# METAR DECODING 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. What does "VIS 3/4 V 1 1/2" signify in weather reports?**

A. Visibility is constant at 3/4 mile

B. Visibility is decreasing from 1.5 miles to 3/4 mile

C. Visibility varying between 3/4 and 1.5 statute miles

D. Visibility is reported in nautical miles

**2. How often is a METAR typically updated?**

A. Every hour

B. Every 30 minutes

C. Every 15 minutes

D. Every two hours

**3. What does the term "SH" signify before precipitation types in a METAR?**

A. Snow

B. Showers

C. Sky condition

D. Heavy rain

**4. In METAR, what does "RVR" stand for?**

A. Runoff Visual Rate

B. Runway Visual Range

C. Rapid Visibility Report

D. Relative Visibility Reading

**5. What does the prefix "AUTO" indicate in a METAR report?**

A. The report was manually generated

B. The report was generated automatically without human intervention

C. The report contains automated temperature readings

D. The report is an updated emergency bulletin

**6. What type of cloud is identified by the abbreviation CB in a METAR report?**

A. Cumulonimbus

B. Cirrus

C. Cumulus

D. Stratus

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**7. In METAR, what is indicated by "VRB04KTS"?**

A. Variable winds at 4 knots
B. Very rapid winds blowing at 4 knots
C. Winds calm with gusts through variable areas
D. Winds from the northeast at 4 knots

**8. What does RMK refer to in a METAR report?**

A. Remarks
B. Rain measurement
C. Relative humidity
D. Radiation monitoring

**9. What does CIG 013V017 indicate in a METAR report?**

A. Ceiling varying between 1300 and 1700 feet
B. Ceiling height of 1300 feet
C. Ceiling constant at 1700 feet
D. Ceiling exceeding 1300 feet

**10. In a METAR, what does "VCTS" indicate?**

A. Very close thunderstorm
B. Visible cumulus
C. Vicinity thunderstorm
D. Variable cloud thickness

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# Answers

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

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# Explanations

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## 1. What does "VIS 3/4 V 1 1/2" signify in weather reports?

A. Visibility is constant at 3/4 mile

B. Visibility is decreasing from 1.5 miles to 3/4 mile

C. Visibility varying between 3/4 and 1.5 statute miles

D. Visibility is reported in nautical miles

*The notation "VIS 3/4 V 1 1/2" in weather reports indicates that visibility is varying between two specific values, in this case, 3/4 mile and 1.5 miles. This means that the meteorological observer has noted fluctuations in visibility, which can be influenced by factors like weather conditions such as fog, rain, or dust. The "V" in this context serves as a separator, indicating a range rather than a single, constant measurement of visibility. When interpreted correctly, it shows that at times, visibility may be as low as 3/4 mile and at other times may increase up to 1.5 miles. Other interpretations would not appropriately reflect the nature of the visibility report, as the first option suggests a fixed visibility of 3/4 mile, which is inaccurate in this case. The second option infers a direction of change that is not indicated in the report; the notation does not imply that visibility is decreasing from one measurement to another. Finally, the last option misunderstands the units used in the context – visibility is reported in statute miles, not nautical miles. Thus, understanding how "VIS" and the accompanying values function clarifies that this specific report denotes*

## 2. How often is a METAR typically updated?

A. Every hour

B. Every 30 minutes

C. Every 15 minutes

D. Every two hours

*A METAR report is typically updated every hour. This consistent hourly update provides pilots and meteorologists with the most current weather information that is necessary for flight operations and safety. The hourly frequency allows for me to reflect changes in weather conditions promptly, ensuring that any crucial shifts, such as visibility alterations or sudden changes in wind patterns, are communicated effectively to those in the aviation community. The other options suggest more frequent updates, like every 30 or 15 minutes, which are not standard for METAR reports. While special reports called SPECI can be issued for significant changes at any time, the regular METAR updates are established on an hourly basis. Additionally, a two-hour frequency would not meet the needs for up-to-date weather conditions critical for flight safety. Hence, the hourly update interval is specifically established to balance timely information delivery with practical reporting capabilities.*

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## 3. What does the term "SH" signify before precipitation types in a METAR?

A. Snow

B. Showers

C. Sky condition

D. Heavy rain

*The term "SH" in a METAR signifies "showers" when it appears before precipitation types. This abbreviation indicates that the type of precipitation is occurring in the form of brief, intermittent bursts, rather than steady rainfall or snowfall. Showers are typically characterized by their variability in intensity and can occur sporadically. In the context of METAR reports, understanding the distinction between showers and other forms of precipitation is essential for interpreting current weather conditions. For instance, if "SH" is reported, a pilot or meteorologist can anticipate that the precipitation may not be continuous but rather fluctuate, which could affect visibility and flight operations. Each of the other options represents different weather conditions but does not describe the specific nature of "showers" as indicated by "SH." For example, while "Snow" simply refers to frozen precipitation, "Sky condition" pertains to the overall state of the sky, and "Heavy rain" indicates a certain intensity of rainfall without the specificity that the term "showers" conveys. Understanding these distinctions is crucial for accurate weather observation and reporting.*

## 4. In METAR, what does "RVR" stand for?

A. Runoff Visual Rate

B. Runway Visual Range

C. Rapid Visibility Report

D. Relative Visibility Reading

*"RVR" stands for "Runway Visual Range," which is a crucial metric used in aviation to assess the visibility conditions an aircraft may experience when approaching or landing on a runway. RVR provides pilots and air traffic controllers with information about how far ahead a pilot can see down the runway, particularly under low visibility conditions such as fog, heavy rain, or snow. Runway Visual Range is measured using instruments that gauge the distance over which a pilot can see runway lighting and markings. This information helps to determine whether it is safe for aircraft to land and take off, as different runways may have varying RVR values depending on the weather conditions. Knowing RVR is vital for ensuring safe operations, especially for approaches that may require specific visibility minimums, such as precision and non-precision approaches. Other choices, such as "Runoff Visual Rate," "Rapid Visibility Report," and "Relative Visibility Reading," do not correspond to established aviation terminology. These terms do not reflect any standard practice in aviation reporting or safety assessments regarding runway conditions, which further supports that "Runway Visual Range" is the accurate interpretation of RVR in the context of METARs.*

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## 5. What does the prefix "AUTO" indicate in a METAR report?

A. The report was manually generated

B. The report was generated automatically without human intervention

C. The report contains automated temperature readings

D. The report is an updated emergency bulletin

*The prefix "AUTO" in a METAR report signifies that the report was generated automatically without human intervention. This means that the data was collected and compiled by automated weather observing systems, which continuously monitor and record various weather parameters such as temperature, wind speed, visibility, and precipitation. Automated reports are beneficial for providing timely and consistent weather information, especially in remote locations where human observers may not be readily available. The use of "AUTO" helps users of the METAR report, such as pilots and meteorologists, understand that the report comes from an automated source, which may affect how they interpret the data or how much confidence they might place in its accuracy, particularly in unusual weather conditions. The other choices do not accurately reflect the meaning of "AUTO." The first option suggests the report was manually generated, which directly contradicts the purpose of the "AUTO" prefix. The third option incorrectly implies that it is solely about temperature readings, while "AUTO" applies to the whole report. Lastly, the fourth option incorrectly indicates that the report pertains to an emergency bulletin, which is unrelated to the automatic generation aspect indicated by "AUTO."*

## 6. What type of cloud is identified by the abbreviation CB in a METAR report?

A. Cumulonimbus

B. Cirrus

C. Cumulus

D. Stratus

*The abbreviation CB in a METAR report stands for Cumulonimbus clouds. These are towering clouds often associated with thunderstorms and severe weather. Cumulonimbus clouds can extend high into the atmosphere, reaching the stratosphere, and are characterized by their anvil-shaped tops. They typically bring heavy rainfall, lightning, and sometimes severe weather phenomena like hail or tornadoes. Recognizing this abbreviation is essential for understanding potential weather conditions, especially when assessing flight safety or predicting rapid weather changes. This distinguishes Cumulonimbus from other cloud types, such as Cirrus, Cumulus, and Stratus, which have their own unique characteristics and weather implications.*

## 7. In METAR, what is indicated by "VRB04KTS"?

A. Variable winds at 4 knots

B. Very rapid winds blowing at 4 knots

C. Winds calm with gusts through variable areas

D. Winds from the northeast at 4 knots

*The notation "VRB04KTS" in a METAR report indicates variable winds at a speed of 4 knots. The "VRB" prefix specifically denotes that the wind direction is variable, which means it does not consistently blow from a single compass direction but rather shifts between different directions. The "04" indicates the wind speed, which is 4 knots, and "KTS" stands for knots, the unit of measure for wind speed. This interpretation aligns with standard meteorological practices, where variable winds can occur in various weather conditions and are reported to assist pilots and meteorologists in understanding the air conditions. The presence of both "VRB" and the numerical wind speed provides clear and concise information about the wind conditions at the reporting airport, which is critical for flight operations and safety.*

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## 8. What does RMK refer to in a METAR report?

A. Remarks

B. Rain measurement

C. Relative humidity

D. Radiation monitoring

*In a METAR report, RMK stands for "Remarks." This section provides additional information that may not be included in the standard elements of the METAR. Remarks can give insights into various conditions or observations, such as specific weather phenomena, runway conditions, or other pertinent notes that could affect flight operations. The ability to include remarks enhances the utility of METAR reports by allowing meteorologists and aviation personnel to convey information that is beyond the basic weather data formatted in the report. This context is crucial for pilots and air traffic controllers to make informed decisions regarding flight safety and navigation.*

## 9. What does CIG 013V017 indicate in a METAR report?

A. Ceiling varying between 1300 and 1700 feet

B. Ceiling height of 1300 feet

C. Ceiling constant at 1700 feet

D. Ceiling exceeding 1300 feet

*The notation CIG 013V017 in a METAR report specifically means that the ceiling, or the height of the cloud base above ground level, varies between 1300 and 1700 feet. The "CIG" abbreviation indicates cloud ceiling information, with the numbers following it representing the altitudes in hundreds of feet. The "V" in this context signifies variability, indicating that the ceiling fluctuates between these two heights. Therefore, the correct interpretation confirms that the cloud base is not fixed but rather changes within the specified range, making option A the correct choice.*

## 10. In a METAR, what does "VCTS" indicate?

A. Very close thunderstorm

B. Visible cumulus

C. Vicinity thunderstorm

D. Variable cloud thickness

*In a METAR report, "VCTS" stands for "Vicinity Thunderstorm." This term is used to indicate that thunderstorms are occurring in the vicinity of the reporting station, but not necessarily at its exact location. The "vicinity" typically refers to an area within 5 to 10 statute miles from the airport. This means that although thunderstorms may not be directly overhead, they are close enough that they could pose a hazard to aviation operations. Understanding this term is important for pilots and air traffic controllers, as it alerts them to the potential for turbulent weather conditions associated with thunderstorms, such as gusty winds, lightning, and heavy precipitation that may impact flight safety and operations. The usage of "VCTS" helps convey vital information about weather conditions without needing to provide details about specific locations of storms.*

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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://metardecoding.examzify.com

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

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