GMAS 8TH GRADE ELA PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. Which term describes the writer's target audience—the people the text is written for?

A. Intended Audience

B. Antonym

C. Mood

D. Plot

2. Use specific reasons and evidence to prove your positions or opinion.

A. Summarize the story

B. Support your claim with reasons and evidence

C. Trace and evaluate the writer's claim

D. Analyze the use of a literary device

3. Which term describes the writer's attitude toward the subject as revealed through language?

A. Mood

B. Connotation

C. Denotation

D. Tone

4. Which statement explains why minor details should be omitted from a concise summary?

A. Because minor details strengthen the summary.

B. Because opinions add credibility.

C. Because it helps keep focus on main ideas.

D. Because the author asked you to.

5. Which term means to plan and express something in a formal way?

A. Describe

B. Formulate

C. Explain

D. Summarize

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6. Which term means to tell how or why something happened?

A. Explain

B. Infer

C. Summarize

D. Describe

7. Which term means 'Unnecessary expression of ideas'?

A. Redundant

B. Suffix

C. Prefix

D. Repetitive

8. In a well-structured intro paragraph, what elements create an effective hook and thesis?

A. A simple greeting to the reader.

B. Only the hook, no thesis.

C. A random quote from another author.

D. An engaging opening sentence (hook) followed by a clear thesis that states the claim and previews main points.

9. Tell about something in detail.

A. Describe

B. Summarize

C. Explain

D. Infer

10. Which term describes a rhythmic, compressed language that uses figure of speech and imagery designed to appeal to our emotions and imagination?

A. Verse

B. Poetry or Poem

C. Prose

D. Drama

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which term describes the writer's target audience—the people the text is written for?

A. Intended Audience

B. Antonym

C. Mood

D. Plot

The main idea here is the intended audience—the people the writer writes for. This term names the specific group of readers the author has in mind, and it shapes how the text is written, from tone and vocabulary to examples and level of detail. For example, a science article for middle school students uses clear explanations and relatable examples, not specialized jargon meant for experts. Antonym is about opposite meanings of a word, mood is the feeling the text conveys, and plot is the sequence of events in a story. Those concepts don't describe who the writer is targeting, so the term that best fits is the intended audience.

2. Use specific reasons and evidence to prove your positions or opinion.

A. Summarize the story

B. Support your claim with reasons and evidence

C. Trace and evaluate the writer's claim

D. Analyze the use of a literary device

The main idea being tested is how to argue a point by backing it up with evidence. This item asks you to take a position and defend it with specific reasons and evidence. You would state a clear claim about the topic, then present reasons that support that claim and cite evidence from the text or from your own reasoning to show why those reasons matter. This is the best fit because it focuses on building and supporting an argument, not just retelling events or analyzing how a writer makes a claim. Summarizing would just restate what happened. Tracing and evaluating the writer's claim would examine the claim itself rather than your own position. Analyzing a literary device looks at technique, not at arguing a stance with evidence. To do it well, offer a clear claim, back it up with one or more strong reasons, and support those reasons with specific evidence—quotes, scenes, or concrete details—that illustrate why your position is valid.

3. Which term describes the writer's attitude toward the subject as revealed through language?

A. Mood

B. Connotation

C. Denotation

D. Tone

Tone is the writer's attitude toward the subject revealed through language. You can see it in the words the author chooses, how those words are arranged, and what details are emphasized. For example, positive or respectful word choices can create a hopeful or admiring tone, while sharp or sardonic wording can produce a skeptical or biting tone. Denotation is simply the literal dictionary meaning of words, and connotation is the extra ideas or feelings that words evoke beyond their exact definitions. Mood, on the other hand, is the reader's emotional experience as they read. So while connotation can shape tone and mood reflects the reader, the term that names the writer's attitude shown through language is tone.

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4. Which statement explains why minor details should be omitted from a concise summary?

A. Because minor details strengthen the summary.

B. Because opinions add credibility.

C. Because it helps keep focus on main ideas.

D. Because the author asked you to.

The main idea here is that a concise summary should highlight the essential ideas and keep things clear and brief. When you omit minor details, the focus stays on the main points and the purpose of the original text, making the summary easier to understand and more efficient to read. Minor details don't usually change the overall message, so including them can clutter the summary and distract from what's most important. For example, in a paragraph about a scientist's study, you'd recap the hypothesis, the key results, and the conclusion, rather than listing every single data point or anecdote. That's why this choice is the best: it explains the purpose of omitting less important material to preserve focus on the main ideas. The other options aren't right because they imply adding elements that aren't necessary for a clear, concise summary—like strengthening with minor details, adding opinions, or following the author's request as the main reason—none of which align with why we keep summaries tight and focused.

