VIRGINIA READING 8TH GRADE SOL PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://vareading8thgradesol.examzify.com

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Denotation is illustrated by which option?

A. The dictionary definition of a word

B. The emotional impact of a word

C. The sound pattern of a word

D. The use of a word in a sentence

2. What evidence best supports a claim that a policy was effective?

A. Anecdotal stories

B. Opinion polls only

C. Data showing improvements or outcomes directly linked to the policy

D. The policy's popularity in media

3. In literary analysis, what best explains 'theme'?

A. The setting that shapes events

B. The plot's sequence of actions

C. The underlying message or insight about life conveyed by the text

D. The author's favorite motif

4. Which line shows a character's actions to reveal heroism and compassion?

A. He worried if anyone noticed the stain on his shirt, keeping his arms crossed tightly.

B. Whenever she walked into the room, people stopped whispering and stood a little straighter.

C. He pushed past the crowd to help the child find her parents, ignoring the heavy rain.

D. Her desk was a mountain of color-coded folders; every pen was aligned perfectly with the edge of her notepad.

5. How can you analyze the development of a character across a short story?

A. Track changes in motivation, relationships, decisions, and the impact of events on the character.

B. Read the ending first to infer everything.

C. Focus only on the narrator's voice.

D. Ignore how events affect the character.

SAMPLE

6. Which statement best explains why a writer includes evidence in support of a claim?

A. To mislead readers

B. To support the main claim with credible information

C. To fill space

D. To confuse readers

7. Which line shows a character's effect on others indicating respect or intimidation?

A. He worried if anyone noticed the stain on his shirt, keeping his arms crossed tightly.

B. Whenever she walked into the room, people stopped whispering and stood a little straighter.

C. He pushed past the crowd to help the child find her parents, ignoring the heavy rain.

D. Her desk was a mountain of color-coded folders; every pen was aligned perfectly with the edge of her notepad.

8. How can selective presentation of evidence affect a reader's sense of bias?

A. It may mislead readers by omitting relevant information.

B. It makes the argument more balanced.

C. It always strengthens credibility.

D. It has no impact.

9. How does the structure of a cause/effect passage help convey information?

A. It shows how one event leads to another, clarifying relationships.

B. It presents a problem and its solution.

C. It focuses on character motivations.

D. It uses vivid imagery.

10. Which trait is external?

A. Appearance

B. Personality

C. Beliefs

D. Dreams

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Denotation is illustrated by which option?

A. The dictionary definition of a word

B. The emotional impact of a word

C. The sound pattern of a word

D. The use of a word in a sentence

Denotation is the explicit, literal meaning of a word—the definition you'd look up in a dictionary. That makes the option describing the dictionary definition the best illustration, because it shows the word's direct meaning without feelings or context. Emotional impact points to connotation—the feelings and associations a word carries. The sound pattern relates to its phonetic form. Using a word in a sentence shows how it's used in context, not its literal meaning.

2. What evidence best supports a claim that a policy was effective?

A. Anecdotal stories

B. Opinion polls only

C. Data showing improvements or outcomes directly linked to the policy

D. The policy's popularity in media

The best evidence that a policy was effective is data showing measurable improvements or outcomes that can be directly linked to the policy's implementation. This means looking at actual results—before-and-after measurements, changes over time, or comparisons to groups not affected by the policy—that demonstrate the policy caused those changes, ideally with methods that help rule out other explanations. Anecdotal stories show individual experiences but don't prove that the policy caused those changes or that they apply broadly. Opinion polls reveal what people think or feel, not whether real outcomes improved. Media popularity reflects how much attention a policy gets, not whether it worked.

3. In literary analysis, what best explains 'theme'?

A. The setting that shapes events

B. The plot's sequence of actions

C. The underlying message or insight about life conveyed by the text

D. The author's favorite motif

Theme is the central idea or insight about life that a literary work conveys to readers. It goes beyond what happens or where and when it happens, and it's the message the author wants you to think about after finishing. Often the theme isn't stated outright; you uncover it by looking at what the characters learn, how they change, and what the story emphasizes about people or life. The setting is the backdrop that shapes events, the plot is the sequence of actions that happen, and a motif is a recurring image or symbol the author uses—these elements help develop the story, but they aren't the theme itself.

SAMPLE

4. Which line shows a character's actions to reveal heroism and compassion?

A. He worried if anyone noticed the stain on his shirt, keeping his arms crossed tightly.

B. Whenever she walked into the room, people stopped whispering and stood a little straighter.

C. He pushed past the crowd to help the child find her parents, ignoring the heavy rain.

D. Her desk was a mountain of color-coded folders; every pen was aligned perfectly with the edge of her notepad.

The main idea being tested is how actions reveal heroism and compassion. The line that best shows this is the moment he pushes through the crowd to help the child find her parents, ignoring the heavy rain. This action puts someone else's safety and well-being first, especially in a difficult and potentially dangerous moment, which is the essence of both heroism and compassion. Heroism involves taking courageous, selfless steps to help others, even when it's uncomfortable or risky. Compassion is shown by recognizing another's distress and choosing to act to ease it. The other lines don't demonstrate that same direct, selfless helping behavior. One reflects worry about appearances rather than aiding someone in need. Another shows influence or authority affecting others' posture, not aiding a person in distress. The last one depicts meticulous organization, which is a trait but not an act of helping someone or showing concern for another's welfare.

