

# NYSTCE Multi-Subject: English Language Arts (ELA) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>16</b>

# 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

- 1. What determines whether information is actually stored in long-term memory?**
  - A. Availability**
  - B. Accessibility**
  - C. Capacity**
  - D. Perception**
- 2. What term refers to the attitude of the writer or narrator in a piece of writing?**
  - A. Character**
  - B. Mood**
  - C. Theme**
  - D. Tone**
- 3. Which memory type stores general knowledge that is not personal, like knowing what a zebra is?**
  - A. Explicit memory**
  - B. Episodic memory**
  - C. Semantic memory**
  - D. Working memory**
- 4. Which skill promotes understanding of the relationship between phonemes and graphemes?**
  - A. Phonics**
  - B. Print awareness**
  - C. Orthographic knowledge**
  - D. Phonological awareness**
- 5. Which one of the following is NOT one of the basic memory operations?**
  - A. Retrieval**
  - B. Recall**
  - C. Storage**
  - D. Encoding**

- 6. Which approach emphasizes understanding one's reading behavior to improve comprehension?**
- A. Review sessions**
  - B. Think-aloud benefits**
  - C. Paideia Seminars**
  - D. Literature Circles**
- 7. Which of the following is NOT one of the major types of tasks to develop phonemic awareness?**
- A. Identifying rhyming words**
  - B. Reading comprehension exercises**
  - C. Segmenting words**
  - D. Blending sounds to create words**
- 8. What term describes a belief or judgment that cannot be objectively proven?**
- A. Fact**
  - B. Opinion**
  - C. Theory**
  - D. Data**
- 9. Which term reflects an understanding of reading conventions and rules?**
- A. Print knowledge**
  - B. Reading strategies**
  - C. Literary comprehension**
  - D. Grammar awareness**
- 10. Which of the following describes the body's capacity to maintain vigorous physical activity for a period of time?**
- A. Muscular strength**
  - B. Cardiovascular efficiency**
  - C. Body composition**
  - D. Flexibility**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What determines whether information is actually stored in long-term memory?**

- A. Availability**
- B. Accessibility**
- C. Capacity**
- D. Perception**

The concept of whether information is stored in long-term memory primarily revolves around its availability. When we say information is available, we refer to the idea that it has been successfully encoded and stored within the long-term memory system, making it a part of our knowledge. For something to be stored as available information, it must go through certain processes, such as attention and meaningful engagement with the material, which facilitates encoding. Long-term memory can be thought of as a vast repository of knowledge, experiences, and skills that can be accessed later. If information is not available, it means it has not been properly encoded into this repository, regardless of the effort to recall it later. Therefore, a key factor in determining if information "makes it" to long-term storage is indeed its availability within that memory system. While accessibility, capacity, and perception play crucial roles in memory processes, they do not directly influence whether information is stored. Accessibility relates more to the ease with which stored information can be retrieved, capacity refers to the amount of information that can be held in memory, and perception refers to the initial interpretation of stimuli. Ultimately, all these factors contribute to the overall memory system, but availability directly addresses whether information has been stored in the first place.

**2. What term refers to the attitude of the writer or narrator in a piece of writing?**

- A. Character**
- B. Mood**
- C. Theme**
- D. Tone**

The term that refers to the attitude of the writer or narrator in a piece of writing is "tone." Tone encompasses the stylistic choices and emotional undertones that the writer uses to convey their perspective or attitude towards the subject matter, characters, or audience. It can be formal, informal, serious, playful, ironic, and many other variations, significantly influencing how readers perceive the text and its message. In contrast, character focuses on the individuals portrayed in a narrative and their development. Mood describes the emotional atmosphere that the text evokes in the reader, rather than the author's attitude. Theme refers to the central ideas or underlying messages in a literary work, which differs from the subjective tone established by the writer. Understanding tone is crucial for readers as it shapes interpretation and engagement with the text.

**3. Which memory type stores general knowledge that is not personal, like knowing what a zebra is?**

- A. Explicit memory**
- B. Episodic memory**
- C. Semantic memory**
- D. Working memory**

The correct answer is semantic memory, which is a type of long-term memory that specifically stores general knowledge and factual information, such as concepts, ideas, and meanings. This includes understanding what objects are (like knowing what a zebra is), vocabulary definitions, and other information that isn't tied to personal experiences. Semantic memory allows individuals to recall facts and ideas that are widely shared and accepted, making it distinct from other memory types that may involve personal context or immediate tasks. For instance, episodic memory is focused on personal experiences and events that have taken place in one's life, while explicit memory includes both episodic and semantic memories but does not define them as distinctly as semantic memory does. Working memory, on the other hand, refers to the short-term holding and manipulation of information needed for cognitive tasks.

**4. Which skill promotes understanding of the relationship between phonemes and graphemes?**

- A. Phonics**
- B. Print awareness**
- C. Orthographic knowledge**
- D. Phonological awareness**

Phonics is the skill that promotes understanding of the relationship between phonemes (the smallest units of sound) and graphemes (the letters or groups of letters that represent those sounds). Phonics instruction emphasizes decoding skills, helping students learn how to connect sounds to their corresponding letters or letter combinations when reading and writing. By understanding these relationships, learners can decode unfamiliar words and improve their reading fluency. Print awareness encompasses a child's recognition of the forms and functions of written language, but it does not directly address the sound-symbol relationship. Orthographic knowledge refers to the understanding of the spelling system of a language, including rules and patterns but is more focused on the visual representation of words than on the sound relationships inherent in phonics. Phonological awareness involves the larger sound structures of language, such as syllables and rhymes, but does not specifically address the sound-to-letter correspondence that phonics teaches.

