

# HiSET Writing 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 conjunction is not a subordinating conjunction?**
  - A. Because**
  - B. Although**
  - C. While**
  - D. And**
  
- 2. What is a conjunctive adverb used for?**
  - A. It is used to modify a noun.**
  - B. It is used to express tense of verbs.**
  - C. It is used to describe adjectives.**
  - D. It is used to express relationships between independent clauses.**
  
- 3. Which of the following is a common helping verb?**
  - A. go**
  - B. run**
  - C. am**
  - D. sleep**
  
- 4. Which pronoun refers to a person, place, thing, or idea that may not be named?**
  - A. Noun**
  - B. Indefinite Pronoun**
  - C. Pronoun**
  - D. Interrogative Pronoun**
  
- 5. Which sentence is the most concise given the goal to avoid wordiness?**
  - A. The reason the plan failed was due to insufficient funding.**
  - B. The project failed due to insufficient funding.**
  - C. The project failing was due to insufficient funding.**
  - D. The project failed because funding was insufficient.**

- 6. Which sentence contains a dangling modifier?**
- A. Walking to the store, the rain poured.**
  - B. As I walked to the store, the rain poured on me.**
  - C. The rain poured as I walked to the store.**
  - D. While I walked to the store, the rain poured on me.**
- 7. Which term refers to ownership or possession in pronouns?**
- A. Personal Pronoun**
  - B. Interrogative Pronoun**
  - C. Reflexive Pronoun**
  - D. Possessive Pronoun**
- 8. Which pronoun reflects back to someone or something?**
- A. Possessive Pronoun**
  - B. Demonstrative Pronoun**
  - C. Personal Pronoun**
  - D. Reflexive Pronoun**
- 9. Select the sentence that shows correct subject-verb agreement with a collective noun.**
- A. The team of players are ready.**
  - B. The team of players is ready.**
  - C. The team of players were ready.**
  - D. The team of players be ready.**
- 10. What is the function of a linking verb?**
- A. Connects the subject with a word in the predicate**
  - B. Always takes a direct object**
  - C. Describes an action performed by the subject**
  - D. Modifies a noun**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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### 1. Which conjunction is not a subordinating conjunction?

- A. Because
- B. Although
- C. While
- D. And**

This question tests your ability to distinguish subordinating conjunctions from coordinating conjunctions. Subordinating conjunctions, like because, although, and while, introduce a dependent clause that cannot stand on its own and show relationships such as reason, contrast, or time. For example, because she was late, she missed the bus. And behaves differently. It's a coordinating conjunction, which links two independent clauses or equal parts of a sentence. It does not start a dependent clause. For instance, she finished her homework, and she went to bed. Here both parts could stand alone as complete thoughts, and And simply connects them. So, And is not a subordinating conjunction. It serves to coordinate rather than subordinate.

### 2. What is a conjunctive adverb used for?

- A. It is used to modify a noun.
- B. It is used to express tense of verbs.
- C. It is used to describe adjectives.
- D. It is used to express relationships between independent clauses.**

Conjunctive adverbs are used to express relationships between independent clauses. They act as bridges that show how two complete sentences relate—indicating contrast, cause and effect, sequence, addition, and more. Words like however, therefore, consequently, and meanwhile signal that connection, and you typically place a semicolon before the adverb and a comma after it when linking two independent clauses (for example: "She planned to go for a run; however, it started raining."). This role is different from anything that modifies a noun, expresses verb tense, or describes adjectives, which is why the other ideas don't fit.

### 3. Which of the following is a common helping verb?

- A. go
- B. run
- C. am**
- D. sleep

Helping verbs work with the main verb to express tense, aspect, or mood. am is a form of to be used as an auxiliary, often pairing with a present participle to show ongoing action (I am studying) or to form the passive voice in some cases (The ball was thrown). The other options are action words that stand as the main verb describing what someone does (go, run, sleep) rather than helping another verb.

4. Which pronoun refers to a person, place, thing, or idea that may not be named?

A. Noun

**B. Indefinite Pronoun**

C. Pronoun

D. Interrogative Pronoun

Indefinite pronouns are used when you refer to a person, place, thing, or idea without naming it specifically. They stand in for something nonspecific, like someone, anything, or everyone, which is why they fit the idea of “may not be named.” A noun, by contrast, is a word that names something directly and can be a particular entity that you might identify or name. A pronoun is a broader category that includes both named and unnamed references, but this question points to the specific type that signals indefiniteness. Interrogative pronouns (who, what, which) are used to ask questions about an unknown entity, not to refer to something unnamed in a statement. For these reasons, the best choice captures the idea of referring to an unnamed person, place, thing, or idea.

