

Virginia Reading 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 means the time and place of the action in a narrative?**
 - A. Infer**
 - B. Imagery**
 - C. Setting**
 - D. Theme**

- 2. What term describes the underlying message about life or human nature that a story communicates, such as "Love conquers all"?**
 - A. Theme**
 - B. Symbol**
 - C. Character**
 - D. Plot**

- 3. Which plot stage occurs after the climax and ties up loose ends?**
 - A. Resolution**
 - B. Initiating event**
 - C. Climax**
 - D. Falling action**

- 4. Direct comments from the author illustrate which method of characterization?**
 - A. Direct comments from the author**
 - B. Through a character's actions, thoughts, and speech**
 - C. What others say or think about the character**
 - D. Statements that can be proven**

- 5. Which term describes a narrative that is not factual, created from imagination?**
 - A. Fiction**
 - B. Genre**
 - C. Opinion**
 - D. Fact**

- 6. Which term is a broad generalization that ignores individual differences?**
- A. Imagery**
 - B. Theme**
 - C. Setting**
 - D. Stereotype**
- 7. Which term indicates a generalized belief about a group that may ignore individual differences?**
- A. Setting**
 - B. Theme**
 - C. Imagery**
 - D. Stereotype**
- 8. Which is an example of individual vs. individual external conflict?**
- A. A struggle between two characters**
 - B. A struggle with a natural disaster**
 - C. A struggle with society's norms**
 - D. A struggle with technology**
- 9. Which internal structure focuses on describing steps or stages in a task?**
- A. Process**
 - B. Generalization**
 - C. Cause and Effect**
 - D. Sequential/Chronological**
- 10. Which technique relies on the character's actions, thoughts, or speech?**
- A. Through a character's actions, thoughts, and speech**
 - B. Direct comments from the author**
 - C. What others say or think about the character**
 - D. Statements that can be proven**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which term means the time and place of the action in a narrative?

- A. Infer
- B. Imagery
- C. Setting**
- D. Theme

The main concept being tested is identifying the part of a narrative that describes when and where events occur. This aspect, the setting, includes the time period, location, and surrounding environment in which the story unfolds. It helps you picture scenes and understand how the surroundings influence characters and what happens. Setting is the best answer because it directly names those details of time and place. The other terms relate to different ideas: to infer means drawing conclusions from clues in the text, imagery refers to the vivid sensory details that paint pictures in your mind, and theme is the deeper message or lesson the story conveys.

2. What term describes the underlying message about life or human nature that a story communicates, such as "Love conquers all"?

- A. Theme**
- B. Symbol
- C. Character
- D. Plot

The main idea being tested here is the theme, the message about life or human nature that a story communicates. A theme is a broad statement or insight that the work suggests about people and life, often expressed in a universal way. When you see a phrase like "Love conquers all," that's signaling a theme about the power of love to overcome obstacles, a takeaway the author wants readers to consider beyond the specific events of the plot. This isn't about objects or people themselves. A symbol is something that stands for something beyond its literal meaning, like a dove representing peace. A character is the people in the story and their traits, growth, or decisions. The plot is the sequence of events and what happens to the characters. So while those elements contribute to the story, the underlying message or insight you're meant to grasp is the theme. To spot it, look for ideas that recur across the story and feel universally true about life or human nature.

3. Which plot stage occurs after the climax and ties up loose ends?

- A. Resolution**
- B. Initiating event**
- C. Climax**
- D. Falling action**

After the climax, a story moves into a phase where the tension eases and the consequences of the turning point unfold. This portion is called the falling action. It's when the narrative begins to tie up loose ends, showing how events after the climax affect characters and subplots, and it sets the stage for the ending. The falling action leads toward the resolution, where the main conflict is fully resolved and the story reaches its final state. For example, after the hero defeats the antagonist (the climax), the falling action might show the hero returning home, mending relationships, and addressing any lingering questions before the story ends.

4. Direct comments from the author illustrate which method of characterization?

- A. Direct comments from the author**
- B. Through a character's actions, thoughts, and speech**
- C. What others say or think about the character**
- D. Statements that can be proven**

Direct comments from the author show direct characterization. When the author states a character's traits, feelings, or motives outright, you're given a straightforward description of who the character is, without needing to infer. This contrasts with indirect characterization, where you learn about a character through actions, thoughts, dialogue, and how others react to them, and you must deduce their personality. The other idea mentioned isn't about how a character is revealed but about evidence or proof, not the method of characterization. So the explicit authorial description is the example of direct characterization.

5. Which term describes a narrative that is not factual, created from imagination?

- A. Fiction**
- B. Genre**
- C. Opinion**
- D. Fact**

Fiction is a narrative created from imagination and not based on real events. It uses invented characters, settings, and plots, and while it can reveal truths about life or human experience, the events themselves aren't factual records. This differs from genre, which is simply a category or type of literature; an opinion, which is a personal belief; and a fact, something that can be proven true. So the term that describes a narrative not factual and created from imagination is fiction.

6. Which term is a broad generalization that ignores individual differences?

- A. Imagery**
- B. Theme**
- C. Setting**
- D. Stereotype**

A stereotype is a broad generalization that ignores individual differences. It labels everyone in a group with the same fixed traits, assuming shared characteristics apply to all, which wipes out the nuance and variety each person brings. This simplification can make quick judgments feel easier, but it often leads to inaccurate beliefs and unfair treatment because people are diverse and don't fit a single mold. Imagery is about using sensory details to create vivid pictures in the reader's mind. Theme is the overall message or insight about life that a work conveys. Setting is the time and place in which a story occurs. None of these describe broad generalizations about groups of people, which is why they aren't the right term here.

7. Which term indicates a generalized belief about a group that may ignore individual differences?

- A. Setting**
- B. Theme**
- C. Imagery**
- D. Stereotype**

A stereotype is a generalized belief about a group that may ignore individual differences. It lumps people together and assumes everyone in that group shares the same traits or behaviors, often based on incomplete or biased information. This oversimplification can lead to unfair judgments and reinforce prejudice because it doesn't consider each person's unique qualities. The other terms describe different concepts: setting is where and when a story takes place, theme is the central message or idea, and imagery is language that appeals to the senses. Therefore, stereotype best fits the description.

8. Which is an example of individual vs. individual external conflict?

- A. A struggle between two characters**
- B. A struggle with a natural disaster**
- C. A struggle with society's norms**
- D. A struggle with technology**

External conflict is a struggle with something outside the character's own mind. When that outside force is another person, it becomes individual vs. individual external conflict. So a clash between two characters shows two people actively opposing each other, which fits this type perfectly—the conflict is person against person, driving direct interaction and competition. A struggle with a natural disaster involves nature, a struggle with society's norms involves social forces, and a struggle with technology involves a tool or system—none of these are a direct opposition between two individuals, even though they are external conflicts.

9. Which internal structure focuses on describing steps or stages in a task?

- A. Process**
- B. Generalization**
- C. Cause and Effect**
- D. Sequential/Chronological**

The main idea is how a text organizes information to show how something is done. A process structure lays out the steps or stages in the order they occur, guiding readers through a task or method. It often uses sequencing words like first, next, then, and finally, and may include details about materials, tools, or specific actions required. This helps readers understand how to complete a task or how something is made or works from start to finish. That's why this choice is the best: it directly describes the sequence of actions to accomplish a task or reach a result. Generalization, on the other hand, focuses on broad statements that apply to many cases. Cause and effect links events by showing why something happens and what results follow. Sequential/chronological can describe events in time, but when the emphasis is on the steps to perform a task, the process structure is the most precise fit.

10. Which technique relies on the character's actions, thoughts, or speech?

- A. Through a character's actions, thoughts, and speech**
- B. Direct comments from the author**
- C. What others say or think about the character**
- D. Statements that can be proven**

Indirect characterization is shown when a reader learns about a character by watching what they do, what they think, and what they say. When a story lets a character act, reveals inner thoughts, and speaks in dialogue, readers infer traits from those cues rather than being told directly. The option that uses the character's own actions, thoughts, and speech is the clearest example of this technique, because it relies on the character's voice and behavior to convey who they are. Direct comments from the author would state traits outright, which is a different method. What others say about the character can reveal impressions, but it doesn't come from the character's own actions or thoughts. Statements that can be proven are factual details, not a way to reveal personality through the character's individuality.

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://vareadingsol.examzify.com>

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

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