5. How can you analyze the development of a character across a short story?

A. Track changes in motivation, relationships, decisions, and the impact of events on the character.

B. Read the ending first to infer everything.

C. Focus only on the narrator's voice.

D. Ignore how events affect the character.

Character development is shown by how a character changes from the beginning to the end of the story. To analyze it, focus on changes in motivation, relationships, decisions, and how events affect the character. In a short story, look for moments that reveal what the character wants at first, how interactions with others shape those desires, the choices they make under pressure, and how a key event shifts their thinking or behavior. Seeing these shifts together helps you understand the character's arc—where they start and how they end up. Relying on the ending alone can miss the hints and growth that appear earlier, focusing only on the narrator's voice might reveal the storyteller's perspective rather than the character's inner change, and ignoring how events affect the character misses the cause of the development. When you read, note specific moments that show a change in motive, describe how relationships influence decisions, and connect those changes to the events that trigger them.

SAMPLE

6. Which statement best explains why a writer includes evidence in support of a claim?

A. To mislead readers

B. To support the main claim with credible information

C. To fill space

D. To confuse readers

Including evidence is about backing up a claim with credible information so the writer's point feels trustworthy and well-supported. When ideas are joined with facts, data, expert opinions, or concrete examples, readers can see a clear reason to accept the claim rather than just taking it as opinion. For instance, if you say exercise improves mood, citing a study or survey gives actual backing that helps persuade the reader. Choices that imply the goal is to mislead, fill space, or confuse don't fit what evidence is for, because credible information is used to establish trust and show the claim has solid support.

7. Which line shows a character's effect on others indicating respect or intimidation?

A. He worried if anyone noticed the stain on his shirt, keeping his arms crossed tightly.

B. Whenever she walked into the room, people stopped whispering and stood a little straighter.

C. He pushed past the crowd to help the child find her parents, ignoring the heavy rain.

D. Her desk was a mountain of color-coded folders; every pen was aligned perfectly with the edge of her notepad.

Showing how others respond to a character's presence reveals whether that character commands respect or seems intimidating. In this line, as she enters, people stop whispering and stand a little straighter. That immediate change in how others behave demonstrates the influence she has simply by showing up—peers adjust their posture and silence shows deference or fear. The other lines don't capture that social effect: one centers on personal self-consciousness, another on a brave action toward a child without showing how people react to the character's presence, and the last describes organized desk items rather than any impact on others. This line best signals the character's perceived authority in the scene.

8. How can selective presentation of evidence affect a reader's sense of bias?

A. It may mislead readers by omitting relevant information.

B. It makes the argument more balanced.

C. It always strengthens credibility.

D. It has no impact.

Selective presentation of evidence shapes how readers perceive an argument by controlling what information is shown and what is left out. When only evidence that supports the claim is presented, while relevant counter-evidence is omitted, the reader gets a partial picture that can lead to a biased impression. This is why omitting information can mislead readers, because they aren't seeing the full set of facts or viewpoints. Balance would mean acknowledging opposing views and weighing them fairly; cherry-picking evidence does not accomplish that. It doesn't automatically strengthen credibility; in fact, readers may doubt the writer's honesty or objectivity when they detect selective presentation. The impact is real: readers' sense of bias increases as they notice that important information is missing or only one side is being shown.

SAMPLE

9. How does the structure of a cause/effect passage help convey information?

A. It shows how one event leads to another, clarifying relationships.

B. It presents a problem and its solution.

C. It focuses on character motivations.

D. It uses vivid imagery.

A cause/effect passage guides you to see how one event leads to another and why things happen. When the text presents a problem and then shows a solution, you can clearly track the sequence: the problem is the starting cause, and the solution is the resulting effect that resolves or changes the situation. This setup makes the relationships between events easy to follow and helps you understand the purpose of each part of the narrative or explanation. So, describing it as presenting a problem and its solution fits best because it directly demonstrates how the initial issue (the cause) leads to the outcome (the effect) that follows. Other options describe elements like character motivations or imagery, which don't illuminate the cause/effect link as cleanly.

10. Which trait is external?

A. Appearance

B. Personality

C. Beliefs

D. Dreams

External traits are things you can notice about someone from the outside. Appearance is visible: how someone looks, what they wear, their hair color, and other outward features. That observable quality makes it external. The other options describe internal aspects—personality is how a person tends to think and feel and behave inside, beliefs are what someone holds to be true in their mind, and dreams are inner hopes or goals. Those aren't outwardly observable in the same immediate way, so they're internal.

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://vareading8thgradesol.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE