NATIONAL POLICE SELECT TEST (NPST) READING COMPREHENSION 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 of the following is a common cause of poor reading comprehension?

A. Lack of visual aids

B. Too much background knowledge

C. Unfamiliar vocabulary

D. High levels of interest in the topic

2. Why is summarizing a passage important for a reader?

A. It provides a creative response to the text

B. It allows the reader to distill essential information and check their understanding of the text

C. It enhances vocabulary skills

D. It emphasizes emotional tone

3. What is the difference between fact and opinion in a reading passage?

A. A fact is subjective while an opinion is objective

B. A fact is unverifiable, while an opinion is always verifiable

C. A fact can be objectively verified; an opinion expresses personal belief

D. Both fact and opinion are equally reliable

4. Which of the following benefits is associated with foot patrols in community policing?

A. Increased calls for service

B. Increased feel of personal safety among citizens

C. Higher rates of vehicle patrols

D. Decreased community engagement

5. How does understanding a passage's conclusion help in answering comprehension questions?

A. It distracts from the main argument presented

B. It provides insight into the intended message

C. It complicates the understanding of the argument

D. It makes the passage appear longer to the reader

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6. Which of the following best describes the concept of engaging with a text?

A. Reading quickly to finish

B. Ignoring the author's perspective

C. Analyzing and questioning the content

D. Simply enjoying the story

7. Which approach is recommended for enhancing reading comprehension?

A. Ignoring the importance of individual differences

B. Adopting a rigid framework for all texts

C. Utilizing effective strategies tailored to individual needs

D. Focusing only on speed reading

8. What should a reader do when encountering an unfamiliar word in a passage?

A. Skip the word and continue reading

B. Look for context clues to infer its meaning

C. Ignore it and focus on familiar words

D. Immediately search for a dictionary

9. What role does context play in understanding a text?

A. It is irrelevant to the overall message

B. It enhances comprehension by providing background

C. It limits the reader's interpretation

D. It complicates the reading process

10. Why is it important to have adequate background knowledge for reading comprehension?

A. It allows for guesswork in understanding

B. It reduces the reader's ability to engage

C. It provides context for new information

D. It complicates the reading process

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a common cause of poor reading comprehension?

A. Lack of visual aids

B. Too much background knowledge

C. Unfamiliar vocabulary

D. High levels of interest in the topic

Unfamiliar vocabulary is a significant barrier to reading comprehension because it can disrupt the reader's ability to grasp the meaning of the text. When readers encounter words they do not understand, it hinders their ability to connect ideas and understand the overall message. A lack of understanding due to unfamiliar vocabulary forces readers to slow down and may lead to confusion or misinterpretation of the material, which ultimately compromises comprehension. In contrast, while a lack of visual aids may impact comprehension, it is not as universally critical as vocabulary knowledge. Background knowledge can actually enhance understanding, and high levels of interest can motivate readers to engage more deeply with the material, making comprehension easier. Thus, unfamiliar vocabulary stands out as a pervasive issue that affects almost all readers, particularly in complex texts.

2. Why is summarizing a passage important for a reader?

A. It provides a creative response to the text

B. It allows the reader to distill essential information and check their understanding of the text

C. It enhances vocabulary skills

D. It emphasizes emotional tone

Summarizing a passage is crucial for a reader because it helps distill essential information and check their understanding of the text. This practice involves identifying the main ideas and key points, allowing a reader to grasp the overall message without getting lost in the details. By summarizing, readers can reinforce their comprehension of the material and ensure they have retained the most critical aspects. This skill is particularly valuable in academic and professional settings, where clear communication and comprehension are necessary for effective decision-making and dialogue. The process of summarizing encourages critical thinking and analytical skills, contributing to a deeper engagement with the reading material.

3. What is the difference between fact and opinion in a reading passage?

A. A fact is subjective while an opinion is objective

B. A fact is unverifiable, while an opinion is always verifiable

C. A fact can be objectively verified; an opinion expresses personal belief

D. Both fact and opinion are equally reliable

The distinction between fact and opinion is critical for understanding and interpreting a reading passage. A fact is a statement that can be objectively verified; it is based on evidence and can be proven to be true or false through observation, research, or reliable data. For example, stating that "The Earth orbits the Sun" is a fact because it is scientifically proven and universally accepted. On the other hand, an opinion reflects a personal belief, judgment, or perspective, which is inherently subjective. It is not bound by empirical evidence and cannot be proven true or false in the same way that facts can. For instance, saying "Chocolate ice cream is the best flavor" conveys a personal preference rather than an objective truth. This understanding allows readers to critically evaluate information presented in a text, discerning between what is factual and what is a subjective interpretation or belief. Recognizing this difference enhances comprehension and allows for more informed responses to the material read.

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4. Which of the following benefits is associated with foot patrols in community policing?

A. Increased calls for service

B. Increased feel of personal safety among citizens

C. Higher rates of vehicle patrols

D. Decreased community engagement

The choice referring to the increased feeling of personal safety among citizens is relevant because foot patrols allow police officers to build stronger, more visible connections with the community. When officers are walking neighborhoods rather than patrolling in vehicles, they can engage more directly with residents, leading to more interactions and fostering a sense of trust. This presence often reassures citizens, making them feel safer within their environment as they can see law enforcement actively involved and approachable. The other options do not align with the benefits typically associated with foot patrols. Increased calls for service may reflect a higher number of incidents being reported, but it doesn't indicate a positive outcome in terms of community sentiment or safety perception. Higher rates of vehicle patrols would generally suggest a shift away from foot patrols, which contradicts the focus on community engagement that foot patrols provide. Lastly, decreased community engagement would counter the foundational goal of foot patrols, which is to strengthen relationships and communication between law enforcement and the community.

