

Ontario Grade 9 English 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. What is a simile?**
 - A. A direct comparison using "like" or "as."**
 - B. A vague metaphor.**
 - C. A dialogue between characters.**
 - D. A brief description of a setting.**

- 2. In what types of writing is tone particularly important?**
 - A. Only in fictional works**
 - B. In all types of writing**
 - C. Only in academic essays**
 - D. Only in poetry**

- 3. What does the term "mood" refer to in writing?**
 - A. The emotional atmosphere of a piece of literature**
 - B. A character's emotional state during a scene**
 - C. The specific theme of a literary work**
 - D. The author's tone throughout the piece**

- 4. What is a pun?**
 - A. A term used to describe alliteration**
 - B. A phrase used to suggest a second meaning usually witty**
 - C. A form of metaphor**
 - D. A type of rhyme**

- 5. What is the primary function of a narrator in a literary work?**
 - A. To generate conflicts**
 - B. To provide background information**
 - C. To tell a story**
 - D. To express personal opinions**

- 6. What is the literary technique that involves the deliberate use of the same word or phrase to create an effect?**
 - A. Repetition**
 - B. Alliteration**
 - C. Assonance**
 - D. Metonymy**

- 7. What literary device involves attributing human characteristics to non-human entities?**
- A. Metaphor**
 - B. Personification**
 - C. Simile**
 - D. Hyperbole**
- 8. Which term refers to a type of rhythmic and compressed language that appeals to emotions and imagination?**
- A. Prose**
 - B. Poetry**
 - C. Essay**
 - D. Narrative**
- 9. What literary device is employed when someone is aware of a character's fate while the character is not?**
- A. Dramatic Irony**
 - B. Foreshadowing**
 - C. Verbal Irony**
 - D. Characterization**
- 10. What type of speech is described as giving human characteristics to non-human entities?**
- A. Allusion**
 - B. Personification**
 - C. Imagery**
 - D. Metaphor**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a simile?

A. A direct comparison using "like" or "as."

B. A vague metaphor.

C. A dialogue between characters.

D. A brief description of a setting.

A simile is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two different things using the words "like" or "as." This technique helps to create vivid imagery and connections in the reader's mind, allowing them to understand a description more clearly. For instance, when someone says, "Her smile was like sunshine," it paints a clear picture by suggesting that her smile brings warmth and brightness, similar to that of the sun. The other options do not accurately describe a simile: a vague metaphor lacks the clear comparative structure that a simile provides, while a dialogue between characters refers to spoken exchanges in a story. A brief description of a setting focuses on elements of place and atmosphere rather than making comparisons, thus distinguishing it from the precise nature of similes.

2. In what types of writing is tone particularly important?

A. Only in fictional works

B. In all types of writing

C. Only in academic essays

D. Only in poetry

Tone is especially important in all types of writing because it helps to convey the writer's attitude towards the subject and affects how the reader interprets the message. In fictional works, tone can set the mood and shape the reader's emotional experience, while in academic essays, it establishes authority and credibility. In poetry, tone can deepen the emotional resonance and enhance the overall impact of the piece. Even in non-fiction, tone affects how the information is received and understood. Therefore, recognizing and utilizing tone is essential across various forms of writing to communicate effectively and engage the audience.

3. What does the term "mood" refer to in writing?

A. The emotional atmosphere of a piece of literature

B. A character's emotional state during a scene

C. The specific theme of a literary work

D. The author's tone throughout the piece

The term "mood" in writing refers to the emotional atmosphere that permeates a piece of literature. It is the feeling or sensation that a work evokes in the reader, created through the author's choice of words, imagery, and overall setting. When a piece of writing successfully establishes a mood, it can elicit specific emotional responses, such as joy, sadness, fear, or nostalgia. For instance, a dark, stormy setting might create a mood of suspense or foreboding, while a warm, sunny day could evoke feelings of happiness and peace. The emotional atmosphere can be distinct from the character's emotional state, which is more about individual experiences in particular scenes, and from the overall theme of the work, which encompasses the central ideas or messages conveyed. Similarly, the author's tone refers to their attitude toward the subject matter or the audience, which may influence the mood but is not the same thing. Hence, recognizing mood helps readers engage more deeply with the text by connecting emotionally with the narrative.

4. What is a pun?

- A. A term used to describe alliteration
- B. A phrase used to suggest a second meaning usually witty**
- C. A form of metaphor
- D. A type of rhyme

A pun is defined as a phrase that exploits the different meanings of a word or the fact that there are words that sound alike but have different meanings, often resulting in a witty or clever expression. The essence of a pun lies in its ability to convey a playful twist on language, making it humorous or thought-provoking. A great example would be a statement like, "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana," which utilizes similar-sounding words to create a playful double meaning. Typically, puns are not related to alliteration, which focuses on the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words, nor are they synonymous with metaphor, which involves comparisons between unrelated things without using "like" or "as." Additionally, while puns can occasionally include rhyme, they do not fall under the category of rhyme itself, which specifically pertains to the correspondence of sounds at the end of words. Therefore, recognizing a pun as a witty phrase that suggests an alternative meaning is crucial for a deeper understanding of language and humor.

