

COMMERCIAL PILOT AIRPLANE (CAX) GENERAL PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

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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. What is the purpose of a "mass and balance" checklist in aviation?**
 - A. To determine fuel consumption
 - B. To ensure safe loading within limits
 - C. To measure total weight of the aircraft
 - D. To check maintenance records

- 2. To avoid landing at the wrong airport or on the wrong runway, what should a pilot do?**
 - A. Consult with ground control
 - B. Follow the instrument approach chart for the appropriate runway
 - C. Use visual flight rules only
 - D. Request flight instructions from the nearest airport

- 3. What does "ground effect" refer to?**
 - A. The phenomenon of reduced fuel consumption at lower altitudes
 - B. The increased lift and reduced drag experienced by an aircraft when it is close to the ground
 - C. The decrease in visibility when flying close to the ground
 - D. The enhanced performance of aircraft on grass runways

- 4. What is the definition of "density altitude"?**
 - A. The pressure altitude corrected for non-standard temperature, indicative of aircraft performance
 - B. The height of an aircraft above sea level
 - C. The altitude where the air is less dense than sea level
 - D. The altitude at which the aircraft will stall

- 5. What are the vision requirements for a commercial pilot?**
 - A. Distant vision of 20/20 or better in one eye only
 - B. Distant vision of 20/30 or better in both eyes
 - C. Distant vision of 20/20 or better in each eye, with or without correction
 - D. No specific vision requirements are needed

6. What does "deviation" refer to in aviation terms?

- A. The difference between the aircraft's vertical and horizontal speeds
- B. The difference between magnetic and true headings, particularly due to local magnetic influences
- C. The discrepancy in instrument readings due to erratic conditions
- D. The variation in air circulation patterns during flight

7. What is the primary function of an airspeed indicator?

- A. To monitor fuel levels in the aircraft
- B. To display the aircraft's speed relative to the surrounding air
- C. To indicate altitude pressure changes
- D. To measure wind speed and direction

8. What is meant by "straight and level" flight?

- A. Flying in a straight line only.
- B. Maintaining a constant altitude and heading.
- C. Ascending steadily without turning.
- D. Descending gradually towards the runway.

9. What are "V-speeds" in aviation?

- A. Reference speeds for performance thresholds
- B. Variations of engine speeds
- C. Vario types for GPS navigation
- D. Visual aids for instrument flight

10. Which mindset is considered an example of a hazardous attitude?

- A. Self-confidence
- B. Anti-authority
- C. Positive thinking
- D. Team-oriented behavior

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the purpose of a "mass and balance" checklist in aviation?

- A. To determine fuel consumption
- B. To ensure safe loading within limits**
- C. To measure total weight of the aircraft
- D. To check maintenance records

The "mass and balance" checklist is used to ensure safe loading within specified limits for an aircraft. Proper mass and balance calculations are critical for flight safety because they directly affect the aircraft's performance and handling characteristics. When an aircraft is loaded beyond its weight limits or incorrectly balanced, it may become difficult to control, leading to potential safety risks during takeoff, flight, and landing. This checklist typically involves confirming that the total weight of the aircraft, including passengers, cargo, and fuel, falls within the approved limits set by the manufacturer. Additionally, it addresses how the load is distributed throughout the aircraft, maintaining the center of gravity within acceptable parameters. Balancing the load is essential for stability; an improperly balanced aircraft can lead to serious control issues and affect maneuvers and landing performance. While determining fuel consumption, measuring total weight, and checking maintenance records are important tasks in the operational lifecycle of an aircraft, they are not the main focus of the mass and balance checklist. The emphasis on loading safety highlights the significance of the checklist in preventing accidents and ensuring regulatory compliance.

2. To avoid landing at the wrong airport or on the wrong runway, what should a pilot do?

- A. Consult with ground control
- B. Follow the instrument approach chart for the appropriate runway**
- C. Use visual flight rules only
- D. Request flight instructions from the nearest airport

Following the instrument approach chart for the appropriate runway is crucial for ensuring that pilots have the correct information regarding the runway layout, approach procedures, and any specific requirements for landing. The approach chart provides detailed guidance, including airport information, runway identifiers, altitudes, and procedures, which are essential for safe landings. This procedure helps mitigate the risks associated with landing at the wrong airport or on the wrong runway, ensuring the pilot is correctly oriented and prepared for the approach. Using visual flight rules only does not provide the level of precision necessary for landing safely, especially in varying visibility conditions, where instrument approach procedures are more reliable. Consulting with ground control and requesting flight instructions from the nearest airport could be supportive actions, but they might not specifically focus on the approach procedures for the intended runway, which is why referencing the instrument approach chart is the most effective method in minimizing the risk of errors.

3. What does "ground effect" refer to?

- A. The phenomenon of reduced fuel consumption at lower altitudes
- B. The increased lift and reduced drag experienced by an aircraft when it is close to the ground**
- C. The decrease in visibility when flying close to the ground
- D. The enhanced performance of aircraft on grass runways

Ground effect refers to the aerodynamic phenomenon whereby an aircraft experiences increased lift and reduced drag when it is flying in close proximity to the ground, typically within one wingspan of the surface. This occurs due to changes in the airflow around the aircraft's wings as it approaches the ground. The presence of the ground disrupts the airflow patterns that would normally affect lift and drag, resulting in a cushion of air that effectively increases lift and lowers drag. When an aircraft is within this zone, it can take advantage of these aerodynamic improvements, which can enhance performance during the takeoff and landing phases. Pilots often must be aware of this effect, as it influences their control of the aircraft during these critical phases of flight. Understanding ground effect is essential for ensuring safe operations, particularly during landings where an early touchdown can inadvertently lead to a floating condition or an unintentional increase in lift, requiring careful adjustment to maintain control. The other options do not accurately describe the phenomenon of ground effect. For instance, while reduced fuel consumption at lower altitudes can occur, it is not the defining characteristic of ground effect. Similarly, visibility concerns or performance on specific runway surfaces like grass are unrelated to the aerodynamic changes that occur due to proximity to the ground.

4. What is the definition of "density altitude"?

- A. The pressure altitude corrected for non-standard temperature, indicative of aircraft performance**
- B. The height of an aircraft above sea level
- C. The altitude where the air is less dense than sea level
- D. The altitude at which the aircraft will stall

Density altitude is defined as the pressure altitude corrected for non-standard temperature and is a crucial factor in determining aircraft performance. When the temperature deviates from the standard atmosphere (usually defined as 15 degrees Celsius at sea level), the actual air density changes, which impacts how well an aircraft can perform during critical phases of flight such as takeoff, climb, and landing. This adjustment is important because aircraft engines, propellers, and wings all rely on the density of air to function optimally. At higher density altitudes, the aircraft may require longer takeoff distances, have reduced climb rates, and experience lower engine performance. Therefore, correctly understanding density altitude allows pilots to make informed decisions regarding aircraft performance in varying temperatures and elevations. The other options do not accurately reflect this key concept in aviation. The height of an aircraft above sea level pertains to geometric altitude rather than density altitude. The concept of air being less dense than sea level is vague and does not capture the necessary adjustments for non-standard temperature. Lastly, stall altitude refers to a specific aerodynamic phenomenon rather than a measurement linked to air density and aircraft performance.

5. What are the vision requirements for a commercial pilot?

- A. Distant vision of 20/20 or better in one eye only
- B. Distant vision of 20/30 or better in both eyes
- C. Distant vision of 20/20 or better in each eye, with or without correction**
- D. No specific vision requirements are needed

The vision requirements for a commercial pilot are established to ensure that pilots can effectively operate an aircraft and respond to visual cues essential for flying. A distant vision of 20/20 or better in each eye, whether corrected with glasses or contact lenses or not, ensures that pilots have adequate visual capabilities to identify instruments, read charts, and see other aircraft or ground features during flight. This standard helps maintain safety in aviation, as good vision is critical for navigating and avoiding obstacles. While some options present varying standards, they do not adhere to the specificity and stringency that the correct standard provides. For instance, having 20/30 vision in both eyes may not be sufficient for the complex visual tasks pilots regularly encounter. Also, the absence of specific vision requirements would compromise safety in aviation operations. Therefore, the requirement that pilots maintain 20/20 vision in each eye, with or without correction, is crucial for meeting the demands of flying and ensuring safety in all operational scenarios.

6. What does "deviation" refer to in aviation terms?

- A. The difference between the aircraft's vertical and horizontal speeds
- B. The difference between magnetic and true headings, particularly due to local magnetic influences**
- C. The discrepancy in instrument readings due to erratic conditions
- D. The variation in air circulation patterns during flight

In aviation, "deviation" specifically refers to the difference between magnetic and true headings, which occurs due to local magnetic influences affecting the aircraft's magnetic compass. This is a crucial concept for pilots, as it directly impacts navigation. When operating an aircraft, pilots rely on heading information to navigate accurately. Magnetic compasses are influenced not only by the Earth's magnetic field but also by magnetic variations from surrounding materials, electrical equipment, and other environmental factors within the aircraft. This influence can cause the magnetic compass reading to deviate from the true heading, which is the actual direction relative to geographical north. Understanding this concept allows pilots to make necessary adjustments for accurate navigation. It is essential to refer to charts or tables that provide correction factors for a specific area, enabling pilots to mitigate the effects of deviation in their navigation planning. This knowledge is instrumental in ensuring safe and effective flight operations. The other options do address important aviation concepts but do not accurately define "deviation." For instance, the difference in vertical and horizontal speeds pertains more to performance rather than heading accuracy, while discrepancies in instrument readings involve instrument calibration or malfunction, rather than local magnetic influences. Lastly, variations in air circulation patterns are related to meteorological conditions and do not connect to the specific issue

7. What is the primary function of an airspeed indicator?

- A. To monitor fuel levels in the aircraft
- B. To display the aircraft's speed relative to the surrounding air**
- C. To indicate altitude pressure changes
- D. To measure wind speed and direction

The primary function of an airspeed indicator is to display the aircraft's speed relative to the surrounding air. This measurement is crucial for a pilot because flying at the appropriate airspeed ensures that the aircraft operates efficiently, remains stable, and adheres to various aerodynamic principles. Understanding airspeed is essential for safe flight operations. It helps pilots determine takeoff and landing speeds, assess performance in different flight conditions, and interpret stall speeds, which are critical for maintaining control of the aircraft. Unlike monitoring fuel levels, altitude changes, or wind conditions, the airspeed indicator focuses specifically on the relationship between the aircraft and the air through which it is traveling. This data is vital for various phases of flight, including climbing, cruising, and descending, thus underscoring why its primary role is as described.

8. What is meant by "straight and level" flight?

- A. Flying in a straight line only.
- B. Maintaining a constant altitude and heading.**
- C. Ascending steadily without turning.
- D. Descending gradually towards the runway.

"Straight and level" flight refers to the aircraft maintaining a constant altitude while flying in a straight path without any turns. This means that the pilot is managing the aircraft's pitch, roll, and yaw so that it is neither climbing nor descending, and also not changing its directional heading. In this state, the aircraft's lift is equal to its weight, and its thrust is equal to its drag. This level flight is crucial for maintaining stability and ensuring that the aircraft is in a controlled state. It is the basis for performing various maneuvers and managing the aircraft in different phases of flight, such as cruising. The other options do not accurately describe "straight and level" flight. Flying in a straight line only would not include the requirement for constant altitude, while ascending steadily or descending gradually involves changing altitude, which contradicts the definition. Thus, maintaining a constant altitude and heading captures the essence of what "straight and level" flight means in the context of piloting an aircraft.

9. What are "V-speeds" in aviation?

A. Reference speeds for performance thresholds

B. Variations of engine speeds

C. Vario types for GPS navigation

D. Visual aids for instrument flight

V-speeds are specific reference speeds that are critical for the operation and performance of an aircraft. These speeds provide pilots with essential information regarding the aircraft's handling characteristics and performance in various phases of flight. Each V-speed has a unique designation and significance, such as V1, the takeoff decision speed; Vr, the rotation speed for takeoff; and V2, the takeoff safety speed. Understanding these speeds helps pilots operate the aircraft safely and efficiently. For instance, knowing the Vref or landing reference speed ensures that the approach is stable and appropriate for landing. Consequently, these reference speeds form a vital part of every pilot's flight operations manual, ensuring compliance with performance thresholds throughout all flight conditions. The other options, while they each relate to aviation, do not correctly define V-speeds. Variations of engine speeds, for example, relate more to tachometers and engine management rather than reference speeds for flight performance. Vario types for GPS navigation does not accurately address the concept of V-speeds, as it pertains more to altitude variation indicators or devices. Visual aids for instrument flight might refer to visual approach slope indicators or other navigational aids, which similarly do not capture the essence of V-speeds.

10. Which mindset is considered an example of a hazardous attitude?

A. Self-confidence

B. Anti-authority

C. Positive thinking

D. Team-oriented behavior

Anti-authority is recognized as a hazardous attitude because it reflects a tendency to question or disregard rules, regulations, and instructions from those in positions of authority. Pilots exhibiting this mindset may believe they know better than those who are experienced or trained to provide guidance. This attitude can lead to dangerous situations, as it may encourage a disregard for crucial procedures and safety protocols that are essential for safe flight operations. In contrast, self-confidence, positive thinking, and team-oriented behavior are not considered hazardous attitudes. Self-confidence is a necessary trait for pilots, as it enables them to operate their aircraft effectively and make sound decisions under pressure. Positive thinking promotes a constructive approach to challenges, enhancing resilience and problem-solving abilities. Team-oriented behavior fosters collaboration and communication among crew members, which is vital for ensuring safety and efficiency in flight 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:

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

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