

METAR DECODING PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. In METAR reports, what is indicated by a temperature of 0°C?**
 - A. Freezing point
 - B. Boiling point
 - C. Icy conditions
 - D. Normal temperature
- 2. How often are METAR reports typically issued?**
 - A. Every 30 minutes
 - B. Every hour
 - C. Every 2 hours
 - D. Every 15 minutes
- 3. What can be inferred from the term "Continuous lightning"?**
 - A. Intermittent thunder with sporadic rain
 - B. Consistent and ongoing lightning activity
 - C. No significant weather events are happening
 - D. Heavy snowfall detected
- 4. What does "G" signify when used in the wind section of a METAR?**
 - A. Gusts
 - B. Ground Level Wind
 - C. Gradient Wind
 - D. General Wind
- 5. What type of cloud coverage does "FEW" indicate in METAR?**
 - A. Clouds covering nearly the entire sky
 - B. Very little cloud cover
 - C. Clouds covering about half of the sky
 - D. Intermittent clouds with no significance
- 6. How is a ceiling defined in a METAR report?**
 - A. The height of clouds above ground level
 - B. The height of the lowest layer of clouds below 20,000 feet
 - C. The altitude of the aircraft
 - D. The distance from the ground to the nearest cloud

7. What visibility does VV008 specifically indicate?

- A. Both horizontal and vertical visibility
- B. Only horizontal visibility
- C. Only vertical visibility
- D. No visibility

8. Which code represents overcast conditions in a METAR report?

- A. CLR
- B. FEW
- C. BKN
- D. OVC

9. What does RMK refer to in a METAR report?

- A. Remarks
- B. Rain measurement
- C. Relative humidity
- D. Radiation monitoring

10. What does 'TS' signify in METAR reporting?

- A. Thunderstorm
- B. Haze
- C. Fog
- D. Freezing Rain

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In METAR reports, what is indicated by a temperature of 0°C?

- A. Freezing point**
- B. Boiling point
- C. Icy conditions
- D. Normal temperature

A temperature of 0°C in METAR reports indicates the freezing point of water. At this temperature, water transitions between its solid state (ice) and liquid state (water), which is a critical reference for pilots, meteorologists, and other professionals in aviation and weather monitoring. Knowing that the temperature is at the freezing point can be essential for assessing potential hazards, such as the risk of ice formation on runways or aircraft surfaces, which can affect safety and operational decisions. While boiling point, icy conditions, and normal temperature may relate to various weather assessments, they do not accurately describe what 0°C signifies in the context of METAR reporting. The boiling point of water is 100°C at sea level, which is significantly higher than 0°C. Icy conditions generally imply that temperatures are consistently below freezing, but 0°C itself does not ensure that ice is present. Normal temperature can vary widely depending on the geographical location and time of year, further distinguishing it from the specific significance of 0°C as the freezing point.

2. How often are METAR reports typically issued?

- A. Every 30 minutes
- B. Every hour**
- C. Every 2 hours
- D. Every 15 minutes

METAR reports are typically issued every hour, which is standard practice for providing current weather information relevant to aviation. This hourly issuance allows pilots, air traffic controllers, and meteorologists to stay informed about the latest conditions at airports and for flight planning. While there may be times when special METAR reports are issued more frequently, especially during significant changes in weather or when specific conditions warrant, the routine reporting is done on an hourly basis. This ensures that the data remains relevant and useful, helping to maintain safety in air travel. Other frequencies, such as every 30 minutes or every 15 minutes, are not standard practices for routine METAR reporting, serving specific needs rather than the broader operational requirements of aviation.

3. What can be inferred from the term "Continuous lightning"?

- A. Intermittent thunder with sporadic rain
- B. Consistent and ongoing lightning activity**
- C. No significant weather events are happening
- D. Heavy snowfall detected

The term "Continuous lightning" indicates that there is consistent and ongoing lightning activity occurring in a specific area. This descriptor suggests that the lightning is not sporadic or occasional but rather sustained over a period of time. This could be associated with a thunderstorm or similar weather phenomena where electrical discharges are frequent and persistent. The other options do not relate to the meaning of "Continuous lightning." For instance, intermittent thunder with sporadic rain would imply variability, which contradicts the notion of continuity. No significant weather events suggest calm conditions, while heavy snowfall refers to a different type of weather phenomenon altogether. Hence, the choice that aligns with the definition of "Continuous lightning" is that it refers to consistent and ongoing lightning activity.

4. What does "G" signify when used in the wind section of a METAR?

- A. Gusts**
- B. Ground Level Wind
- C. Gradient Wind
- D. General Wind

In the context of a METAR report, "G" is an abbreviation that stands for "gusts." This means that when you see "G" followed by a number in the wind section, it indicates the wind gust speed in knots that exceeds the sustained wind speed reported earlier in the same segment. For instance, if the wind is reported as 10 knots with gusts of 18 knots, it would be indicated as "10G18." This information is crucial for pilots and meteorologists as it provides insights into the variability and potential turbulence of wind conditions, which can affect flight safety and operations. Understanding this helps in interpreting how strong and potentially disruptive wind conditions can be at the time of observation. Other options such as ground level wind, gradient wind, or general wind do not accurately represent what "G" stands for in this specific context within METAR reports.

5. What type of cloud coverage does "FEW" indicate in METAR?

- A. Clouds covering nearly the entire sky
- B. Very little cloud cover**
- C. Clouds covering about half of the sky
- D. Intermittent clouds with no significance

The term "FEW" in METAR indicates that there are very few clouds observed, specifically referring to a cloud coverage of 1 to 2 oktas (eighths) of the sky covered by clouds. This terminology suggests minimal cloud presence, which is crucial for meteorological reports as it provides insight into sky conditions at the reporting station. In contrast, options such as "clouds covering nearly the entire sky" and "clouds covering about half of the sky" imply significantly higher percentages of cloud coverage, which wouldn't accurately describe the "few" designation. Similarly, "intermittent clouds with no significance" does not align with the definition of "few," as it is not merely about the presence of clouds but also their minimal impact on the overall sky condition. Therefore, recognizing that "FEW" relates specifically to very little cloud cover is essential for accurate interpretation of METAR reports.

6. How is a ceiling defined in a METAR report?

- A. The height of clouds above ground level
- B. The height of the lowest layer of clouds below 20,000 feet**
- C. The altitude of the aircraft
- D. The distance from the ground to the nearest cloud

The definition of a ceiling in a METAR report specifically refers to the height of the lowest layer of clouds that is below 20,000 feet above ground level. This measurement is crucial for pilots and meteorologists because it indicates the vertical visibility in the atmosphere and helps assess whether flight conditions meet the necessary criteria for visual flight rules (VFR) or if instrument flight rules (IFR) apply. When discussing cloud layers, a ceiling is established when any portion of a cloud layer is present at or below this altitude threshold. It's important for safety and navigation in aviation; thus, this definition is central to understanding METAR reports accurately. The other options address different aspects of aviation and weather but do not directly pertain to how ceilings are technically defined in a METAR context.

7. What visibility does VV008 specifically indicate?

- A. Both horizontal and vertical visibility
- B. Only horizontal visibility
- C. Only vertical visibility
- D. No visibility

VV008 specifically indicates vertical visibility. In meteorological reporting, the code "VV" stands for vertical visibility, which measures how far one can see vertically into the atmosphere, usually through stratus clouds or obscured sky conditions. The digits following the "VV" represent the height in hundreds of feet; therefore, "VV008" means that the vertical visibility is 800 feet. This clarity is essential because there are other codes used in METAR reports that denote horizontal visibility, such as "VV" for vertical but lack an adequate measure for horizontal visibility. Thus, selecting vertical visibility is accurate in this context, as "VV008" directly refers only to the ability to see vertically.

8. Which code represents overcast conditions in a METAR report?

- A. CLR
- B. FEW
- C. BKN
- D. OVC

In a METAR report, the code that indicates overcast conditions is OVC. This abbreviation specifically denotes that the sky is covered by clouds at a significant level, meaning that the cloud layer is thick enough to obscure the sun completely, resulting in overcast conditions. Understanding the other terms can help clarify why OVC is the correct choice. For example, CLR stands for clear skies, indicating no significant cloud cover. FEW refers to a few clouds, which means there are some clouds, but they do not cover a large portion of the sky and the sky is still primarily clear. BKN, or broken clouds, signifies that there are clouds covering between 5/8 and 7/8 of the sky, which is not as dense as overcast but still indicates a significant amount of cloud cover. Therefore, OVC is the term that best describes complete cloud cover, distinguishing it clearly from other levels of cloud coverage.

9. What does RMK refer to in a METAR report?

- A. Remarks
- B. Rain measurement
- C. Relative humidity
- D. Radiation monitoring

In a METAR report, RMK stands for "Remarks." This section provides additional information that may not be included in the standard elements of the METAR. Remarks can give insights into various conditions or observations, such as specific weather phenomena, runway conditions, or other pertinent notes that could affect flight operations. The ability to include remarks enhances the utility of METAR reports by allowing meteorologists and aviation personnel to convey information that is beyond the basic weather data formatted in the report. This context is crucial for pilots and air traffic controllers to make informed decisions regarding flight safety and navigation.

10. What does 'TS' signify in METAR reporting?

A. Thunderstorm

B. Haze

C. Fog

D. Freezing Rain

In METAR reporting, 'TS' signifies Thunderstorm. This abbreviation is used to indicate the presence of thunderstorms in the area, which is critical information for pilots and meteorologists. Thunderstorms can have significant impacts on aviation, including turbulence, lightning, and severe weather conditions. It's important to note that the use of 'TS' helps in quickly communicating weather conditions without needing lengthy descriptions, thereby enhancing safety and operational efficiency during flight operations. The other options represent different weather phenomena that have their own specific abbreviations; however, none denote thunderstorms.

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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://metardecoding.examzify.com>

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

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