

ERAU Commercial Checkride Practice Test (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

- 1. What might a pilot experience when flying a low approach in rain?**
 - A. Visual distortion leading to a higher altitude**
 - B. Illusion of flying lower than actual**
 - C. Access to better visibility conditions**
 - D. Excessive lift due to moisture**
- 2. What color are runway lead-off lights typically?**
 - A. Red and Blue**
 - B. Green and Yellow**
 - C. White and Green**
 - D. Amber and Blue**
- 3. What is an indicator of a fuel fire?**
 - A. Thick black smoke**
 - B. Bright orange flames**
 - C. Smell of burning insulation**
 - D. White vapor**
- 4. Which part of the fuel system provides the initial fuel flow for the engine?**
 - A. Fuel shutoff valve**
 - B. Aux fuel pump**
 - C. Fuel air control unit**
 - D. Engine driven fuel pump**
- 5. What is required to achieve 'speed to fly' during a power-off 180 maneuvers?**
 - A. Best glide speed only**
 - B. Best glide speed plus headwind component**
 - C. Wind shear factor**
 - D. Landing gear configuration**

- 6. What color indicates the last 2000 feet or half runway length on runway edge lights?**
- A. Red**
 - B. Green**
 - C. Yellow**
 - D. White**
- 7. What does the term 'operating cert' refer to in aviation?**
- A. Certification of fuel suppliers**
 - B. Permission to conduct commercial flight operations**
 - C. License to fly privately**
 - D. Regulatory compliance with maintenance rules**
- 8. What are the components of the PRICE check for oxygen systems?**
- A. Pressure, Regulator, Indicators, Connections, Emergency**
 - B. Pressure, Repairs, Inspection, Connections, Equipment**
 - C. Power, Regulation, Indicators, Charge, Equipment**
 - D. Pressure, Regulation, Inspection, Control, Emergency**
- 9. Which of the following tools is included for emergency signaling?**
- A. Flare gun**
 - B. Signal mirror**
 - C. Walkie-talkie**
 - D. Radio transmitter**
- 10. Which of the following describes the performance changes during a climb at higher altitudes?**
- A. More power is required but less is available**
 - B. Less power is required due to thinner air**
 - C. Index increases due to decreased drag**
 - D. Performance remains the same as at sea level**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What might a pilot experience when flying a low approach in rain?

- A. Visual distortion leading to a higher altitude**
- B. Illusion of flying lower than actual**
- C. Access to better visibility conditions**
- D. Excessive lift due to moisture**

When a pilot conducts a low approach in rain, they may experience the illusion of flying lower than their actual altitude. This visual distortion occurs because rain can obscure visibility and create a lack of reference points on the ground, making it difficult for a pilot to accurately perceive altitude. The environment may also create a sense of proximity to the ground since the rain can blur the horizon and reduce depth perception. This phenomenon can lead to significant safety concerns, as the pilot might think they are at a safer altitude when they are, in fact, too close to the ground. Understanding the effects of visual illusions is crucial for pilots to maintain safe flying practices, especially in challenging weather conditions. Recognizing these challenges will enable pilots to adjust their flying techniques appropriately to ensure safety during low approaches in adverse weather.

2. What color are runway lead-off lights typically?

- A. Red and Blue**
- B. Green and Yellow**
- C. White and Green**
- D. Amber and Blue**

Runway lead-off lights are typically colored green and yellow. These lights are designed to guide pilots as they exit the runway and transition onto taxiways. The green color generally indicates the direction toward safe maneuvering toward the taxiway, while the yellow acts as an alert or cautionary color to signal the change in operation from the active runway to taxiing. These specific colors help differentiate these lights from other lighting on or near the runway, such as approach lights or runway edge lights, which may use different color combinations. Understanding these color codes is crucial for pilots to ensure safe and effective taxiing after landing, as it aids in preventing runway incursions and helps in situational awareness in busy airfield environments.

