

# ILTS Principal as Instructional Leader (195 & 196) 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. In fostering collaboration among teachers, what should a principal promote in staff meetings?**
  - A. Discussion of individual teaching styles and pedagogical techniques.**
  - B. Data-driven dialogue around student performance and outcomes.**
  - C. Sharing of personal anecdotes unrelated to classroom practices.**
  - D. Isolation of instructional methods without peer feedback.**
- 2. What role does assessment literacy have in effective instructional leadership?**
  - A. It helps leaders to enforce standardized testing**
  - B. It enables informed decisions about student evaluation and instructional effectiveness**
  - C. It restricts teachers' autonomy over assessment methods**
  - D. It is not relevant to instructional leadership**
- 3. What is an outcome of effective literacy practices?**
  - A. Students struggle with comprehension**
  - B. Increased student engagement with reading**
  - C. Decrease in literacy rates**
  - D. Limited access to books**
- 4. What strategy can leaders employ to effectively engage parents in their child's education?**
  - A. Sending occasional newsletters**
  - B. Involving them in decision-making and providing resources**
  - C. Encouraging them to volunteer without guidance**
  - D. Limiting communication to school events only**
- 5. How should a campus testing coordinator address lax adherence to standardized testing procedures among teachers?**
  - A. Conduct training on common testing procedures and violations**
  - B. Send an email to staff warning of potential consequences**
  - C. Modify the campus testing plan to exclude certain teachers**
  - D. Maintain documentation of violations for potential audits**

**6. How does a principal foster a culture of continuous improvement?**

- A. By discouraging experimentation**
- B. By following outdated practices**
- C. By encouraging reflection and regular feedback**
- D. By mandating strict compliance**

**7. Which action is specifically allowed by Illinois School Student Records Act regarding student records?**

- A. Releasing designated information such as name, address, birth date and grade level.**
- B. Sharing academic performance to prospective employers of students.**
- C. Withholding information relevant to the health or safety of another individual from a government agency.**
- D. Adding information to a student's records that is not directly relevant to their education.**

**8. Why is it important for principals to analyze student assessment data?**

- A. To blame teachers for poor performance**
- B. To understand student learning patterns**
- C. To justify budget decisions**
- D. To prepare for state audits**

**9. What condition is critical for developing teacher leaders within a school environment?**

- A. A schoolwide commitment to engaging with challenging problems.**
- B. Multiple opportunities to participate in district-sponsored trainings and professional development.**
- C. Strong teacher evaluation protocols implemented by qualified evaluators.**
- D. Multiple opportunities for teachers to develop and practice communication skills in their classrooms.**

**10. What are some common challenges faced by instructional leaders?**

- A. Time constraints and resistance to change**
- B. Abundant resources and full staff cooperation**
- C. Overly supportive parents and dedicated staff**
- D. A lack of educational goals and vision**

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## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. In fostering collaboration among teachers, what should a principal promote in staff meetings?

- A. Discussion of individual teaching styles and pedagogical techniques.
- B. Data-driven dialogue around student performance and outcomes.**
- C. Sharing of personal anecdotes unrelated to classroom practices.
- D. Isolation of instructional methods without peer feedback.

Promoting data-driven dialogue around student performance and outcomes in staff meetings is essential for fostering collaboration among teachers. This approach allows educators to focus on objective measures of student learning, which facilitates informed discussions about instructional strategies and their effectiveness. By analyzing data collaboratively, teachers can identify patterns, share best practices, and formulate strategies to enhance student achievement. This collective focus on student performance helps to create a culture of accountability and improvement, encouraging teachers to work together in understanding and addressing the needs of their students. The emphasis on data also helps ensure that discussions are relevant and aligned with the school's educational goals, fostering an environment where continuous improvement is prioritized. In contrast, discussions about individual teaching styles or personal anecdotes may not lead to actionable insights and can detract from the primary goal of improving student outcomes. Similarly, isolating instructional methods without peer feedback can hinder growth and limit the benefits of collaboration, which thrives on shared insights and mutual support. Therefore, focusing on data-driven dialogue is the most effective strategy for enhancing collaboration among teachers.

## 2. What role does assessment literacy have in effective instructional leadership?

- A. It helps leaders to enforce standardized testing
- B. It enables informed decisions about student evaluation and instructional effectiveness**
- C. It restricts teachers' autonomy over assessment methods
- D. It is not relevant to instructional leadership

Assessment literacy plays a crucial role in effective instructional leadership as it equips leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand, analyze, and utilize assessment data effectively. By being assessment literate, instructional leaders can make informed decisions regarding student evaluation processes and the effectiveness of instructional strategies. This understanding allows leaders to interpret student performance data accurately, identify areas for improvement, and implement targeted interventions to enhance student learning outcomes. Moreover, understanding assessment literacy encourages leaders to foster a culture of continuous improvement among educators. It empowers them to support teachers in developing assessments that are aligned with curriculum goals and reflect the diverse needs of students. This alignment contributes to a more effective instructional approach and informed resource allocation, ultimately benefiting student achievement and educational outcomes. Through their ability to interpret data and engage in meaningful discussions about assessment practices, instructional leaders can create an environment where assessment drives instruction rather than merely serving as a compliance measure.