**5. Which one of the following is NOT one of the basic memory operations?**

**A. Retrieval**

**B. Recall**

**C. Storage**

**D. Encoding**

The concept of basic memory operations includes encoding, storage, and retrieval. Each plays a vital role in the process of memory. When we look closely at the key terms, encoding refers to the process of transforming sensory input into a form that can be stored in the brain. Storage is the process of maintaining information over time. Retrieval is the act of accessing and bringing stored information back into conscious awareness. While recall is indeed an important aspect of retrieval, it is not categorized as a distinct memory operation in the same foundational sense as the others. Recall typically describes the process of retrieving information specifically based on cues or prompts that are provided. Therefore, recall tends to be seen as part of the retrieval process rather than a separate fundamental operation. Understanding the roles of these operations clarifies why recall is not identified as one of the basic memory operations, as it is more a component of how retrieval functions rather than an operation on its own.

**6. Which approach emphasizes understanding one's reading behavior to improve comprehension?**

**A. Review sessions**

**B. Think-aloud benefits**

**C. Paideia Seminars**

**D. Literature Circles**

The emphasis on understanding one's reading behavior to improve comprehension aligns with the think-aloud benefits approach. This method allows readers to verbalize their thoughts as they engage with a text, facilitating meta-cognitive awareness. By articulating what they are thinking while reading, individuals can better identify their strategies for comprehension, pinpoint areas of confusion, and gain insights into their reading processes. This self-reflective practice encourages deeper engagement with the material, leading to enhanced comprehension over time. In contrast, the other options focus on different aspects of collaboration and discussion or structured review rather than the individual's introspective reading strategies. Review sessions typically concentrate on reinforcing knowledge through repetition and summarization. Paideia Seminars are designed for group dialogues centering around texts, engaging participants in critical thinking and discussion. Literature circles involve students in discussing various aspects of texts in smaller groups but do not primarily prioritize individual reading behavior insights.

**7. Which of the following is NOT one of the major types of tasks to develop phonemic awareness?**

- A. Identifying rhyming words**
- B. Reading comprehension exercises**
- C. Segmenting words**
- D. Blending sounds to create words**

Reading comprehension exercises do not directly focus on developing phonemic awareness, which is the ability to recognize and manipulate the individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. Phonemic awareness tasks are primarily concerned with sound-related skills, such as identifying rhyming words, segmenting words into individual sounds, and blending sounds to form words. These activities help individuals understand the sound structure of language, which is a foundational component of reading and writing. In contrast, reading comprehension exercises encompass a broader range of skills, including understanding the meaning of text, making inferences, and summarizing information. While strong phonemic awareness can support reading comprehension, the exercises themselves do not specifically target the development of phonemic skills. Therefore, reading comprehension exercises are not classified as a major task for developing phonemic awareness.

**8. What term describes a belief or judgment that cannot be objectively proven?**

- A. Fact**
- B. Opinion**
- C. Theory**
- D. Data**

The correct answer is the term that refers to a belief or judgment that is subjective and cannot be empirically verified. An opinion is inherently personal and shaped by individual experiences, feelings, and interpretations. Unlike facts, which are verifiable statements about the world, or theories that provide explanations based on evidence, opinions do not necessarily rely on objective criteria and are often influenced by personal perspectives. For example, saying "Chocolate ice cream is the best flavor" is an opinion because it reflects a personal preference that others may not share. In contrast, stating "Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius at sea level" is a fact, as it can be measured and proven. This distinction is crucial in understanding the nature of claims we encounter in discussions, debates, and various forms of writing.

**9. Which term reflects an understanding of reading conventions and rules?**

- A. Print knowledge**
- B. Reading strategies**
- C. Literary comprehension**
- D. Grammar awareness**

The understanding of reading conventions and rules is best represented by the term print knowledge. Print knowledge encompasses a variety of competencies related to the written word, including an awareness of how print works, such as the directionality of reading, recognition of letters and words, and understanding that print carries meaning. This foundational skill is critical for early literacy development, as it helps learners grasp how texts are structured and the functions of different elements, like spaces, punctuation, and headings. While reading strategies, literary comprehension, and grammar awareness are all important aspects of literacy and language proficiency, they serve different purposes. Reading strategies are techniques employed to enhance understanding and retention of texts, literary comprehension relates more to the ability to interpret and appreciate literature, and grammar awareness involves knowledge of the rules that govern language use. Therefore, print knowledge specifically addresses the conventions that govern the structure and function of written language, making it the correct choice for this question.

**10. Which of the following describes the body's capacity to maintain vigorous physical activity for a period of time?**

- A. Muscular strength**
- B. Cardiovascular efficiency**
- C. Body composition**
- D. Flexibility**

The body's capacity to maintain vigorous physical activity for a period of time is best described by cardiovascular efficiency. This term refers to how well the cardiovascular system—comprising the heart, blood vessels, and lungs—works to supply oxygen to the muscles during sustained physical activity. When someone has high cardiovascular efficiency, they can perform physical tasks for longer durations without becoming as fatigued, indicating a healthier and more effective cardiovascular system. In contrast, muscular strength pertains specifically to the amount of force a muscle can produce; body composition relates to the proportion of fat and muscle in the body; and flexibility measures the range of motion in joints. While these factors contribute to overall fitness, they do not directly define the ability to sustain vigorous activity for extended periods as cardiovascular efficiency does.



## 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:**

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