

PSSA ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – GRADE 7 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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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. Which of the following defines a primary source?**
 - A. It summarizes various researchers' opinions
 - B. It is an original document or firsthand account
 - C. It contains multiple interpretations of an event
 - D. It is a secondary analysis of an event
- 2. What is the author's intent to inform, entertain, or persuade called?**
 - A. Author's purpose
 - B. Theme
 - C. Voice
 - D. Point of view
- 3. How can symbols be used in literature?**
 - A. To convey larger concepts or themes
 - B. To describe characters in great detail
 - C. To focus on the plot twists only
 - D. To create a humorous effect in the story
- 4. How should one summarize a complex article?**
 - A. By rewriting it in full detail
 - B. By identifying the main ideas and stating them briefly
 - C. By predicting the author's next topic
 - D. By contrasting the arguments presented
- 5. What structure is used in nonfiction texts to show an order of events in chronological order?**
 - A. Sequence
 - B. Problem/Solution
 - C. Compare/Contrast
 - D. Testimonial
- 6. Which term means to support a specific position in an argument?**
 - A. Assess
 - B. Interpret
 - C. Defend
 - D. Summarize

- 7. What role does a character's dialogue play in a story?**
- A. It serves no real purpose
 - B. It reveals traits and advances the plot
 - C. It is solely for humorous moments
 - D. It only showcases the author's writing style
- 8. Which poetic device creates a musical quality using similar sounds?**
- A. Consonance
 - B. Rhyme
 - C. Rhythm
 - D. Verse
- 9. Which narrative perspective uses "he," "she," and "they" to tell the story?**
- A. First Person
 - B. Second Person
 - C. Third Person
 - D. Omniscient
- 10. Which type of writing is categorized as nonfiction?**
- A. Autobiography
 - B. Novel
 - C. Fantasy
 - D. Poetry

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following defines a primary source?

- A. It summarizes various researchers' opinions
- B. It is an original document or firsthand account**
- C. It contains multiple interpretations of an event
- D. It is a secondary analysis of an event

A primary source is defined as an original document or firsthand account that provides direct evidence or immediate data related to a particular topic, event, or period. Examples of primary sources include diaries, letters, photographs, speeches, or original research data. These materials are created by individuals who experienced or witnessed an event, allowing them to offer unique insights and unmediated accounts of their experiences. In contrast, summaries of various researchers' opinions, interpretations of an event, or secondary analyses do not present firsthand information. Instead, they interpret, summarize, or analyze primary sources or other secondary sources, making them separate from firsthand accounts. Recognizing the distinction between primary and secondary sources is crucial for understanding the authenticity and context of information, which is why identifying primary sources is fundamental in research and analysis.

2. What is the author's intent to inform, entertain, or persuade called?

- A. Author's purpose**
- B. Theme
- C. Voice
- D. Point of view

The author's intent to inform, entertain, or persuade is known as the author's purpose. This term encapsulates the reason why an author writes a particular piece, allowing readers to better understand the motivation behind the text. Recognizing the author's purpose can enhance comprehension and engagement with the material, as it reveals what the author aims to convey and how they hope the audience will react. The other terms have distinct meanings that do not align with the concept of intent. Theme refers to the central idea or underlying message of a piece of literature, while voice relates to the unique style or expression of the author in the writing. Point of view describes the perspective from which the story is told, including the narrator's vantage point. Each of these terms represents a different aspect of literary analysis, but none capture the essence of an author's intent as clearly as the phrase author's purpose.

3. How can symbols be used in literature?

- A. To convey larger concepts or themes**
- B. To describe characters in great detail
- C. To focus on the plot twists only
- D. To create a humorous effect in the story

Symbols in literature serve to convey larger concepts or themes, providing deeper meaning beyond their literal interpretation. By using symbols, authors can communicate complex ideas and emotions in a more relatable and impactful way. For instance, a dove might symbolize peace, while a storm could represent turmoil or conflict. This symbolic representation allows readers to engage with the text on multiple levels, encouraging critical thinking and interpretation related to the themes the author wishes to explore. While descriptions of characters, plot twists, or humor have their own roles in storytelling, they do not function in the same way as symbols. Describing characters in detail enhances understanding of their personalities but does not inherently convey themes. Focusing solely on plot twists offers excitement and suspense without necessarily revealing deeper messages. Creating humor can enhance the narrative but is often more about entertaining the reader than conveying significant themes. Therefore, using symbols effectively enriches a literary work by linking tangible objects or ideas to abstract concepts, making themes more accessible and resonant.

4. How should one summarize a complex article?

- A. By rewriting it in full detail
- B. By identifying the main ideas and stating them briefly**
- C. By predicting the author's next topic
- D. By contrasting the arguments presented

Summarizing a complex article effectively requires distilling the information down to its most essential elements. This process involves identifying the main ideas, themes, and arguments presented by the author and expressing them in a concise manner. When summarizing, the goal is to capture the core message without providing excessive detail or rewriting the entire content. This approach allows the reader to grasp the overall structure and key points of the article, making it easier to understand the author's perspective and main arguments. In contrast, rewriting the article in full detail undermines the purpose of a summary, which is to provide a shortened version for quick comprehension. Predicting the author's next topic does not focus on the current content, while contrasting the arguments might lead to a deeper analysis rather than summarization. Therefore, identifying and briefly stating the main ideas is the most effective method for summarizing complex articles.