5. Which term means to plan and express something in a formal way?

A. Describe

B. Formulate

C. Explain

D. Summarize

Formulate means to plan and express something in a formal, organized way. It's about turning ideas into a precise statement or plan that's clearly laid out, often with steps or rules. That fits the prompt because it highlights both making a plan and presenting it in a formal form. Think of how you might formulate a hypothesis in science, a policy proposal, or a plan for solving a problem. On the other hand, describe focuses on detailing features or characteristics, explain aims to reveal reasons or causes, and summarize is about giving a brief, condensed overview. So the sense of creating a structured, formal expression best matches formulate.

6. Which term means to tell how or why something happened?

A. Explain

B. Infer

C. Summarize

D. Describe

The focus here is on giving reasons and causes behind events. When you tell how or why something happened, you are explaining. Explaining goes beyond just describing what occurred or listing facts; it answers the question of what caused the event or how the process unfolded. Inferring involves drawing a conclusion from clues or evidence, which is about reading between the lines rather than stating the explicit reasons. Summarizing is restating the main points in a shorter form, without adding an explanation of why things happened. Describing is detailing what something is like or what occurred, focusing on features or steps rather than causes. So, the term that means to tell how or why something happened is explain. For example, if a plant wilts after a heat spell, explaining would involve saying the heat caused water loss and stressed the plant, not just noting that the plant wilted.

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7. Which term means 'Unnecessary expression of ideas'?

A. Redundant

B. Suffix

C. Prefix

D. Repetitive

The concept being tested is redundancy—the use of extra words or ideas that don't add new meaning. The best term for "unnecessary expression of ideas" is redundant, which describes something that adds no real information because it's repeated or over-words. In writing, you aim to avoid redundant phrases, keeping meaning clear and concise. For example, phrases like "free gift" or "past history" are redundant because the extra word doesn't change the idea. Prefixes and suffixes are about word parts, not unnecessary expression, and while repetitive also involves repetition, redundancy more directly captures the idea of unnecessary or superfluous wording.

8. In a well-structured intro paragraph, what elements create an effective hook and thesis?

A. A simple greeting to the reader.

B. Only the hook, no thesis.

C. A random quote from another author.

D. An engaging opening sentence (hook) followed by a clear thesis that states the claim and previews main points.

A strong intro uses an engaging opening that hooks the reader, followed by a clear thesis that states the claim and previews the main points. The hook grabs attention and draws the reader into the topic, while the thesis provides the purpose and direction of the essay—making it clear what you will argue and how you will support it. This combination helps your reader know why the topic matters and what to expect in the argument. Choosing a simple greeting doesn't establish a purpose or argument, so it doesn't set up the reader for the ideas to come. Relying only on a hook leaves the reader without a stated claim or roadmap, which can make the paragraph feel unfocused. A random quote can be interesting, but without integration into a thesis and a preview of main points, it may seem like a detach-ment from your own argument. The effective option ties a strong, relevant hook to a thesis that clearly states the claim and previews the main points you'll cover.

9. Tell about something in detail.

A. Describe

B. Summarize

C. Explain

D. Infer

Telling about something in detail means describing it fully. Describing is about presenting the subject's features and characteristics with concrete specifics so someone can picture it or understand it clearly. You would share what it looks like, feels like, sounds like, or how it behaves, using vivid details and examples. This goes beyond just naming the thing or giving a brief overview; you're painting a full picture with sensory details, measurements, and distinguishing features. That's why this option fits best here: it directly asks you to convey a rich, detailed picture of the subject. By contrast, summarizing would give only the main points in a brief form, explaining would focus on reasons or how things work, and inferring would involve drawing conclusions that aren't directly stated. For a prompt like "Tell about something in detail," you'd naturally describe the subject in depth, including specific traits, examples, and perhaps your personal impressions to help the reader visualize it.

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10. Which term describes a rhythmic, compressed language that uses figure of speech and imagery designed to appeal to our emotions and imagination?

A. Verse

B. Poetry or Poem

C. Prose

D. Drama

This describes poetry. Poetry uses a rhythmic, condensed language filled with figurative language and vivid imagery to move readers emotionally and stir the imagination. It focuses on the musical quality of words, compacting ideas into lines and often relying on metaphors, similes, and personification to create strong pictures and feelings. Verse is a form within poetry that follows a metrical pattern, prose is straightforward writing without intentional rhythm or line breaks, and drama is written to be performed with dialogue and stage directions. Because the emphasis here is on crafted language that evokes emotion and imagery, the best term is poetry (or a poem).

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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:

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

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