

# Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) Checkride Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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.

# 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## 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.**

## 7. Use Other Tools

**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 should be inspected before using an oxygen mask or cannula?**
  - A. Oxygen tank pressure**
  - B. Mask/cannula integrity**
  - C. Cabin altitude**
  - D. Flight plan details**
- 2. What should pilots emphasize more during a go-around at night compared to during the day?**
  - A. Altitude control**
  - B. Instruments/Airspeed**
  - C. Ground proximity**
  - D. Environmental scanning**
- 3. The longitudinal stability of an aircraft is primarily dependent on which two factors?**
  - A. Wing location and Engine power**
  - B. Wing location and CG position**
  - C. Tail structure and Weight distribution**
  - D. Wing area and Drag**
- 4. What is a key component of a successful onboard safety strategy?**
  - A. Abandoning non-essential items**
  - B. Carrying adequate food and water**
  - C. Minimizing total weight**
  - D. Avoiding all types of gear**
- 5. What is one of the requirements to renew a CFI certificate if it hasn't expired?**
  - A. Passing practical test for new ratings**
  - B. Endorsing at least 10 students for practical tests**
  - C. Completing an Approved Flight Instructor Refresher Course**
  - D. Having 100% pass rate on all practical tests**

**6. Where can one find the basic empty weight and limitations of an aircraft?**

- A. Pilot's manual**
- B. Aircraft Registry**
- C. Airplane Flight Manual**
- D. Manufacturer's Specifications**

**7. In a Cessna 172, how does trim function?**

- A. It increases the overall lift.**
- B. It relieves input pressure on controls.**
- C. It enhances fuel efficiency.**
- D. It adjusts the center of gravity.**

**8. What is the primary concern during explosive decompression?**

- A. Increased cabin noise**
- B. Cabin temperature collapse**
- C. Rapid loss of cabin pressure**
- D. Disturbance of flight instruments**

**9. What is the term for the torque effect experienced by an aircraft during a turn?**

- A. P-Factor**
- B. Corkscrewing Effect**
- C. Gyroscopic Action**
- D. All of the above**

**10. In which scenario would an aircraft demonstrate negative stability?**

- A. It returns to its original position quickly**
- B. It remains in the same position indefinitely**
- C. It diverges further from its original position after a disturbance**
- D. It oscillates around its original position**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What should be inspected before using an oxygen mask or cannula?**

- A. Oxygen tank pressure**
- B. Mask/cannula integrity**
- C. Cabin altitude**
- D. Flight plan details**

The inspection of the mask or cannula integrity is crucial before use because it ensures that the equipment is free from tears, cracks, or any form of damage that could compromise its effectiveness. A well-maintained and intact oxygen mask or cannula is necessary for proper fit and function, allowing for adequate oxygen delivery in case of hypoxia or emergency situations at altitude. Ensuring that the mask or cannula is in good condition directly impacts the safety of the flight. Even if the oxygen source is functioning properly, a damaged mask could lead to insufficient oxygen supply, which is detrimental in an emergency or high-altitude scenario. This emphasizes the importance of thorough pre-use checks on the integrity of the oxygen equipment.

**2. What should pilots emphasize more during a go-around at night compared to during the day?**

- A. Altitude control**
- B. Instruments/Airspeed**
- C. Ground proximity**
- D. Environmental scanning**

During a go-around at night, pilots should place greater emphasis on instruments and airspeed because of the reduced visibility and the challenges that dark conditions present. Unlike daytime operations where visual references can assist pilots in assessing their altitude and ground proximity, nighttime flying relies heavily on instrument readings. In the dark, it is easy to become spatially disoriented, and it may be more difficult to judge distances and altitudes visually. Therefore, monitoring the instruments closely allows pilots to maintain the proper flight parameters and ensures that they establish a safe climb-out. Ensuring that airspeed is within safe operating limits also helps prevent stalls, which can be more critical during a go-around when the aircraft is close to the ground. This emphasis on instruments and airspeed is vital for maintaining control and safety during nighttime operations.

