

# NCATT Radio Communication Systems Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

**Copyright** ..... 1

**Table of Contents** ..... 2

**Introduction** ..... 3

**How to Use This Guide** ..... 4

**Questions** ..... 5

**Answers** ..... 8

**Explanations** ..... 10

**Next Steps** ..... 16

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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 wavelength and frequency related?**
  - A. Wavelength is directly proportional to frequency**
  - B. Wavelength is inversely proportional to frequency**
  - C. There is no relationship between wavelength and frequency**
  - D. Wavelength increases as frequency increases**
  
- 2. What is the function of a signal amplifier in a radio system?**
  - A. To convert analog signals into digital format**
  - B. To boost the strength of a radio signal**
  - C. To filter out unwanted frequencies**
  - D. To measure the quality of the radio communication**
  
- 3. What frequency range is classified as Low Frequency (LF)?**
  - A. 300 - 3,000 kHz**
  - B. 30 - 300 kHz**
  - C. 3 - 30 MHz**
  - D. 30 - 300 MHz**
  
- 4. What does the acronym EIRP stand for in radio communications?**
  - A. Effective Integrated Radiated Power**
  - B. Effective Isotropic Radiated Power**
  - C. Enhanced Isotropic Reception Power**
  - D. Effective Immediate Radiated Power**
  
- 5. Which hardware component is essential for ensuring a secure antenna installation?**
  - A. Low-pass Filter**
  - B. Mounting**
  - C. Transceiver**
  - D. Aerodynamic Wing**

- 6. Which component is not typically used with aircraft radio transmitters and receivers?**
- A. Audio Panel**
  - B. Control Panel**
  - C. Headphones**
  - D. Antique Radio**
- 7. Which of the following best describes how Sirius radio receivers operate?**
- A. They only rely on terrestrial broadcasting towers**
  - B. They receive signals exclusively from ground-based transmitters**
  - C. They accept signals from orbiting satellites or a repeater network**
  - D. They only work within a limited geographical area**
- 8. What type of call capacity can each Iridium satellite support?**
- A. 500 calls**
  - B. 800 calls**
  - C. 1100 calls**
  - D. 1500 calls**
- 9. Which device is used to measure radio-frequency power during tests?**
- A. Voltmeter**
  - B. Wattmeter**
  - C. Multimeter**
  - D. Oscilloscope**
- 10. What is a frame in the context of digital communication?**
- A. A short burst of static noise**
  - B. A transmitted data packet that requires no headers**
  - C. A structured sequence of data packets used for transmission**
  - D. Any received signal from the sender**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. How are wavelength and frequency related?

- A. Wavelength is directly proportional to frequency
- B. Wavelength is inversely proportional to frequency**
- C. There is no relationship between wavelength and frequency
- D. Wavelength increases as frequency increases

Wavelength and frequency are fundamentally linked through the wave equation, which states that the speed of a wave equals the product of its frequency and wavelength. In a vacuum, this relationship can be illustrated with the equation:  $v = f \times \lambda$  where  $v$  represents the speed of the wave,  $f$  is the frequency, and  $\lambda$  is the wavelength. If you consider the speed of light in a vacuum (or electromagnetic waves in general), it remains constant. As frequency increases, the wavelength must decrease to maintain this equation, which indicates that they are inversely proportional. Thus, when frequency increases, it corresponds to shorter wavelengths, confirming the inverse relationship. This principle is essential for understanding various applications in radio communication, where different frequencies correspond to different wavelength behaviors in transmitting and receiving signals.

## 2. What is the function of a signal amplifier in a radio system?

- A. To convert analog signals into digital format
- B. To boost the strength of a radio signal**
- C. To filter out unwanted frequencies
- D. To measure the quality of the radio communication

A signal amplifier is a critical component in a radio communication system that serves the primary function of boosting the strength of a radio signal. When radio waves are transmitted over distances, they can lose strength due to various factors such as distance, interference, and physical obstructions. The amplifier compensates for these losses by increasing the signal's amplitude, thereby improving its clarity and reach. This enhancement allows for more reliable communication, as a stronger signal can better overcome noise and interference present in the environment. Additionally, an amplified signal is essential when it reaches a receiver since weaker signals may fall below the threshold necessary for clear reception, resulting in poor audio quality or dropped connections. The other functions mentioned, such as converting signals, filtering frequencies, or measuring communication quality, pertain to different processes within a radio system. Converting analog signals to digital ones, for example, is a task that involves analog-to-digital converters, while filtering removes unwanted frequencies to allow only desired signals to be received. Measuring the quality of communication usually involves different metrics and tools, such as signal-to-noise ratio, rather than direct amplification of the signal itself. Thus, boosting the strength of the radio signal is the fundamental and distinctive role of a signal amplifier.

### 3. What frequency range is classified as Low Frequency (LF)?

- A. 300 - 3,000 kHz
- B. 30 - 300 kHz**
- C. 3 - 30 MHz
- D. 30 - 300 MHz

The frequency range classified as Low Frequency (LF) is indeed 30 - 300 kHz. This classification aligns with international standards that define LF for various applications, including maritime communication, navigation, and time signals. LF is predominantly used for long-range communication due to its ability to follow the curvature of the Earth and penetrate through obstacles. In this frequency range, signals can reflect off the ionosphere, aiding in long-distance transmission often utilized in applications like broadcasting and navigational aids. Understanding frequency bands is crucial in radio communication systems as it helps in channel allocation, antenna design, and ensures compliance with regulatory limits. Other frequency classifications, such as Very Low Frequency (VLF) and Medium Frequency (MF), have different bandwidths and characteristics, allowing for a diverse range of communication options across the electromagnetic spectrum.

### 4. What does the acronym EIRP stand for in radio communications?

- A. Effective Integrated Radiated Power
- B. Effective Isotropic Radiated Power**
- C. Enhanced Isotropic Reception Power
- D. Effective Immediate Radiated Power

EIRP stands for Effective Isotropic Radiated Power, which is a key term in radio communications. It quantifies the total power that an antenna would radiate if it were isotropic, which means it radiates power uniformly in every direction. EIRP takes into account the power delivered to the antenna, any losses that may occur in the transmission line, and the gain provided by the antenna itself. In practical terms, EIRP is important for understanding how far a signal will propagate and how it will interact with other signals. It is a critical measurement for ensuring compliance with regulatory limits on transmission power and for optimizing the performance of communication systems. The concept is essential for engineers to calculate coverage areas and assess the performance of both terrestrial and satellite communication systems. The other options either misrepresent the components of EIRP or do not relate correctly to standard terminology in radio communications, which further emphasizes the importance of the effective isotropic concept in this context.

**5. Which hardware component is essential for ensuring a secure antenna installation?**

**A. Low-pass Filter**

**B. Mounting**

**C. Transceiver**

**D. Aerodynamic Wing**

The mounting component is crucial for ensuring a secure antenna installation because it provides the necessary support and stability for the antenna. Proper mounting prevents unwanted movement or sway caused by environmental factors such as wind, rain, and other external forces, which can jeopardize the antenna's performance and accuracy in signal transmission and reception. A secure mount ensures that the antenna maintains its intended orientation and alignment, which is vital for optimal functionality. While low-pass filters, transceivers, and aerodynamic wings play important roles in radio communication setups, they do not directly pertain to the actual physical stability and security of the antenna installation itself. Low-pass filters are used in signal processing to remove high-frequency noise, transceivers handle the transmission and reception of signals, and aerodynamic wings may relate to other aspects of design and performance but do not contribute to the physical support of the antenna. This makes the mounting component essential for an effective and secure installation of an antenna system.

**6. Which component is not typically used with aircraft radio transmitters and receivers?**

**A. Audio Panel**

**B. Control Panel**

**C. Headphones**

**D. Antique Radio**

The correct answer is D, as antique radios are not components used with modern aircraft radio transmitters and receivers. In aviation, communication systems must adhere to specific regulatory standards and technological requirements that ensure reliable and efficient performance. The audio panel, control panel, and headphones are integral to aircraft radio communication systems. The audio panel manages audio inputs and outputs from various sources, enabling the pilot and other crew members to communicate effectively. The control panel allows pilots to manage their radio frequency settings and other communication options, ensuring that they can adjust their transmissions and receive signals as needed. Headphones are essential for clear audio communication between crew members and for reducing background noise, thereby improving the clarity and quality of radio communications. In contrast, an antique radio, while it may have historical significance, does not provide the advanced features, reliability, or compliance with aviation standards necessary for use in modern aircraft communication systems. This distinction highlights the importance of using contemporary and appropriate components designed specifically for aviation needs.

**7. Which of the following best describes how Sirius radio receivers operate?**

- A. They only rely on terrestrial broadcasting towers**
- B. They receive signals exclusively from ground-based transmitters**
- C. They accept signals from orbiting satellites or a repeater network**
- D. They only work within a limited geographical area**

Sirius radio receivers are designed to operate by receiving signals from orbiting satellites, which enables them to provide a wide range of audio programming over large geographic areas. This satellite-based system allows for continuous coverage, as the signals can reach receivers regardless of the user's location, including remote areas where terrestrial signals might not be accessible. The design of Sirius radio's infrastructure relies on satellites that transmit signals directly to receivers, offering a vast array of channels without the limitations typically imposed by ground-based broadcasting methods. This satellite-to-receiver communication is supported by a network of repeaters that enhance signal quality and coverage in urban environments, where buildings might obstruct satellite signals. The other options suggest methods of signal reception that do not align with how Sirius radio operates, emphasizing reliance on terrestrial or ground-based systems, limited geographical service, or a combination of those methods, which would contradict the satellite-dependent nature of Sirius radio technology. The effectiveness and adaptability of satellite communication in various environments make option C the most accurate description of how Sirius radio receivers function.

**8. What type of call capacity can each Iridium satellite support?**

- A. 500 calls**
- B. 800 calls**
- C. 1100 calls**
- D. 1500 calls**

Each Iridium satellite is designed to support a specific call capacity, which is affirmatively 1100 calls. This capability stems from the unique architecture of the Iridium satellite constellation, where satellites are positioned in low Earth orbit (LEO) to ensure global coverage. The system employs a cross-linked network topology that allows for direct communication between satellites, optimizing bandwidth and capacity. The 1100 simultaneous call support is significant for Iridium due to its focus on providing reliable communication services in remote areas and for applications where conventional cellular networks may not reach. This capability is crucial for industries such as maritime, aviation, and emergency response operations, where seamless communication is paramount. The other options listed do not align with the technical specifications provided by Iridium, which is based on years of development and operational performance metrics. Each satellite's capacity has been optimized to effectively handle a large volume of calls, thus ensuring efficient service delivery across the globe.

**9. Which device is used to measure radio-frequency power during tests?**

- A. Voltmeter**
- B. Wattmeter**
- C. Multimeter**
- D. Oscilloscope**

A wattmeter is the correct device used to measure radio-frequency power during tests. It is specifically designed to quantify the amount of electrical power, in watts, that is being transmitted or used by a radio-frequency signal. This measurement is crucial in evaluating the performance of various RF equipment, ensuring that systems operate within their specified power levels for optimal performance and safety. In contrast, a voltmeter is utilized mainly to measure voltage and would not provide the specific information about power that a wattmeter does. A multimeter can measure voltage, current, and resistance, but it lacks the specialized capability to measure power directly in RF systems. An oscilloscope is primarily used for visualizing waveforms rather than quantifying power directly, making it unsuitable for this specific measurement. Thus, the wattmeter stands out as the most appropriate tool for accurately assessing RF power during testing.

**10. What is a frame in the context of digital communication?**

- A. A short burst of static noise**
- B. A transmitted data packet that requires no headers**
- C. A structured sequence of data packets used for transmission**
- D. Any received signal from the sender**

In the context of digital communication, a frame refers to a structured sequence of data packets used for transmission. This structure is essential because it allows for the organization and management of data as it moves through a communication system. A frame typically includes not only the payload or actual data being sent, but also control information, such as headers and trailers, which facilitate error detection, synchronization, and other essential functions necessary for reliable communication. The definition of a frame implies that it follows specific protocols and standards to ensure that both the sender and receiver understand the data format and can process the information correctly. In various communication standards, a frame is critical for managing how data is encapsulated and sent over networks, making it a foundational concept in digital communication systems.

## 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:**

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

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