

E5 Weighted Airman Promotion System (WAPS) Testing 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. Which exam assesses knowledge specific to your AFSC?**
 - A. PFE**
 - B. SKT**
 - C. APFE**
 - D. CFQ**

- 2. What is the Promotion Fitness Examination (PFE) and how many questions does it have?**
 - A. The PFE is a general knowledge test used in WAPS and contains 100 questions.**
 - B. The PFE is a specialty knowledge test focused on your AFSC and contains 100 questions.**
 - C. The PFE is a physical fitness assessment and contains 100 questions.**
 - D. The PFE is a general knowledge test used in WAPS and contains 150 questions.**

- 3. Which of the following is NOT a general function of the U.S. Armed Forces as stated in the Key West Agreement?**
 - A. Maintain freedom of the seas.**
 - B. Support and defend the U.S. Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.**
 - C. Ensure, by timely and effective military action, the security of the United States, its possessions, and areas vital to its interests.**
 - D. Uphold and advance the national policies and interests of the United States.**

- 4. Which statement best describes SKT's purpose?**
 - A. SKT is designed to measure job-specific knowledge.**
 - B. SKT is a general cognitive ability test.**
 - C. SKT evaluates leadership and teamwork on the job.**
 - D. SKT assesses civil service eligibility.**

- 5. What aspects of performance are typically evaluated in an EPR?**
- A. Job performance, leadership, teamwork, initiative, and responsibility.**
 - B. Physical fitness and technical proficiency only.**
 - C. Attendance and punctuality exclusively.**
 - D. Compliance with safety rules only.**
- 6. Which organization is not listed as part of the Department of Defense structure described?**
- A. Department of Homeland Security**
 - B. Office of the Secretary of Defense**
 - C. Joint Chiefs of Staff**
 - D. Joint Staff**
- 7. What is the effect of improving SKT on WAPS promotion potential?**
- A. SKT improvements do not affect promotion.**
 - B. SKT is only used for basic qualification and cannot be improved after initial assignment.**
 - C. SKT improvements can positively influence overall performance and promotion potential.**
 - D. SKT improvements replace the need for EPR updates.**
- 8. What role do supervisors play in WAPS readiness?**
- A. They guide development, provide EPRs, coordinate SKT/PFE prep, and validate performance.**
 - B. They coordinate SKT/PFE prep and validate performance.**
 - C. They only conduct annual evaluations.**
 - D. They manage base housing and morale.**
- 9. Which document anchors civilian control of the U.S. Armed Forces?**
- A. The U.S. Constitution**
 - B. The Declaration of Independence**
 - C. The Emancipation Proclamation**
 - D. The Magna Carta**

10. Why is it important to maintain a professional EPR narrative?

- A. It ensures an accurate, credible assessment of performance that supports fair scoring.**
- B. It guarantees promotion regardless of performance.**
- C. It reduces the need for supervisor input.**
- D. It is used only for personnel actions outside promotion.**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which exam assesses knowledge specific to your AFSC?

- A. PFE
- B. SKT**
- C. APFE
- D. CFQ

The Specialized Knowledge Test focuses on the material tied to your AFSC, testing the specific duties, equipment, procedures, and safety practices you use in your specialty. That direct emphasis on the knowledge you actually need to perform your job is what makes it the best measure of AFSC-specific understanding. General promotion exams, like the Promotion Fitness Exam, cover topics that apply to airmen across many fields, and other tests focus on different aspects such as broader career-field information, not the exact specialty tasks. So the SKT is the one that validates the precise knowledge your AFSC requires.

2. What is the Promotion Fitness Examination (PFE) and how many questions does it have?

- A. The PFE is a general knowledge test used in WAPS and contains 100 questions.**
- B. The PFE is a specialty knowledge test focused on your AFSC and contains 100 questions.
- C. The PFE is a physical fitness assessment and contains 100 questions.
- D. The PFE is a general knowledge test used in WAPS and contains 150 questions.

The Promotion Fitness Examination is a general knowledge assessment used in the WAPS system. It isn't focused on a specific Air Force Specialty or on physical fitness; instead, it tests broad Air Force knowledge relevant to all airmen. The exam contains 100 questions, making it a straightforward measure of overall knowledge across topics common to all service members. This is why it's the correct description: it's a general knowledge test, and the number of questions is 100. The other options mischaracterize the test (as specialty knowledge or a physical fitness assessment) or state an incorrect number of questions.

3. Which of the following is NOT a general function of the U.S. Armed Forces as stated in the Key West Agreement?

- A. Maintain freedom of the seas.**
- B. Support and defend the U.S. Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic.**
- C. Ensure, by timely and effective military action, the security of the United States, its possessions, and areas vital to its interests.**
- D. Uphold and advance the national policies and interests of the United States.**

The main idea is understanding what the Key West Agreement assigns as broad purposes for the U.S. Armed Forces. Those purposes focus on defending the United States, its possessions, and vital interests, upholding and defending the Constitution, and supporting and advancing national policies and interests. Maintaining freedom of the seas isn't described as a general function of the Armed Forces in that agreement; it's a naval-specific objective tied to maritime power rather than a universal duty of all services. The other statements reflect duties that apply broadly to national defense and the constitutional role of the military, whereas freedom of the seas sits more as a Navy-oriented mission rather than a general function of the entire armed forces per Key West.

4. Which statement best describes SKT's purpose?

- A. SKT is designed to measure job-specific knowledge.**
- B. SKT is a general cognitive ability test.**
- C. SKT evaluates leadership and teamwork on the job.**
- D. SKT assesses civil service eligibility.**

SKT targets job-specific knowledge. It tests whether you know the exact procedures, standards, and details required to perform the duties of your specialty. This is different from measuring general cognitive abilities like abstract reasoning, which a broad cognitive test would assess. It also isn't meant to gauge leadership or teamwork, which are evaluated through different performance and behavioral assessments, nor is it about civil service eligibility, which relies on separate qualification criteria. Because SKT focuses on the specialized knowledge needed for your duties, describing its purpose as measuring job-specific knowledge best fits what SKT is designed to do.

5. What aspects of performance are typically evaluated in an EPR?

A. Job performance, leadership, teamwork, initiative, and responsibility.

B. Physical fitness and technical proficiency only.

C. Attendance and punctuality exclusively.

D. Compliance with safety rules only.

An EPR evaluates performance across multiple dimensions that show how you contribute to the mission, not just what you can do technically. The strongest definition of performance here includes how well you perform your duties (job performance), how you lead and influence others (leadership), how you work with teammates (teamwork), your willingness to take on extra responsibilities and solve problems proactively (initiative), and your reliability and accountability for outcomes (responsibility). Together, these areas reflect overall effectiveness and potential for greater responsibility, which is why they're the focus of the EPR. Focusing only on physical fitness and technical proficiency misses the leadership, collaboration, and proactive, accountable behaviors that the EPR also evaluates. Attendance and punctuality cover reliability of presence but don't address the quality of work or leadership impact. Compliance with safety rules is important but represents just one facet of performance rather than the full spectrum assessed.

6. Which organization is not listed as part of the Department of Defense structure described?

A. Department of Homeland Security

B. Office of the Secretary of Defense

C. Joint Chiefs of Staff

D. Joint Staff

The described DoD structure centers on the civilian leadership that runs the department and the military advisory and support bodies that directly assist it. The Office of the Secretary of Defense provides civilian oversight and policy direction, while the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the senior military advisory group, supported by the Joint Staff to help coordinate across the armed services. The Department of Homeland Security, on the other hand, is a separate department created to manage domestic security and disaster response. It operates outside the DoD framework, even though it may coordinate with DoD on certain missions. That separation is why it isn't listed as part of the Department of Defense structure described.

7. What is the effect of improving SKT on WAPS promotion potential?

- A. SKT improvements do not affect promotion.**
- B. SKT is only used for basic qualification and cannot be improved after initial assignment.**
- C. SKT improvements can positively influence overall performance and promotion potential.**
- D. SKT improvements replace the need for EPR updates.**

Improving SKT matters because it's a direct part of the WAPS promotion score. The promotion score is a sum of several elements, including your EPR, TIG, the Promotion Fitness Exam (PFE), and your Skill Knowledge Test (SKT) results. When you study and raise your SKT score, you add more points to that total. Since the promotion decision is based on the overall composite, higher SKT performance can boost your chances for promotion. It's important to remember SKT is one part of the total and does not replace EPRs or other factors.

8. What role do supervisors play in WAPS readiness?

- A. They guide development, provide EPRs, coordinate SKT/PFE prep, and validate performance.**
- B. They coordinate SKT/PFE prep and validate performance.**
- C. They only conduct annual evaluations.**
- D. They manage base housing and morale.**

Supervisors drive WAPS readiness by actively shaping a subordinate's development, documenting performance, and ensuring test readiness. They guide development through on-the-job coaching, targeted assignments, and ongoing feedback that build the skills and competencies needed for promotion. They provide Enlisted Performance Reports that accurately capture performance and potential, feeding into the WAPS scoring process. They coordinate SKT (Skill Knowledge Test) and PFE (Physical Fitness Evaluation) prep, arranging practice, study resources, and review sessions so the airman approaches assessments prepared. They also validate performance by observing work quality, consistency, and leadership, confirming that the airman meets standards and is ready for advancement. This combined effort ensures the airman is prepared, properly documented, and positioned for promotion.

9. Which document anchors civilian control of the U.S. Armed Forces?

- A. The U.S. Constitution**
- B. The Declaration of Independence**
- C. The Emancipation Proclamation**
- D. The Magna Carta**

Civilian control is ensured by the framework in the U.S. Constitution, which places military leadership under nonmilitary civilian authority. The President serves as Commander in Chief, a civilian role, while Congress holds the power to declare war, raise and fund the armed forces, and set broader military policy. This separation creates checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches, preventing military leadership from governing itself. The other documents don't establish this governance structure: the Declaration of Independence outlines fundamental rights and grievances, the Emancipation Proclamation was a wartime order, and the Magna Carta influenced early governance but does not define modern U.S. military oversight.

10. Why is it important to maintain a professional EPR narrative?

- A. It ensures an accurate, credible assessment of performance that supports fair scoring.**
- B. It guarantees promotion regardless of performance.**
- C. It reduces the need for supervisor input.**
- D. It is used only for personnel actions outside promotion.**

Maintaining a professional EPR narrative ensures the record reflects performance accurately and credibly, which supports fair scoring. When the narrative cites specific, measurable accomplishments tied to duties, it provides a clear basis for evaluation and direct comparison across airmen. This precision protects against misinterpretation, helps justify rating decisions, and demonstrates accountability and leadership potential. Promotions aren't guaranteed by the narrative alone, but it's a key factor in informed decisions, and it relies on supervisor input rather than replacing it. The EPR informs promotions as well as other personnel actions, so keeping the narrative professional is essential across the board.

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://e5wapstesting.examzify.com>

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

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