

TSI A2 Reading and Writing Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

1. Which word means 'persistent determination'?
 - A. Tenacity
 - B. Endeavor
 - C. Savvy
 - D. Anecdote

2. In lists of items, which punctuation normally separates items before the final conjunction?
 - A. Colon
 - B. Dash
 - C. Comma
 - D. Semicolon

3. Which term is defined as the comparison of two unlike things using words such as is, are, was, were?
 - A. Metaphor
 - B. Foreshadow
 - C. Simile
 - D. Allusion

4. Which word describes conditions that are not harmful?
 - A. Benign
 - B. Dangerous
 - C. Harmful
 - D. Toxic

5. Which punctuation is used to indicate a strong interruption or abrupt break in a sentence?
 - A. Colon
 - B. Dash
 - C. Comma
 - D. Semicolon

6. The food was delicious _ but it's too expensive. Which punctuation should precede the coordinating conjunction before the contrasting clause?
- A. Colon
 - B. Dash
 - C. Comma
 - D. Semicolon
7. Which word means to refer to casually or indirectly?
- A. Assertion
 - B. Futile
 - C. Innocuous
 - D. Allude
8. Which term means confused?
- A. Flummoxed
 - B. Allude
 - C. Elude
 - D. Assertion
9. If the sentence is grammatically correct, what action is advised?
- A. Rewrite completely
 - B. Leave as is
 - C. Replace with synonym
 - D. Remove period
10. In a sentence where a speaker's words are presented after a reporting verb (for example 'told the crowd'), which punctuation typically precedes the direct quotation?
- A. Comma
 - B. Colon
 - C. Semicolon
 - D. Dash

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which word means 'persistent determination'?

- A. Tenacity**
- B. Endeavor**
- C. Savvy**
- D. Anecdote**

Persistent determination is captured by tenacity. It names the quality of sticking with a goal and pushing through challenges, a steady, unyielding resolve. For example, her tenacity kept her studying long hours until she mastered the material. The other words don't fit as well: an endeavor is more about the act of trying or a project itself, not the enduring trait; savvy means practical knowledge or shrewdness; an anecdote is a short, personal story.

2. In lists of items, which punctuation normally separates items before the final conjunction?

- A. Colon**
- B. Dash**
- C. Comma**
- D. Semicolon**

Separating items in a list is done with commas. In a list of three or more things, put a comma between each item, and typically before the final conjunction (and/or) as the serial comma. This helps keep the items clear and avoids confusion, especially when the list is long or items include adjectives. A colon introduces a list after an introductory statement, not the way items are separated. A dash often signals a break or emphasis, not a simple separation of list items. A semicolon is used when the items themselves contain commas or to link closely related independent clauses. So the normal choice for separating items before the final conjunction is the comma.

3. Which term is defined as the comparison of two unlike things using words such as is, are, was, were?

- A. Metaphor**
- B. Foreshadow**
- C. Simile**
- D. Allusion**

This item tests how we recognize a direct, non-literal comparison in which two unlike things are stated to be the same. When a sentence says something is something else using forms of "to be" like is, are, was, or were, it's a metaphor. For example, "Time is a thief" treats time as if it were a thief, directly equating the two. A simile, by contrast, would compare using words like like or as, such as "Time passes like a thief." Foreshadowing is about hinting at what will happen later, and an allusion is a brief reference to another work or person. Those don't fit the pattern of directly equating two unlike things, which is why metaphor is the right term here.

4. Which word describes conditions that are not harmful?

- A. Benign**
- B. Dangerous**
- C. Harmful**
- D. Toxic**

The main idea here is knowing a word that means not harmful. Benign describes something that's harmless or not dangerous. In many contexts, especially medical ones, a benign condition or growth won't cause harm and isn't cancerous, which fits the prompt perfectly. The other terms—dangerous, harmful, and toxic—all imply some kind of harm, danger, or poison, so they don't describe conditions that are not harmful.