5. What structure is used in nonfiction texts to show an order of events in chronological order?

- A. Sequence**
- B. Problem/Solution
- C. Compare/Contrast
- D. Testimonial

The structure used in nonfiction texts to show an order of events in chronological order is sequence. This structure organizes information based on the timeline of events, allowing readers to understand the progression and relationship between those events clearly. When a text employs a sequence structure, it typically follows a clear starting point and moves forward in time, detailing how one event leads to another, which helps readers grasp the development of ideas or narratives in a logical manner. In contrast, the other structures listed serve different purposes: Problem/Solution presents challenges along with strategies for overcoming them, Compare/Contrast examines the similarities and differences between two or more subjects, and Testimonial includes personal accounts to support or illustrate a point. Sequence specifically focuses on ordering events chronologically, making it the most fitting answer for this question.

6. Which term means to support a specific position in an argument?

- A. Assess
- B. Interpret
- C. Defend**
- D. Summarize

To support a specific position in an argument is best captured by the term that means to defend that position or viewpoint. When someone defends an argument, they provide reasons, evidence, and rationale to uphold their stance against counterarguments or opposing views. This process involves articulating why their perspective is valid and worthy of consideration, often addressing possible objections to strengthen their claim. In contrast, assessing involves evaluating the quality or effectiveness of something, interpreting implies explaining the meaning or significance of something, and summarizing entails presenting a concise version of the main points without necessarily providing support for a specific argument. Thus, the term that accurately encapsulates the act of supporting an argument is "defend."

7. What role does a character's dialogue play in a story?

- A. It serves no real purpose
- B. It reveals traits and advances the plot**
- C. It is solely for humorous moments
- D. It only showcases the author's writing style

A character's dialogue is crucial in a story as it serves to reveal traits and advance the plot. Through dialogue, readers gain insight into a character's personality, feelings, motivations, and relationships with other characters. For instance, the way a character speaks—such as their choice of words, tone, and mannerisms—can indicate their background, education, emotional state, or intentions. Dialogue is also a powerful tool for moving the plot forward; it can convey important information or tension between characters and can reveal conflict or alliances that drive the narrative. By engaging in conversation, characters can react to events, make decisions, or change their perspectives, thereby creating dynamic interactions that propel the story. This dual function of revealing character traits and advancing the plot illustrates why dialogue is a fundamental component of storytelling rather than being unimportant, solely comedic, or just a reflection of the author's style.

8. Which poetic device creates a musical quality using similar sounds?

- A. Consonance
- B. Rhyme**
- C. Rhythm
- D. Verse

The chosen answer is correct because rhyme is a poetic device that involves the repetition of similar sounds at the end of lines in poetry. This repetition creates a musical quality and enhances the flow of the poem. Rhyme often helps to establish a rhythm and can make the poem more memorable and engaging when read aloud. When poets use rhyme, they can also evoke certain emotions, add emphasis to particular ideas, or contribute to the overall aesthetic of the poem. In contrast, while consonance refers to the repetition of consonant sounds within words or phrases, it does not necessarily pertain to the end sounds of lines, which is a key aspect of rhyme. Rhythm is related to the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a poem, contributing to its pace and beat but not specifically focused on sound repetition like rhyme does. Verse refers to the structure or form of a poetic work, which may include rhyme but is broader and does not inherently create musicality through sound.

9. Which narrative perspective uses "he," "she," and "they" to tell the story?

- A. First Person
- B. Second Person
- C. Third Person**
- D. Omniscient

The correct answer is third person because this narrative perspective specifically employs pronouns such as "he," "she," and "they" to convey the story. In third-person narration, the narrator is not a character in the story but rather an outside observer who recounts events and observations related to the characters. This allows for a more objective viewpoint, as the narrator can provide insights into multiple characters' thoughts and experiences without being limited to one character's perspective. In contrast, first-person narration uses "I" and "we," placing the narrator inside the story as a character, creating a personal and subjective experience. Second-person narration uses "you" to directly address the reader, creating an interactive experience where the reader feels they are part of the story. Omniscient refers to an all-knowing perspective within third-person narration, but it is the pronouns specific to third person that distinctly identify the narrative perspective being asked about in this question.

10. Which type of writing is categorized as nonfiction?

A. Autobiography

B. Novel

C. Fantasy

D. Poetry

An autobiography is a type of nonfiction writing because it is a self-written account of a person's life experiences. In an autobiography, the writer shares factual details about their life's journey, thoughts, and feelings, providing readers with an in-depth understanding of their personal history. This genre is distinct from fiction, where the content is created from imagination or invented narratives. The other choices represent different forms of writing that typically fall under the fiction or imaginative categories. A novel narrates a fictional story, often with invented characters and plots. Fantasy, as a genre, relies on imaginative elements and often includes magical or supernatural themes, creating worlds that don't exist in reality. Poetry, while it can express real emotions or experiences, often uses figurative language and creative expression rather than adhering strictly to factual content. Therefore, the choice of autobiography unmistakably aligns with the characteristics of nonfiction writing.

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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://pssaelagrade7.examzify.com>

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

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