UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION (USPA) A LICENSE PRACTICE EXAM (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 the 'check of threes' involve?

A. Three types of parachutes used per jump

B. Checking three key points of equipment and harness

C. Reviewing three ground landing techniques

D. Three jumpers teaming up for safety checks

2. What is the procedure for landing in power lines?

A. Land directly on the lines

B. Avoid the area early, land parallel to the wires

C. Cut the wires to land safely

D. Land at a distance from the wires

3. Which part of a jump should be reviewed after landing?

A. The landing technique and overall jump experience

B. The weather conditions during the jump

C. The packing method of the parachute

D. The altitude readings throughout the jump

4. What is the best way to change the direction of canopy flight while conserving the most altitude?

A. Sharp turns

B. Braked turns

C. Full-stall turns

D. Slight turns

5. How is wing loading determined?

A. By measuring the parachute's surface area

B. By multiplying exit weight by square footage

C. By dividing the exit weight by the square footage

D. By assessing the jumper's experience level

6. What is ground rush and how does it affect a skydiver's perception?

A. The feeling of weightlessness during freefall

B. The rapid approach to the ground during freefall can create a sense of panic

C. A sudden increase in wind speed while descending

D. An overwhelming sense of euphoria during the jump

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7. Above what altitude MSL must all occupants of an unpressurized aircraft be provided with supplemental oxygen?

A. 10,000 feet

B. 12,000 feet

C. 14,000 feet

D. 15,000 feet

8. How is an aerodynamic stall defined in relation to a ram-air canopy?

A. Increased glide and decreased descent rate

B. A stable state of decreased glide and increased rate of descent

C. Temporary loss of control

D. Loss of altitude without a stall

9. What is the significance of the jump number 5 during the A License progression?

A. First jump with an instructor from 3,000 feet or above

B. First solo jump without an instructor

C. First jump with a tracking device

D. First jump with a camera

10. What should a jumper do if the deployment bag is extracted but the canopy fails to inflate?

A. Attempt to pull the main parachute again

B. Cut away and deploy the reserve

C. Stabilize the fall and wait for altitude

D. Signal for help from other jumpers

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the 'check of threes' involve?

A. Three types of parachutes used per jump

B. Checking three key points of equipment and harness

C. Reviewing three ground landing techniques

D. Three jumpers teaming up for safety checks

The 'check of threes' specifically involves checking three key points of equipment and harness before a jump to ensure safety and readiness. This pre-jump procedure emphasizes the importance of verifying that essential components are properly secured and functioning to minimize risks during the jump. Typically, the three points include the main parachute, reserve parachute, and the harness, which are critical for the safety of the jumper. By ensuring that these elements are correctly in place, a jumper can have increased confidence in their equipment, leading to a safer and more controlled jump experience.

2. What is the procedure for landing in power lines?

A. Land directly on the lines

B. Avoid the area early, land parallel to the wires

C. Cut the wires to land safely

D. Land at a distance from the wires

The procedure for landing in power lines emphasizes the importance of safety and smart decision-making in emergency situations. The correct approach involves avoiding the area early and landing parallel to the wires. This strategy minimizes the risk of coming into contact with the energized power lines, which can pose significant hazards. Power lines can carry high voltage and can be lethally dangerous if a jumper were to make contact with them during a landing. By landing parallel to the wires, a skydiver can achieve a safer landing trajectory that helps steer clear of the lines themselves. Choosing to avoid the area well in advance also allows for better planning and execution of the landing, helping to ensure a safe descent without unexpected obstacles. In contrast, landing directly on the lines or attempting to cut them poses severe risks both to the jumper and to others who might be affected by falling wires. Landing at a distance could be a safe strategy, but being parallel specifically addresses the immediate objective of maintaining distance from the lines while ensuring a controlled landing.

3. Which part of a jump should be reviewed after landing?

A. The landing technique and overall jump experience

B. The weather conditions during the jump

C. The packing method of the parachute

D. The altitude readings throughout the jump

Reviewing the landing technique and overall jump experience after landing is crucial for a skydiver's progression and safety. This part of the jump encompasses the practical application of skills learned during training, enabling the jumper to assess their performance in real conditions. Analyzing how well the landing technique was executed can provide insight into areas for improvement, such as body positioning, flare timing, and approach control. Additionally, reflecting on the overall jump experience allows jumpers to evaluate factors such as exit from the aircraft, freefall performance, and canopy control leading up to landing. This comprehensive review fosters a deeper understanding of the entire jump process, enhancing the skydiver's skills and confidence for future jumps. While weather conditions, packing methods, and altitude readings are important aspects to consider in the broader scope of a jump, they are typically reviewed either before the jump or in different contexts, rather than immediately after landing. Focusing on landing and jump experience helps to directly link the practical outcomes of the jump to the skydiver's skill development.

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4. What is the best way to change the direction of canopy flight while conserving the most altitude?

A. Sharp turns

B. Braked turns

C. Full-stall turns

D. Slight turns

Braked turns are the best method for changing the direction of canopy flight while conserving the most altitude. When a skydiver makes a braked turn, they apply brakes to the canopy, which causes it to slow down slightly and change direction more smoothly compared to other turning techniques. This method allows for a controlled descent and maintains more lift as the canopy angles into the turn. These turns also generate less drag and turbulence compared to sharp turns or full-stall turns, which can result in significant altitude loss. Sharp turns can cause the canopy to lose lift rapidly due to the increased angle of attack and the abruptness of the maneuver, while full-stall turns can result in an unintended descent or loss of control entirely. Slight turns, while they do conserve more altitude than the sharper methods, do not provide the same level of directional change in a timely manner that braked turns offer. Thus, braked turns strike the right balance between changing direction effectively and minimizing altitude loss, making them the preferred choice amongst experienced jumpers for tactical navigation during canopy flight.

5. How is wing loading determined?

A. By measuring the parachute's surface area

B. By multiplying exit weight by square footage

C. By dividing the exit weight by the square footage

D. By assessing the jumper's experience level

Wing loading is determined by dividing the exit weight by the square footage of the parachute. This calculation reflects how much weight is supported by each square foot of parachute canopy. Higher wing loading generally means that the parachute will descend faster and may require more precise control, impacting how the jumper experiences the flight and landing. Understanding wing loading is critical for jumpers, as it influences the performance characteristics of the parachute, including its responsiveness, descent rate, and landing speed. Jumpers with higher wing loading might need more experience to manage these characteristics effectively, as well as to ensure their safety during flights and landings.

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6. What is ground rush and how does it affect a skydiver's perception?

A. The feeling of weightlessness during freefall

B. The rapid approach to the ground during freefall can create a sense of panic

C. A sudden increase in wind speed while descending

D. An overwhelming sense of euphoria during the jump

Ground rush refers to the sensation experienced by skydivers as they approach the ground during freefall, where the increasing speed and proximity to the Earth can create a visual and psychological effect. This is especially true for those new to skydiving, as the rapid descent can trigger heightened awareness and even a sense of panic due to the ground seemingly rushing toward them. As the skydiver falls, the perception of speed and the visual cue of the ground approaching can lead to a significant adrenaline response. This is akin to the feeling experienced on amusement park rides and can be overwhelming for beginners. Understanding ground rush is crucial because it helps jumpers recognize that this sensation is normal and part of the freefall experience, allowing them to manage their reactions and maintain control during the jump. The other options do not accurately describe ground rush. The feeling of weightlessness is more about the sensation in freefall rather than a specific response to the ground approaching. A sudden increase in wind speed and overwhelming euphoria are not defining characteristics of ground rush and do not capture the critical aspect of the sensation tied specifically to the perception of rapidly approaching terrain.

