

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 the writer's attitude toward the subject or audience?**
 - A. Tone**
 - B. Suffix**
 - C. Infer**
 - D. Conflict**

- 2. Which book would you consult to find maps?**
 - A. Glossary**
 - B. Atlas**
 - C. Encyclopedia**
 - D. Dictionary**

- 3. Which term is the focus of the main idea in an essay?**
 - A. Voice**
 - B. Thesis**
 - C. Plot**
 - D. Etymology**

- 4. What term means to speak or write the exact words of others?**
 - A. Personal Narrative**
 - B. Quote/Quotation**
 - C. Setting**
 - D. Chronological order**

- 5. Expressions used by writers that are not literally true are called?**
 - A. Imagery**
 - B. Allegory**
 - C. Metaphor**
 - D. Figurative Language**

- 6. Why the writer is writing (PIE: persuade, inform, entertain)?**
- A. Author's Purpose**
 - B. Tone**
 - C. Theme**
 - D. Connotation**
- 7. A story that's not true, but sounds like it could be true**
- A. Fiction**
 - B. Nonfiction**
 - C. Realistic Fiction**
 - D. Myth**
- 8. 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**
- 9. Which device is a direct comparison using is or are and states one thing is the other?**
- A. Simile**
 - B. Allusion**
 - C. Hyperbole**
 - D. Metaphor**
- 10. Transition word for cause and effect, meaning 'So'.**
- A. Therefore**
 - B. Hence**
 - C. Consequently**
 - D. Because**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which term refers to the writer's attitude toward the subject or audience?

- A. Tone**
- B. Suffix**
- C. Infer**
- D. Conflict**

Tone is the writer's attitude toward the subject or audience, shown through word choice, sentence structure, and overall style. You can sense it in whether the language feels formal or casual, serious or humorous, sympathetic or sardonic. For instance, formal diction and grave phrasing convey a serious tone, while playful wording and lively sentence rhythms suggest a light or humorous tone. Tone shapes how readers feel about the topic and how they respond to the writer's message. Suffix is a word part added to the end of a base word to change its meaning or function, not about attitude. Infer is what a reader does—draw a conclusion from clues in the text—not a writer's stance. Conflict is the struggle or clash that drives a narrative, not the writer's attitude toward the subject or audience.

2. Which book would you consult to find maps?

- A. Glossary**
- B. Atlas**
- C. Encyclopedia**
- D. Dictionary**

When you need to see geographic representations, the resource you reach for is an atlas. An atlas is a collection of maps covering regions, countries, cities, and natural features, usually organized for easy reference with legends, scales, and indexes to locate places. The other references serve different purposes: a glossary explains terms, a dictionary provides definitions and usage of words, and an encyclopedia offers articles about topics and may include maps, but maps aren't the main feature. So for finding maps, an atlas is the best choice.

3. Which term is the focus of the main idea in an essay?

- A. Voice**
- B. Thesis**
- C. Plot**
- D. Etymology**

The focus is the thesis—the central claim the essay argues. The thesis states the main point the writer wants to prove, and the rest of the essay is built around supporting that claim with reasons, evidence, and explanations. That makes it the guiding idea of the entire piece. Think of the other terms to see why they don't fit as the main idea: voice is the writer's style or personality in writing, not the central point being argued; plot is the sequence of events in a story, which isn't the structure of an argument essay; etymology studies word origins, which has nothing to do with the argument being made. In a solid essay, you should be able to pinpoint a clear thesis that connects all parts of the essay, like a claim such as, "Uniforms in schools improve focus and reduce distractions," around which the introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion are organized.

4. What term means to speak or write the exact words of others?

- A. Personal Narrative**
- B. Quote/Quotation**
- C. Setting**
- D. Chronological order**

Quoting is repeating exactly what someone else said or wrote. When you quote, you keep the original wording intact and usually place it in quotation marks, with an attribution to the source. This shows that you are presenting someone's exact words, not your own interpretation. It's different from a personal narrative, which is a story about your experiences; a setting, which describes where and when a story happens; and chronological order, which is arranging events in the order they occurred. So, the term for speaking or writing the exact words of others is quotation (or quote).

5. Expressions used by writers that are not literally true are called?

- A. Imagery**
- B. Allegory**
- C. Metaphor**
- D. Figurative Language**

Figurative language uses expressions that are not meant to be taken literally, helping writers create stronger images, add emphasis, or evoke emotions. It covers a wide range of devices, including metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and more. The broad term fits best here because it describes all non-literal language. Imagery is about vivid sensory details and can be literal or figurative, but it focuses on how something looks or sounds rather than the non-literal meaning itself. Allegory is a specific extended narrative where characters and events symbolize deeper moral or political meanings, which is one particular use of figurative language. Metaphor is a direct comparison between two unlike things and is just one example of figurative language. So, the overall category that encompasses expressions not literally true is figurative language.

6. Why the writer is writing (PIE: persuade, inform, entertain)?

A. Author's Purpose

B. Tone

C. Theme

D. Connotation

The main idea being tested is identifying why a writer writes—that is, the author's purpose. The PIE framework (persuade, inform, entertain) highlights the three main goals writers have: to inform you with facts and explanations, to persuade you to think or act a certain way, or to entertain you with a story or humor. The best answer is that the writer's purpose is to inform, persuade, or entertain, because that label directly captures the reason behind the text's creation. Other terms describe different features. Tone is the writer's attitude toward the subject, shown in word choice and style; theme is the underlying message or lesson of a text; connotation is the emotional meaning or associations a word carries beyond its literal definition. These aspects influence how the purpose is carried out, but they don't answer the question of why the writer wrote in the first place.

7. A story that's not true, but sounds like it could be true

A. Fiction

B. Nonfiction

C. Realistic Fiction

D. Myth

The main idea is a story that isn't true but could happen in real life. Realistic fiction uses believable settings, ordinary characters, and problems that readers might actually face, so even though the events are invented, they could plausibly occur in the real world. That makes it feel true or credible, without relying on magical or extraordinary elements. This distinguishes it from nonfiction, which would report facts, and from myths, which often include gods or supernatural happenings. It's a type of fiction that aims to reflect real life in a way that readers can recognize and relate to.

8. 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.

9. Which device is a direct comparison using is or are and states one thing is the other?

A. Simile

B. Allusion

C. Hyperbole

D. Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison by saying one thing is another. It creates a vivid image by equating two things without using like or as. For example, saying "the classroom is a zoo" treats the classroom as if it were a zoo, highlighting its busy, unruly energy. A simile would compare using like or as, such as "the classroom is like a zoo," which stops short of saying the two things truly are the same. Allusion refers to a reference to a well-known work or figure, not a direct equivalence. Hyperbole exaggerates for effect. So the statement described—using is to declare one thing is the other—fits metaphor best.

10. Transition word for cause and effect, meaning 'So'.

A. Therefore

B. Hence

C. Consequently

D. Because

A word that signals a result or conclusion and means "So" is therefore. It shows that what comes next follows logically from what came before. For example: "It rained all day; therefore the picnic was canceled." Here, the second part follows from the first. Because is used to give a reason, not a result. Hence and consequently also express results, but they're more formal or a bit heavier in tone. Therefore is the most natural everyday choice for the sense of "So."

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://readingsol.examzify.com>

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

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