

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (TAMU) ATMO 201 WEATHER AND CLIMATE EXAM 1 PRACTICE (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	16

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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.

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!

Questions

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- 1. Standard sea level pressure is**
 - A. 29.92 Pa
 - B. 29.92 kPa
 - C. 29.92 psi
 - D. 29.92 Hg
- 2. Which process is heat transfer by direct contact between substances?**
 - A. Convection
 - B. Radiation
 - C. Conduction
 - D. Evaporation
- 3. Which of the following is NOT a primary mechanism that causes air to lift and form clouds?**
 - A. Radiative cooling at night
 - B. Convection (surface heating)
 - C. Orographic lifting (over mountains)
 - D. Frontal lifting (warmer air over colder air at fronts)
- 4. What does hydrophobic describe a substance as being?**
 - A. Water loving
 - B. Water hating
 - C. Water soluble
 - D. Water resistant
- 5. Relative humidity is highest when which condition holds?**
 - A. Air temperature is much higher than the dew point
 - B. Dew point is at its minimum
 - C. Air pressure is extremely low
 - D. Air temperature equals the dew point

6. How does surface albedo influence the Earth's energy budget and climate feedbacks?

- A. Higher albedo reflects more solar energy, cooling the surface; climate feedback occurs when changes in climate affect albedo (e.g., ice-albedo feedback).
- B. Higher albedo traps more heat, warming the surface; climate feedback amplifies warming.
- C. Albedo has no effect on energy budget; climate feedback is independent.
- D. Lower albedo reflects more solar energy, cooling.

7. Conduction is heat transfer by?

- A. Heat transfer by fluid movement
- B. Heat transfer through phase change
- C. Heat transfer by radiation
- D. Heat transfer from touch

8. Which factors primarily explain the large diurnal temperature range in deserts?

- A. Dense vegetation reducing surface albedo.
- B. Clear skies and dry surfaces cause rapid daytime heating and nighttime radiative cooling.
- C. High humidity and thick cloud cover trapping heat.
- D. Frequent rainfall moderating temperatures.

9. Which gases are most abundant in Earth's atmosphere?

- A. Nitrogen and Oxygen, with smaller amounts of Argon, Neon, Helium, Hydrogen, and Xenon
- B. Argon and Neon only
- C. Chlorine and Fluorine
- D. Carbon Dioxide and Methane

10. Which statement correctly describes shortwave and longwave radiation and their typical wavelength ranges?

- A. Shortwave radiation is solar radiation; approximately 0.1–4 micrometers; Longwave radiation is Earth's infrared emission; approximately 4–100 micrometers
- B. Shortwave radiation is Earth's infrared emission; 4–100 micrometers; Longwave radiation is solar radiation; 0.1–4 micrometers
- C. Shortwave radiation is ultraviolet; 0.01–0.1 micrometers; Longwave radiation is microwave; 1–10 micrometers
- D. Shortwave radiation is visible light only; 0.4–0.7 micrometers; Longwave is radio waves

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Standard sea level pressure is

- A. 29.92 Pa
- B. 29.92 kPa
- C. 29.92 psi
- D. 29.92 Hg**

Standard sea level pressure is about 1013.25 hPa, which is also 101325 Pa or 101.3 kPa. In inches of mercury, a traditional barometric unit, this pressure is 29.92 inHg. So the correct choice uses a historical but accurate unit for this level of pressure. The other options mix in units that don't match the actual value: 29.92 Pa is far too small (hundreds of times less than reality), 29.92 kPa is also too small (roughly a third of the actual value), and 29.92 psi corresponds to about 206 kPa, which is well above standard sea level pressure.

2. Which process is heat transfer by direct contact between substances?

- A. Convection
- B. Radiation
- C. Conduction**
- D. Evaporation

Direct contact transfers heat through substances that are touching, as energy moves from the hotter region to the cooler region via particle interactions and, in metals, free electrons. This is conduction. Conduction happens when molecules or electrons collide and share energy, so heat moves along the material or between touching materials—like a hot spoon warming your hand or a pan heating up from a stove. In contrast, convection requires moving fluid to carry heat, radiation transfers energy as electromagnetic waves without contact, and evaporation involves a phase change at a surface that changes temperature without direct contact transfer. So the process described is conduction.

