

# National Police Select Test (NPST) Reading Comprehension 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. What is the primary goal of eliminating a problem in police work?**
  - A. To improve officer morale**
  - B. To increase community engagement**
  - C. To prevent future incidents**
  - D. To enhance public visibility**
  
- 2. What is "parallel structure," and why is it important in writing?**
  - A. It's the use of varied sentence lengths**
  - B. It's the use of similar grammatical constructions**
  - C. It focuses on emotional appeal**
  - D. It introduces multiple viewpoints**
  
- 3. What is the primary focus of the National Police Select Test (NPST) regarding reading comprehension?**
  - A. To assess physical fitness for police duties**
  - B. To evaluate decision-making skills under stress**
  - C. To assess a candidate's ability to understand and analyze written information relevant to policing**
  - D. To measure knowledge of criminal law**
  
- 4. What is the primary responsibility of the Property Clerk in relation to traffic citations?**
  - A. Management of police department equipment**
  - B. Supply and accounting of all traffic citations**
  - C. Reporting traffic violations to the court**
  - D. Issuing traffic citations to citizens**
  
- 5. What is likely a barrier to effective reading comprehension according to common misconceptions?**
  - A. Believing comprehension is solely about memorization**
  - B. Assuming all texts require the same approach**
  - C. Thinking one can read without prior knowledge**
  - D. Focusing too much on grammar and syntax**

- 6. What is the "implicit meaning" of a passage?**
- A. It is the clear statement made by the author**
  - B. It is the intended audience's reaction**
  - C. It is the underlying message that can be inferred**
  - D. It is the structure of the argument**
- 7. What might differentiate persuasive texts from informational texts?**
- A. Length of the document**
  - B. Persuasive texts typically include emotional appeals, rhetoric, and calls to action**
  - C. Informational texts are always longer**
  - D. Persuasive texts do not include any facts**
- 8. In cases of serious injury or fatality, who may the Traffic Bureau Commander notify for assistance?**
- A. The local fire department**
  - B. State Highway Patrol**
  - C. The police chief**
  - D. The mayor's office**
- 9. Which of the following is a common cause of poor reading comprehension?**
- A. Lack of visual aids**
  - B. Too much background knowledge**
  - C. Unfamiliar vocabulary**
  - D. High levels of interest in the topic**
- 10. Which of the following statements is true about dismissals of traffic citations?**
- A. Officers can dismiss citations after the fact**
  - B. Citizens can appeal without a specific procedure**
  - C. Dismissals must be authorized by the Traffic Bureau Manager**
  - D. All citations are subject to automatic dismissal**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the primary goal of eliminating a problem in police work?**

- A. To improve officer morale**
- B. To increase community engagement**
- C. To prevent future incidents**
- D. To enhance public visibility**

The primary goal of eliminating a problem in police work is to prevent future incidents. This focus on prevention is crucial because addressing the underlying issues causes not only the current problem to be resolved but also reduces the likelihood of similar situations recurring in the future. By implementing proactive measures, law enforcement agencies can identify patterns or trends that lead to criminal behavior, allowing them to take steps to mitigate risks and enhance overall community safety. Enhancing officer morale, increasing community engagement, and improving public visibility are important aspects of police work, but they are often secondary outcomes that result from effectively addressing and solving problems. The primary intention remains on creating a safer environment through impactful prevention strategies.

**2. What is "parallel structure," and why is it important in writing?**

- A. It's the use of varied sentence lengths**
- B. It's the use of similar grammatical constructions**
- C. It focuses on emotional appeal**
- D. It introduces multiple viewpoints**

Parallel structure refers to the use of similar grammatical constructions within a sentence or across sentences. This technique enhances clarity and flow in writing by ensuring that ideas are presented in a consistent format. For example, if a writer lists a series of actions, using the same verb form or format for each item helps the reader process the information more easily and makes the writing more cohesive. The importance of parallel structure lies in its ability to improve readability and provide rhythm to writing, making it more engaging and persuasive. It allows readers to follow the author's ideas without unnecessary confusion, and it can also emphasize a point by creating a balanced and impactful structure. When ideas are parallel, the relationships among them are clearer, leading to stronger communication.

**3. What is the primary focus of the National Police Select Test (NPST) regarding reading comprehension?**

- A. To assess physical fitness for police duties**
- B. To evaluate decision-making skills under stress**
- C. To assess a candidate's ability to understand and analyze written information relevant to policing**
- D. To measure knowledge of criminal law**

The primary focus of the National Police Select Test (NPST) regarding reading comprehension is to assess a candidate's ability to understand and analyze written information relevant to policing. This skill is crucial for police officers who must frequently engage with various forms of written communication, including reports, legal documents, and safety protocols. Being able to effectively comprehend and interpret this information directly impacts their capability to operate effectively in the field, make informed decisions, and execute their duties competently. Other aspects like physical fitness, decision-making under stress, or knowledge of criminal law, while important for a well-rounded police officer, are not the core emphasis of the reading comprehension section. The NPST specifically targets reading comprehension skills to ensure that candidates can process and utilize written information in their police work.

**4. What is the primary responsibility of the Property Clerk in relation to traffic citations?**

- A. Management of police department equipment**
- B. Supply and accounting of all traffic citations**
- C. Reporting traffic violations to the court**
- D. Issuing traffic citations to citizens**

The primary responsibility of the Property Clerk in relation to traffic citations involves the supply and accounting of all traffic citations. This means that the Property Clerk is tasked with maintaining accurate records of the citations issued by the police department, ensuring that there is an organized inventory of these documents. This role is crucial for tracking and managing citations for potential legal proceedings, as well as ensuring that all documentation related to traffic violations is properly accounted for and can be referenced easily when needed. The other choices highlight responsibilities that do not align with the specific duties of a Property Clerk. For instance, managing police department equipment typically falls under a separate logistical or administrative function. Reporting traffic violations to the court is usually the responsibility of the officers who issue the citations, while issuing citations directly is a task performed by police officers rather than a Property Clerk.

**5. What is likely a barrier to effective reading comprehension according to common misconceptions?**

- A. Believing comprehension is solely about memorization**
- C. Assuming all texts require the same approach**
- B. Thinking one can read without prior knowledge**
- D. Focusing too much on grammar and syntax**

The correct choice highlights a common misconception that all texts require the same approach for effective reading comprehension. This belief is problematic because different texts serve different purposes, genres, and audiences, and thus require various strategies for understanding. For instance, a narrative will typically demand a different reading strategy than a technical manual or a scientific article. When a reader incorrectly assumes that the same method can be applied across various text types, they may miss critical insights, fail to grasp nuances, or skip over essential context that might be pivotal to understanding the material. This lack of adaptability in reading strategies can significantly hinder overall comprehension, leading to surface-level understanding rather than deeper engagement with the content. Awareness of the need for tailored reading approaches based on the characteristics of the text allows readers to employ strategies such as skimming, critical analysis, or detailed note-taking appropriately, thus enhancing their comprehension skills.

**6. What is the "implicit meaning" of a passage?**

- A. It is the clear statement made by the author**
- B. It is the intended audience's reaction**
- C. It is the underlying message that can be inferred**
- D. It is the structure of the argument**

The implicit meaning of a passage refers to the underlying message or idea that isn't directly stated by the author. Instead of being overtly articulated, this meaning requires the reader to interpret and infer it based on context, tone, and various nuances present in the text. It often involves reading between the lines to understand what the author is suggesting or symbolizing beyond the literal content. For example, a story about a character facing challenges may implicitly convey themes of resilience or the importance of community support, even if those themes are not explicitly mentioned. This skill is vital in reading comprehension, as it allows the reader to grasp deeper insights and the author's broader intentions. The other options, while relevant to understanding text, do not accurately capture the concept of implicit meaning. A clear statement made by the author relates to explicit meanings, the intended audience's reaction pertains to reader-response theory, and the structure of an argument focuses on how an argument is constructed rather than the meanings behind it.

**7. What might differentiate persuasive texts from informational texts?**

**A. Length of the document**

**B. Persuasive texts typically include emotional appeals, rhetoric, and calls to action**

**C. Informational texts are always longer**

**D. Persuasive texts do not include any facts**

Persuasive texts are designed to convince the reader to adopt a particular viewpoint or take a specific action. This is often achieved through the use of emotional appeals, rhetorical devices, and direct calls to action that engage the reader on a deeper level. By leveraging emotions and persuasive techniques, these texts seek to influence the audience's beliefs or behaviors. In contrast, informational texts primarily focus on delivering factual content and providing information without aiming to persuade the reader. They may present data, statistics, and objective information but do not typically employ the same emotional engagement or persuasive techniques as seen in persuasive texts. The other options do not accurately capture the essential difference between the two types of texts. For example, the length of a document does not inherently define whether it is persuasive or informational, as both can vary in length. Additionally, while informational texts can be lengthy, this is not a definitive characteristic. Lastly, the notion that persuasive texts do not include facts is misleading; they can incorporate factual information to bolster their argument and enhance credibility, even as the primary goal is to persuade rather than inform.

**8. In cases of serious injury or fatality, who may the Traffic Bureau Commander notify for assistance?**

**A. The local fire department**

**B. State Highway Patrol**

**C. The police chief**

**D. The mayor's office**

The selection of the State Highway Patrol as the appropriate notification in cases of serious injury or fatality is based on their specialized role and expertise in traffic-related incidents. The State Highway Patrol is trained to handle significant road accidents, ensuring safety and providing support in investigations that often arise from such events. Their presence is critical in managing these incidents, as they have authority and resources specifically dedicated to dealing with serious traffic matters. In contrast, while other entities like the local fire department, police chief, or mayor's office may have roles in emergency response or administrative oversight, their involvement may not be as directly relevant or effective when it comes to traffic incident investigations than that of the State Highway Patrol. The primary function of the Traffic Bureau Commander is to ensure that proper protocols are followed, and notifying the State Highway Patrol aligns with best practices in law enforcement response to serious accidents.

**9. Which of the following is a common cause of poor reading comprehension?**

- A. Lack of visual aids**
- B. Too much background knowledge**
- C. Unfamiliar vocabulary**
- D. High levels of interest in the topic**

Unfamiliar vocabulary is a significant barrier to reading comprehension because it can disrupt the reader's ability to grasp the meaning of the text. When readers encounter words they do not understand, it hinders their ability to connect ideas and understand the overall message. A lack of understanding due to unfamiliar vocabulary forces readers to slow down and may lead to confusion or misinterpretation of the material, which ultimately compromises comprehension. In contrast, while a lack of visual aids may impact comprehension, it is not as universally critical as vocabulary knowledge. Background knowledge can actually enhance understanding, and high levels of interest can motivate readers to engage more deeply with the material, making comprehension easier. Thus, unfamiliar vocabulary stands out as a pervasive issue that affects almost all readers, particularly in complex texts.

**10. Which of the following statements is true about dismissals of traffic citations?**

- A. Officers can dismiss citations after the fact**
- B. Citizens can appeal without a specific procedure**
- C. Dismissals must be authorized by the Traffic Bureau Manager**
- D. All citations are subject to automatic dismissal**

The correct statement regarding the dismissals of traffic citations is that dismissals must be authorized by the Traffic Bureau Manager. This indicates that there is a formal process in place that requires authorization from a designated authority for a citation to be dismissed. This procedure ensures that dismissals are managed appropriately and are not made arbitrarily by individual officers or citizens, maintaining the integrity of the traffic enforcement system. The other choices suggest processes or abilities that don't align with standard practices in traffic citation management. For instance, dismissals made "after the fact" could undermine the enforcement process, and allowing citizens to appeal citations without a specific procedure could lead to inconsistencies in how appeals are handled. Lastly, the idea that all citations are subject to automatic dismissal removes accountability and disregards the seriousness of compliance with traffic laws.

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

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

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