### 3. What is an outcome of effective literacy practices?

- A. Students struggle with comprehension
- B. Increased student engagement with reading**
- C. Decrease in literacy rates
- D. Limited access to books

Increased student engagement with reading represents a significant outcome of effective literacy practices. When literacy instruction is delivered effectively, it often includes strategies that are engaging and relevant to students' lives, which in turn fosters a positive attitude towards reading. This engagement can lead to students taking more initiative in their reading, exploring diverse genres, and developing a lifelong love for literature. Effective literacy practices typically incorporate a variety of teaching methods that cater to different learning styles, provide opportunities for collaborative learning, and often integrate technology. These practices not only enhance students' skills in reading but also motivate them to participate actively in their learning process, exploring texts and ideas more deeply. As students engage more with reading, they become more self-directed learners, further contributing to their academic success and improving comprehension skills as a byproduct of their increased interest. The other options do not align with the outcomes of effective literacy practices, as they suggest negative effects on literacy and engagement, which are contrary to the goals of proficient instruction in this area.

### 4. What strategy can leaders employ to effectively engage parents in their child's education?

- A. Sending occasional newsletters
- B. Involving them in decision-making and providing resources**
- C. Encouraging them to volunteer without guidance
- D. Limiting communication to school events only

Involving parents in decision-making and providing resources is a highly effective strategy for engaging them in their child's education. This approach fosters a partnership between the school and the family, which is essential for enhancing student success. By including parents in the decision-making process, schools demonstrate that they value their input and insights, which can lead to a stronger commitment to their children's education. Additionally, providing resources helps parents understand how they can support learning at home, contributing to a more comprehensive educational experience. This could include workshops on curriculum topics, access to educational materials, or guidance on supporting homework and study habits. When parents feel informed and included, they are more likely to participate actively in their child's academic journey, leading to better outcomes for students. Other strategies, such as sending occasional newsletters, may not create a strong enough connection or ongoing engagement. While newsletters can keep parents informed, they don't provide the interactive elements that foster a committed relationship. Similarly, encouraging parents to volunteer without guidance may leave them uncertain about how to effectively contribute, which could reduce their willingness to engage. Limiting communication to school events only restricts opportunities for building relationships and creating an ongoing dialogue between parents and educators, which is crucial for student achievement.

**5. How should a campus testing coordinator address lax adherence to standardized testing procedures among teachers?**

- A. Conduct training on common testing procedures and violations**
- B. Send an email to staff warning of potential consequences**
- C. Modify the campus testing plan to exclude certain teachers**
- D. Maintain documentation of violations for potential audits**

Focusing on the importance of proper training and reinforcement of protocols, the choice to conduct training on common testing procedures and violations is a proactive approach that addresses the root of the problem. By providing comprehensive training, the campus testing coordinator ensures that all teachers have a clear understanding of the standardized testing procedures and the reasons behind them. This not only helps to minimize violations but also fosters a culture of accountability and professionalism among staff. Conducting training sessions can facilitate open communication, allowing teachers to ask questions and clarify any uncertainties they may have regarding the testing process. It can also reinforce the importance of adherence to these procedures for maintaining the integrity of the testing process and ensuring fair assessment for all students. This method is constructive and supports ongoing professional development, enabling educators to better adhere to testing standards moving forward. Other options, such as sending a warning email, modifying the testing plan, or maintaining documentation of violations, do not effectively address the underlying issues of understanding and compliance. Instead of fostering a collaborative environment for improvement, these alternatives may lead to resentment or confusion without truly equipping teachers with the knowledge they need to succeed. Therefore, prioritizing training creates an opportunity for growth and better adherence to standardized testing procedures.

**6. How does a principal foster a culture of continuous improvement?**

- A. By discouraging experimentation**
- B. By following outdated practices**
- C. By encouraging reflection and regular feedback**
- D. By mandating strict compliance**

Fostering a culture of continuous improvement within a school environment is significantly supported by encouraging reflection and regular feedback. This approach creates an atmosphere where teachers and staff feel safe to evaluate their practices, share ideas, and learn from one another. Reflection allows educators to assess what strategies work effectively and which areas may need adjustments, fostering a growth mindset. Regular feedback, both formative and summative, helps to identify strengths and areas for improvement, creating a dynamic cycle of assessment and growth. In contrast, discouraging experimentation or following outdated practices stifles innovation and limits opportunities for growth. Mandating strict compliance can create an environment of fear or resistance rather than collaboration and improvement. By promoting a culture that values ongoing learning and adaptation, principals can lead their schools towards enhanced educational outcomes and a supportive professional environment.

