ATC AP CHARACTERISTICS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://atcapcharacteristics.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. Which component in the unnamed NAVAID fix instruction designates the unit of distance used for the fix?

A. NAVIAD

B. radial to intercept

C. distance

D. mile fix

2. How wide are taxiways?

A. 50 feet wide

B. 100 feet wide

C. Normally 75 feet wide

D. 30 feet wide

3. Touchdown Zone Lights primarily help pilots identify the touchdown zone under adverse conditions. TDZL are located along the centerline starting at what distance from the threshold?

A. Identify wind direction

B. Identify touchdown zone

C. Indicate runway length

D. Mark the runway edge

4. What do runway holding position markings look like?

A. Two Solid Lines And Two Dash Marks On The Runway Side, 6 To 12 Inches Apart, At Least 175 Feet From The Runway Edge

B. One Solid Line On The Runway Side

C. Two Dashed Lines With No Solid Lines

D. Yellow X Across The Runway

5. What does the Airport Surface Detection Equipment (ASDE) show?

A. Shows the movement of aircraft on taxiways and runways, used from sunset to sunrise or anytime deemed helpful to the controller.

B. Displays weather radar information only.

C. Provides flight plan data to controllers.

D. Monitors fuel levels in aircraft on the ramp.

SAMPLE

6. Which mission prefix corresponds to Air Mobility Command?

A. E

B. F

C. RCH

D. S

7. How is Local Time pronounced?

A. Four digits followed by time zone or 'local time' (correct)

B. Four digits followed by 'UTC'

C. Four digits followed by 'local date'

D. Two digits followed by 'local time'

8. AFCLS stands for which system?

A. Airfield Lighting Control System

B. Aircraft Lighting Control System

C. Airfield Local Control System

D. Automated Flight Lighting System

9. Threshold lights are operationally connected to which of the following lighting systems?

A. Runway edge lights

B. Taxiway edge lights

C. Approach lights

D. REIL

10. The DASI reading is displayed on which display?

A. Remote Digital Altimeter Display

B. Local Primary Display

C. Surface Weather Display

D. Flight Data Display

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Which component in the unnamed NAVAID fix instruction designates the unit of distance used for the fix?

A. NAVIAD

B. radial to intercept

C. distance

D. mile fix

In a fix defined from a NAVAID, distance can be expressed with different units, and the label that tells you which unit to use is the one that specifies the type of fix. The "mile fix" designates miles as the unit for that fix, distinguishing it from fixes defined by nautical miles or DME distance. The radial to intercept tells you which line from the NAVAID to follow, and the numeric distance gives the amount, but without the unit cue you wouldn't know whether that distance is miles or NM. The term here that communicates the unit is the mile fix.

2. How wide are taxiways?

A. 50 feet wide

B. 100 feet wide

C. Normally 75 feet wide

D. 30 feet wide

Taxiway width is chosen to safely accommodate the wingspan, prop arc, and turning radii of aircraft that will use it, plus provide margins to keep airplanes and ground vehicles clear of obstacles. A common standard width is 75 feet, which is wide enough for most small to medium aircraft to taxi and turn at intersections with adequate clearance, while also keeping construction and maintenance costs reasonable. Wider taxiways are used for larger aircraft or high-traffic airports, and narrower ones may be used at very small GA fields. The 75-foot width represents the typical default you'll encounter in aviation practice.

3. Touchdown Zone Lights primarily help pilots identify the touchdown zone under adverse conditions. TDZL are located along the centerline starting at what distance from the threshold?

A. Identify wind direction

B. Identify touchdown zone

C. Indicate runway length

D. Mark the runway edge

Touchdown Zone Lights are designed to help you identify the exact area where you should touchdown, especially when visibility is reduced. They run along the runway centerline starting about 100 feet from the threshold and extend out to roughly 3,000 feet beyond the threshold, providing a clear visual cue of the touchdown zone. This focused function—lighting up the zone where the aircraft should touch down—makes them valuable in adverse conditions, more so than lights that indicate wind direction, runway length, or runway edges.

SAMPLE

4. What do runway holding position markings look like?

A. Two Solid Lines And Two Dash Marks On The Runway Side, 6 To 12 Inches Apart, At Least 175 Feet From The Runway Edge

B. One Solid Line On The Runway Side

C. Two Dashed Lines With No Solid Lines

D. Yellow X Across The Runway

Runway holding position markings define where an aircraft must stop when approaching a runway. They consist of four lines across the taxiway: two solid lines and two dashed lines, with the solid lines facing the runway side. This arrangement shows the boundary you cannot cross without explicit clearance. If you're cleared to cross, you proceed past the dashed-line side and onto or across the hold boundary; without clearance you stop before the solid lines. The other options don't describe this boundary: a single solid line isn't enough to mark the hold line, two dashed lines without solids don't provide the required boundary, and a yellow X means the runway is closed.

5. What does the Airport Surface Detection Equipment (ASDE) show?

A. Shows the movement of aircraft on taxiways and runways, used from sunset to sunrise or anytime deemed helpful to the controller.

B. Displays weather radar information only.

C. Provides flight plan data to controllers.

D. Monitors fuel levels in aircraft on the ramp.

ASDE displays the positions of aircraft and ground vehicles on the airport surface—specifically on taxiways and runways. This ground-surveillance view lets air traffic controllers see movements even when visibility is poor, helping prevent runway incursions and coordinate taxiing and takeoffs/landings. It is not weather radar, not flight plan data, and not fuel information.

6. Which mission prefix corresponds to Air Mobility Command?

A. E

B. F

C. RCH

D. S

Mission prefixes tag the broad mission category of an operation, helping planners and controllers quickly recognize what type of mission is involved. Air Mobility Command handles airlift and mobility tasks, and in this context that category is designated by the three-letter prefix RCH. This prefix sets AMC apart from other mission families that use different single-letter or different prefixes. The other options would map to different mission areas and do not indicate AMC missions, so RCH is the correct fit for identifying Air Mobility Command missions.

SAMPLE

7. How is Local Time pronounced?

A. Four digits followed by time zone or 'local time' (correct)

B. Four digits followed by 'UTC'

C. Four digits followed by 'local date'

D. Two digits followed by 'local time'

Local Time is spoken using four digits for the time (hours and minutes) followed by the phrase local time. The digits are read individually, and you don't use a colon. This format prevents ambiguity and clearly shows which time reference is being used. For example, 0825 local time would be pronounced "zero eight two five local time." Why this fits best: the four-digit time expresses the precise hour and minute, and adding "local time" confirms that the time is based on the local zone rather than another reference like UTC. Saying only two digits would omit the minutes and create confusion, while saying "local date" would refer to a calendar date, not a time. Saying "UTC" would indicate Coordinated Universal Time, not local time, which is not what's being asked.

8. AFCLS stands for which system?

A. Airfield Lighting Control System

B. Aircraft Lighting Control System

C. Airfield Local Control System

D. Automated Flight Lighting System

In aviation terminology, AFCLS refers to the system that manages ground-based lighting at an airport. The Airfield Lighting Control System is the setup that controls runway and taxiway lights, approach lighting, and other airfield illumination, typically from the control tower or a dedicated control room. It handles activation, intensity, and synchronization of lights to support safe operations during takeoff, landing, and night or low-visibility conditions. This distinguishes it from an Aircraft Lighting Control System, which would govern exterior lights on the aircraft itself, not the airfield. The term Airfield Local Control System isn't the standard designation for this infrastructure, and an Automated Flight Lighting System would imply automation of aircraft lighting rather than the field's lighting network.

9. Threshold lights are operationally connected to which of the following lighting systems?

A. Runway edge lights

B. Taxiway edge lights

C. Approach lights

D. REIL

Threshold lights are part of the runway's lighting system and are tied into the runway edge lighting circuit. They work together to define the usable portion of the runway by marking the threshold, so when the runway edge lights are active, the threshold lights provide the cue to pilots for where the landing area begins. This is different from approach lighting, which runs along the approach path to the runway, and from REIL, which are separate lights at the threshold used for quick threshold identification.

SAMPLE

10. The DASI reading is displayed on which display?

A. Remote Digital Altimeter Display

B. Local Primary Display

C. Surface Weather Display

D. Flight Data Display

DASI reading is the digital readout of the altimeter data, so it belongs on the Remote Digital Altimeter Display. This display is dedicated to presenting altitude information from the altimeter system, keeping it separate from other data like weather or general flight parameters. The Local Primary Display shows overall flight information, not the specific altimeter readout; the Surface Weather Display is for meteorological data, and the Flight Data Display covers broader performance data. So the correct display for DASI is the Remote Digital Altimeter Display.

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://atcapcharacteristics.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE