

# TSA Writing Skills Assessment 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. Which verb form is specifically mentioned as being a primary linking verb?**
  - A. To have**
  - B. To be**
  - C. To do**
  - D. To know**
- 2. When is it appropriate to use quotes in your writing?**
  - A. When they add authority or illustrate a point effectively**
  - B. When you want to fill space**
  - C. When you disagree with the original author**
  - D. Only in conclusion paragraphs**
- 3. Which of the following is an example of a relative pronoun?**
  - A. You**
  - B. Who**
  - C. Him**
  - D. Yours**
- 4. What type of pronouns relate a subordinate part of a sentence to the main clause?**
  - A. Possessive**
  - B. Relative**
  - C. Intensive**
  - D. Reflexive**
- 5. Many adverbs have which characteristic ending?**
  - A. er**
  - B. ly**
  - C. ed**
  - D. es**
- 6. Which sentence represents future perfect tense?**
  - A. He has taken training.**
  - B. She counted the letters he had written.**
  - C. By next week, he will have completed the analysis.**
  - D. She is attending training today.**

- 7. What is the primary function of a preposition in a sentence?**
- A. To convey actions**
  - B. To modify nouns**
  - C. To show relationships of time or location**
  - D. To connect clauses**
- 8. Which noun identifies a group acting as one?**
- A. collective**
  - B. proper**
  - C. common**
  - D. abstract**
- 9. What type of conjunction is 'whether-or'?**
- A. Coordinating**
  - B. Correlative**
  - C. Subordinating**
  - D. Conjunctive**
- 10. How might you address counterarguments in your TSA essay?**
- A. Acknowledge and refute counterarguments to strengthen your position**
  - B. Ignore them completely**
  - C. Only state your point of view without discussion**
  - D. Present them as primary arguments**



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which verb form is specifically mentioned as being a primary linking verb?**

- A. To have
- B. To be**
- C. To do
- D. To know

The verb form "to be" is recognized as a primary linking verb because it serves to connect the subject of a sentence to a subject complement, which can be a noun, pronoun, or adjective that describes or identifies the subject. This function is essential in constructing sentences that clarify or provide more information about the subject. For example, in the sentence "She is a doctor," the verb "is" (a form of "to be") links the subject "She" to the complement "a doctor," establishing identity. Similarly, in "They are happy," the verb "are" connects the subject "They" to the adjective "happy," conveying a state of being. Other verbs listed, like "to have," "to do," and "to know," serve different grammatical functions and don't primarily function as linking verbs. "To have" indicates possession, "to do" relates to actions or tasks, and "to know" pertains to awareness or understanding. Thus, "to be" stands out as the primary verb specifically used for linking in English grammar.

**2. When is it appropriate to use quotes in your writing?**

- A. When they add authority or illustrate a point effectively**
- B. When you want to fill space
- C. When you disagree with the original author
- D. Only in conclusion paragraphs

Using quotes in writing is particularly effective when they add authority or illustrate a point effectively. This practice enhances the credibility of your argument by bringing in the expertise or perspective of another author, which can reinforce your message. Additionally, well-chosen quotes can provide clarity and depth to your writing, helping to illustrate complex ideas or support your arguments more clearly. In contrast, filling space with quotes does not serve the purpose of strengthening your writing and can detract from the overall impact of your work. Disagreeing with the original author may not justify the inclusion of a quote unless it is clearly framed within the context of your argument. Finally, reserving quotes exclusively for conclusion paragraphs limits their utility throughout the text, where they can function to support claims, present differing viewpoints, or engage the reader from the very beginning. Thus, strategically using quotes can enhance the effectiveness of your writing significantly.

**3. Which of the following is an example of a relative pronoun?**

**A. You**

**B. Who**

**C. Him**

**D. Yours**

The answer "who" is considered a relative pronoun because it is used to introduce a relative clause, which provides additional information about a noun. For instance, in the sentence "The teacher who inspires me is retiring," the word "who" connects the clause "who inspires me" to the noun "teacher," describing which teacher is being talked about. Relative pronouns are crucial in sentences because they help to connect clauses and identify or give more detail about the noun in question. This is different from other types of pronouns, such as personal pronouns ("you," "him") that simply replace nouns in a sentence, or possessive pronouns like "yours," which indicate ownership. Thus, "who" effectively shows its function in relative clauses, establishing it as the correct choice in this context.

**4. What type of pronouns relate a subordinate part of a sentence to the main clause?**

**A. Possessive**

**B. Relative**

**C. Intensive**

**D. Reflexive**

Relative pronouns are specifically designed to connect a subordinate clause—an additional piece of information that cannot stand alone—to the main clause. They serve as a bridge, clarifying the relationship between the two parts of a sentence. Common relative pronouns include "who," "whom," "whose," "that," and "which." For instance, in the sentence "The book that I borrowed was fascinating," the relative pronoun "that" relates the subordinate clause "that I borrowed" to the main clause, indicating which specific book is being discussed. The other types of pronouns mentioned do not serve this function. Possessive pronouns show ownership, while intensive pronouns emphasize a noun or pronoun already mentioned. Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and object of a sentence refer to the same entity. Thus, only relative pronouns perform the critical role of linking subordinate clauses to main clauses in a sentence.

**5. Many adverbs have which characteristic ending?**

- A. er
- B. ly**
- C. ed
- D. es

Many adverbs are characterized by their use of the "ly" ending. This suffix is commonly added to adjectives to form adverbs that describe how an action is performed. For example, the adjective "quick" becomes the adverb "quickly," indicating the manner in which an action is carried out. This pattern helps create a considerable number of adverbs in the English language, making "ly" a definitive and recognizable ending for adverbs. While other endings like "er," "ed," and "es" serve specific grammatical functions, they are not typically associated with forming adverbs. "Er" often refers to a comparative adjective (as in "faster"), "ed" is primarily used for past tense verbs or participial adjectives (like "excited"), and "es" is commonly seen in plural nouns or third-person singular verbs (such as "watches"). Therefore, "ly" stands out as the typical ending for adverbs.

**6. Which sentence represents future perfect tense?**

- A. He has taken training.
- B. She counted the letters he had written.
- C. By next week, he will have completed the analysis.**
- D. She is attending training today.

The sentence that illustrates future perfect tense effectively conveys an action that will be completed at a specific point in the future. In this case, "By next week, he will have completed the analysis" indicates that the action of completing the analysis is anticipated to be finished before the defined future time, which is "next week." The use of "will have completed" is characteristic of the future perfect tense, signifying both a future time aspect and the completion of an action prior to that time. This tense is particularly useful for discussing plans or predictions about future actions and makes it clear that the analysis will be fully wrapped up by the specified deadline. Such clarity is essential in effective communication about future events, emphasizing the importance of proper tense usage.

**7. What is the primary function of a preposition in a sentence?**

**A. To convey actions**

**B. To modify nouns**

**C. To show relationships of time or location**

**D. To connect clauses**

The primary function of a preposition in a sentence is to show relationships of time or location. Prepositions are words like "in," "on," "at," "between," and "during," which help to clarify where something is in relation to something else, or when something happens. For instance, in the sentence "The book is on the table," the preposition "on" indicates the relationship between the book and the table, specifying the location of the book. Similarly, in phrases like "during the meeting," the preposition "during" indicates the time frame in which the action takes place. This function is essential in providing context and clarity to sentences, helping the reader understand spatial and temporal relationships more clearly. The other choices represent different functions that are not applicable to prepositions. Some convey actions, while others may involve modifying nouns or connecting clauses, but these do not define the role of prepositions within sentence structure.

**8. Which noun identifies a group acting as one?**

**A. collective**

**B. proper**

**C. common**

**D. abstract**

The term that identifies a group acting as one is "collective." This noun specifically refers to a collection of individuals or items that are considered as a single entity or unit. For instance, in language, a collective noun can describe groups such as "team," "flock," or "committee," where the focus is on the group functioning together rather than on individual members. In contrast, the other types of nouns do not convey the same meaning. Proper nouns are names of specific people, places, or organizations, and they refer to unique entities rather than groups acting in unison. Common nouns are general names for a person, place, or thing and do not indicate a collective nature. Abstract nouns represent concepts or ideas rather than tangible entities and typically do not describe a group acting as one. Therefore, "collective" is the most suitable choice for identifying a group that operates in unity.

## 9. What type of conjunction is 'whether-or'?

- A. Coordinating
- B. Correlative**
- C. Subordinating
- D. Conjunctive

'Whether-or' is classified as a correlative conjunction. Correlative conjunctions are pairs of conjunctions that work together to connect similar elements in a sentence. They often appear in pairs and help to link clauses, phrases, or words that have equal importance. In the case of 'whether-or,' the conjunctions 'whether' and 'or' are used together to indicate a choice between two alternatives, effectively signifying an uncertainty or a conditional situation. For instance, in the sentence "You need to decide whether to stay or leave," 'whether' introduces the choice, while 'or' provides the alternative, demonstrating how these two conjunctions collaborate to form a cohesive option. This is characteristic of correlative conjunctions, as they establish relationships between two comparable elements within a sentence, thereby enhancing clarity and depth in communication.

## 10. How might you address counterarguments in your TSA essay?

- A. Acknowledge and refute counterarguments to strengthen your position**
- B. Ignore them completely
- C. Only state your point of view without discussion
- D. Present them as primary arguments

Acknowledging and refuting counterarguments is a vital strategy in essay writing, particularly in the TSA Writing Skills Assessment. This approach demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the topic and acknowledges the complexity of the arguments at hand. By recognizing opposing views, you not only show respect for differing opinions but also allow yourself the opportunity to reinforce your own position. When you refute these counterarguments, you provide evidence and reasoning that bolster your stance, making your overall argument more persuasive and robust. This method enhances your credibility as a writer and helps to engage the reader by presenting a balanced perspective. In essence, addressing counterarguments serves to deepen the discussion and showcases your critical thinking skills, which are essential to any analytical essay.



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

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