

TACTICAL AIR CONTROL PARTY (TACP) 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. Which organization or authority typically issues ROE for a CAS mission?**
 - A. Higher command or combatant authority.
 - B. A civilian contractor.
 - C. Individual pilot's discretion.
 - D. Ground forces commander alone.
- 2. What is a target description and what details should it include?**
 - A. A narrative of the target's size, activity, movement, and threat
 - B. A list of numbers
 - C. The weather forecast
 - D. The pilot's opinion
- 3. Which of the following is NOT an IR correlation method?**
 - A. Sparkle walk on
 - B. Match sparkle
 - C. IR pointer
 - D. Auto-tracker
- 4. Imagery developed from a device that emits energy and interprets the return energy is SAR.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. It is Optical
 - D. It is Lidar
- 5. Simo timing is the optimal method for attacking multiple targets.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. It is one of several methods
 - D. It is only for single target
- 6. Which variant is a 2.75-inch laser-guided (blast-frag) ordnance?**
 - A. AGM-114R2
 - B. AGR-19A
 - C. AGR-19B
 - D. AGM-114R9H

- 7. What action best supports accurate target designation when lines of sight are limited?**
- A. Rely on autotargeting.
 - B. Use direct line-of-sight marking only.
 - C. Use offset marking to help guide fires.
 - D. Engage with no marking.
- 8. During CAS, who is primarily responsible for coordinating between air and ground forces?**
- A. The lead aircraft pilot.
 - B. The weather team.
 - C. The Tactical Air Control Party (TACP).
 - D. The ground commander alone.
- 9. Which element is commonly included in CAS planning to constrain aircrew targeting?**
- A. Kill box/airspace plan.
 - B. Ground convoy route.
 - C. Pilot personal preference.
 - D. Weather balloon schedule.
- 10. Which designation corresponds to 250 lb; GPS/INS + laser (dual-mode SDB)?**
- A. GBU-39 B/B
 - B. GBU-53
 - C. AGM-114K2
 - D. AGM-179A

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which organization or authority typically issues ROE for a CAS mission?

A. Higher command or combatant authority.

B. A civilian contractor.

C. Individual pilot's discretion.

D. Ground forces commander alone.

Rules of Engagement are the policy-level controls that govern when and how force can be used in an operation. For a CAS mission, those ROE aren't created by the individual pilot or by the ground commander on the spot; they originate from higher authority to ensure consistency with policy, international law, and mission objectives. The higher command or combatant authority sets the ROE that all units in the area must follow, sometimes with theater or joint-force refinements, but the essential origin is at that top level. Civilian contractors don't have authority to issue ROE, and the ground forces commander alone cannot establish the overarching rules for an air mission. The aircrew must execute within the ROE provided by that higher authority and request clarifications or adjustments through the proper chain if needed.

2. What is a target description and what details should it include?

A. A narrative of the target's size, activity, movement, and threat

B. A list of numbers

C. The weather forecast

D. The pilot's opinion

A target description is a concise, descriptive summary of a target's observable characteristics that helps aircrew understand what they're encountering and plan a safe, effective engagement. It should flesh out four key aspects: the target's size, what the target is doing (activity), how the target is moving or likely to move (movement), and how dangerous the target appears (threat). This combination gives a clear picture of the target's scale, posture, and potential impact on the mission, so the pilot and TAC command can assess potential damage, timing, and risk to civilians or own forces. The other options don't fit because a list of numbers lacks the contextual detail required for decision-making; a weather forecast has no bearing on the target's combat characteristics; and a pilot's opinion is subjective and not a factual description of the target.

3. Which of the following is NOT an IR correlation method?

A. Sparkle walk on

B. Match sparkle

C. IR pointer

D. Auto-tracker

IR correlation methods are ways to make a sensor recognize and link to a target by presenting a distinct infrared cue. The sparkle on technique and the match sparkle method both involve creating or matching a specific IR signature so the sensor can establish a correlation with the designated target. An IR pointer provides a stable infrared cue or reference point to guide alignment and help the correlation process. An auto-tracker, however, is a system that continuously follows a target once a correlation has been established; it doesn't create or initiate the correlation itself. So, the option that is not an IR correlation method is the auto-tracker.

4. Imagery developed from a device that emits energy and interprets the return energy is SAR.

A. True

B. False

C. It is Optical

D. It is Lidar

That imagery comes from a radar-based system. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) emits microwave energy from the sensor and then interprets the energy that returns after bouncing off the surface. By moving the platform and processing the returns, SAR creates high-resolution images regardless of daylight or weather. This makes the description a perfect fit for SAR. Optical imagery relies on reflected visible light (sunlight, etc.), and lidar uses laser pulses and time-of-flight measurements, which are different sensing methods. So the statement is true because SAR is defined by emitting energy and analyzing the returned energy to form imagery.

