

AAAE Airport Certified Employee (ACE) Operations Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. Under what condition is a displaced threshold required for a runway?**
 - A. For weather-related issues**
 - B. An object obstructs the airspace needed for landing aircraft**
 - C. To accommodate larger aircraft**
 - D. For terminal operations**

- 2. What are airport "transfer services" primarily designed for?**
 - A. To manage flight scheduling behind the scenes**
 - B. To provide transportation for passengers between the airport and their destination**
 - C. To facilitate cargo movements between terminals**
 - D. To assist with baggage claim processes**

- 3. Which entity is primarily responsible for enforcing airport operational standards?**
 - A. Airlines**
 - B. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**
 - C. Airport management**
 - D. State aviation agencies**

- 4. What is the altitude range for Class C airspace from 5 to 10 NM out?**
 - A. Up to 1,200 ft above airport elevation**
 - B. 1,200 ft to 4,000 ft above airport elevation**
 - C. 4,000 ft to 10,000 ft MSL**
 - D. 18,000 ft MSL and above**

- 5. What is the key focus of an Airport Certification Manual?**
 - A. Financial forecasting**
 - B. Marketing strategies for airlines**
 - C. Operational compliance with FAA regulations**
 - D. Passenger flow management**

- 6. What is the definition of Category A incursion?**
- A. An incursion where serious difficulties are likely to occur**
 - B. A situation where an accident permanently damages aircraft**
 - C. A serious incident where a collision was narrowly avoided**
 - D. An unintended entry into an active runway**
- 7. How does taxiway management impact airport operations?**
- A. It reduces operational costs**
 - B. It ensures safe movement of aircraft on the ground**
 - C. It decreases passenger check-in time**
 - D. It improves fuel efficiency for aircraft**
- 8. What aspect of airport operations does the term "turnaround" refer to?**
- A. The time taken for check-ins**
 - B. The duration required for an aircraft to be ready for its next flight**
 - C. The process of unloading baggage from a flight**
 - D. The period of time passengers wait for their bags**
- 9. Which category of airports includes those that are co-located with military operations?**
- A. Class II Airports**
 - B. Joint-Use Airports**
 - C. Shared-Use Airports**
 - D. Class I Airports**
- 10. Which type of airport is primarily used for scheduled passenger-carrying operations with air carriers holding more than 9 seats?**
- A. Part 139 Airports**
 - B. Class II Airports**
 - C. Joint-Use Airports**
 - D. Shared-Use Airports**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Under what condition is a displaced threshold required for a runway?

A. For weather-related issues

B. An object obstructs the airspace needed for landing aircraft

C. To accommodate larger aircraft

D. For terminal operations

A displaced threshold is required for a runway specifically when there is an object that obstructs the airspace needed for landing aircraft. This obstruction can be anything from natural terrain features, such as trees or buildings, to other structures that might restrict the aircraft's approach and landing path. By implementing a displaced threshold, the usable landing distance on a runway is adjusted, allowing aircraft to touch down safely without the risk of colliding with these obstructions. In aviation, ensuring the safety of flight operations is paramount, and displaced thresholds play a critical role in this aspect by allowing for necessary runway length adjustments while maintaining safe approach angles. Therefore, having an obstruction that interferes with the landing aircraft's path requires this specific adjustment to maintain safe operational standards.

2. What are airport "transfer services" primarily designed for?

A. To manage flight scheduling behind the scenes

B. To provide transportation for passengers between the airport and their destination

C. To facilitate cargo movements between terminals

D. To assist with baggage claim processes

Transfer services at airports primarily focus on providing transportation for passengers between the airport and their intended destinations. These services can include shuttle buses, taxis, ride-sharing services, and other forms of transit that enable travelers to efficiently reach hotels, tourist attractions, or other transportation hubs after arriving at the airport or before departing. This understanding of transfer services highlights their importance in enhancing the traveler experience by ensuring a smooth transition from air travel to ground transportation, thus bridging the gap between various modes of transport. Additionally, effective transfer services contribute to overall airport operations by reducing congestion, improving passenger flow, and ensuring that travelers can reach their destinations in a timely manner. In contrast, the other options address functions that are not related to the primary purpose of transfer services. For instance, managing flight scheduling is more aligned with the operational side of airport management, while facilitating cargo movements pertains to logistics and freight transport rather than passenger services. Assisting with baggage claim processes primarily involves airport personnel and infrastructure but does not define the role of transfer services, which are chiefly concerned with transporting passengers rather than managing baggage or cargo operations.