**7. Which action is specifically allowed by Illinois School Student Records Act regarding student records?**

- A. Releasing designated information such as name, address, birth date and grade level.**
- B. Sharing academic performance to prospective employers of students.**
- C. Withholding information relevant to the health or safety of another individual from a government agency.**
- D. Adding information to a student's records that is not directly relevant to their education.**

The action that aligns with the Illinois School Student Records Act is the release of designated information such as a student's name, address, birth date, and grade level. This act permits schools to disclose certain types of information without the need for parental consent, often referred to as "directory information." This information is typically not harmful if released, allowing schools to engage in activities such as yearbook production or school-sponsored events while still upholding student privacy for more sensitive information. In contrast, other options deal with actions that do not align with the guidelines set forth by the act. Sharing academic performance with prospective employers could infringe on student privacy without explicit consent. Withholding health or safety-related information from a government agency does not meet the transparency aims of the regulations that seek to protect students and the community. Adding irrelevant information to student records goes against the principle of maintaining accurate and pertinent educational documentation.

**8. Why is it important for principals to analyze student assessment data?**

- A. To blame teachers for poor performance**
- B. To understand student learning patterns**
- C. To justify budget decisions**
- D. To prepare for state audits**

Analyzing student assessment data is crucial for principals because it enables them to understand student learning patterns. By delving into data regarding student performance, principals can identify trends, strengths, and areas that need improvement. This insight allows them to tailor instructional strategies, allocate resources effectively, and address the specific needs of individual students or subgroups. Understanding these patterns helps in making informed decisions about curriculum changes, teacher training, and interventions that can lead to improved educational outcomes. It fosters a data-driven culture in the school where teaching and learning are continuously evaluated and enhanced based on concrete evidence, rather than assumptions. The effectiveness of educational strategies and programs can then be measured against student performance, creating a feedback loop that benefits the entire school community. This analysis ultimately supports the goal of fostering a more effective learning environment for all students.

## **9. What condition is critical for developing teacher leaders within a school environment?**

- A. A schoolwide commitment to engaging with challenging problems.**
- B. Multiple opportunities to participate in district-sponsored trainings and professional development.**
- C. Strong teacher evaluation protocols implemented by qualified evaluators.**
- D. Multiple opportunities for teachers to develop and practice communication skills in their classrooms.**

The critical condition for developing teacher leaders within a school environment is a schoolwide commitment to engaging with challenging problems. This commitment fosters a collaborative culture where teachers are encouraged to tackle real issues that impact their practice and student learning. When teachers collectively confront these challenges, they can work together to find innovative solutions, share strategies, and experiment with new ideas in their classrooms. This not only enhances their professional growth but also builds a sense of ownership and leadership among teachers. In an environment where there is a focus on engaging with challenging problems, teachers are more likely to take risks, reflect deeply on their practice, and lead initiatives that can enhance student outcomes. This experience is essential for nurturing confidence and empowering educators to take on leadership roles within their school community. The collaboration and shared responsibility for addressing difficult issues help cultivate a cadre of informed and capable teacher leaders who are invested in the success of their students and each other.

## **10. What are some common challenges faced by instructional leaders?**

- A. Time constraints and resistance to change**
- B. Abundant resources and full staff cooperation**
- C. Overly supportive parents and dedicated staff**
- D. A lack of educational goals and vision**

Time constraints and resistance to change are indeed prominent challenges that instructional leaders often encounter. Instructional leaders are responsible for overseeing curriculum quality, teacher effectiveness, and overall school improvement, tasks that require significant time and commitment. However, the demands of administrative duties, meetings, and various initiatives can limit the amount of time available for focused instructional leadership activities, such as classroom observations and meaningful teacher feedback. Additionally, resistance to change is a natural human response when new methodologies or policies are introduced in an educational setting. Teachers and staff may hesitate to adopt new programs or instructional strategies due to fear of the unknown or skepticism regarding their effectiveness. Thus, effectively managing this resistance and finding ways to foster a culture of collaboration and openness to change are critical components of successful instructional leadership. In contrast, options involving abundant resources, full staff cooperation, overly supportive parents, and dedicated staff do not genuinely represent the typical challenges faced in instructional leadership. While having supportive stakeholders is beneficial, it does not reflect the often-complex reality that leaders encounter. Similarly, educational goals and visions are essential for guiding instructional practices, and a lack of these would indicate a deeper systemic issue rather than a common challenge for leaders actively engaged in improvement processes.

# 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://iltsprincipal195and196.examzify.com>**

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

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