5. How does understanding a passage's conclusion help in answering comprehension questions?

A. It distracts from the main argument presented

B. It provides insight into the intended message

C. It complicates the understanding of the argument

D. It makes the passage appear longer to the reader

Understanding a passage's conclusion is vital for grasping the overall intended message because the conclusion often encapsulates the main points, arguments, and themes presented throughout the text. By identifying what the author aims to convey in the conclusion, readers can better comprehend the significance of the details and evidence provided in the preceding sections. This insight allows readers to recognize how various elements of the passage contribute to that final takeaway, guiding them to answer comprehension questions with a clearer understanding of the author's intent.

6. Which of the following best describes the concept of engaging with a text?

A. Reading quickly to finish

B. Ignoring the author's perspective

C. Analyzing and questioning the content

D. Simply enjoying the story

Engaging with a text involves interacting critically with the material rather than passively receiving information. This concept encompasses analyzing the arguments presented, questioning the validity of the ideas, and considering the author's perspective and intent. When someone engages with a text, they actively think about the content, draw connections to their own experiences or knowledge, and reflect on the implications of the material. This level of engagement enhances comprehension and critical thinking, allowing for a deeper understanding of the text's themes, arguments, and relevance. In contrast, reading quickly to finish does not require active engagement, as it focuses solely on speed rather than comprehension. Ignoring the author's perspective limits the understanding of the text, as the author often conveys specific viewpoints or messages that are crucial to fully grasping the material. Simply enjoying the story may reflect a positive reading experience but does not necessarily indicate an analytical approach or depth of engagement with the text.

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7. Which approach is recommended for enhancing reading comprehension?

A. Ignoring the importance of individual differences

B. Adopting a rigid framework for all texts

C. Utilizing effective strategies tailored to individual needs

D. Focusing only on speed reading

Utilizing effective strategies tailored to individual needs is essential for enhancing reading comprehension because it acknowledges that each reader has unique strengths, weaknesses, and preferences. Individual differences such as prior knowledge, interests, and learning styles can significantly influence how well someone understands a text. By adopting strategies that cater to these individual factors, readers can engage more deeply with the material, facilitating better retention and comprehension. This personalized approach might include strategies like active reading, summarization, questioning, and visual mapping, which allow individuals to connect with the content on a deeper level. It fosters critical thinking and enables readers to identify and focus on key ideas, making comprehension more effective and meaningful. In contrast, ignoring individual differences can lead to a one-size-fits-all method that may not be effective for everyone. Adopting a rigid framework disregards the diversity of text types and reader experiences, while solely focusing on speed reading often sacrifices comprehension for the sake of quickness. Thus, the recommended approach prioritizes adaptable strategies that meet the specific needs of the reader.

8. What should a reader do when encountering an unfamiliar word in a passage?

A. Skip the word and continue reading

B. Look for context clues to infer its meaning

C. Ignore it and focus on familiar words

D. Immediately search for a dictionary

When a reader encounters an unfamiliar word in a passage, looking for context clues to infer its meaning is a highly effective strategy. Context clues can come from the surrounding sentences or paragraphs, providing hints about the word's definition based on how it is used in the text. This approach allows the reader to maintain the flow of their reading while gaining a better understanding of the overall message. For instance, if the passage includes descriptive phrases or examples that relate to the unfamiliar word, the reader can piece together its meaning without stopping to consult an external source like a dictionary. This fosters comprehension and helps to develop vocabulary skills over time. Choosing to skip the word and continue reading might lead to misunderstandings or loss of context within the passage. Similarly, ignoring the unfamiliar word or focusing solely on familiar words could hinder overall comprehension. While searching for a dictionary is sometimes necessary, it can disrupt reading flow and takes time away from engaging with the text directly. Therefore, utilizing context clues emerges as the most balanced and effective method for handling unfamiliar vocabulary.

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9. What role does context play in understanding a text?

A. It is irrelevant to the overall message

B. It enhances comprehension by providing background

C. It limits the reader's interpretation

D. It complicates the reading process

Context plays a crucial role in enhancing comprehension by providing essential background information that allows readers to grasp the nuances of a text. When a reader understands the context in which a piece was written, including the socio-political environment, the author's intentions, and the specific circumstances surrounding the topic, they can interpret the message more accurately and fully appreciate the content. By situating the text within its relevant background, readers can discern subtleties, recognize references, and connect ideas that they might otherwise overlook. This understanding allows for a richer and more informed interaction with the material, leading to a deeper and more meaningful comprehension of the text's themes and messages. Context shapes how we interpret words and phrases and influences the overall understanding and implications of the content presented.

10. Why is it important to have adequate background knowledge for reading comprehension?

A. It allows for guesswork in understanding

B. It reduces the reader's ability to engage

C. It provides context for new information

D. It complicates the reading process

Having adequate background knowledge is vital for reading comprehension because it provides context for new information. When readers encounter a text, their existing knowledge helps them make connections with the content, facilitating a deeper understanding. This context allows readers to anticipate what might come next in the narrative or argument, fill in gaps in information, and make inferences. Without this foundational knowledge, readers may struggle to grasp the meaning of the material, resulting in a fragmented understanding. For instance, if someone is reading about a specific legal concept without prior knowledge of legal terminology or frameworks, they may find it challenging to follow the discussion or argument being presented. Thus, background knowledge enhances cognitive engagement with the text and promotes retention of new ideas, making it a critical component of effective reading comprehension.

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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:

https://npstreadingcomprehension.examzify.com

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

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