# FAA Military Competency 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

**1. Does a commercial pilot certificate have a specific expiration date?**

**A. Yes, every five years**

**B. No, it is issued without a specific expiration date**

**C. Yes, it expires on the pilot's birthday**

**D. No, but it must be renewed every two years**

**2. Which document is required to be available on a U.S. registered civil aircraft?**

**A. A valid pilot license**

**B. A current, approved Airplane Flight Manual**

**C. An insurance policy**

**D. A certificate of registration**

**3. What is the purpose of the taxiway ending marker sign?**

**A. Indicates the start of a new taxiway**

**B. Indicates taxiway does not continue beyond intersection**

**C. Indicates the direction of the runway**

**D. Indicates the location of the control tower**

**4. What is true regarding the operating limitations of a 'restricted' category airplane?**

**A. Can carry passengers for compensation**

**B. May operate for hire under special conditions**

**C. Cannot operate while carrying passengers or property for compensation or hire**

**D. Is authorized for flight training of pilots**

**5. Which type of transponder equipment is required for airplane operations within Class B airspace?**

**A. Mode A capability**

**B. 4096 code with Mode C capability**

**C. Mode S capability only**

**D. No transponder required**

**6. When must each required flight crewmember keep their shoulder harness fastened?**

**A. During flight at all times**

**B. Only during takeoff and landing**

**C. Only during taxiing**

**D. When flying above 10,000 feet**

**7. What does VLE stand for according to 14 CFR part 1?**

**A. Maximum landing gear extended speed**

**B. Never exceed speed**

**C. Speed for best rate of climb**

**D. Landing gear retraction speed**

**8. What is the visibility and cloud distance requirement for day VFR helicopter flight in Class G airspace at 3,500 feet MSL?**

**A. 2 miles visibility; 1,000 feet above, 500 feet below**

**B. 1 mile visibility; 500 feet below, 1,000 feet above, 2,000 feet horizontally**

**C. 3 miles visibility; 1,000 feet above and below**

**D. 1 mile visibility; 1,500 feet above and below**

**9. In a scenario where two aircraft of the same category are approaching an airport, who has the right of way?**

**A. The aircraft at the higher altitude.**

**B. The aircraft at the lower altitude.**

**C. The aircraft that is faster.**

**D. Both aircraft have equal right of way.**

**10. What action must a pilot take when experiencing navigational or communications equipment malfunctions while operating under IFR?**

**A. Report as soon as practical to ATC**

**B. Continue the flight and troubleshoot**

**C. Land at the nearest airport**

**D. Conduct a visual approach**

# Answers

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

# Explanations

## 1. Does a commercial pilot certificate have a specific expiration date?

**A. Yes, every five years**

**B. No, it is issued without a specific expiration date**

**C. Yes, it expires on the pilot's birthday**

**D. No, but it must be renewed every two years**

**A commercial pilot certificate is indeed issued without a specific expiration date, meaning that it remains valid as long as the pilot continues to meet the necessary requirements for medical certification and complies with the regulations concerning currency and proficiency. While the certificate itself does not expire, it is essential for the pilot to maintain their skills and complete the appropriate number of flight hours to stay current. This ensures that they are able to operate aircraft safely and effectively. Furthermore, pilots must undergo periodic medical examinations to hold a valid medical certificate, which is separate from the commercial pilot certificate. The incorrect options suggest various expiration scenarios that do not apply to the commercial pilot certificate. For example, some may imply a recurring expiration every few years or a requirement to renew it on a specific date, which does not align with the actual regulatory framework governing pilot certifications.**

## 2. Which document is required to be available on a U.S. registered civil aircraft?

**A. A valid pilot license**

**B. A current, approved Airplane Flight Manual**

**C. An insurance policy**

**D. A certificate of registration**

**The correct choice highlights the requirement for a current, approved Airplane Flight Manual (AFM) to be available on a U.S. registered civil aircraft. The AFM contains essential information regarding the performance, limitations, and operational procedures for the specific aircraft model, ensuring that pilots have access to crucial information needed for safe flight operations. Having the AFM on board is not just a regulatory requirement but also a fundamental safety measure. It provides pilots with the guidelines necessary to operate the aircraft safely and according to its design specifications. In operating any aircraft, familiarity with the AFM is vital since it includes data on aircraft weight and balance, speeds for various phases of flight, emergency procedures, and performance charts. Although other documents, like a valid pilot license, an insurance policy, and a certificate of registration, are important in the context of aircraft operation and ownership, they do not specifically fulfill the operational information requirements mandated for in-flight conditions. The AFM stands out as directly related to the safety and technical operation of the aircraft itself.**

## 3. What is the purpose of the taxiway ending marker sign?

**A. Indicates the start of a new taxiway**

**B. Indicates taxiway does not continue beyond intersection**

**C. Indicates the direction of the runway**

**D. Indicates the location of the control tower**

**The purpose of the taxiway ending marker sign is to indicate that the taxiway does not continue beyond the intersection. When pilots and ground personnel see this sign, they understand that the taxiway is ending and that there might be a different pathway or another surface beyond that point. This sign is critical for managing ground traffic safely, as it prevents confusion when moving on the airport surface. Recognizing where taxiways end helps in maintaining situational awareness and ensuring that aircraft do not inadvertently enter areas where they shouldn't be. This is especially important during busy operations, when clear indicators are necessary for safe ground movement.**

## 4. What is true regarding the operating limitations of a 'restricted' category airplane?

**A. Can carry passengers for compensation**

**B. May operate for hire under special conditions**

**C. Cannot operate while carrying passengers or property for compensation or hire**

**D. Is authorized for flight training of pilots**

**Operating limitations for a 'restricted' category airplane are defined by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and are crucial for understanding the use of these aircraft. The statement indicating that a 'restricted' category airplane cannot operate while carrying passengers or property for compensation or hire accurately reflects the limitations imposed by the regulatory framework. Restricted category airplanes are typically designed for specific purposes, such as agricultural spraying, firefighting, or other operations that may involve specialized training or operations. The restrictions ensure that these aircraft are used only in the capacities for which they are certified. Under normal circumstances, this classification excludes any commercial operations that would involve carrying passengers or cargo for compensation, thus maintaining a higher safety standard for these operations. This restriction helps prevent risky scenarios that can arise from utilizing these airplanes beyond their intended uses, ultimately protecting both the operator and the public. Meanwhile, other statements about the airplane's operation within the restricted category, such as carrying passengers for compensation or hire, contradict the fundamental limitations placed on these aircraft.**

## 5. Which type of transponder equipment is required for airplane operations within Class B airspace?

**A. Mode A capability**

**B. 4096 code with Mode C capability**

**C. Mode S capability only**

**D. No transponder required**

**In Class B airspace, aircraft operations require a transponder that is equipped with a 4096 code and Mode C capability. The reason for this requirement is to ensure enhanced situational awareness and improve safety in busy airspace. Mode C transponders provide altitude information along with the aircraft's identification, which is crucial for air traffic control (ATC) to effectively manage the separation of aircraft. By using a Mode C transponder, the aircraft provides its altitude along with a unique squawk code that helps ATC track and identify the aircraft on radar. This capability is key in Class B airspace, which is typically characterized by high traffic density and complex air operations surrounding major airports. The requirement for Mode C is part of efforts to minimize the risk of mid-air collisions and to assist with the safe and efficient flow of air traffic. The other options, while mentioning types of transponder capabilities, do not fulfill the specific requirements set for Class B airspace operations. Mode A capability lacks altitude reporting, which is essential for operations in such controlled environments, and Mode S capability, while advanced, is not the minimum requirement mandated for all aircraft in Class B airspace unless specifically indicated. Finally, the idea that no transponder is required does not**

## 6. When must each required flight crewmember keep their shoulder harness fastened?

**A. During flight at all times**

**B. Only during takeoff and landing**

**C. Only during taxiing**

**D. When flying above 10,000 feet**

**The requirement for each required flight crewmember to keep their shoulder harness fastened is specific to critical phases of flight. This regulation aims to enhance safety by ensuring that crew members are properly secured during periods when the aircraft is most likely to experience turbulence or other forces that could lead to injury. Throughout a flight, there are certain phases where the risk is heightened, particularly during takeoff and landing. These moments are when the aircraft is transitioning to and from flight, and any sudden manoeuvres or unexpected events can occur. By requiring shoulder harnesses to be secured during these phases, the regulation minimizes the risk of injury, reinforcing the importance of being properly restrained when the aircraft is subject to significant changes in motion and altitude. While other situations like taxiing or cruising at altitude may still require safety precautions, the focus on securing harnesses specifically during takeoff and landing reflects these critical operational priorities. This is why the regulation emphasizes fastening shoulder harnesses during these specific phases instead of throughout the entire flight or in other scenarios.**

## 7. What does VLE stand for according to 14 CFR part 1?

**A. Maximum landing gear extended speed**

**B. Never exceed speed**

**C. Speed for best rate of climb**

**D. Landing gear retraction speed**

**VLE stands for Maximum Landing Gear Extended Speed, which is the speed limitation that an aircraft must not exceed when the landing gear is in the extended position. This specification is crucial for ensuring the structural integrity of the aircraft and for the safe operation during landing and approach phases. Operating above this speed with the landing gear extended could lead to aerodynamic issues or damage to the landing gear mechanism due to increased aerodynamic loads. Understanding this term is essential for pilots, as it directly influences how they handle the aircraft during critical phases of flight. By adhering to this speed limitation, pilots can ensure that they are maintaining safety margins and complying with regulatory requirements set forth in 14 CFR part 1.**

## 8. What is the visibility and cloud distance requirement for day VFR helicopter flight in Class G airspace at 3,500 feet MSL?

**A. 2 miles visibility; 1,000 feet above, 500 feet below**

**B. 1 mile visibility; 500 feet below, 1,000 feet above, 2,000 feet horizontally**

**C. 3 miles visibility; 1,000 feet above and below**

**D. 1 mile visibility; 1,500 feet above and below**

**The visibility and cloud distance requirements for day VFR (Visual Flight Rules) helicopter flight in Class G airspace are outlined to ensure safe operations. In Class G airspace, which is uncontrolled airspace, the requirements for visibility and cloud clearance differ depending on the altitude and time of day. For helicopter operations in Class G airspace at 3,500 feet MSL during the daytime, the regulations stipulate that a pilot must maintain a visibility of at least 1 statute mile. Additionally, the pilot must remain clear of clouds, which means maintaining a distance of 500 feet below and 1,000 feet above cloud formations. This requirement ensures that pilots can see and avoid clouds to navigate safely and maintain visual reference to the ground, which is critical for VFR operations. This visibility and cloud clearance requirement is designed to provide enough room for safe navigation while allowing pilots to see and avoid potential obstacles, other aircraft, and ensure overall situational awareness during their flight.**

## 9. In a scenario where two aircraft of the same category are approaching an airport, who has the right of way?

**A. The aircraft at the higher altitude.**

**B. The aircraft at the lower altitude.**

**C. The aircraft that is faster.**

**D. Both aircraft have equal right of way.**

**In aviation, when two aircraft of the same category are approaching an airport, the guidelines state that the aircraft at the lower altitude has the right of way. This rule is in place primarily for safety reasons, allowing the lower aircraft to maintain its flight path and avoid potential conflicts with the other aircraft that may be at a higher altitude. This principle helps to ensure a safe separation between aircraft during landing approaches, especially since the aircraft at a higher altitude may have a greater tendency to maneuver or adjust its trajectory to execute a landing approach. When considering the dynamics of air traffic and potential collision avoidance, allowing the lower aircraft to have the right of way effectively minimizes risks associated with altitude discrepancies and helps to standardize decision-making for pilots when two aircraft are converging.**

## 10. What action must a pilot take when experiencing navigational or communications equipment malfunctions while operating under IFR?

**A. Report as soon as practical to ATC**

**B. Continue the flight and troubleshoot**

**C. Land at the nearest airport**

**D. Conduct a visual approach**

**When a pilot encounters navigational or communication equipment malfunctions while operating under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR), it is essential to maintain communication with Air Traffic Control (ATC). Reporting the issue as soon as practical allows ATC to provide assistance, which may include rerouting instructions, recommending an alternate course of action, or coordinating your return to visual flight rules if the situation allows for it. In IFR operations, ensuring proper navigation and clear communication with ATC is critical for safety and situational awareness. ATC can help mitigate risks associated with such malfunctions by providing information and guidance, which reinforces the importance of prompt reporting. This action aligns with best practices for aviation safety, as it prioritizes maintaining control of the flight and ensuring that any necessary support is received quickly. Continuing the flight and troubleshooting without reporting could lead to dangerous situations, especially if the malfunction impairs the pilot's ability to navigate or communicate effectively. Similarly, landing at the nearest airport without informing ATC could create confusion with other aircraft and disrupt air traffic management. Conducting a visual approach might not be feasible or safe if the flight is reliant on navigational aids that are currently malfunctioning. Thus, promptly reporting to ATC when issues arise is the most effective and safest course**

# 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://faa-militarycompetency.examzify.com**

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