

Link 16 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

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- 1. What is the difference between an IDL and an NDL?**
 - A. IDL is created using JMPS with data from NDLs and can be edited; NDL is the shell you start with to edit and create an IDL with mission-specific parameters.**
 - B. IDL and NDL are the same thing.**
 - C. IDL is created by the NTR; NDL is unrelated.**
 - D. IDL cannot be edited after creation.**

- 2. Which of the following is a major hardware element of the Link-16 sub system (in our helicopter)?**
 - A. Remote power supply**
 - B. Multifunctional Information Distribution System - Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT)**
 - C. Antennas**
 - D. Upper and lower antenna band suppression filters (notch filters)**

- 3. How does Link 16 provide voice control?**
 - A. Through one full duplex analog voice channel**
 - B. Through two half duplex digital voice channels over the TDL-J network using the MIDS LVT 1 Port 1 and Port 2 audio channels**
 - C. Not supported**
 - D. Via standard GPS voice**

- 4. How are nets stacked in Link 16?**
 - A. Nets are stacked with the same time slots, just different hopping patterns**
 - B. Nets are stacked by alternating frequencies only**
 - C. Nets are stacked by time slots in different frames**
 - D. Nets do not share timing and operate independently**

- 5. How does the TDMA principle work?**
- A. All JTIDS units are pre-assigned sets of time slots in which they can transmit and receive data.**
 - B. Data from different nets is transmitted on the same frequency, causing overlap.**
 - C. The same frequency is used for all nets within a time slot.**
 - D. Link 16 partitions the time slots for specific functional groupings, which allows the JU to participate in only the functions for which they perform.**
- 6. How are slot allocations communicated to participating units?**
- A. Via periodic operator prompts.**
 - B. Via network management messages from the NCS that assign non-overlapping time slots.**
 - C. Through broadcast weather data.**
 - D. By the unit's own internal clock.**
- 7. What is the final verification step in the typical MIDS-LVT terminal net participation sequence?**
- A. Power off**
 - B. Reboot the terminal**
 - C. Change user password**
 - D. Verify link health.**
- 8. Which type of circle is not allowed in LPAs?**
- A. Contracting circles**
 - B. Free-draw circles**
 - C. 3D spheres**
 - D. Rings**
- 9. What is PPLI used for?**
- A. It provides encryption keys for communications**
 - B. It finds enemy positions on the network**
 - C. It determines weather conditions for Link 16**
 - D. It identifies friendly air, surface, subsurface, or land tracks and their positions within the Link 16 network**

10. Which entity provides time synchronization to a unit joining a Link 16 network?

- A. Data Terminal Equipment**
- B. Network Time Reference (NTR)**
- C. Crypto device**
- D. Network Control Station (NCS)**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the difference between an IDL and an NDL?

- A. IDL is created using JMPS with data from NDLs and can be edited; NDL is the shell you start with to edit and create an IDL with mission-specific parameters.**
- B. IDL and NDL are the same thing.**
- C. IDL is created by the NTR; NDL is unrelated.**
- D. IDL cannot be edited after creation.**

The difference comes from the way the data load is prepared and used. The IDL is the mission-specific, editable data load that you create in JMPS using information drawn from NDLs. You can tweak parameters, add or remove elements, and save the result as the IDL for actual use in the mission. The NDL acts as the starting shell—a baseline template you open in JMPS and modify to include the particular mission parameters before producing the final IDL. This separation lets you reuse standard network data while tailoring it to each operation. So, the IDL is the editable, mission-tailored product built from NDL data, while the NDL is the template you begin with to craft that product.

2. Which of the following is a major hardware element of the Link-16 sub system (in our helicopter)?

- A. Remote power supply**
- B. Multifunctional Information Distribution System - Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT)**
- C. Antennas**
- D. Upper and lower antenna band suppression filters (notch filters)**

Link-16 hinges on a dedicated terminal that handles the network's waveform processing, timing, security, and data routing. The major hardware element you'll find in the helicopter's Link-16 subsystem is the MIDS-LVT terminal, which is the standard Link-16 radio/processor that actually transmits and receives the data, applies encryption, and interfaces with the aircraft's avionics and displays. It encapsulates the core functionality needed to participate in the Link-16 network, including TDMA timing and secure data handling, making it the central component of the system. Remote power supplies and antennas are essential supporting hardware, but they're generic radio-chain components rather than the primary Link-16 subsystem itself. Notch filters protect the front end from interference, but they don't define the Link-16 capability in the aircraft.

3. How does Link 16 provide voice control?

- A. Through one full duplex analog voice channel
- B. Through two half duplex digital voice channels over the TDL-J network using the MIDS LVT 1 Port 1 and Port 2 audio channels**
- C. Not supported
- D. Via standard GPS voice

Voice over Link 16 is carried as digital voice through the MIDS LVT-1 terminal. The system provides two half-duplex digital voice channels on the TDL-J network, using Port 1 and Port 2 audio channels. This means conversations are conducted over two separate digital paths rather than a single analog full-duplex path, allowing coordinated, push-to-talk style voice exchanges within the Link 16 framework. It's not standard GPS voice, and voice is supported in this digital form, not as a single analog channel.

4. How are nets stacked in Link 16?

- A. Nets are stacked with the same time slots, just different hopping patterns**
- B. Nets are stacked by alternating frequencies only
- C. Nets are stacked by time slots in different frames
- D. Nets do not share timing and operate independently

Nets in Link 16 are multiplexed in time using TDMA, so time is divided into frames and slots. To fit multiple nets into the same time slots, each net uses its own frequency-hopping pattern. This means several nets can occupy the same time slot, but they are kept separate by using different hopping sequences. The hopping pattern provides the spectral separation that prevents collisions and maintains jam resistance, while the shared time slot structure maximizes efficiency. So, nets are stacked in the same time slots, distinguished by their different hopping patterns. Using only alternate frequencies wouldn't guarantee separation in time, and spreading nets across different frames or treating them as timing-unique would waste capacity and reduce efficiency.

5. How does the TDMA principle work?

- A. All JTIDS units are pre-assigned sets of time slots in which they can transmit and receive data.
- B. Data from different nets is transmitted on the same frequency, causing overlap.
- C. The same frequency is used for all nets within a time slot.
- D. Link 16 partitions the time slots for specific functional groupings, which allows the JU to participate in only the functions for which they perform.**

TDMA in Link 16 works by sharing one radio channel through synchronized time frames and slots. Time within each frame is divided so that specific slots are reserved for particular functions or functional groupings, and units are assigned only to the slots that match the tasks they perform. This lets a JTIDS/MIDS unit transmit and receive data only in its allotted slots, so multiple nets and functions can coexist on the same frequency without interfering. Net control assigns and manages these slots, and all units stay synchronized so they know exactly which slots to monitor and when to transmit. This slot-based organization is why a unit participates only in the functions it supports, rather than needing to handle every possible function.

6. How are slot allocations communicated to participating units?

- A. Via periodic operator prompts.
- B. Via network management messages from the NCS that assign non-overlapping time slots.**
- C. Through broadcast weather data.
- D. By the unit's own internal clock.

Slot allocations in this system are determined by a central scheduler and then distributed to all participants. The Network Control Station acts as the scheduler, creating a TDMA timetable that assigns non-overlapping time slots to each unit. It communicates these assignments to every participating unit through network management messages, so each unit knows exactly when it may transmit and when to listen. This centralized approach prevents collisions and keeps the network organized. Other options don't fit because periodic prompts aren't used to assign time slots, weather data isn't related to slot scheduling, and relying on a unit's own internal clock would lead to timing drift and potential collisions since slots must be coordinated by the central network timing.

7. What is the final verification step in the typical MIDS-LVT terminal net participation sequence?

- A. Power off**
- B. Reboot the terminal**
- C. Change user password**
- D. Verify link health.**

Verifying the link health is the final check because, after a MIDS-LVT terminal has joined and synchronized with the net, you need to confirm the actual data path is healthy and capable of reliable operation. This verification ensures the radio link meets the required quality and timing for ongoing exchanges, including slot timing, data integrity, and overall link status. Only when the link health is confirmed good can the terminal continue normal participation with confidence that messages will be transmitted and received correctly. Powering off or rebooting would end or reset participation, not verify it. Changing a user password is a security action and not a net participation verification step.

8. Which type of circle is not allowed in LPAs?

- A. Contracting circles**
- B. Free-draw circles**
- C. 3D spheres**
- D. Rings**

In this context, symbols on a tactical display are designed to be stable and quickly interpretable. The meaning of a symbol should not change as information updates; operators rely on consistent shapes to read situations at a glance. A contracting circle would continuously shrink in size, which would imply a changing attribute like range or importance. That dynamic reduction creates ambiguity and slows recognition, violating the standard for clear, unambiguous symbology. Because of that, contracting circles aren't permitted. The other shapes fit the expected usage: free-draw circles can be created as needed without altering intrinsic meaning, 3D spheres can convey altitude or a three-dimensional aspect, and rings can denote fixed boundaries such as range rings. These shapes maintain a stable geometry and clear interpretation, which is why they are allowed.

9. What is PPLI used for?

- A. It provides encryption keys for communications**
- B. It finds enemy positions on the network**
- C. It determines weather conditions for Link 16**
- D. It identifies friendly air, surface, subsurface, or land tracks and their positions within the Link 16 network**

PPLI provides precise identity and location for participants in the Link 16 network. It lets you label and visualize friendly assets—air, surface, subsurface, and land—and know their exact positions within the network. This supports correct identification, deconfliction, and coordinated operations across the picture of the battlespace. It isn't used for encryption keys, weather data, or locating enemy positions directly; those functions come from other parts of the system. So PPLI's role is to identify friendly tracks and their positions within the Link 16 network.

10. Which entity provides time synchronization to a unit joining a Link 16 network?

- A. Data Terminal Equipment**
- B. Network Time Reference (NTR)**
- C. Crypto device**
- D. Network Control Station (NCS)**

Time synchronization in a Link 16 network is driven by a central master clock that coordinates when every unit transmits. The Network Control Station serves as that master clock and distributes the Network Time Reference to devices that join the network. When a unit joins, it uses this reference to align its internal timing with the network, ensuring its TDMA transmissions occur in the correct slots and without collisions. The Network Time Reference is the timing signal itself, but the entity that provides and distributes that timing to new entrants is the Network Control Station. Data terminal equipment is just the user's interface, a crypto device handles encryption keys rather than timing, and the timing signal would not be provided by the NTR alone without the NCS coordinating its delivery.

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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://link16.examzify.com>

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

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