**3. The longitudinal stability of an aircraft is primarily dependent on which two factors?**

- A. Wing location and Engine power**
- B. Wing location and CG position**
- C. Tail structure and Weight distribution**
- D. Wing area and Drag**

The longitudinal stability of an aircraft is primarily influenced by the wing location and the center of gravity (CG) position. When the wing is located higher on the fuselage, it can effectively help in managing the pitching moments, especially during various flight conditions. The distance of the CG from the wing's lift vector is crucial as well; if the CG is too far forward or too far aft, it can lead to stability issues. A forward CG can enhance longitudinal stability by increasing the ability of the aircraft to return to its original flight attitude after a disturbance. Conversely, an aft CG can diminish stability and may lead to difficulties in controlling the aircraft. Together, the position of the wing relative to the aircraft's CG significantly impacts the balance and stability of the aircraft, making this option the most accurate choice regarding factors influencing longitudinal stability. Other factors, such as weight distribution, tail structure, and aerodynamic properties, play roles in overall aircraft performance but are not the primary determinants of longitudinal stability in the way that wing location and CG position are.

**4. What is a key component of a successful onboard safety strategy?**

- A. Abandoning non-essential items**
- B. Carrying adequate food and water**
- C. Minimizing total weight**
- D. Avoiding all types of gear**

A key component of a successful onboard safety strategy is carrying adequate food and water. This is crucial for the survival and well-being of all individuals on board, particularly during emergencies or unforeseen circumstances. Access to sufficient nutrition and hydration can significantly enhance the chances of survival and improve overall morale in situations where assistance might be delayed. Ensuring that all passengers and crew have adequate sustenance is not just a matter of comfort but a fundamental aspect of safety and preparedness. In contrast, while abandoning non-essential items can help in organizing the cabin and potentially reducing clutter, it does not directly contribute to safety in terms of health necessities. Minimizing total weight could be important for performance metrics, particularly in terms of fuel efficiency and aircraft handling, but it should not compromise essential supplies like food and water. Lastly, avoiding all types of gear would not be sensible either, as certain equipment may be necessary for safety, survival, or navigation during flight operations. Therefore, focusing on the provision of adequate food and water is integral to any comprehensive safety strategy.

**5. What is one of the requirements to renew a CFI certificate if it hasn't expired?**

- A. Passing practical test for new ratings**
- B. Endorsing at least 10 students for practical tests**
- C. Completing an Approved Flight Instructor Refresher Course**
- D. Having 100% pass rate on all practical tests**

To renew a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) certificate that has not expired, completing an Approved Flight Instructor Refresher Course (AFIRC) is a requirement. This course serves as a mechanism to ensure that CFIs remain current with instructional techniques, regulations, and safety practices in aviation. The course is designed to enhance the instructor's teaching skills and knowledge, which is vital for effective flight instruction. While specific endorsements or passing rates can be beneficial for a CFI's practical experience and effectiveness, they are not formal requirements for the renewal process itself. The focus on continuing education through the refresher course helps maintain a high standard of instruction and keeps instructors abreast of any changes in the aviation industry.

**6. Where can one find the basic empty weight and limitations of an aircraft?**

- A. Pilot's manual**
- B. Aircraft Registry**
- C. Airplane Flight Manual**
- D. Manufacturer's Specifications**

The correct choice is the Aircraft Flight Manual (AFM). The AFM is a crucial document that contains a wealth of information about an aircraft's performance, operating limitations, and essential data required for safe operation. Within the AFM, you will find detailed specifications, including the basic empty weight of the aircraft, which is the weight of the aircraft without payload or fuel. Additionally, it outlines limitations related to weight and balance, as well as operating procedures, which are vital for the pilot to follow. While the Pilot's Manual may provide instructional guidance for flying and operating the aircraft, it does not typically serve as the authoritative source of the specific weight and limitations data. The Aircraft Registry is primarily a record-keeping system used by regulatory authorities and does not include detailed operational specifications for individual aircraft. Manufacturer's Specifications can provide technical data, but they may not aggregate all necessary information specific to an aircraft's operational limits in one comprehensive format like the AFM does. Thus, the Aircraft Flight Manual is the definitive resource for this type of critical information.

## 7. In a Cessna 172, how does trim function?

- A. It increases the overall lift.
- B. It relieves input pressure on controls.**
- C. It enhances fuel efficiency.
- D. It adjusts the center of gravity.

