

# **METAR TERMINAL AERODROME FORECASTS (TAF) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE**



## **SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://metartaf.examzify.com>



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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. How are significant changes in weather conditions indicated in a TAF?**
  - A. TEMPO or BECMG
  - B. CONDITIONS or ALTER
  - C. DRASTIC or SHIFT
  - D. CHANGE or IMPROVE
  
- 2. How should the presence of fog be reported in a METAR?**
  - A. As mist
  - B. As fog with visibility less than 1 SM
  - C. As scattered fog
  - D. As density changes
  
- 3. Which TAF abbreviation indicates blowing snow?**
  - A. BL
  - B. SN
  - C. FG
  - D. TS
  
- 4. How would a 45% chance of thunderstorms and heavy rain be reported in a TAF for a specific timeframe?**
  - A. WTH 1402/1405 TS +RA
  - B. WTH 1402/1405 +TSRA
  - C. PROB40 1402/1405 +TSRA
  - D. PROB50 1402/1405 TS
  
- 5. How does "wind shear" influence TAF forecasts?**
  - A. It indicates persistent, stable weather
  - B. It signals changes in wind speed and direction
  - C. It predicts temperature changes for the area
  - D. It represents humidity levels

6. The date/time group for a METAR or SPECI report is appended with what letter?
- A. A
  - B. B
  - C. C
  - D. Z
7. What does the abbreviation "FM" indicate in a TAF?
- A. A forecast will be modified
  - B. A significant weather change is forecasted to begin at a specific time
  - C. Forecast models are unstable
  - D. A final report will be issued soon
8. How is significant weather, such as thunderstorms, represented in a TAF?
- A. As coded letters
  - B. As graphical icons
  - C. As plain text descriptions
  - D. It is not represented in a TAF at all
9. What does it mean if the wind group in a METAR is reported as VRB10KT?
- A. Variable wind speed
  - B. Wind from a variable direction at 10 knots
  - C. Wind stable at 10 knots
  - D. Wind gusts varying up to 10 knots
10. What does "OCNL" mean in the context of TAF reports?
- A. Occasional weather events
  - B. Ongoing rain
  - C. Overcast skies
  - D. Original cloud formation

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. How are significant changes in weather conditions indicated in a TAF?

- A. TEMPO or BECMG**
- B. CONDITIONS or ALTER
- C. DRASTIC or SHIFT
- D. CHANGE or IMPROVE

Significant changes in weather conditions within a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) are indicated using specific terms that signal anticipated shifts in weather phenomena. The correct choice includes terms like "TEMPO" and "BECMG," which serve distinct purposes in the forecast. "BECMG" is used to denote a gradual change in weather conditions over a specified period, such as a transition from one weather state to another, allowing forecasters to convey information about expected variations in visibility, cloud cover, wind, or other meteorological elements. On the other hand, "TEMPO" indicates temporary fluctuations or weather phenomena that are expected to occur for a short period within the forecast timeframe, emphasizing that these changes will be transient in nature. Understanding these indicators is essential for pilots and aviation personnel as they prepare for potential variations in operational weather primarily affecting takeoffs and landings. The other options do not represent standard terminologies used in TAFs, and thus do not effectively communicate such significant changes in weather conditions.

## 2. How should the presence of fog be reported in a METAR?

- A. As mist
- B. As fog with visibility less than 1 SM**
- C. As scattered fog
- D. As density changes

In a METAR report, fog is specifically characterized by visibility of less than 1 statute mile (SM). This definition is crucial because it provides standardized criteria for recognizing fog conditions that could impact visibility for pilots and other aviation personnel. When visibility drops below this threshold, it is essential to report it as fog, as it can significantly affect flight operations and safety. The use of the term "fog" in this context ensures clarity and consistency throughout METAR reports. This clarity is vital for pilots making decisions regarding flight safety and navigation. The other terms like "mist" or "scattered fog" do not accurately convey the critical conditions associated with reduced visibility. "Mist" generally refers to reduced visibility that is greater than that which qualifies as fog but still affects visibility. "Scattered fog" is not a standard term used in reports, and "density changes" does not refer to visibility conditions directly related to fog. In summary, reporting fog with visibility less than 1 SM in a METAR follows established aviation standards that prioritize accurate and actionable weather reporting for safety.

