

# Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) 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. How does weather influence CAS safety and planning?**
  - A. Weather directly affects visibility and flight paths, influencing guidance and engagement safety**
  - B. Weather has no effect on CAS operations**
  - C. Weather only affects ground units**
  - D. Weather only affects ground radio comms**
  
- 2. Where do you brief SEAD and threat information?**
  - A. Remarks**
  - B. SITREP**
  - C. R/SoF**
  - D. Readbacks**
  
- 3. What is the role of higher authority in CAS planning?**
  - A. They are optional.**
  - B. They provide ROE approval and coordinate for risk management and fire support.**
  - C. They operate the aircraft.**
  - D. They design the weapons.**
  
- 4. Which statement is true regarding grid accuracy categories?**
  - A. A 6-digit grid is more precise than a 4-digit grid.**
  - B. A 4-digit grid is more precise than a 6-digit grid.**
  - C. They have the same level of precision.**
  - D. Neither uses metric measurements.**
  
- 5. How many IR correlation methods exist?**
  - A. Two**
  - B. Three**
  - C. Four**
  - D. Five**

- 6. Which designation is a missile; multi-mode (laser + GPS/INS; JAGM)?**
- A. AGM-179A**
  - B. AGM-114P**
  - C. GBU-53**
  - D. AGM-114N4**
- 7. Which munition is a 500-pound laser-guided bomb?**
- A. GBU-12**
  - B. MK-82**
  - C. MK-83**
  - D. MK-84**
- 8. Which designation is the laser-guided glide bomb at 250 lb weight?**
- A. GBU-53**
  - B. GBU-39 B/B**
  - C. AGM-114K2**
  - D. AGM-114N**
- 9. Which munition is a 500-pound unguided bomb?**
- A. MK-82**
  - B. MK-83**
  - C. MK-84**
  - D. GBU-12**
- 10. GRG and URG are examples of which type of graphic representations used in targeting planning?**
- A. Graphic representations**
  - B. Radio frequency charts**
  - C. Weather overlays**
  - D. Unit identifiers**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. How does weather influence CAS safety and planning?

- A. Weather directly affects visibility and flight paths, influencing guidance and engagement safety**
- B. Weather has no effect on CAS operations**
- C. Weather only affects ground units**
- D. Weather only affects ground radio comms**

Weather shaped CAS safety and planning by directly changing what aircrew can see and where they can fly. If visibility is reduced or ceilings are low, target identification becomes unreliable, increasing the risk of misidentification, fratricide, or collateral damage. At the same time, winds, turbulence, and storm activity push aircraft off planned routes and altitudes, complicating deconfliction, timing, and the safe delivery of munitions. These factors drive changes in target sequencing, routing, altitude bands, and timing to maintain safe engagement and control. While sensors and comms can be affected as well, the most immediate and fundamental impact on safety and planning is how weather limits visibility and constrains flight paths.

## 2. Where do you brief SEAD and threat information?

- A. Remarks**
- B. SITREP**
- C. R/SoF**
- D. Readbacks**

The main idea is that threat data and the SEAD plan are added as supporting details to the mission brief in a place everyone can reference during execution. The Remarks section is designed for extra instructions and information that doesn't fit into the standard fields, so you can include the SEAD approach, threat indicators, radar and air-defense cues, deconfliction notes, and any special instructions there. This keeps critical threat information immediately accessible to all participants as the mission unfolds. SITREP is for reporting current status during or after operations, not for pre-briefing threat and SEAD details. Readbacks are about confirming you've received and understood a message, not where you convey the actual briefing content. So, putting SEAD and threat information in the Remarks section is the most appropriate choice.

## 3. What is the role of higher authority in CAS planning?

- A. They are optional.**
- B. They provide ROE approval and coordinate for risk management and fire support.**
- C. They operate the aircraft.**
- D. They design the weapons.**

The key idea here is that higher authority provides essential oversight and coordination for CAS planning by granting ROE approval and guiding risk management and fire support. They set the rules of engagement to ensure the planned fires fit policy and mission intent, and they review the risk assessment to protect friendly forces and civilians. They also synchronize fire support across all assets, deconflict airspace and targets, and authorize the plan or any necessary changes before execution. This ensures the mission is safe, properly integrated with the larger operation, and compliant with higher-level guidance. They don't operate the aircraft or design weapons; those duties belong to operators and engineers.

4. Which statement is true regarding grid accuracy categories?

- A. A 6-digit grid is more precise than a 4-digit grid.**
- B. A 4-digit grid is more precise than a 6-digit grid.**
- C. They have the same level of precision.**
- D. Neither uses metric measurements.**

Grid precision increases as you add more digits because each extra digit narrows the mapped area. A 4-digit grid reference pins you to a 1,000-meter (1 kilometer) square on the map, giving a broad but useful location. A 6-digit grid reference adds one more digit for the easting and one for the northing, slicing that 1-kilometer square into 100-meter squares and thus locating you ten times more precisely. These coordinates are expressed in meters, so the 6-digit reference provides higher precision than the 4-digit one. That's why the statement stating that a 6-digit grid is more precise than a 4-digit grid is true. The other options don't fit because the 4-digit reference is not more precise, they don't have the same precision, and both systems use metric measurements.