3. Which entity is primarily responsible for enforcing airport operational standards?

A. Airlines

B. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

C. Airport management

D. State aviation agencies

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is primarily responsible for enforcing airport operational standards. This governmental body sets regulations that govern all aspects of civil aviation in the United States, including ensuring that airports adhere to safety and operational protocols. The FAA establishes guidelines that airports must follow to maintain safety and efficiency, and it conducts inspections and audits to ensure compliance. This role is crucial as airports must operate within the regulatory framework established by the FAA to secure the safety of air travel and ensure standardization across the aviation industry. The FAA's regulatory power extends to aspects such as air traffic control, runway safety, and facility management, thus making it the key authority in enforcing operational standards at airports.

4. What is the altitude range for Class C airspace from 5 to 10 NM out?

A. Up to 1,200 ft above airport elevation

B. 1,200 ft to 4,000 ft above airport elevation

C. 4,000 ft to 10,000 ft MSL

D. 18,000 ft MSL and above

The chosen answer accurately reflects the altitude range associated with Class C airspace. Class C airspace typically extends from the surface up to 4,000 feet above the airport elevation within 5 to 10 nautical miles of the primary airport. This structure is designed to create a controlled environment that helps manage traffic in areas with moderate air traffic density while providing a buffer zone for aircraft operating in and out of the airport. The reasoning behind this altitude designation involves ensuring that aircraft operations remain safe and organized in complex airspace environments. Pilots operating in Class C airspace are required to establish two-way radio communication with air traffic control, ensuring that they receive instructions and advisories as needed to maintain safety. While the other options present different altitude figures, they do not align with the regulatory definitions for Class C airspace and therefore do not accurately capture the operational parameters that are essential for pilots flying within these zones.

5. What is the key focus of an Airport Certification Manual?

- A. Financial forecasting
- B. Marketing strategies for airlines
- C. Operational compliance with FAA regulations**
- D. Passenger flow management

The key focus of an Airport Certification Manual is operational compliance with FAA regulations. This manual outlines the requirements that airports must meet in order to be certified and to maintain safety and operational standards in accordance with federal regulations. It serves as a comprehensive guide to ensure that all airport operations are conducted within the parameters established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), thereby prioritizing safety, security, and efficient management of airport facilities and services. A primary component includes details on airport safety management, standard operating procedures, and emergency response plans. By aligning with FAA regulations, the manual ensures that the airport is regularly inspected, maintains appropriate safety measures, and implements best practices to protect both passengers and airport personnel. This focus on compliance forms the backbone of airport operations and management, ensuring that safety is never compromised. In contrast, other options such as financial forecasting, marketing strategies for airlines, and passenger flow management, while important aspects of airport operation, do not encapsulate the primary purpose of the Airport Certification Manual. These elements may contribute to the overall airport strategy but are not the foundational focus of the certification process.

6. What is the definition of Category A incursion?

- A. An incursion where serious difficulties are likely to occur
- B. A situation where an accident permanently damages aircraft
- C. A serious incident where a collision was narrowly avoided**
- D. An unintended entry into an active runway

A Category A incursion is defined as a serious incident where a collision was narrowly avoided. This classification is part of a broader framework used in aviation to categorize runway incursions based on their severity. The key aspect of a Category A incursion is the proximity of the two aircraft (or an aircraft and a vehicle) involved, as well as the potential consequences that could have arisen had the situation progressed differently. This definition emphasizes the gravity of the situation, indicating that a serious accident was averted, underlining the critical nature of runway safety and the vigilance required by airport personnel to prevent such close calls. Other options describe different scenarios. One suggests serious difficulties are likely to occur, but it does not specifically denote an avoided collision. Another implies that there has been an accident causing permanent damage, which is outside the classification scope of a runway incursion. The last option refers to an unintended entry into an active runway, which better aligns with Category D incursions rather than the serious implications outlined in Category A. Each category in this framework highlights various levels of risk and incidents to ensure proper understanding and management of airport safety protocols.

7. How does taxiway management impact airport operations?

- A. It reduces operational costs
- B. It ensures safe movement of aircraft on the ground**
- C. It decreases passenger check-in time
- D. It improves fuel efficiency for aircraft

Taxiway management plays a crucial role in ensuring the safe movement of aircraft on the ground, which is fundamental to airport operations. Effective taxiway management contributes to minimizing risks of accidents and incidents, such as runway incursions or collisions between aircraft and vehicles on the taxiways. By establishing clear routes and efficient procedures for aircraft movements, ground operations teams can navigate aircraft safely from the runway to the gate or vice versa. This focus on safety also helps to maintain the overall flow of airport traffic. When aircraft can taxi efficiently without delays or hazards, it reduces the likelihood of congestion on taxiways, thereby enhancing the operational effectiveness of the entire airport system. This aspect of airport operations is vital, as safety regulations and protocols are paramount to maintaining a well-functioning airport environment. While other factors such as reducing operational costs, improving fuel efficiency, and decreasing passenger check-in times are significant, they are indirect benefits resulting from robust taxiway management primarily centered around safety. The integrity of the taxiway management system is essential for ensuring that all ground movements are executed with the utmost attention to safety.

8. What aspect of airport operations does the term "turnaround" refer to?

- A. The time taken for check-ins
- B. The duration required for an aircraft to be ready for its next flight**
- C. The process of unloading baggage from a flight
- D. The period of time passengers wait for their bags

The term "turnaround" in airport operations specifically refers to the duration required for an aircraft to be ready for its next flight. This encompasses all activities that must be completed between the aircraft's arrival and its subsequent departure, including unloading passengers, baggage handling, refueling, cleaning, and boarding new passengers. Efficient turnaround processes are critical for maintaining an airline's schedule and improving operational efficiency, as delays in this phase can lead to missed flight schedules and impact overall airport operations. The other options do not capture the full scope of what "turnaround" entails. For instance, while check-in times and baggage waiting periods are related to passenger processing and customer experience, they are not directly related to the aircraft's operational readiness. Additionally, unloading baggage is just one component of the broader turnaround process and does not reflect the complete timeline needed for preparing the aircraft for its next journey.

9. Which category of airports includes those that are co-located with military operations?

- A. Class II Airports**
- B. Joint-Use Airports**
- C. Shared-Use Airports**
- D. Class I Airports**

The category of airports that includes those co-located with military operations is classified as Joint-Use Airports. This term specifically refers to facilities that are utilized by both civilian and military aviation, allowing for shared access and operational capabilities between the two. Joint-use arrangements enable a seamless integration of airport operations supporting both commercial and defense activities. This classification is particularly significant because it involves a legal and operational framework that addresses the unique needs of both civilian and military air traffic. Joint-use airports often have designated procedures to manage the different types of aircraft and traffic operationally, ensuring safety and efficiency in a complex environment where both air travel and military operations occur concurrently. In contrast, Class II Airports are primarily focused on general aviation and may not have military operations integrated. Shared-Use Airports incorporates various forms of sharing but does not specifically denote a partnership with military operations. Class I Airports are classified differently, typically indicating larger airports with higher passenger volumes and service levels that do not necessarily include military use.

10. Which type of airport is primarily used for scheduled passenger-carrying operations with air carriers holding more than 9 seats?

- A. Part 139 Airports**
- B. Class II Airports**
- C. Joint-Use Airports**
- D. Shared-Use Airports**

The correct choice highlights Part 139 airports, which are defined by specific federal regulations that govern the operation of commercial service airports in the United States. These airports are primarily used for scheduled passenger-carrying operations and are required to meet certain safety and operational standards set forth by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Part 139 airports accommodate air carriers that operate aircraft with more than 9 passenger seats, making them essential hubs for commercial aviation. They undergo regular inspections and must implement strict safety measures, including emergency response plans and other operational protocols, to ensure passenger safety. These requirements help establish the airport as a reliable and safe facility for airline operations. Other types of airports mentioned, such as Class II, Joint-Use, and Shared-Use airports, have different operational focuses or characteristics that do not specifically fit the description of primarily serving scheduled passenger operations for larger air carriers. For example, Class II airports may serve smaller aircraft or have different regulatory requirements, and Joint-Use and Shared-Use airports often involve multiple entities, including military and civilian operations, rather than being dedicated solely to large commercial passenger operations.

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://aaaeaceoperations.examzify.com>

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

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