

# Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) 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

- 1. In the sentence, "The dog barked loudly," what is the subject?**
  - A. Barked loudly**
  - B. The dog**
  - C. Loudly**
  - D. None of the above**
- 2. Which of the following is an example of a coordinating conjunction?**
  - A. Although**
  - B. Nor**
  - C. But**
  - D. Whenever**
- 3. Which concept involves finding the average of a set of numbers?**
  - A. Median**
  - B. Mode**
  - C. Range**
  - D. Mean**
- 4. What does a comma indicate in a sentence?**
  - A. A full stop**
  - B. A pause or a separation of elements**
  - C. Emphasis on a word**
  - D. Continuation of thought without breaks**
- 5. Which mathematical concepts are emphasized in the PERT mathematics section?**
  - A. Calculus and trigonometry**
  - B. Statistics and probability**
  - C. Algebra, geometry, and arithmetic operations**
  - D. Measurements and conversions**

6. Which word or words best complete the sentence? Until it was actually mapped, only a few people \_\_\_\_\_ the true location of the tunnel.
- A. knew
  - B. know
  - C. have known
  - D. will know
7. What does the term "algebraic expression" refer to?
- A. A mathematical phrase that includes numbers, variables, and operators.
  - B. A geometric figure formed by points and lines.
  - C. A set of instructions for solving equations.
  - D. A specific numerical solution to an equation.
8. What types of questions can be found in the mathematics section of the PERT?
- A. Only multiple-choice algorithm problems
  - B. Word problems, equations, and inequalities
  - C. Only geometry-related questions
  - D. Graph interpretation questions exclusively
9. Which sentence demonstrates proper parallel structure?
- A. While writing, we were mindful of good grammar, a respectful tone, and aware of our reader.
  - B. While writing, we paid close attention to proper grammar, appropriate tone, and reader expectations.
  - C. While writing, we used good grammar, a respectful tone, and watchful to our audience.
  - D. While writing, we were mindful of grammar, tone, and paid attention to our audience.
10. When preparing for the PERT, which strategy is recommended for students?
- A. Focusing solely on math skills
  - B. Practicing only writing skills
  - C. Reviewing all subjects tested: mathematics, reading, and writing
  - D. Studying historical events



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. In the sentence, "The dog barked loudly," what is the subject?**

- A. Barked loudly**
- B. The dog**
- C. Loudly**
- D. None of the above**

In the sentence "The dog barked loudly," the subject refers to the noun or pronoun that performs the action of the verb. In this case, "the dog" is the part of the sentence that identifies who is doing the barking. The verb "barked" describes the action being performed, while "loudly" serves as an adverb modifying how the barking is performed. Therefore, "the dog" is indeed the subject of the sentence, as it tells us who is performing the action of barking. This understanding of subjects is crucial for comprehending sentence structure in English.

**2. Which of the following is an example of a coordinating conjunction?**

- A. Although**
- B. Nor**
- C. But**
- D. Whenever**

The answer provided is correct because "but" functions as a coordinating conjunction, which is used to connect words, phrases, or clauses that are of equal grammatical importance. In this case, "but" indicates a contrast between two ideas. For example, in the sentence "She wanted to go for a walk, but it started to rain," "but" effectively joins two independent clauses to highlight the contrasting thoughts—the desire to go out and the unexpected rain. Coordinating conjunctions, which include "and," "but," "or," "nor," "for," "so," and "yet," are essential for creating compound sentences. They allow for the smooth flow of ideas and make it easier to convey complex thoughts. In contrast, the other words in the list serve different grammatical purposes. "Although" is a subordinating conjunction used to introduce a dependent clause that expresses a contrast or exception. "Nor" is also a coordinating conjunction, but it is typically used to connect two negative clauses. "Whenever" is a subordinating conjunction that introduces a time-related dependent clause, detailing when an action occurs. Understanding these distinctions helps clarify the role that "but" plays as a coordinating conjunction in sentence structure.

**3. Which concept involves finding the average of a set of numbers?**

- A. Median**
- B. Mode**
- C. Range**
- D. Mean**

The mean refers to the average of a set of numbers, which is calculated by adding all the numbers together and then dividing the sum by the count of the numbers in the set. This statistic provides a central value for that dataset, making it a fundamental concept in statistics. The mean is particularly useful because it takes into account every value in the set, giving it a comprehensive representation of the data. In contrast, the median is the middle number in a sorted list of values, which can be influenced by the presence of outliers if the numbers are not evenly distributed. The mode is the value that appears most frequently in a dataset, which may not provide any insight into the overall average if the values are distributed unevenly. The range, on the other hand, measures the difference between the highest and lowest values in the dataset, indicating how spread out the numbers are but not offering an average. Thus, the mean is the appropriate term for the concept of finding the average of a set of numbers.

**4. What does a comma indicate in a sentence?**

- A. A full stop**
- B. A pause or a separation of elements**
- C. Emphasis on a word**
- D. Continuation of thought without breaks**

A comma in a sentence serves as a tool to indicate a pause or to separate elements within the structure of the sentence. It helps to clarify meaning by breaking up items in a list, separating independent clauses, or demarcating introductory phrases from the main clause. By using a comma, the writer can guide the reader's understanding of how different parts of the sentence relate to each other. For example, when listing items, a comma is used to indicate that each item is distinct yet part of a collective idea. Similarly, when connecting two independent clauses with a conjunction, a comma signals that there is a brief pause while still maintaining the connection between the clauses. This pause allows for better comprehension and flow of information, ensuring the reader can easily follow the writer's intent.

**5. Which mathematical concepts are emphasized in the PERT mathematics section?**

**A. Calculus and trigonometry**

**B. Statistics and probability**

**C. Algebra, geometry, and arithmetic operations**

**D. Measurements and conversions**

The mathematics section of the PERT focuses primarily on algebra, geometry, and arithmetic operations because these concepts form the foundational skills necessary for success in college-level coursework. Algebra involves working with variables and equations, which is crucial for solving a variety of real-world problems. Geometry covers the properties and relationships of shapes and figures, providing essential knowledge for fields like engineering and architecture. Arithmetic operations are the basic mathematical computations that are used in everyday situations, from managing finances to measuring ingredients in cooking. This combination of algebra, geometry, and arithmetic ensures that students have the essential mathematical tools needed for both academic success and practical applications. Other concepts like calculus, trigonometry, statistics, and probability, while important in their own right, are not the primary focus of the PERT mathematics section, as they are typically covered in higher-level courses.

**6. Which word or words best complete the sentence? Until it was actually mapped, only a few people \_\_\_\_\_ the true location of the tunnel.**

**A. knew**

**B. know**

**C. have known**

**D. will know**

The selected answer completes the sentence correctly by using the past tense of the verb "to know." The context of the sentence indicates that the action took place in the past, specifically referring to the time before the tunnel was mapped. This means that only a few people had the knowledge of the tunnel's location before it was revealed. In contrast, other options do not fit as well due to their tense. "Know" implies a present understanding, which does not align with the past context of the sentence. "Have known" suggests a continuous action up to the present, which does not match the timeline given. "Will know" indicates a future understanding, which is irrelevant since the sentence refers to knowledge in a past situation. The past tense "knew" is the most appropriate choice, as it reflects the knowledge that existed prior to the mapping of the tunnel.

**7. What does the term "algebraic expression" refer to?**

- A. A mathematical phrase that includes numbers, variables, and operators.**
- B. A geometric figure formed by points and lines.**
- C. A set of instructions for solving equations.**
- D. A specific numerical solution to an equation.**

The term "algebraic expression" refers to a mathematical phrase that includes numbers, variables, and operators. An algebraic expression can consist of constants (numerical values) and variables (letters that represent unspecified numbers) combined through operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. For instance, the expression  $3x + 2$  represents an algebraic expression where 'x' is the variable, 3 is a coefficient, and 2 is a constant. This form allows for the representation of mathematical relationships and is foundational in algebra because it can be manipulated to solve equations and model real-world situations. In contrast, other choices describe different mathematical concepts. A geometric figure comprises shapes and their properties, instructions for solving equations pertain more to processes rather than expressions themselves, and a specific numerical solution addresses a particular outcome of an equation rather than the expression format. Understanding algebraic expressions is crucial, as they serve as the building blocks for more complex algebraic structures and problem-solving techniques.

**8. What types of questions can be found in the mathematics section of the PERT?**

- A. Only multiple-choice algorithm problems**
- B. Word problems, equations, and inequalities**
- C. Only geometry-related questions**
- D. Graph interpretation questions exclusively**

The mathematics section of the PERT includes a diverse range of question types that assess various mathematical skills and concepts. Among these, word problems, equations, and inequalities are key components. Word problems are essential because they test a student's ability to apply mathematical concepts in real-world contexts, requiring them to interpret and solve problems based on given scenarios. Equations and inequalities cover fundamental algebraic skills, allowing students to demonstrate their understanding of how to manipulate mathematical expressions and solve for variables. This skill is critical for many aspects of higher education and everyday life. The inclusion of these types of questions ensures that the test assesses not only the student's ability to perform calculations but also their comprehension and application of mathematical concepts in different situations. Each of these elements contributes to a holistic evaluation of a student's preparedness for postsecondary education. Other choices like only algorithm problems or those focusing exclusively on geometry or graph interpretation do not provide the comprehensive evaluation that the mathematics section requires.

**9. Which sentence demonstrates proper parallel structure?**

- A. While writing, we were mindful of good grammar, a respectful tone, and aware of our reader.
- B. While writing, we paid close attention to proper grammar, appropriate tone, and reader expectations.**
- C. While writing, we used good grammar, a respectful tone, and watchful to our audience.
- D. While writing, we were mindful of grammar, tone, and paid attention to our audience.

The sentence that demonstrates proper parallel structure is the one that maintains a consistent grammatical format throughout its list of items. In this case, the chosen sentence maintains a uniform structure by using adjectives followed by a noun consistently across the list: "proper grammar," "appropriate tone," and "reader expectations." Each item in this series achieves a similar form, which makes the sentence easy to read and understand. In contrast, the other sentences disrupt the parallel structure. For instance, one option mixes different grammatical forms, leading to awkwardness. Another utilizes a combination of phrases that do not align in structure, which can confuse the reader. Overall, maintaining parallel structure enhances clarity and the overall flow of writing, making option B the best choice.

**10. When preparing for the PERT, which strategy is recommended for students?**

- A. Focusing solely on math skills
- B. Practicing only writing skills
- C. Reviewing all subjects tested: mathematics, reading, and writing**
- D. Studying historical events

The recommended strategy for preparing for the PERT involves reviewing all subjects tested: mathematics, reading, and writing. This comprehensive approach is essential because the PERT assesses a student's readiness across multiple domains, and each subject area contributes to a well-rounded understanding necessary for postsecondary education. By covering all subjects, students can identify their strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to allocate study time effectively and improve their overall performance on the test. This holistic review ensures that students are not only familiar with the content but also comfortable with the variety of question formats they may encounter across different subject areas. In contrast, focusing on just one area, such as math or writing, limits the preparation and may leave gaps in knowledge that could hinder performance in other tested subjects. Studying historical events, while potentially beneficial in a broader educational context, does not align with the specific subjects evaluated in the PERT and therefore would not contribute to effective test preparation.



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

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