3. What is an indicator of a fuel fire?

- A. Thick black smoke**
- B. Bright orange flames**
- C. Smell of burning insulation**
- D. White vapor**

A bright orange flame is often a key indicator of a fuel fire. This color usually signifies the presence of a hydrocarbon-based fuel, which burns at a high temperature and produces distinct orange flames due to incomplete combustion. It can also indicate that the fire is fueled by materials with a substantial carbon content, such as gasoline or diesel fuel. In the context of aviation and safety, recognizing the characteristics of a fire can be crucial for effective emergency response. Bright orange flames can attract attention and signify a potentially intense and dangerous situation, while other indicators might suggest different types of fires or burning materials.

4. Which part of the fuel system provides the initial fuel flow for the engine?

- A. Fuel shutoff valve**
- B. Aux fuel pump**
- C. Fuel air control unit**
- D. Engine driven fuel pump**

The auxiliary fuel pump plays a critical role in providing the initial fuel flow necessary for engine start-up. When the engine is not yet running or at low RPMs, the auxiliary fuel pump ensures that fuel is delivered efficiently to the engine to facilitate ignition. This pump is typically electric and operates independently of the engine's mechanical systems, which is crucial during the start-up when the engine-driven fuel pump is not yet operational. The auxiliary fuel pump is designed to provide adequate pressure and volume of fuel, ensuring proper fuel flow for engine operation, especially when the engine requires it most during the start-up phase. This is particularly important in situations where fuel starvation could lead to difficult starts or engine performance issues. Conversely, while the fuel shutoff valve controls the fuel supply to the engine and the fuel air control unit manages the mixture of fuel and air for optimal engine performance, they do not initiate fuel flow. The engine-driven fuel pump comes into play once the engine is running, supplying fuel at the higher pressures required for continuous operation. Thus, during initial start-up, it is indeed the auxiliary fuel pump that is responsible for providing the necessary fuel flow.

5. What is required to achieve 'speed to fly' during a power-off 180 maneuvers?

- A. Best glide speed only**
- B. Best glide speed plus headwind component**
- C. Wind shear factor**
- D. Landing gear configuration**

Achieving 'speed to fly' during a power-off 180 maneuver is essential for ensuring that the aircraft can glide to a safe landing area while maintaining the appropriate airspeed. The concept of 'speed to fly' involves not just maintaining the best glide speed but also accounting for the environmental conditions, particularly the wind. When considering a headwind component, it is crucial to adjust the airspeed for any wind effects that may affect the aircraft's path. If there is a headwind, the ground speed will decrease relative to the velocity of the air surrounding the aircraft. This means that the aircraft would need to fly slightly faster than the best glide speed in order to compensate for this headwind, ensuring that the aircraft can maintain a suitable descent rate and reach the desired landing spot. By factoring in the headwind component, pilots can better manage their glide path during the maneuver, optimizing performance, and successfully executing the landing. This is why best glide speed plus the headwind component is key to achieving the correct 'speed to fly' during a power-off 180 maneuver.

6. What color indicates the last 2000 feet or half runway length on runway edge lights?

- A. Red**
- B. Green**
- C. Yellow**
- D. White**

The correct answer is yellow, which is utilized in aviation lighting to indicate specific information about runway length. In particular, yellow lights are used at the last 2000 feet or half the runway length for visual guidance. This color helps pilots to ascertain their position on the runway, especially when approaching the end during landing or extension during takeoff. Yellow lighting is essential in providing critical situational awareness, notably at busy airports or during low visibility conditions. The use of different colors is standardized in aviation lighting, and understanding these signals contributes significantly to safe operations on the runway. The other colors used in runway edge lighting serve different purposes; for example, red lights typically signify the end of the usable runway, while green is usually associated with the beginning of the runway for the landing threshold. White lights mark the sides of the runway over its length, helping guide aircraft during operations.

7. What does the term 'operating cert' refer to in aviation?

- A. Certification of fuel suppliers**
- B. Permission to conduct commercial flight operations**
- C. License to fly privately**
- D. Regulatory compliance with maintenance rules**

The term 'operating cert' refers to permission to conduct commercial flight operations. In aviation, this certification is essential for any airline or commercial operator as it signifies that the organization has met specific regulatory standards set by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or relevant aviation authority. This includes demonstrating that the operator has the necessary training, equipment, and procedures in place to safely conduct flight operations for passengers or cargo. Without an operating certificate, a company cannot legally perform commercial flights. It encompasses various aspects of operational safety, maintenance protocols, and the management of flight crews, ensuring that all bases are covered for the safety and efficiency of flight operations. This certification is a critical component of the aviation regulatory framework, serving to protect both the operators and the flying public. Other options, while relevant to aviation operations, do not encapsulate the full scope of what an 'operating cert' pertains to. For example, certification of fuel suppliers is related to safety and quality of fuel but does not directly involve flight operations, and regulatory compliance with maintenance rules and licenses for private flight do not represent the broader summary that an operating certificate encompasses. Thus, the essence of operating cert is the authorization to engage in commercial flight activities.

8. What are the components of the PRICE check for oxygen systems?

- A. Pressure, Regulator, Indicators, Connections, Emergency**
- B. Pressure, Repairs, Inspection, Connections, Equipment**
- C. Power, Regulation, Indicators, Charge, Equipment**
- D. Pressure, Regulation, Inspection, Control, Emergency**

The correct components of the PRICE check for oxygen systems include Pressure, Regulator, Indicators, Connections, and Emergency. Each of these elements serves a vital function in ensuring the oxygen system operates correctly and safely. - Pressure: This is crucial to confirm that the oxygen system has adequate pressure to deliver the necessary flow of oxygen. Checking pressure ensures that the system is functional and ready for use during flight. - Regulator: The regulator controls the flow and pressure of the oxygen that is provided to the user. It's important to inspect the regulator for proper operation, ensuring that it can adjust the flow of oxygen appropriately based on altitude and user need. - Indicators: These provide vital information about the status of the oxygen system, including pressure levels and whether the system is operational. The presence of functional indicators ensures that pilots can monitor the system effectively. - Connections: Oxygen systems rely on various connections to deliver oxygen from the tank to the mask or other breathing apparatus. Inspecting these connections is essential to identify any leaks or loose fittings that could compromise the delivery of oxygen. - Emergency: This component refers to the procedures and capabilities in place for quickly accessing oxygen in an emergency. This ensures that if a rapid decompression or other emergency occurs, the pilot and crew can quickly

9. Which of the following tools is included for emergency signaling?

- A. Flare gun**
- B. Signal mirror**
- C. Walkie-talkie**
- D. Radio transmitter**

The selection of the signal mirror as a tool for emergency signaling is notable for several reasons. A signal mirror effectively uses sunlight to create a visible signal that can be seen from a great distance. This method relies on the principle of reflection, allowing a person in distress to communicate their location without the need for batteries or fuel. Its transparency and portability make it an excellent option for outdoor emergencies, especially in remote areas where other means of communication may be compromised or unavailable. In emergency situations, the ability to generate a signal that can attract the attention of rescuers is critical. While flare guns and radios can be effective, they may require specific conditions, such as having flares or battery power, which might not be available in every emergency scenario. A signal mirror, however, can be a reliable and lightweight alternative that is always ready to use as long as there is ample sunlight, making it a practical choice for emergency signaling.

10. Which of the following describes the performance changes during a climb at higher altitudes?

A. More power is required but less is available

B. Less power is required due to thinner air

C. Index increases due to decreased drag

D. Performance remains the same as at sea level

During a climb at higher altitudes, the atmosphere becomes less dense, which significantly impacts an aircraft's engine performance and overall lift capabilities. As altitude increases, engines—especially piston engines—typically produce less power because they rely on a certain density of air to function efficiently. In simple terms, the thinner air results in reduced oxygen levels, which in turn leads to decreased engine performance. In this scenario, more power is needed to maintain a specific climb rate or to overcome the effects of weight and drag, but the aircraft can only generate less power due to the environmental conditions at higher altitudes. Consequently, pilots must manage their expectations and operate their aircraft within these performance limitations as they ascend. This can lead to a situation where an aircraft may struggle to climb effectively, making it crucial for pilots to understand how altitude affects performance metrics. The other options do not accurately reflect the realities of flight performance at altitude—power requirements do not decrease due to thinner air, drag does not decrease sufficiently to improve index significantly, and performance certainly differs compared to sea level, making option A the only accurate choice.

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://eraucommercialcheckride.examzify.com>

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