5. Which punctuation is used to indicate a strong interruption or abrupt break in a sentence?

- A. Colon**
- B. Dash**
- C. Comma**
- D. Semicolon**

A dash is used to indicate a strong interruption or abrupt break in a sentence. It creates a sudden stop or shift in thought, as if the speaker is interrupted or changes direction mid-sentence. For example: We were ready to go—but then the doorbell rang. This shows a sharper break than a comma or semicolon. A colon introduces what follows or explains something, not an interruption. A comma signals a light pause, not a sudden break. A semicolon links closely related ideas without interrupting the flow.

6. The food was delicious _ but it's too expensive. Which punctuation should precede the coordinating conjunction before the contrasting clause?

- A. Colon**
- B. Dash**
- C. Comma**
- D. Semicolon**

Connecting two independent clauses with a coordinating conjunction requires a comma before the conjunction. In this sentence, "The food was delicious" and "it's too expensive" are two complete thoughts joined by "but." The comma before the conjunction keeps the sentence correct: The food was delicious, but it's too expensive. A colon would imply explanation or elaboration after the first clause, which isn't the case here. A dash can add emphasis or a sudden pause, but isn't the standard choice in ordinary writing. A semicolon would join two independent clauses without a coordinating conjunction, which doesn't fit when "but" is present.

7. Which word means to refer to casually or indirectly?

- A. Assertion
- B. Futile
- C. Innocuous
- D. Allude**

The main idea here is identifying a word that means referring to something indirectly or casually. Allude captures that sense: to allude to something is to hint at it or mention it without stating it outright. It's like dropping a subtle reference rather than giving a direct, explicit statement. For example, you might say, "He alluded to the upcoming changes in his speech," which shows the reference is indirect and not plainly stated. The other words don't fit the meaning as closely. An assertion is a strong or direct statement of fact. Futile describes something pointless or unable to succeed. Innocuous means something harmless or not likely to offend. None of these convey the idea of hinting or referring indirectly, which is why allude is the best choice.

8. Which term means confused?

- A. Flummoxed**
- B. Allude
- C. Elude
- D. Assertion

Understanding vocabulary meaning: when you want a word that describes being confused, you look for a term that expresses a state of puzzlement. Flummoxed directly conveys that sense, describing someone who is completely puzzled or unable to think clearly in a situation. That precise meaning makes it the best fit for "confused." Allude means to hint at or refer to indirectly, which isn't about confusion. Elude means to escape or evade, which is about getting away from something rather than feeling puzzled. Assertion is a confident statement or claim, not a description of confusion.

9. If the sentence is grammatically correct, what action is advised?

- A. Rewrite completely
- B. Leave as is**
- C. Replace with synonym
- D. Remove period

If a sentence is already grammatically correct, the best move is to leave it unchanged. Editing isn't needed and can even introduce errors or change the original meaning. Rewriting completely changes wording, replacing it with a synonym could alter nuance, and removing the period would make the sentence incorrect. So keep the sentence as it stands.

10. In a sentence where a speaker's words are presented after a reporting verb (for example 'told the crowd'), which punctuation typically precedes the direct quotation?

A. Comma

B. Colon

C. Semicolon

D. Dash

The main idea here is how to punctuate direct speech when the speaker's words come after a reporting verb. When you have a verb like told or said preceding the quotation, you use a comma to connect them. This comma shows a natural pause between the speaker and the exact words spoken: He told the crowd, "We're ready to begin." The comma before the quotation makes the sentence clear and smooth. A colon would be used in other contexts to introduce a quotation in a more formal or abrupt way, which isn't the usual choice after a simple reporting verb. A semicolon wouldn't introduce spoken words at all, since it's used to join two independent clauses. A dash can create a sudden break or emphasis, but it isn't the standard punctuation for introducing quoted speech after a reporting verb. So the comma is the best fit here.

SAMPLE

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://tsia2readingwriting.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE