

NBPTS English as a New Language (ENL) Assessment 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 should be included in a rubric to separate content mastery from language use?**
 - A. Include criteria for content understanding and separate criteria for language accuracy.**
 - B. Focus only on language accuracy.**
 - C. Focus only on content accuracy.**
 - D. Do not include language criteria.**

- 2. Which term refers to indivisible units that can be free or bound?**
 - A. Lexicon**
 - B. Phonetics**
 - C. Morphemes**
 - D. Semantics**

- 3. Which statement best differentiates integrated ELD from designated ELD?**
 - A. Integrated ELD is a separate time focused on language development; designated ELD occurs during content instruction with embedded supports.**
 - B. Integrated ELD occurs during content instruction with language supports embedded; designated ELD is a separate time focused on language development.**
 - C. Integrated ELD is only for reading; designated ELD is only for writing.**
 - D. Integrated ELD uses only translations; designated ELD uses only grammar drills.**

- 4. Which SIOP component involves building background to make content accessible?**
 - A. Building background**
 - B. Comprehensible input**
 - C. Interaction**
 - D. Lesson preparation**

- 5. Why is it essential to include language objectives in ENL lesson plans, and how should they relate to content objectives?**
- A. Language objectives specify language functions and forms and guide supports and assessments of language development, separate from content goals.**
 - B. Language objectives are the same as content objectives.**
 - C. Language objectives focus only on spelling.**
 - D. Language objectives apply only to speaking.**
- 6. To keep the affective filter low, teachers should:**
- A. Increase public error correction to motivate learners.**
 - B. Maintain a high-pressure, judgmental environment.**
 - C. Provide intensive grammar drills with strict timing.**
 - D. Create a positive, low-anxiety, supportive, and inclusive classroom climate.**
- 7. Context clues are:**
- A. A dictionary entry.**
 - B. Cues in the environment that help clarify meaning.**
 - C. The main idea of a paragraph.**
 - D. The tone of a speaker's voice only.**
- 8. Which of the following is a reading strategy?**
- A. Picture books**
 - B. Reader's theater**
 - C. Read-alouds**
 - D. Modified guided reading**
- 9. Which statement best describes Culture Shock as described in the material?**
- A. Realizing the depth of difference between home and new culture. Might cause depression, anger, frustration.**
 - B. It only happens to students with low adaptability.**
 - C. It is not relevant to ENL programs.**
 - D. It refers to adjusting to new foods.**

10. Which option correctly defines a phoneme?

- A. A variation in loudness.**
- B. The smallest unit of meaning.**
- C. A combination of morphemes.**
- D. The smallest unit of sound.**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should be included in a rubric to separate content mastery from language use?

- A. Include criteria for content understanding and separate criteria for language accuracy.**
- B. Focus only on language accuracy.**
- C. Focus only on content accuracy.**
- D. Do not include language criteria.**

When you want to separate content mastery from language use in a rubric, you set up distinct criteria for what students know and can do about the content, and separate criteria for how well they express it in language. This separation lets you evaluate understanding and reasoning independently from linguistic performance, which is especially important for multilingual learners. For content criteria, you look at ideas, accuracy, evidence, reasoning, and organization—whether the student truly grasps the topic and presents a coherent argument. For language criteria, you assess grammar and syntax, vocabulary appropriate to the task, clarity of expression, and use of academic language. This structure supports targeted feedback: you can see if a student needs more content support, more language development, or both. The other approaches mix these dimensions or ignore one, making it hard to diagnose and support each area appropriately.

2. Which term refers to indivisible units that can be free or bound?

- A. Lexicon**
- B. Phonetics**
- C. Morphemes**
- D. Semantics**

Understanding how words are built helps reveal how meaning is carried in language. The smallest meaningful pieces are morphemes: indivisible units of meaning that can stand alone or attach to other words. Free morphemes can function as words by themselves, like “book” or “dog.” Bound morphemes can’t stand alone and must attach to another morpheme to convey meaning, such as the prefix “un-” in “unhappy” or the suffix “-s” in “cats.” When these pieces pair with roots, they modify meaning for tense, number, or other grammatical features without changing the core word. So, the term for these indivisible units that can be free or bound is morphemes.

3. Which statement best differentiates integrated ELD from designated ELD?

- A. Integrated ELD is a separate time focused on language development; designated ELD occurs during content instruction with embedded supports.**
- B. Integrated ELD occurs during content instruction with language supports embedded; designated ELD is a separate time focused on language development.**
- C. Integrated ELD is only for reading; designated ELD is only for writing.**
- D. Integrated ELD uses only translations; designated ELD uses only grammar drills.**

Integrated ELD embeds language development directly into regular content instruction, using supports like sentence frames, visuals, and collaborative routines within the lesson so students practice academic language while engaging with the content. Designated ELD, in contrast, designates a separate block of time focused specifically on language development, often with targeted instruction on vocabulary, grammar, and discourse away from the content areas. The correct statement captures that distinction: language work is integrated into content lessons with embedded supports, while designated ELD provides a separate, language-focused period. The other ideas misrepresent how language development is delivered—either placing it entirely outside the content instruction or limiting it to narrow activities like translations or drills.

4. Which SIOP component involves building background to make content accessible?

- A. Building background**
- B. Comprehensible input**
- C. Interaction**
- D. Lesson preparation**

The idea here is to connect new material to what students already know so the content becomes approachable. In the SIOP model, this component focuses on activating and expanding students' background knowledge, vocabulary, and experiences before or during instruction. By previewing key concepts, linking to students' prior experiences, and introducing essential terms with clear context and supports, you help students anchor new ideas to familiar frames. That bridge is what makes challenging content more accessible, especially for English learners who need more contextual grounding to grasp new concepts. The other aspects—modifying language for understanding, providing opportunities for discussion, and planning and organizing lessons—play important roles too, but they serve different functions. Comprehensible input is about how you present the material to be understandable; interaction centers on meaningful language practice through dialogue; lesson preparation concerns overall planning and materials rather than the specific act of building background.

5. Why is it essential to include language objectives in ENL lesson plans, and how should they relate to content objectives?

A. Language objectives specify language functions and forms and guide supports and assessments of language development, separate from content goals.

B. Language objectives are the same as content objectives.

C. Language objectives focus only on spelling.

D. Language objectives apply only to speaking.

Language objectives describe the language students must use and understand to access the content and demonstrate learning. They name the specific language functions (what students will do with language, like explain, compare, justify) and the language forms or structures (vocabulary, grammar, sentence patterns) that support that work. Because of this, they guide the supports you provide (sentence frames, glossaries, bilingual resources) and how you assess language development, separate from what you're teaching in the content itself. When language objectives are aligned with content objectives, students have a clear path: they work toward mastering the content while simultaneously developing the language needed to express and justify their understanding. Language objectives aren't the same as content goals, and they aren't limited to spelling or to speaking alone. They encompass listening, speaking, reading, and writing, ensuring language development is intentional and measurable alongside content mastery.

6. To keep the affective filter low, teachers should:

A. Increase public error correction to motivate learners.

B. Maintain a high-pressure, judgmental environment.

C. Provide intensive grammar drills with strict timing.

D. Create a positive, low-anxiety, supportive, and inclusive classroom climate.

The affective filter refers to learners' emotions that influence how much language input they notice and process. When anxiety is low and learners feel safe to take risks, they engage more with new language and absorb it more effectively. The best approach is to create a positive, low-anxiety, supportive, and inclusive classroom climate where mistakes are part of learning and students feel respected and encouraged to participate. By reducing stress and judgment, students are more open to meaningful practice and language uptake. In contrast, approaches that raise anxiety or pressure—like harsh or frequent correction, high-stakes judgments, or rigid, drill-focused activities—tend to increase the affective filter and hinder learning.

7. Context clues are:

- A. A dictionary entry.
- B. Cues in the environment that help clarify meaning.**
- C. The main idea of a paragraph.
- D. The tone of a speaker's voice only.

Context clues are the words and phrases around an unfamiliar word that help you figure out its meaning. These clues come from the surrounding text—sometimes a nearby definition, a synonym or antonym, an example, or a restatement that explains the word in simpler terms. In the given choices, the idea that context clues are cues in the surrounding text that help clarify meaning fits best, with the understanding that “environment” here means the text around the word. A dictionary entry provides a definition outside the sentence, not the in-text clues you use while reading. The main idea of a paragraph is about what the whole passage is mostly about, not about decoding a word. The tone of a speaker’s voice relates to attitude or mood, not to how you infer word meaning from context. Example: If a sentence says, “The voyagers felt buoyant after the storm,” the surrounding words hint that buoyant means feeling light or happy, even if you don’t know the word itself.

8. Which of the following is a reading strategy?

- A. Picture books
- B. Reader's theater**
- C. Read-alouds
- D. Modified guided reading

A reading strategy is a deliberate technique a reader uses to interact with text and improve understanding, fluency, or expression. Reader’s theater fits this idea because it turns reading into a performance: students practice reading parts aloud from a script, often in a small group, with rehearsal and shared responsibility. This setup encourages careful phrasing, appropriate pronunciation, pacing, and expressive reading, while also supporting comprehension as students discuss characters and meaning in context. For ENL learners, the collaborative, low-pressure format provides meaningful oral language practice, reinforces vocabulary in context, and builds confidence in using language aloud. The other options describe formats or instructional approaches rather than specific strategies used to practice reading processes. Picture books are about the format of the text, not a technique for practicing reading. Read-alouds model fluent reading and support listening comprehension, but they’re focused on the teacher’s delivery rather than a student-centered strategy to develop reading skills. Modified guided reading is an instructional method for small-group support, not a standalone strategy that students use to interact with text independently.

9. Which statement best describes Culture Shock as described in the material?

- A. Realizing the depth of difference between home and new culture. Might cause depression, anger, frustration.**
- B. It only happens to students with low adaptability.**
- C. It is not relevant to ENL programs.**
- D. It refers to adjusting to new foods.**

Culture shock involves recognizing how different the new culture is from what you're used to, and that awareness often brings a mix of emotions—sadness, frustration, anger, even depression—as you try to figure out how to fit in. It isn't about a person's level of adaptability or a program's relevance; it's about the experience of adjusting to unfamiliar norms, routines, and social expectations. It's broader than just adjusting to new foods, because it includes language, communication styles, social roles, and daily practices. Because this option explicitly mentions both the depth of cultural difference and the accompanying emotional reactions, it best describes the phenomenon described in the material.

10. Which option correctly defines a phoneme?

- A. A variation in loudness.**
- B. The smallest unit of meaning.**
- C. A combination of morphemes.**
- D. The smallest unit of sound.**

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a language that can distinguish meaning. This is about sounds, not letters or how loudly something is spoken. For example, the sounds /p/ and /b/ differentiate words like "pat" and "bat," so they are different phonemes in English. Variation in loudness or emphasis relates to prosody, not to a unit that changes meaning; a morpheme, on the other hand, is the smallest unit of meaning, and a combination of morphemes forms words or phrases. So the correct definition is the smallest unit of sound.

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://nbptsenlassmt.examzify.com>

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

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