5. How many IR correlation methods exist?

- A. Two**
- B. Three**
- C. Four**
- D. Five**

IR correlation methods are typically organized into three broad families that cover how you measure similarity between infrared data sets. First, direct (spatial) correlation compares raw or preprocessed IR data point-by-point across the image or scene to find matching areas. This is the straightforward approach where you slide a template or reference over the target and compute a similarity score at each position. Second, transform-domain correlation moves the data into another domain, such as the frequency domain, to simplify the math and improve robustness to certain distortions or noise. By converting the IR data with a transform (like Fourier) and then performing correlation, you can detect similarities more efficiently or under challenging conditions. Third, feature-based (or template-based) correlation relies on extracting robust features from the IR data and matching those features rather than raw pixel values. This approach is more resilient to illumination changes, clutter, and modest geometric shifts because it focuses on distinctive, high-level characteristics. These three categories—direct spatial, transform-domain, and feature/template-based—cover the main ways IR data are correlated in practice, which is why three is the standard count. Other methods tend to be specific algorithms that fall under one of these three frameworks.

**6. Which designation is a missile; multi-mode (laser + GPS/INS; JAGM)?**

**A. AGM-179A**

**B. AGM-114P**

**C. GBU-53**

**D. AGM-114N4**

Multi-mode guidance gives a weapon the ability to be steered by a laser designator or to navigate autonomously using GPS/INS, offering flexibility in how it engages targets and in degraded environments. The designation that denotes this joint, multi-mode air-to-ground missile is the AGM-179A. This missile was developed under the Joint Air-to-Ground Missile program to combine laser guidance and GPS/INS guidance, allowing both laser-designated and autonomous targeting to hit moving or well-defended targets. The other designations point to different systems: the Hellfire variants are separate air-to-ground missiles with their own single or dual-mode seekers, while the GBU-53 is a guided bomb, not a missile, and uses a tri-mode seeker but is categorized differently from air-to-ground missiles.

**7. Which munition is a 500-pound laser-guided bomb?**

**A. GBU-12**

**B. MK-82**

**C. MK-83**

**D. MK-84**

Identify the 500-pound laser-guided bomb by recognizing the GBU-12 Paveway II. This round pairs a 500-pound warhead with a laser guidance kit that uses a semi-active laser seeker to home in on energy reflected from a target illuminated by a designator. That laser-guided functionality is what makes it a true laser-guided bomb in the 500-pound class. The other options are general-purpose bombs and do not include laser guidance in their basic forms: the MK-82 is a 500-pound unguided bomb, while the MK-83 and MK-84 are heavier unguided bombs (1000 and 2000 pounds, respectively).

**8. Which designation is the laser-guided glide bomb at 250 lb weight?**

**A. GBU-53**

**B. GBU-39 B/B**

**C. AGM-114K2**

**D. AGM-114N**

Laser guidance in the 250-pound class is represented by the designation GBU-53/B. This bomb is a glide munition designed to be released from an aircraft and then guided to the target by a semi-active laser seeker, giving precise impact at longer stand-off ranges. The other options refer to different weapons: the Small Diameter Bomb is GPS/INS-guided and not laser-guided, while the AGM-114 variants are missiles, not 250-pound glide bombs. So the 250-pound laser-guided glide bomb is the GBU-53/B.

**9. Which munition is a 500-pound unguided bomb?**

- A. MK-82**
- B. MK-83**
- C. MK-84**
- D. GBU-12**

The key idea is matching weight class and guidance to the bomb designation. A 500-pound unguided bomb belongs to the MK-82 family—the standard 500-lb general-purpose bomb with no guidance system. The other weights belong to larger, unguided bodies (MK-83 at 1000 lb and MK-84 at 2000 lb). The GBU-12, while also 500 pounds, is a guided laser-illuminated bomb (Paveway II), so it's not unguided. So the 500-pound unguided option is the MK-82.

**10. GRG and URG are examples of which type of graphic representations used in targeting planning?**

- A. Graphic representations**
- B. Radio frequency charts**
- C. Weather overlays**
- D. Unit identifiers**

In targeting planning, information is most effective when shown visually on the map. GRG and URG are examples of graphic representations—overlay graphics that lay out grid-based reference information directly on the map to create a clear, shared picture of where targets sit, how they relate spatially, and how fires might be applied. These overlays help planners quickly interpret complex data, align actions, and coordinate with aircrew and fires teams. They aren't about signals or weather data, so they aren't radio frequency charts or weather overlays. They also aren't simply labels for units, so they aren't unit identifiers. Instead, they are visual graphics that encode targeting information in a map-based format, making it easier to plan and execute 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://tarp.examzify.com>**

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

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