3. Which of the following is NOT a primary mechanism that causes air to lift and form clouds?

- A. Radiative cooling at night**
- B. Convection (surface heating)
- C. Orographic lifting (over mountains)
- D. Frontal lifting (warmer air over colder air at fronts)

Clouds form when air rises, expands, and cools to its dew point. The major ways air gets lifted are buoyancy from surface heating (convection), air forced to rise over mountains (orographic lifting), and the upward motion of warmer, moister air over cooler air at a front (frontal lifting). Radiative cooling at night cools air near the surface, which can make it reach the dew point and produce fog or low clouds, but it doesn't by itself push air upward. It often stabilizes the lower atmosphere or creates near-surface moisture without strong vertical motion. So radiative cooling is not a primary lifting mechanism, whereas convection, orographic lifting, and frontal lifting actively drive air upward to form clouds.

4. What does hydrophobic describe a substance as being?

- A. Water loving
- B. Water hating**
- C. Water soluble
- D. Water resistant

Hydrophobic describes substances that repel water. These are typically nonpolar and don't form favorable interactions with the polar water molecules, so they tend to avoid water and clump together. This is why oil (hydrophobic) doesn't mix with water. It's not about being water soluble (which is about dissolving) and it's not the same as being merely water resistant, which is a surface property. So the best description is water-hating.

5. Relative humidity is highest when which condition holds?

- A. Air temperature is much higher than the dew point
- B. Dew point is at its minimum
- C. Air pressure is extremely low
- D. Air temperature equals the dew point**

Relative humidity measures how close the air is to being saturated with water vapor, compared to what it could hold at the current temperature. The dew point is the temperature at which air would become saturated if cooled without changing the moisture content. When the air temperature equals the dew point, the actual water vapor content already equals the maximum amount the air can hold at that temperature, so the air is saturated and the relative humidity is 100%. That's why this condition yields the highest relative humidity. If the air is much warmer than the dew point, it can hold a lot more moisture, so the current amount is only a fraction of capacity and RH is lower. A minimum dew point doesn't by itself guarantee high RH, since it depends on how much moisture is actually present relative to the air's capacity at the temperature. Air pressure isn't the primary driver of relative humidity in this way; RH depends on the ratio of actual vapor pressure to the saturation vapor pressure at the present temperature.

6. How does surface albedo influence the Earth's energy budget and climate feedbacks?

- A. Higher albedo reflects more solar energy, cooling the surface; climate feedback occurs when changes in climate affect albedo (e.g., ice-albedo feedback).
- B. Higher albedo traps more heat, warming the surface; climate feedback amplifies warming.
- C. Albedo has no effect on energy budget; climate feedback is independent.
- D. Lower albedo reflects more solar energy, cooling.**

Surface albedo sets what fraction of incoming solar radiation is reflected back to space versus absorbed by the surface. When albedo is high, more sunlight is reflected, less is absorbed, and the surface tends to stay cooler. When albedo is low, more sunlight is absorbed, warming the surface and the lower atmosphere. This directly ties into the Earth's energy budget, which balances absorbed solar energy with emitted infrared radiation. Changes in albedo shift how much energy is absorbed, altering the net energy input and the climate response. A key climate feedback is the ice-albedo feedback: warming reduces ice and snow, lowering albedo, so more solar energy is absorbed and warming accelerates. Conversely, cooling can increase snow and ice cover, raise albedo, reflect more sunlight, and promote further cooling. So high albedo cools by reflecting energy, while low albedo warms by absorbing energy; the feedback mechanisms describe how these changes can amplify or dampen initial climate changes.