7. Above what altitude MSL must all occupants of an unpressurized aircraft be provided with supplemental oxygen?

A. 10,000 feet

B. 12,000 feet

C. 14,000 feet

D. 15,000 feet

The requirement for supplemental oxygen in unpressurized aircraft is primarily based on the physiological effects of altitude on human performance and safety. At altitudes above 12,000 feet MSL, the partial pressure of oxygen decreases, which can lead to hypoxia, a condition caused by inadequate oxygen supply to the body. At 14,000 feet and above, supplemental oxygen becomes even more critical. Specifically, at 14,000 feet MSL, it is mandatory for pilots and occupants to use oxygen if they are exposed to that altitude for more than 30 minutes. Furthermore, above 15,000 feet MSL, all occupants of the aircraft must be provided with supplemental oxygen. This regulation is in place to ensure safety and prevent the risk of hypoxia, which can impair cognitive functions and physical abilities necessary for a safe flight. Thus, the correct altitude where all occupants must be provided with supplemental oxygen is 15,000 feet, as this regulation is designed to protect crew and passengers from serious health risks associated with high-altitude flight.

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8. How is an aerodynamic stall defined in relation to a ram-air canopy?

A. Increased glide and decreased descent rate

B. A stable state of decreased glide and increased rate of descent

C. Temporary loss of control

D. Loss of altitude without a stall

An aerodynamic stall in relation to a ram-air canopy is defined as a stable state of decreased glide and increased rate of descent. This phenomenon occurs when the airflow over the canopy becomes insufficient to maintain lift, resulting in a situation where the descent rate increases while the forward glide distance decreases. When a ram-air canopy approaches the stall condition, it will not be able to produce the necessary lift for stable flight, causing the parachutist to descend more rapidly. This shift in performance typically manifests as a dramatic increase in the descent rate and a loss in the effectiveness of the glide ratio, thus creating the stable state referred to in this definition. Understanding this condition is crucial for skydivers to effectively manage their canopy's performance and ensure safe landings. The other contexts, such as temporary loss of control or loss of altitude without a stall, do not accurately capture the essential characteristics of a stall itself. A stall specifically pertains to aerodynamic performance and the relationship between lift and drag, making the correct choice distinctly focused on that critical aspect.

9. What is the significance of the jump number 5 during the A License progression?

A. First jump with an instructor from 3,000 feet or above

B. First solo jump without an instructor

C. First jump with a tracking device

D. First jump with a camera

The significance of jump number 5 in the A License progression is that it is typically the first jump where a student parachutist ascends to 3,000 feet or higher with the guidance of an instructor. This is an important milestone because it represents an advancement in the student's training, allowing them to experience higher altitudes and begin developing more confidence in their skydiving skills. Jumping from this increased altitude provides the student with an opportunity to further practice freefall techniques, refine body position, and enhance their awareness and control during descent. This jump also serves as a critical step toward preparing the student for solo jumps, which occur later in the A License progression. Each jump builds upon the skills learned in previous jumps, and reaching a higher altitude with an instructor helps to solidify the fundamentals necessary for subsequent solo jumps.

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10. What should a jumper do if the deployment bag is extracted but the canopy fails to inflate?

A. Attempt to pull the main parachute again

B. Cut away and deploy the reserve

C. Stabilize the fall and wait for altitude

D. Signal for help from other jumpers

When the deployment bag is extracted but the canopy fails to inflate, the most appropriate course of action is to cut away and deploy the reserve parachute. In this situation, the jumper's first priority is to ensure safety by addressing the malfunction promptly. The act of cutting away the main parachute is a critical skill that allows the jumper to transition to the reserve parachute, which is designed to be the backup system in the event of a primary malfunction. Jumpers are trained to recognize that even if the deployment has occurred and the canopy is not inflating, the chances of a successful recovery become slim. Instead of attempting to pull the main parachute again or waiting for altitude, which could lead to dangerous situations, the correct response focuses on activating the backup system. Cutting away eliminates the risk of entanglement with the main parachute and enables the jumper to deploy the reserve safely, increasing the likelihood of a successful landing. While stabilizing the fall and waiting for altitude may seem like a viable option, this does not address the malfunction effectively and could lead to a loss of precious time. Signaling for help from other jumpers is not an immediate solution to an urgent malfunction; during freefall, the priority must be on addressing the parachute issue

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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://uspaalicense.examzify.com

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

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