AMATEUR TECHNICIAN LICENSE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE

SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

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

1. What proves that the FCC has issued an operator/primary license grant?

A. A printed copy of the certificate of successful completion of examination

B. An email notification from the NCVEC granting the license

C. The license appears in the FCC ULS database

D. All these choices are correct

2. Which of the following is a disadvantage of FM compared with single sideband?

A. Voice quality is poorer

B. Only one signal can be received at a time

C. FM signals are harder to tune

D. All these choices are correct

3. What describes the ability to store energy in an electric field?

A. Inductance

B. Resistance

C. Tolerance

D. Capacitance

4. Which electrical component is used to increase or decrease AC voltage?

A. Inductor

B. Transformer

C. Capacitor

D. Diode

5. Which instrument would you use to measure electric potential?

A. An ammeter

B. A voltmeter

C. A wavemeter

D. An ohmmeter

6. What tool can be used to determine the location of an amateur radio signal?

A. Map of licensed users

B. Frequency chart

C. Directional antenna

D. Online frequency monitor

7. What type of resistor is designed to dissipate more heat than a standard resistor?

A. Fixed resistor

B. Power resistor

C. Variable resistor

D. Wirewound resistor

8. Which amateurs may contact the International Space Station (ISS) on VHF bands?

A. Any amateur holding a General class or higher license

B. Any amateur holding a Technician class or higher license

C. Any amateur holding a General class or higher license who has applied for and received approval from NASA

D. Any amateur holding a Technician class or higher license who has applied for and received approval from NASA

9. What is the resistance of a circuit that draws 4 amperes from a 12-volt source?

A. 3 ohms

B. 16 ohms

C. 48 ohms

D. 8 ohms

10. What is the formula for converting frequency to approximate wavelength in meters?

A. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in hertz multiplied by 300

B. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in hertz divided by 300

C. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in megahertz divided by 300

D. Wavelength in meters equals 300 divided by frequency in megahertz

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What proves that the FCC has issued an operator/primary license grant?

A. A printed copy of the certificate of successful completion of examination

B. An email notification from the NCVEC granting the license

C. The license appears in the FCC ULS database

D. All these choices are correct

The correct choice indicates that the presence of a license in the FCC ULS (Universal Licensing System) database serves as the official proof of an operator/primary license grant issued by the FCC. This database is the authoritative source for tracking amateur licenses and other telecommunications licenses in the United States. When an individual passes the necessary examinations and the application is processed, the updated license information is reflected in the FCC ULS database. This serves not only as confirmation of the licensing status but also establishes the validity and legality of the operator to use the assigned call sign and operate on the amateur radio frequencies. While a certificate of successful completion of examination or an email notification from the NCVEC may indicate that you have completed the necessary steps to obtain your license, neither of these documents is considered official proof of the license grant itself. The database listing is definitive evidence that the FCC recognizes the individual as a licensed amateur operator.

2. Which of the following is a disadvantage of FM compared with single sideband?

A. Voice quality is poorer

B. Only one signal can be received at a time

C. FM signals are harder to tune

D. All these choices are correct

Single sideband (SSB) modulation offers several advantages over frequency modulation (FM), particularly in the context of amateur radio communications. One significant disadvantage of FM compared to SSB is the ability to receive signals. SSB can be more selective in the way it receives signals, allowing for better rejection of adjacent channel interference. This can often mean multiple SSB signals can be received and distinguished even when they're close in frequency. In contrast, FM tends to require a stronger signal to be clearly heard due to its wider bandwidth. As a result, FM can be less effective at picking out weaker signals or those closely spaced together, leading to the inability to receive multiple signals simultaneously. This is particularly relevant in crowded frequency bands where numerous voices are transmitting at once. The other options mention poorer voice quality, tuning difficulties, and the generality of all previous choices being correct. However, FM typically offers good audio quality compared to SSB and is generally easier to tune into. The abilities and characteristics of SSB make it particularly favorable in certain operational contexts, which underscores why the ability to receive only one signal at a time is highlighted as a disadvantage of FM.

3. What describes the ability to store energy in an electric field?

A. Inductance

B. Resistance

C. Tolerance

D. Capacitance

The ability to store energy in an electric field is fundamentally described by capacitance. Capacitance is a property of a capacitor, which is a device specifically designed to hold and store electric charge. When a voltage is applied across the plates of a capacitor, an electric field is created between them, allowing the capacitor to store energy in the form of an electric field. The amount of energy stored in a capacitor can be calculated using the formula \(E = \frac{1}{2} C V^2\), where \(E\) is the energy stored, \(C\) is the capacitance, and \(V\) is the voltage across the capacitor. This relationship highlights not only the function of capacitance in energy storage but also its importance in various applications, such as in smoothing out voltage fluctuations in power supplies or in timing circuits. The other options, such as inductance, resistance, and tolerance, do not address the ability to store energy in an electric field. Inductance pertains to the storage of energy in a magnetic field when current passes through an inductor. Resistance involves the opposition to the flow of current in a circuit and does not relate to storage. Tolerance refers to the acceptable range of variation in component values

4. Which electrical component is used to increase or decrease AC voltage?

A. Inductor

B. Transformer

C. Capacitor

D. Diode

The correct choice is the transformer, which is designed specifically to change the voltage level in alternating current (AC) circuits. A transformer operates on the principle of electromagnetic induction, utilizing two coils of wire (the primary and secondary windings) and a magnetic core. When an AC voltage is applied to the primary coil, it generates a magnetic field that induces a voltage in the secondary coil. By adjusting the number of turns of wire in each coil, a transformer can either increase (step-up) or decrease (step-down) the voltage. The other components serve different purposes. Inductors primarily store energy in a magnetic field when current flows through them and can affect AC signals but do not change voltage levels like a transformer does. Capacitors store energy in an electric field and are often used for filtering or smoothing signals but also do not increase or decrease voltage on their own. Diodes allow current to flow in one direction only and are used primarily for rectification and controlling current flow, but they do not have the ability to adjust voltage levels. Thus, the transformer is uniquely capable of modifying AC voltage, making it the appropriate answer.

5. Which instrument would you use to measure electric potential?

A. An ammeter

B. A voltmeter

C. A wavemeter

D. An ohmmeter

The tool used to measure electric potential is a voltmeter. A voltmeter is specifically designed to measure the voltage difference between two points in an electrical circuit. It is connected in parallel with the circuit component across which you want to measure the potential difference. The operation of a voltmeter typically involves high internal resistance, which minimizes the effect of its connection on the circuit being measured. This allows for accurate readings without significantly altering the circuit's behavior. In contrast, the other instruments have different functions: an ammeter measures current, a wavemeter is used to measure the frequency or wavelength of radio waves, and an ohmmeter is used to measure resistance in a circuit. None of these devices serve the purpose of directly measuring electric potential like a voltmeter does.

6. What tool can be used to determine the location of an amateur radio signal?

A. Map of licensed users

B. Frequency chart

C. Directional antenna

D. Online frequency monitor

A directional antenna is specifically designed to focus in a particular direction, which enhances the ability to locate the source of a radio signal. By adjusting the angle of the antenna, an operator can determine the direction from which the strongest signal is received. This technique, often referred to as triangulation when used in conjunction with multiple receiving points, helps in accurately pinpointing the location of the transmitting amateur radio signal. Using a map of licensed users or a frequency chart provides contextual information about who may be operating on certain frequencies, but it doesn't provide a direct method for finding the source of an active signal. Similarly, an online frequency monitor tracks signals but does not offer the directional capabilities needed for locating a specific source. Thus, the inherent design and functionality of a directional antenna make it a critical tool for locating amateur radio transmissions.

7. What type of resistor is designed to dissipate more heat than a standard resistor?

A. Fixed resistor

B. Power resistor

C. Variable resistor

D. Wirewound resistor

The type of resistor designed to dissipate more heat than a standard resistor is the power resistor. Power resistors are specifically built to handle higher power levels, which allows them to convert significant electrical energy into heat without failing. They are typically made from materials that can withstand high temperatures, and their construction often includes larger dimensions and special cooling characteristics to enhance their heat dissipation capabilities. Power resistors are used in applications where higher currents and voltages are present, such as in power supplies, motor control circuits, and other high-power applications. The ability to dissipate heat effectively ensures reliability and longevity in these demanding settings. In contrast, fixed resistors and variable resistors do not typically have the same heat dissipation capabilities as power resistors and are not designed for high-power applications. Wirewound resistors can be a type of power resistor, but the defining characteristic is their enhanced heat dissipation compared to standard resistors. Thus, when considering which resistor type is built specifically to handle more heat, power resistors stand out as the appropriate choice.

8. Which amateurs may contact the International Space Station (ISS) on VHF bands?

A. Any amateur holding a General class or higher license

B. Any amateur holding a Technician class or higher license

C. Any amateur holding a General class or higher license who has applied for and received approval from NASA

D. Any amateur holding a Technician class or higher license who has applied for and received approval from NASA

The correct answer is that any amateur holding a Technician class or higher license may contact the International Space Station (ISS) on VHF bands. This is based on the licensing requirements set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in the United States, which allow Technicians and higher-class licensees to operate on VHF frequencies, specifically the 2 meter band. The ISS has authorized amateur radio operations on the VHF band, making it accessible to Technicians who hold the appropriate license. While General and higher class license holders certainly have the privileges to operate on VHF bands, the key aspect of the question emphasizes that even those with the Technician class license can fulfill this requirement without any additional approvals from NASA. It simplifies access for those who may have just started in amateur radio, allowing them to engage with an exciting aspect of the hobby that includes communication with astronauts aboard the ISS. The requirements for approval from NASA mentioned in some other options pertain to specific types of activities or special operations, which are not necessary for general VHF access to the ISS. Thus, a Technician class license is sufficient for this level of operation.

9. What is the resistance of a circuit that draws 4 amperes from a 12-volt source?

A. 3 ohms

B. 16 ohms

C. 48 ohms

D. 8 ohms

To determine the resistance of a circuit using Ohm's Law, we can use the formula: $$ R = \frac{V}{I} $$ where $ R $ is the resistance in ohms, $ V $ is the voltage in volts, and $ I $ is the current in amperes. In this case, the voltage $ V $ is 12 volts and the current $ I $ is 4 amperes. Plugging in the values: $$ R = \frac{12 \text{ volts}}{4 \text{ amperes}} = 3 \text{ ohms} $$ This calculation shows that the resistance of the circuit is 3 ohms. This answer aligns perfectly with the application of Ohm's Law, confirming that the circuit behaves as expected under these conditions. Understanding this law is fundamental for analyzing electrical circuits, making this answer the correct choice.

10. What is the formula for converting frequency to approximate wavelength in meters?

A. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in hertz multiplied by 300

B. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in hertz divided by 300

C. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in megahertz divided by 300

D. Wavelength in meters equals 300 divided by frequency in megahertz

The formula for converting frequency to approximate wavelength in meters fundamentally relies on the relationship between the speed of light, frequency, and wavelength. The speed of light in a vacuum is approximately 300,000,000 meters per second (or 300 million meters per second, which can be rounded to 300 when using MHz for frequency). To convert frequency (in megahertz) to wavelength (in meters), the formula used is derived from the equation \(\text{Speed} = \text{Frequency} \times \text{Wavelength} \). Rearranging this gives \(\text{Wavelength} = \frac{\text{Speed}}{\text{Frequency}} \). When the frequency is expressed in megahertz, the speed of light in meters per second can be simplified to 300, with the understanding that 1 MHz is equal to \(10^6\) Hz. Therefore, when you take 300 and divide it by the frequency in megahertz, you effectively calculate the wavelength in meters. This approach simplifies the calculation and provides a quick means for amateur technicians to convert frequency values for practical usage in amateur radio and other applications.

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://amateurtechnician.examzify.com

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