5. Which sentence is the most concise given the goal to avoid wordiness?

A. The reason the plan failed was due to insufficient funding.

B. The project failed due to insufficient funding.

C. The project failing was due to insufficient funding.

**D. The project failed because funding was insufficient.**

Focusing on conciseness means expressing the cause and effect with as few words as needed while staying clear. The best choice keeps the main idea in a single, direct sentence: it states the project failed and immediately explains why with a simple because clause. Saying “The project failed because funding was insufficient” avoids extra filler and sticks to a straightforward cause-and-effect structure, making it crisp and easy to read. The other options add unnecessary padding or awkward phrasing. Starting with “The reason” and then saying “was due to” doubles the link to the cause and adds extra words. A phrasing like “The project failing was due to” switches to a less natural, participle form, which weakens the sentence. And while “due to” is correct, it tends to be less direct than a simple “because,” so this version remains the most concise and direct while preserving the meaning.

6. Which sentence contains a dangling modifier?

**A. Walking to the store, the rain poured.**

B. As I walked to the store, the rain poured on me.

C. The rain poured as I walked to the store.

D. While I walked to the store, the rain poured on me.

Dangling modifiers happen when the introductory phrase doesn't clearly attach to the noun doing the action in the main clause. In the sentence that begins with “Walking to the store,” the phrase describes someone who is walking, but the main clause says the rain poured. That makes it sound like the rain was walking, which is illogical. The other sentences pair the walking action with the person doing it (I) or place the actions clearly in time and subject, so they read correctly. Hence, the first sentence contains a dangling modifier.

**7. Which term refers to ownership or possession in pronouns?**

- A. Personal Pronoun
- B. Interrogative Pronoun
- C. Reflexive Pronoun
- D. Possessive Pronoun**

Ownership or possession is shown by possessive pronouns. They replace a noun and indicate who owns something, as in mine, yours, his, hers, ours, and theirs. Personal pronouns name or replace people without necessarily showing ownership; interrogative pronouns ask questions; reflexive pronouns refer back to the subject or add emphasis. So the term that signals ownership in pronouns is possessive pronoun.

**8. Which pronoun reflects back to someone or something?**

- A. Possessive Pronoun
- B. Demonstrative Pronoun
- C. Personal Pronoun
- D. Reflexive Pronoun**

The concept being tested is reflexive pronouns, which refer back to the subject or to another noun in the same clause and end in -self or -selves. They can function as the object of a verb or a preposition, or be used for emphasis, always tying back to the person or thing doing the action. For example, in She prepared herself for the interview, the word herself points back to She. That “reflecting back” idea is what sets reflexive pronouns apart from other pronoun kinds. Possessive pronouns show ownership (my, your, his, her, its, our, their). Demonstrative pronouns point to something specific (this, that, these, those). Personal pronouns are the basic subject or object forms (I, you, he, she, it, we, they, me, him, her, us, them) without necessarily referring back to another noun in the clause. So, the pronoun that reflects back to someone or something is the reflexive pronoun.

**9. Select the sentence that shows correct subject-verb agreement with a collective noun.**

- A. The team of players are ready.
- B. The team of players is ready.**
- C. The team of players were ready.
- D. The team of players be ready.

Subject-verb agreement is about matching the verb to the number of the subject. The head noun here is team, which is singular, and the phrase of players just adds detail about who makes up the team without changing its number. Because the team is being considered as a single unit, the verb should be singular: is ready. Using are would treat the team as individuals, which changes the meaning. The other forms—were or be—don’t fit the present-tense, singular subject construction. So the sentence that uses the singular verb is the correct one.

## 10. What is the function of a linking verb?

**A. Connects the subject with a word in the predicate**

**B. Always takes a direct object**

**C. Describes an action performed by the subject**

**D. Modifies a noun**

A linking verb connects the subject to information in the predicate, usually a noun or an adjective that describes or renames the subject. It doesn't show action and it doesn't take a direct object. Instead, it links the subject to a predicate nominative (a noun that Renames the subject) or a predicate adjective (an adjective that describes the subject). For example, in "The sky is blue," the verb is the link between the subject "sky" and the description "blue." In "She became a teacher," "became" links the subject to its renaming phrase. That's why this option is the best fit: it states the function as connecting the subject to a word in the predicate. The other ideas describe different grammatical roles—taking a direct object, describing an action, or modifying a noun—which are not what linking verbs do.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://hisetwriting.examzify.com>**

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

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