern drainage but don't separate Pacific and Atlantic basins across the continent; the Great Plains are flat and don't form a single dividing line; the San Andreas Fault is a tectonic boundary with no direct role in determining river drainage to oceans.

3. During the twentieth century, urbanization and technological advances led to which changes in farming in the United States?

- A. More farms and more farmers**
- B. More farms and fewer farmers**
- C. Fewer farms and more farmers**
- D. Fewer farms and fewer farmers**

The main idea here is how urban growth and new farming technology changed the structure of farming in the United States during the 20th century. As cities expanded and mechanization advanced, fewer people worked on farms because machines did most of the labor that many hands used to do. Farms also tended to merge into larger operations, so there were fewer individual farms overall. In short, both the number of farms and the number of people farming decreased, even though overall agricultural output could stay strong or grow thanks to efficiency and scale. That's why the description of fewer farms and fewer farmers best captures what happened.

4. Rosa Parks' actions on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, constituted a protest against segregation in which arena?

- A. The public transportation system**
- B. The school system**
- C. Restaurants and public accommodations**
- D. Law enforcement units**

Rosa Parks's action challenged segregation in the arena of public transportation. She refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white person, standing up against the rules that separated riders by race on the bus system. This sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a major early Civil Rights movement effort focused on ending bus seating segregation and leading to a ruling that such segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional. While Civil Rights actions addressed many spaces—schools, restaurants, and other public accommodations—the immediate target of Parks's protest was the bus system itself.

5. What is the primary function of the legislative branch, as described in the material?

- A. Interpreting laws.
- B. Writing and passing national laws.**
- C. Enforcing laws.
- D. Interpreting constitutional rights.

The main idea being tested is that the legislative branch is responsible for creating the rules that govern a country. This is done by writing, debating, amending, and voting on bills to turn them into laws. Once a bill passes both houses and receives the necessary sign-off, it becomes law and the government can implement and enforce it. The legislative branch also works on budgets and oversight, but its core duty is to generate the laws that guide national policy and daily life. Interpreting laws is a function of the judiciary, which decides how laws should be understood and applied. Enforcing laws is the role of the executive branch, which carries out and administers laws. Interpreting constitutional rights is also typically a judicial task, determining how rights are protected under the Constitution.

6. Which activity best introduces high-frequency words to beginning readers by immediate recognition?

- A. Sounding out the word
- B. Making a picture dictionary
- C. Creating new words by adding or deleting sounds
- D. Presenting a word visually and asking students to say it**

Immediate recognition of high-frequency words, or sight word recognition, means knowing common words by sight so they can be read instantly without sounding them out. Presenting a word visually and asking students to say it directly targets that skill: the student sees the exact printed form and retrieves its spoken form right away, building fluency and reducing decoding load during reading. The other strategies focus more on decoding or expanding vocabulary rather than promoting quick, automatic identification of the word as it appears in text. Sounding out a word emphasizes phonics and blending; making a picture dictionary supports meanings and vocabulary recall; and creating new words by altering sounds targets phonemic awareness. None of these trains the rapid, on-sight recognition of high-frequency words the way seeing the word and saying it does.

7. The Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted voting rights to which age group?

- A. 21 and older
- B. 18 and older**
- C. 16 and older
- D. 25 and older

The main idea here is how the 26th Amendment changed who can vote. It lowered the voting age to 18 nationwide, so any citizen who is 18 years old or older can vote in both federal and state elections. Ratified in 1971, it reflected the view that if young people could be drafted for military service, they deserved a say in elections too. So, the age group covered is 18 and older. The other options would either keep the older threshold or propose a different age, which isn't what this amendment established.

8. A reader predicts that their comprehension will be poor because of limited background on a topic. This demonstrates metacognitive knowledge of?

- A. Regulation**
- B. Monitoring**
- C. Self-correction**
- D. Oneself as a learner**

This item taps metacognitive knowledge about oneself as a learner. By predicting that comprehension will be poor due to limited background, the reader shows awareness of how their own background and experiences influence understanding. That self-knowledge—recognizing how personal attributes affect learning—is the essence of knowing oneself as a learner. It isn't about planning or regulating strategies during the task, nor about monitoring while reading or self-correcting after errors.

9. Which of the following is a root cause of historical and continued conflicts in Africa?

- A. The division of Africa into colonies without regard for ethnic divisions**
- B. The rapid spread of epidemics such as AIDS**
- C. The institution of strict racial segregation laws in many countries**
- D. The migration of many rural Africans into growing urban centers**

Colonial borders created without regard to the region's diverse ethnic, linguistic, and cultural groups established states that bundled many different communities together and split others apart. This arbitrary drawing of lines forced rival groups to share government, resources, and territory, often with limited mechanisms for fair representation or peaceful power sharing. After independence, weak institutions built on these artificial divisions struggled to manage competing loyalties, leading to persistent tension, civil wars, and ongoing disputes over land and authority. The enduring pattern of conflict across many parts of Africa is closely tied to these colonial-era boundaries and governance structures, more so than the other factors listed. Epidemics, segregation policies, or rural-to-urban migration can influence instability, but they don't explain the foundational, long-term cause as effectively.

10. An informal reading inventory shows fluency below grade level but accuracy at grade level. Which activity best targets fluency development?

- A. Reader's theater activities**
- B. Main idea and supporting detail activities**
- C. Blending and segmenting activities**
- D. Semantic mapping activities**

Focusing on how a reader sounds when reading aloud is key here. Since accuracy is already at grade level, the goal is to boost speed and expression so reading feels smooth and natural. Reader's theater gives students scripts to read aloud multiple times—often first as a chorus and then solo—so they can rehearse phrasing, intonation, and timing with repetition. The performance aspect motivates practice and provides a low-stakes audience, which helps students read more fluently and with better prosody as they become more automatic. The other activities target different skills. Main idea and supporting detail work on comprehension and identifying key points, not how fluently a student reads aloud. Blending and segmenting build phonemic awareness and decoding skills, which support accuracy and decoding speed but aren't primarily about fluency in expressive oral reading. Semantic mapping strengthens vocabulary and meaning connections, again focusing on understanding rather than the smooth, expressive rhythm of reading aloud.

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://gace087.examzify.com>

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

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