5. Simo timing is the optimal method for attacking multiple targets.

A. True

B. False

C. It is one of several methods

D. It is only for single target

Simo timing means delivering fires on multiple targets within a tightly synchronized window so their effects overlap. When you're working with several targets in a shared area, simultaneous or near-simultaneous impacts maximize the overall battlefield effect by overwhelming the enemy's ability to react, relocate, or organize a defense between hits. It also simplifies command and control, reduces the chance that a target can survive by breaking the engagement into separate shots, and makes more efficient use of munitions and asset coordination because you plan one coordinated strike rather than multiple staggered ones. This approach hinges on accurate target data, clear timing, and reliable communications so all shooters, observers, and aircraft are aligned on when the impacts will occur. While there are times you'll use sequential or targeted fires for specific tactical reasons, when the goal is to strike multiple targets and deny the enemy the ability to recover between hits, Simo timing provides the strongest overall effect.

6. Which variant is a 2.75-inch laser-guided (blast-frag) ordnance?

A. AGM-114R2

B. AGR-19A

C. AGR-19B

D. AGM-114R9H

The concept here is identifying the specific 2.75-inch guided rocket that uses a laser designation and has a blast-frag payload. The Hydra-70 family covers 2.75-inch rockets, and laser-guided versions are designated with AGR-19 in their name. Among those, the AGR-19A is the variant described as laser-guided with a blast-fragment (blast-frag) warhead, designed for area targets hit with a laser designator. The other options are different weapon types: the AGM-114 series are Hellfire missiles, not 2.75-inch rockets, so they don't fit the 2.75-inch laser-guided rocket category. The remaining Hydra-70 variant (AGR-19B) exists in the same family but is not the laser-guided blast-frag variant specified here, so it doesn't match the description as precisely. So, the 2.75-inch laser-guided (blast-frag) ordnance corresponds to the AGR-19A.

7. What action best supports accurate target designation when lines of sight are limited?

- A. Rely on autotargeting.
- B. Use direct line-of-sight marking only.
- C. Use offset marking to help guide fires.**
- D. Engage with no marking.

When lines of sight are limited, you need a marking method that ties the target to something you can actually see and measure from. Offset marking does exactly that by designating a visible reference point and then giving a known offset to the target relative to that reference. The observer marks the reference and communicates the distance and direction to the target from that point. The fires team uses that information to compute the target's location and adjust fire accordingly, even though they aren't directly marking the target itself. This keeps aiming accuracy high when terrain, smoke, or distance prevents direct designation. Relying on autotargeting isn't always feasible, direct line-of-sight marking may not be possible, and firing with no marking leaves the team without a reliable cue to guide weapons. Using offset marking provides a dependable bridge between what can be seen and where the target actually is.

8. During CAS, who is primarily responsible for coordinating between air and ground forces?

- A. The lead aircraft pilot.
- B. The weather team.
- C. The Tactical Air Control Party (TACP).**
- D. The ground commander alone.

In CAS, the person bridging air and ground operations is the Tactical Air Control Party. The TACP embeds with the ground forces to translate the ground commander's intent into actionable air support. They manage the flow of information between aircraft and ground units, identify targets, provide target location and designations, and control the timing and sequence of air deliveries. They also assess risk, deconflict with other fires and airspace, and maintain comms with the pursuing aircraft to adjust or abort as needed. The lead aircraft pilot handles flying and delivering weapons, but relies on the TACP to understand the ground situation and coordinate the air strike, while the weather team provides meteorological data and the ground commander delegates authority for employment, the actual coordination role rests with the TACP.

9. Which element is commonly included in CAS planning to constrain aircrew targeting?

- A. Kill box/airspace plan.
- B. Ground convoy route.
- C. Pilot personal preference.
- D. Weather balloon schedule.

In CAS planning, controlling where aircrews can engage targets is essential for safety and effectiveness. A kill box or dedicated airspace plan provides a defined volume with clear rules of engagement, timing, and control, so aircrews know exactly where they are authorized to push fires and how to deconflict with friendly forces. This framework directly constrains targeting decisions by limiting the area and conditions under which weapons may be employed, reducing the risk of fratricide and collateral damage while enabling coordinated fires with ground forces and other assets. Other options don't fulfill this targeting-constraining role. A ground convoy route focuses on ground maneuver and doesn't establish airspace constraints for engagement. Relying on pilot personal preference is unsafe and inconsistent with ROE and command guidance. A weather balloon schedule pertains to weather monitoring or sensor performance, not to defining where aircrew may target within CAS planning.

10. Which designation corresponds to 250 lb; GPS/INS + laser (dual-mode SDB)?

- A. GBU-39 B/B
- B. GBU-53
- C. AGM-114K2
- D. AGM-179A

The weight class points to the Small Diameter Bomb family, and the standard designation for a 250-pound guided bomb in that line is GBU-39/B. "GBU" stands for Guided Bomb Unit, the number 39 identifies the 250-lb class, and the "/B" suffix denotes the specific version in use. The other items refer to different weapons. GBU-53 is the SDB II, which adds a dual-mode seeker (GPS/INS plus infrared) rather than a laser mode. The AGM-114K2 is a Hellfire air-to-ground missile, a completely different type of weapon, and the AGM-179A JAGM is a multi-mode missile, not a 250-lb SDB. Therefore, the designation matching a 250-lb SDB with GPS/INS guidance is GBU-39/B.

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://tarp.examzify.com>

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

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