5. What is the primary function of a narrator in a literary work?

- A. To generate conflicts
- B. To provide background information
- C. To tell a story**
- D. To express personal opinions

The primary function of a narrator in a literary work is to tell a story. The narrator serves as the voice through which the narrative unfolds, guiding the reader through the plot, character development, and setting. By providing insight into characters' thoughts and feelings or describing events, the narrator helps shape the reader's understanding and experience of the story. This crucial role allows for the conveyance of themes and messages that might be lost without a narrative perspective. While generating conflicts, providing background information, and expressing personal opinions can be aspects related to a narrator, they are not the main function. The core responsibility of a narrator is to weave the narrative together in a cohesive manner, ensuring that the story is effectively told and engaging for the audience.

6. What is the literary technique that involves the deliberate use of the same word or phrase to create an effect?

A. Repetition

B. Alliteration

C. Assonance

D. Metonymy

Repetition is a literary technique that involves the deliberate use of the same word or phrase multiple times to emphasize a particular idea, theme, or emotion. This technique can create a rhythmic effect in poetry or prose, and it helps to reinforce the message or significance of what is being expressed. By repeating specific words or phrases, writers can draw the audience's attention to key concepts or emotions, enhancing the impact of their writing. In contrast, alliteration focuses on the repetition of initial consonant sounds in closely positioned words, which creates a musical quality, but it does not rely on the repetition of the same word or phrase. Assonance involves the repetition of vowel sounds within words in close proximity, contributing to the overall sound and flow of a text without using the same word. Metonymy is a figure of speech where one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated, rather than repeating the same word. Understanding repetition enables readers to appreciate how authors use this technique to highlight critical themes and enhance the emotional resonance of their work.

7. What literary device involves attributing human characteristics to non-human entities?

A. Metaphor

B. Personification

C. Simile

D. Hyperbole

The correct answer is personification, as this literary device specifically involves giving human traits, emotions, or behaviors to animals, inanimate objects, or abstract concepts. Personification allows readers to connect with non-human elements by making them relatable through familiar human characteristics. For example, saying "the wind whispered through the trees" illustrates personification because it attributes the human action of whispering to an element of nature, creating a vivid image and emotional impact. In contrast, a metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two unrelated things without using "like" or "as," while a simile does make such a comparison using those words. Hyperbole, on the other hand, is an exaggeration used for emphasis or effect. While each of these devices enriches writing, only personification deals specifically with endowing non-human entities with human-like qualities.

8. Which term refers to a type of rhythmic and compressed language that appeals to emotions and imagination?

A. Prose

B. Poetry

C. Essay

D. Narrative

Poetry is characterized by its use of rhythm, imagery, and emotive language, allowing it to convey complex feelings and ideas in a condensed form. Unlike prose, which tends to follow straightforward narrative structures and focuses more on clarity and details, poetry often utilizes metaphor, simile, and other literary devices to paint vivid pictures and evoke emotions in the reader. The rhythm and structure of poetry can vary widely, but its primary goal is to stimulate the reader's imagination and emotional response, making it a unique and powerful form of expression. In contrast, prose typically consists of full sentences and straightforward narrative forms, while essays are structured arguments that analyze a topic, and narratives focus on telling a story, whether fictional or factual. Poetry stands out as a distinct genre due to its condensed language and emphasis on emotional resonance.

9. What literary device is employed when someone is aware of a character's fate while the character is not?

A. Dramatic Irony

B. Foreshadowing

C. Verbal Irony

D. Characterization

Dramatic irony is a literary device that occurs when the audience or reader has knowledge about a situation or the fate of a character that the character themselves is unaware of. This creates a sense of tension or anticipation, as the audience knows more than the character and often can foresee the consequences of the character's actions. This device can enhance emotional engagement, as viewers may feel sympathy, frustration, or even excitement as they anticipate the moment when the character will either discover the truth or face the consequences of their ignorance. In contrast, foreshadowing hints at future events but does not create the same dynamic of knowledge disparity, while verbal irony involves a discrepancy between what is said and what is meant, and characterization refers to the creation and development of characters in a narrative.

10. What type of speech is described as giving human characteristics to non-human entities?

A. Allusion

B. Personification

C. Imagery

D. Metaphor

The correct answer is personification, which refers to the literary technique of attributing human traits, emotions, or intentions to non-human entities or abstract ideas. By using personification, writers can create vivid and relatable imagery that helps to convey deeper meanings or evoke emotional responses from the audience. For example, describing a storm as "angry" or a whispering breeze as "gentle" allows readers to connect with the elements in a more personal and imaginative way. This technique enhances the richness of the text and contributes to the overall mood and theme. In contrast, allusion refers to a reference to another work of literature or an event outside the context of the text. Imagery involves using descriptive language that appeals to the senses to create visual representations in the reader's mind. A metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two unlike things without using "like" or "as." Understanding these distinctions is important as they serve different functions in writing.

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://ontgrade9english.examzify.com>

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

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