

# Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) 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. Which term refers to a dramatic work that relies on exaggerated, ridiculous events for humor?**
  - A. An epic**
  - B. A parody**
  - C. A farce**
  - D. A myth**
  
- 2. A story with a symbolic meaning outside the tale itself (ex. Animal Farm, in which animal characters represent actual historical figures).**
  - A. Novel**
  - B. Short story**
  - C. Allegory**
  - D. Figure of speech**
  
- 3. Which term provides a brief explanation of words used in a text?**
  - A. Thesaurus**
  - B. Glossary**
  - C. Quote/Quotation**
  - D. Setting**
  
- 4. Which term describes a struggle between opposing forces, such as between characters or within a character?**
  - A. Main idea**
  - B. Theme**
  - C. Conflict**
  - D. Tone**
  
- 5. Which term refers to the main claim in an essay to be supported?**
  - A. Thesis**
  - B. Connotation**
  - C. Anecdotes**
  - D. Argument**

- 6. Which term refers to the focus statement of an essay?**
- A. Connotation**
  - B. Anecdotes**
  - C. Voice**
  - D. Thesis**
- 7. The story is told from the narrator's point of view, using I and My. Which point of view is this?**
- A. 2nd person**
  - B. 3rd person**
  - C. 1st person**
  - D. Omniscient**
- 8. Which term is a section of a poem?**
- A. Couplet**
  - B. Ballad**
  - C. Stanza**
  - D. Haiku**
- 9. Which term means a book of synonyms and antonyms?**
- A. Thesaurus**
  - B. Glossary**
  - C. Foreshadowing**
  - D. Dialogue**
- 10. To make an educated guess based on evidence is to \_\_\_\_.**
- A. Suffix**
  - B. Infer**
  - C. Theme**
  - D. Section heading**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which term refers to a dramatic work that relies on exaggerated, ridiculous events for humor?**

- A. An epic
- B. A parody
- C. A farce**
- D. A myth

This item tests recognizing a type of comedic drama defined by exaggerated, ridiculous situations and fast-paced action. A farce relies on highly improbable events, mistaken identities, and physical humor to provoke laughter. The chaos builds through quick scenes, slapstick moments, and exaggerated character behavior, with the humor coming from the sheer improbability of what's happening rather than from serious themes. That's how it differs from other dramatic forms. An epic tells a grand, serious tale of heroic deeds and journeys. A parody imitates another work or style to mock it, using imitation as a vehicle for humor rather than relying primarily on ridiculous situations. A myth is a traditional story about origins or gods, often serious or explanatory, not focused on comical, farcical scenarios. So, the term that best fits a dramatic work built on exaggerated, ridiculous events for humor is farce.

**2. A story with a symbolic meaning outside the tale itself (ex. Animal Farm, in which animal characters represent actual historical figures).**

- A. Novel
- B. Short story
- C. Allegory**
- D. Figure of speech

The main idea here is recognizing allegory as a narrative technique where characters, events, and details stand for something beyond the literal story. In an allegory, the surface tale carries a deeper meaning about real-world people, ideas, or events. Animal Farm is a clear example: the farm and its animal inhabitants represent historical figures and events from the Russian Revolution and the Soviet era. The actions and consequences on the farm mirror political realities, so the story conveys a larger critique or message about power and ideology, not just a simple tale about farm life. That's why the correct choice is allegory. A novel or short story describes the length or form of the work, not the device it uses to communicate a hidden message. A figure of speech is a broader category for individual devices like metaphors or personification, whereas allegory uses an entire narrative to express a sustained symbolic meaning.

**3. Which term provides a brief explanation of words used in a text?**

- A. Thesaurus
- B. Glossary**
- C. Quote/Quotation
- D. Setting

Glossary provides brief explanations of words used in a text. It's a handy, text-specific resource that gives quick definitions or clarifications for terms that might be unfamiliar, often located at the end of a book or in margins. A thesaurus, by contrast, lists synonyms and related words rather than definitions. A quotation repeats exact words from the text, not explanations. Setting is about where and when the story takes place, not about explaining vocabulary. So the term that best fits "a brief explanation of words used in a text" is glossary.

**4. Which term describes a struggle between opposing forces, such as between characters or within a character?**

- A. Main idea
- B. Theme
- C. Conflict**
- D. Tone

Conflict is the struggle between opposing forces that drives a story. It can be external, like a clash between characters or between a character and outside forces such as nature or society, or internal, as a character wrestles with difficult decisions or strong emotions. The prompt describes exactly that kind of struggle, whether between people or within a character, which is why conflict is the best fit. Main idea refers to what the text is mostly about, theme is the message or insight the author conveys, and tone is the author's attitude toward the subject. These don't describe the central clash that motivates the plot, so they don't capture the situation described in the question.

**5. Which term refers to the main claim in an essay to be supported?**

- A. Thesis
- B. Connotation
- C. Anecdotes
- D. Argument**

The main claim an essay is built around is the thesis. It states the central point or stance the writer will defend, and everything in the essay is designed to support that claim. Because the prompt asks for the term for the main claim to be supported, the thesis is the best fit: it is the statement you intend to prove with evidence, examples, and reasoning. The term "argument" refers to the whole line of reasoning used to persuade, including the reasoning steps and evidence—it's the process, not the single claim itself. "Connotation" is about the emotional associations a word carries beyond its literal meaning, and "anecdotes" are short personal stories used as examples or evidence. So the correct term for the main claim to be supported is the thesis.

**6. Which term refers to the focus statement of an essay?**

- A. Connotation
- B. Anecdotes
- C. Voice
- D. Thesis**

The focus statement of an essay is the thesis statement—the main claim or argument that the entire essay supports. It tells readers what the writer intends to prove or discuss and provides a roadmap for the ideas and evidence that will follow. A clear thesis is specific and directly related to the topic, helping to keep the writing organized around a central purpose. Connotation refers to the emotional or cultural associations that a word carries beyond its literal meaning. Anecdotes are short, illustrative stories used to make a point memorable. Voice is the writer's individual style and tone as expressed through language. While all of these can appear in an essay, they do not name the central claim itself; the thesis is the statement that anchors the essay's argument and guides its development.

**7. The story is told from the narrator's point of view, using I and My. Which point of view is this?**

- A. 2nd person
- B. 3rd person
- C. 1st person**
- D. Omniscient

Point of view is about who tells the story. When the narrator uses I and my, the story is told from that character's own perspective, sharing thoughts and experiences directly as events happen. That is first-person narration. This differs from second person, which would use you and address the reader; third person, which uses he, she, or they to describe others; and omniscient, a kind of third person that knows everything about all characters. So the use of I and my clearly signals a first-person point of view.

**8. Which term is a section of a poem?**

- A. Couplet
- B. Ballad
- C. Stanza**
- D. Haiku

A stanza is a section of a poem—the lines are grouped together and usually separated from other sections by a blank line. Think of it like a paragraph in prose: it helps organize ideas, shifts in mood or action, and sets up rhythm within the poem. The other terms describe specific forms or units within poetry. A couplet is just two lines that often rhyme, a ballad is a longer narrative poem or song, and a haiku is a very brief form with three lines in a 5-7-5 syllable pattern. So the word that names a distinct section of a poem is stanza.

**9. Which term means a book of synonyms and antonyms?**

- A. Thesaurus**
- B. Glossary**
- C. Foreshadowing**
- D. Dialogue**

A thesaurus is a reference book that provides synonyms and antonyms, helping you expand your vocabulary and choose words with precise meaning. That makes it the term for a book of synonyms and antonyms. A glossary, in contrast, lists terms with their definitions and is not focused on word relationships. Foreshadowing is a literary device that hints at future events in a story, and dialogue is the spoken interaction between characters. So the best fit for a book that offers synonyms and antonyms is the thesaurus.

**10. To make an educated guess based on evidence is to \_\_\_\_.**

- A. Suffix**
- B. Infer**
- C. Theme**
- D. Section heading**

Drawing conclusions from evidence is the skill being tested. To make an educated guess based on evidence is to infer. Infer means to decide something based on clues in the text or situation, even if it isn't stated outright. For instance, if a paragraph describes a character avoiding others and whispering, you can infer that the character is nervous. The other terms don't fit here: a suffix is a word ending added to a base word, not about guessing; a theme is the message or idea the author develops; a section heading is a label for a part of the text.

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

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

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