7. Conduction is heat transfer by?

- A. Heat transfer by fluid movement
- B. Heat transfer through phase change
- C. Heat transfer by radiation
- D. Heat transfer from touch**

Conduction is heat transfer through direct contact between substances or within a substance, driven by a temperature difference. This is exactly what "heat transfer from touch" describes—energy moves when two objects are in contact, passing energy from the hotter region to the cooler one through particle interactions (and, in metals, via free electrons that shuttle energy quickly). It isn't about the bulk movement of a fluid, which is convection, nor about energy carried by electromagnetic waves, which is radiation. It also isn't primarily about energy added or removed during a phase change (like melting or boiling), which involves latent heat, though conduction can occur alongside such processes. For example, when you touch a hot metal rod, heat flows from the rod into your skin by conduction.

8. Which factors primarily explain the large diurnal temperature range in deserts?

- A. Dense vegetation reducing surface albedo.
- B. Clear skies and dry surfaces cause rapid daytime heating and nighttime radiative cooling.**
- C. High humidity and thick cloud cover trapping heat.
- D. Frequent rainfall moderating temperatures.

The big swing in desert temperatures comes from how the atmosphere and surface respond to sunlight and night cooling. Clear skies let essentially all of the sun's energy reach the ground, so the surface heats up very rapidly during the day. The surface and near-surface air in deserts are often dry, with little moisture to absorb heat through evaporation, so most of the energy goes into raising temperature rather than being stored or returned through latent cooling. After sunset, there is little atmospheric moisture or clouds to trap heat, so the ground and air radiate infrared energy to space and temperatures plummet quickly. This combination—intense daytime heating with rapid nighttime radiative cooling—produces the large diurnal temperature range. If clouds, humidity, or vegetation were prevalent, they would blunt the daytime heating and/or trap heat at night, reducing the range. Frequent rainfall would also moderate temperatures, and dense vegetation would shade the surface, cooling daytime highs.

9. Which gases are most abundant in Earth's atmosphere?

- A. Nitrogen and Oxygen, with smaller amounts of Argon, Neon, Helium, Hydrogen, and Xenon**
- B. Argon and Neon only
- C. Chlorine and Fluorine
- D. Carbon Dioxide and Methane

The main idea is that Earth's atmosphere is dominated by two gases by volume. About three-quarters is nitrogen, and roughly one-fifth is oxygen, making these two far more abundant than anything else. The rest of the atmosphere consists of trace amounts of other gases, including noble gases like argon, neon, helium, hydrogen, and xenon, but in far smaller quantities. So the correct answer reflects that nitrogen and oxygen are the major components, with only small amounts of the others mentioned. The other options don't fit because they either name gases that are present only in tiny amounts (like chlorine and fluorine, or carbon dioxide and methane) or imply that only argon and neon are abundant, which isn't the case.

10. Which statement correctly describes shortwave and longwave radiation and their typical wavelength ranges?

- A. Shortwave radiation is solar radiation; approximately 0.1–4 micrometers; Longwave radiation is Earth's infrared emission; approximately 4–100 micrometers
- B. Shortwave radiation is Earth's infrared emission; 4–100 micrometers; Longwave radiation is solar radiation; 0.1–4 micrometers
- C. Shortwave radiation is ultraviolet; 0.01–0.1 micrometers; Longwave radiation is microwave; 1–10 micrometers
- D. Shortwave radiation is visible light only; 0.4–0.7 micrometers; Longwave is radio waves

Shortwave versus longwave distinguishes where the energy comes from and where it sits in the spectrum. The Sun emits mostly shortwave radiation, spanning about 0.1 to 4 micrometers, which includes ultraviolet, the visible band, and near-infrared. Earth, being much cooler, radiates energy back as longwave infrared, roughly 4 to 100 micrometers, with most energy near 10 micrometers. This reflects their temperatures: the Sun's ~5800 K peak is in the shorter wavelengths, while Earth's ~288 K peak is in the infrared. The other descriptions mix sources and wavelengths incorrectly (shortwave isn't just ultraviolet, and longwave isn't microwave). So the standard pairing—Sun with 0.1–4 μm and Earth's infrared with 4–100 μm —is the correct one.

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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