Trim in an aircraft like the Cessna 172 primarily serves to relieve the pilot's workload by minimizing control pressures needed to maintain straight and level flight. When the trim is correctly set, it adjusts the position of the aircraft's control surfaces in a way that allows the aircraft to fly hands-free at a desired attitude. This means that the pilot can make small adjustments to trim to counteract any persistent aerodynamic forces acting on the aircraft, such as the tendency to pitch up or down or roll one way or the other. Setting the trim appropriately means that the pilot does not have to continually apply pressure to the yoke or stick to keep the aircraft in a desired flight condition, thus reducing fatigue during longer flights and making control more precise. The function of trim is not to increase lift, enhance fuel efficiency, or adjust the center of gravity; rather, its main purpose is to maintain the aircraft in a stable flight attitude with minimal control pressure.

## 8. What is the primary concern during explosive decompression?

- A. Increased cabin noise
- B. Cabin temperature collapse
- C. Rapid loss of cabin pressure**
- D. Disturbance of flight instruments

The primary concern during explosive decompression is the rapid loss of cabin pressure. In situations of explosive decompression, there is a significant and sudden drop in cabin pressure, potentially creating a life-threatening situation for passengers and crew. This dramatic change can lead to hypoxia, where the body does not get enough oxygen, as well as various physical challenges due to the malfunction of normal physiological processes that rely on stable atmospheric conditions. The force and speed at which the cabin pressure drops can also lead to debris becoming airborne and could potentially injure individuals in the cabin. Additionally, the sudden imbalance between the external and internal cabin pressures can result in structural issues or other aircraft handling problems. Therefore, addressing the rapid loss of cabin pressure is crucial for safety and effective emergency response. In comparison to other options, while increased cabin noise and disturbance of flight instruments may occur during such an event, they are secondary concerns to the immediate effects of the dramatic pressure change. The issue of cabin temperature collapse is typically not a primary concern associated with explosive decompression either, focusing instead on the urgent need to restore pressure and oxygen levels for survival.

**9. What is the term for the torque effect experienced by an aircraft during a turn?**

- A. P-Factor**
- B. Corkscrewing Effect**
- C. Gyroscopic Action**
- D. All of the above**

The term for the torque effect experienced by an aircraft during a turn encompasses the dynamic interaction of various aerodynamic and mechanical forces acting on the aircraft. In this context, the options represent different but related concepts that can influence the torque effects felt during flight maneuvers, especially during turns. P-Factor refers to the asymmetrical thrust produced by a rotating propeller, which can cause the aircraft to yaw in one direction. This phenomenon becomes more pronounced during climbs or turns when the angle of attack of the propeller blades varies. The Corkscrewing Effect characterizes how an aircraft might rotate about its vertical axis caused by different vectors of lift and drag during a turn, which can lead to a rolling motion not entirely countered by the pilot's inputs. Gyroscopic Action involves the principles governing rotating bodies and can affect an aircraft's behavior in turns, particularly if the aircraft is equipped with a tail wheel or other elements that create gyroscopic effects. Understanding these individual effects is crucial for pilots, especially in a turn, where they often interact to produce a cumulative torque that necessitates careful control inputs to maintain desired flight paths. Therefore, the answer encompasses all these effects, making the term applicable in the context of torque experienced during turns.

**10. In which scenario would an aircraft demonstrate negative stability?**

- A. It returns to its original position quickly**
- B. It remains in the same position indefinitely**
- C. It diverges further from its original position after a disturbance**
- D. It oscillates around its original position**

An aircraft demonstrates negative stability when it diverges further from its original position after a disturbance. In this context, negative stability refers to an aircraft's inability to return to its original position after being disturbed; instead, it moves away from that position. This means that if the aircraft experiences a disruption, such as a gust of wind or pilot input, it will not only fail to stabilize back to its original flight path but will actually continue to move further away. This behavior is characterized by an increasing displacement from the equilibrium point, resulting in an unstable flight condition. For instance, if an aircraft is supposed to fly straight and level and then experiences a disturbance, a negatively stable aircraft will move away from its intended flight path, potentially leading to further control challenges for the pilot. Understanding this concept is crucial for flight instructors, as it emphasizes the importance of stability in aircraft design and handling characteristics, and helps in addressing how to manage flight control in an aircraft.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://cficheckride.examzify.com>**

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

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