### 3. Which TAF abbreviation indicates blowing snow?

- A. BL**
- B. SN
- C. FG
- D. TS

The abbreviation "BL" in a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) stands for "blowing snow." This term is used when snow is being lifted and transported by the wind, reducing visibility and potentially creating hazardous conditions for aviation. Blowing snow can occur under specific wind conditions when there is an existing snow cover, and this phenomenon is particularly important for pilots to be aware of, as it directly impacts aircraft operations. The other options denote different weather phenomena. "SN" signifies snowfall, which refers to snow falling from the sky but does not imply any wind-related visibility issues. "FG" represents fog, indicating reduced visibility due to the presence of water droplets in the air. "TS" stands for thunderstorms, which include phenomena such as heavy rain, strong winds, and lightning but do not specifically relate to snow or its behavior. Understanding these distinctions is vital for interpreting TAF reports accurately and ensuring flight safety.

### 4. How would a 45% chance of thunderstorms and heavy rain be reported in a TAF for a specific timeframe?

- A. WTH 1402/1405 TS +RA
- B. WTH 1402/1405 +TSRA
- C. PROB40 1402/1405 +TSRA**
- D. PROB50 1402/1405 TS

The correct answer involves the use of the "PROB" prefix, which is specifically designated for indicating the probability of certain weather phenomena occurring within a forecast period in a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF). In this case, a 45% chance of thunderstorms and heavy rain is reported as "PROB40", meaning there is a 40-49% likelihood of the event occurring during the specified timeframe of 1402 to 1405 UTC. This is important in TAFs as it accurately conveys uncertainty to pilots and air traffic control, allowing for better planning and safety measures. The inclusion of "+TSRA" further specifies that heavy thunderstorms and rain are expected if the probability is realized. Other choices do not properly reflect the probability of occurrence. Some options imply specific occurrences without mentioning the probability, which does not provide the necessary context of uncertainty that is crucial in aviation forecasts.

### 5. How does "wind shear" influence TAF forecasts?

- A. It indicates persistent, stable weather
- B. It signals changes in wind speed and direction**
- C. It predicts temperature changes for the area
- D. It represents humidity levels

Wind shear is defined as the change in wind speed or direction over a short distance in the atmosphere. It can occur at various altitudes and can significantly affect flight operations, particularly during takeoff and landing phases. In the context of TAF forecasts, noting wind shear is important because it directly signifies changes in wind speed and direction, which are critical for pilots to anticipate and manage during flight maneuvers. When wind shear is present, it can lead to turbulent conditions that may pose safety risks. Therefore, the correct choice accurately captures the essence of wind shear by highlighting its role in indicating fluctuations in wind patterns, which is essential for ensuring safe aircraft operations. The other options do not accurately relate to the essence of wind shear; they focus on different weather elements that are not influenced by wind shear. For instance, stable weather conditions do not align with the nature of wind shear, nor do temperature changes or humidity levels directly correlate with this phenomenon.

6. The date/time group for a METAR or SPECI report is appended with what letter?

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. Z**

*In a METAR or SPECI report, the date/time group is always followed by the letter "Z," which indicates that the times are expressed in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). This is important because it standardizes the reporting of weather conditions across different time zones and regions, ensuring that aviation and meteorological professionals can accurately interpret and use the data regardless of their local time zone. The "Z" stands for "Zulu," which is the military designation for UTC. Using "Z" helps avoid confusion that could arise from using local times, particularly in global contexts where reports may be issued from areas that are several hours apart. The other options do not signify the time format used in METAR or SPECI reports, making "Z" the definitive choice for indicating the date/time is in UTC.*

7. What does the abbreviation "FM" indicate in a TAF?

- A. A forecast will be modified
- B. A significant weather change is forecasted to begin at a specific time**
- C. Forecast models are unstable
- D. A final report will be issued soon

*In a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF), the abbreviation "FM" signifies that a significant weather change is predicted to begin at a specific time. When "FM" is included in a TAF report, it indicates that an alteration in weather conditions is expected to take place, and this will commence at the specified time following "FM." This is particularly important for pilots and aviation personnel as it provides actionable information regarding when to expect notable changes in weather that could affect flight operations. The use of "FM" helps in the delineation of various weather scenarios in a forecast. For example, if a TAF says "FM 1200," it means that a particular weather pattern change will initiate at 1200 UTC. Such precise timing assists in better flight planning and safety strategies. For context, the other options do not align with the meaning of "FM." The choice indicating a forecast will be modified does not reflect the essence of "FM," as "FM" specifically denotes the start of a new weather pattern. Similarly, the notions of unstable forecast models or impending final reports do not pertain to the terminology used in TAFs. Thus, understanding "FM" as a cue for significant changes in weather is crucial for accurate interpretation in*

## 8. How is significant weather, such as thunderstorms, represented in a TAF?

- A. As coded letters
- B. As graphical icons
- C. As plain text descriptions**
- D. It is not represented in a TAF at all

*In a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF), significant weather phenomena such as thunderstorms are represented through plain text descriptions. This method provides pilots and meteorologists with clear and unambiguous information regarding expected weather conditions at an airport over a specified period. Descriptive terms, for instance, will explicitly mention "TS" for thunderstorms or "RA" for rain, providing essential details that are easy to understand. Using plain text allows for more versatility and clarity compared to coded letters or graphical icons, which may not convey the same level of detail. While coded letters might serve to represent certain weather phenomena, they can be less intuitive for reading than straightforward descriptions. Graphical icons are typically used in other contexts, such as weather apps or briefings, but they do not form part of the standardized TAF format. Since significant weather is crucial for flight safety, it must be clearly articulated in a way that all users can easily interpret.*

## 9. What does it mean if the wind group in a METAR is reported as VRB10KT?

- A. Variable wind speed
- B. Wind from a variable direction at 10 knots**
- C. Wind stable at 10 knots
- D. Wind gusts varying up to 10 knots

*The wind group reported as VRB10KT indicates that the wind is coming from a variable direction at a speed of 10 knots. In METAR reports, the "VRB" is an abbreviation for "variable," which means the wind direction does not have a consistent bearing and can change significantly. The "10KT" specifies that the wind speed is 10 knots. This reading is particularly important for pilots since variable winds may affect aircraft performance during takeoff, landing, and while in flight. Understanding the direction and speed helps in flight operations but does not denote a single direction or stable wind characteristics, which distinguishes it from other wind reports that might imply such steadiness. The other options misinterpret the meaning of "variable" or oversimplify the wind conditions overall.*

## 10. What does "OCNL" mean in the context of TAF reports?

- A. Occasional weather events**
- B. Ongoing rain
- C. Overcast skies
- D. Original cloud formation

*In the context of TAF reports, "OCNL" stands for "occasional." This term is used to describe weather phenomena that occur intermittently within a specified period of time, rather than continuously. For instance, if the TAF indicates "OCNL showers," it suggests that there will be sporadic or infrequent rainfall at the aerodrome, rather than steady or persistent precipitation. This understanding is important for flight planning and operations, as it helps pilots and air traffic controllers anticipate changes in weather conditions that might affect visibility, cloud cover, or precipitation. The use of "OCNL" allows for more nuanced weather forecasting, which is crucial for making informed operational decisions. The other choices, while they present plausible weather phenomena, do not correctly capture the meaning of "OCNL." The term does not specifically denote ongoing events, cloud formations, or original weather patterns. Instead, it emphasizes the sporadic nature of certain weather occurrences relevant to aviation operations.*

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://metartaf.examzify.com>

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

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