United States Parachute Association (USPA) A License Practice Exam (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

1. What should a jumper do to address a slider that stops halfway down during deployment?

A. Pull down on the slider continuously

B. Pump rear risers or steering controls at the bottom of the stroke while watching altitude to 2,500 feet

C. Proceed with landing despite the issue

D. Cut away and deploy reserve parachute

2. What is the best method to determine a canopy's optimum flare speed and depth for landing?

A. Practice different rates of flare entry at various depths of flare

B. Observe other jumpers landing techniques

C. Consult your instructor for ideal settings

D. Rely on the altimeter for guidance

3. What altitude range is typically used for jumps?

A. Below 5,000 feet to 10,000 feet

B. Between 10,000 feet and 14,000 feet

C. Above 14,000 feet to 20,000 feet

D. Between 8,000 feet and 12,000 feet

4. What is the protocol for landing on a building?

A. Disconnect the RSL and land on the roof

B. Cut away after landing to roll safely

C. Land feet first and perform a PLF

D. Wait for assistance before landing

5. What is the purpose of landing flare?

A. To increase speed

B. To convert forward speed to lift

C. To slow down mid-air

D. To stabilize the canopy

6. How must a spotter determine what is directly beneath the aircraft during jump run?

A. Lower their visibility window

B. Look outside at an angle

C. Look straight down with head fully outside

D. Relay information from fellow jumpers

7. Why is pre-jump hydration important for skydiving?

A. To maintain physical performance and prevent dehydration

B. To enhance visibility during freefall

C. To accelerate the body's recovery post-jump

D. To increase adrenaline levels for better performance

8. What should be done while taxiing on the ground?

A. Perform checks on equipment

B. Fasten seatbelts

C. Prepare for exit

D. Communicate with crew

9. What lines go through the rear slider grommets?

A. A, B, and brakes

B. C, D, and brakes

C. E, F, and brakes

D. Brakes only

10. What should a jumper do if they need to cut away after landing on a building?

A. Attach to another jumper

B. Immediately pull the cutaway handle

C. Wait for help before making a decision

D. Perform a PLF

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What should a jumper do to address a slider that stops halfway down during deployment?

A. Pull down on the slider continuously

B. Pump rear risers or steering controls at the bottom of the stroke while watching altitude to 2,500 feet

C. Proceed with landing despite the issue

D. Cut away and deploy reserve parachute

When a slider stops halfway down during deployment, the most effective response is to pump the rear risers or steering controls at the bottom of the stroke while maintaining awareness of altitude. This action helps dissipate the slider's residual drag and encourages it to travel down to its intended position, allowing for proper canopy inflation and control. It's crucial for the jumper to monitor altitude closely because if the canopy remains in a partially inflated state, it could impact the stability and performance of the parachute. This technique utilizes the rear risers or steering toggles to induce a forward momentum that can help the slider clear any obstructions and settle down, thus ensuring that the parachute is fully operational. Carrying out this maneuver up to 2,500 feet allows enough altitude to respond effectively while reserving time to deal with the scenario if it escalates. Taking alternative actions, such as pulling down continuously on the slider, is less effective because it can lead to improper manipulation of the deployment process and potentially worsen the situation. Simply proceeding with landing without addressing the slider issue poses significant risk, as the harness may not function correctly, compromising safety during landing. Cutting away and deploying the reserve parachute may be necessary in life-threatening situations, but it should typically be reserved for instances

2. What is the best method to determine a canopy's optimum flare speed and depth for landing?

A. Practice different rates of flare entry at various depths of flare

B. Observe other jumpers landing techniques

C. Consult your instructor for ideal settings

D. Rely on the altimeter for guidance

The best method to determine a canopy's optimum flare speed and depth for landing is to practice different rates of flare entry at various depths of flare. This hands-on experience allows a jumper to develop a personal understanding of how their specific canopy responds to flare input under varying conditions. By conducting these practice landings, a jumper can assess how their canopy behaves at different speeds and flare depths, giving them crucial feedback on their technique. This experiential learning is vital, as it helps the jumper to fine-tune their landing technique based on actual performance rather than relying solely on theoretical knowledge or observations of others. Each canopy may have different characteristics, and personal practice helps to adapt the jumper’s technique to their specific equipment and conditions on the day of the jump. While observing other jumpers can offer insights into landing techniques, it does not provide the personalized feedback and adjustments necessary for mastering one's own landing style. Similarly, consulting an instructor can be beneficial for general guidance, but it does not replace the real-world practice needed to develop proficiency. Relying solely on an altimeter does not take into account the dynamic aspects of the landing process and can lead to misjudgment of when to initiate the flare. Hence, actively practicing flare techniques is the most effective approach

3. What altitude range is typically used for jumps?

A. Below 5,000 feet to 10,000 feet

B. Between 10,000 feet and 14,000 feet

C. Above 14,000 feet to 20,000 feet

D. Between 8,000 feet and 12,000 feet

The altitude range typically used for skydiving jumps is between 10,000 feet and 14,000 feet. Jumps in this range provide a good balance between altitude and freefall experience, allowing jumpers to enjoy a safe and exhilarating freefall while also giving them sufficient time to deploy their parachutes. At these altitudes, jumpers usually have around 30 seconds of freefall before needing to open their parachutes. This allows for both enjoyment and safety, as it gives enough time for a proper parachute deployment while descending to a suitable altitude for landing. The altitude also helps to maintain a standard for tandem or solo jumps in training and recreational settings, aligning with safety regulations and best practices within the skydiving community. Ranges below and above this specified altitude can be less common or have unique considerations; for example, jumps below 5,000 feet would not provide enough time for freefall, while higher altitudes usually require supplemental oxygen due to reduced oxygen levels, making them more suitable for experienced jumpers. Thus, the selection of 10,000 to 14,000 feet adheres to established guidelines that balance the thrill and safety of the skydiving experience.

4. What is the protocol for landing on a building?

A. Disconnect the RSL and land on the roof

B. Cut away after landing to roll safely

C. Land feet first and perform a PLF

D. Wait for assistance before landing

The protocol for landing on a building emphasizes the importance of landing safely and effectively to minimize the risk of injury. Landing feet first and performing a parachute landing fall (PLF) is crucial in this context because it allows the jumper to distribute the impact forces across the body and roll out of the landing. This technique safeguards the jumper against potential injuries that could occur from the abrupt stop when landing on a hard surface, such as a rooftop. When considering the context of a building landing, thorough preparation and execution of PLF techniques are essential. Practicing proper techniques during training helps ensure that a skydiver can respond effectively in a real-world scenario, particularly when landing on a hard surface. The other options present less effective or unsafe choices in this situation. Disconnecting the RSL would not provide any advantage and could complicate the landing process, cutting away after landing does not apply in this context as cutting away is typically a response to a malfunction during flight, and waiting for assistance can delay necessary actions and potentially lead to dangerous situations depending on the circumstances leading to the landing. Thus, proper training in performing a PLF upon landing ensures that a skydiver can manage the landing impact while also promoting safety in circumstances that involve landing on buildings or

5. What is the purpose of landing flare?

A. To increase speed

B. To convert forward speed to lift

C. To slow down mid-air

D. To stabilize the canopy

The purpose of the landing flare is to convert forward speed into lift as a parachutist approaches the ground. When the parachutist executes a flare, they pull down on the toggles, which increases the angle of attack of the canopy. This action generates more lift while simultaneously reducing the effective forward speed. By doing so, the parachutist can achieve a softer landing, minimizing the impact and risk of injury. It's a critical skill for ensuring a safe and controlled landing, particularly in variable wind conditions or when landing in confined areas. Although slowing down mid-air is a component of the flare, it's not its primary purpose. The flare acts to change the dynamics of the parachute's flight, enhancing the lift rather than merely decreasing speed. Stabilizing the canopy is also important during landing, but the primary mechanism at work in a flare is the conversion of momentum into lift, which directly impacts the landing outcome.

6. How must a spotter determine what is directly beneath the aircraft during jump run?

A. Lower their visibility window

B. Look outside at an angle

C. Look straight down with head fully outside

D. Relay information from fellow jumpers

The most effective way for a spotter to determine what is directly beneath the aircraft during jump run is by looking straight down with their head fully outside. This approach allows the spotter to gain a clear and direct view of the ground, including landmarks and potential obstacles that may affect the jumpers' landing. By maintaining a straight-down view, the spotter can accurately assess the drop zone and provide critical information regarding wind conditions and land features directly below the aircraft. Utilizing this position ensures that any visual signals needed by the jumpers can be communicated effectively, facilitating a safer jump operation. Observing from this vantage point is essential for the spotter to perform their role effectively, as they need to relay precise information regarding the ground environment to the jumpers.

7. Why is pre-jump hydration important for skydiving?

A. To maintain physical performance and prevent dehydration

B. To enhance visibility during freefall

C. To accelerate the body's recovery post-jump

D. To increase adrenaline levels for better performance

Pre-jump hydration is crucial for skydiving primarily because it helps maintain physical performance and prevents dehydration. Proper hydration ensures that the body functions optimally during and after a jump. Dehydration can lead to fatigue, reduced muscle endurance, and impaired cognitive function, which can all negatively impact a skydiver's performance and decision-making ability in the air. The demands of skydiving, including the physical aspects of jumping from an aircraft and the physiological responses to changes in altitude and air pressure, make it essential for a skydiver to be well-hydrated. This not only contributes to the overall safety and performance during the jump but also fosters better recovery afterward, as the body can more effectively process and restore itself when adequately hydrated. While other aspects such as visibility, recovery, and adrenaline levels are related to skydiving, they do not directly address the physiological need for proper hydration like physical performance does. Therefore, maintaining hydration stands out as a fundamental aspect for ensuring that a skydiver is in the best condition possible for their jump.

8. What should be done while taxiing on the ground?

A. Perform checks on equipment

B. Fasten seatbelts

C. Prepare for exit

D. Communicate with crew

During taxiing on the ground, the focus is on safety and readiness for flight. Fastening seatbelts is crucial because it ensures that all occupants are securely seated and ready for when the aircraft begins to move. This safety measure helps prevent injury in the event of sudden stops or pilot maneuvers during taxiing. While other actions, such as performing equipment checks, preparing for exit, and communicating with crew, are important in different contexts, fastening seatbelts is specifically critical during this phase as it directly relates to the safety and security of the passengers and crew before the flight takes off.

9. What lines go through the rear slider grommets?

A. A, B, and brakes

B. C, D, and brakes

C. E, F, and brakes

D. Brakes only

The lines that go through the rear slider grommets are the C, D, and brake lines. This configuration is essential for the correct operation of the parachute system during deployment. The rear slider grommets play a crucial role in managing the openings of the parachute. As the parachute deploys, the slider travels down the suspension lines to allow for controlled inflation, reducing the opening shock felt by the jumper. The C and D lines assist in maintaining the shape and stability of the canopy while it inflates, subsequently contributing to overall flight performance and control of the parachute. In contrast, discussing the other choices, A includes the A and B lines which help control the front part of the canopy but do not pass through the rear slider grommets. Choice C includes the E and F lines, which are typically associated with larger canopies and particular configurations but also do not go through these grommets. Finally, while brakes are critical to control landings and canopy flight, they do not constitute a comprehensive answer by themselves since they also require the other lines to function properly. Therefore, the inclusion of C, D, and brake lines provides the complete and accurate picture of the lines that pass through the rear slider grommets

10. What should a jumper do if they need to cut away after landing on a building?

A. Attach to another jumper

B. Immediately pull the cutaway handle

C. Wait for help before making a decision

D. Perform a PLF

In a situation where a jumper has landed on a building and finds the need to cut away, waiting for help before making a decision is critical for safety. The jumper may be in a precarious or dangerous situation, and making hasty decisions can result in injury or further complications. By waiting for assistance, the jumper can evaluate the situation more clearly, get guidance from professionals or experienced personnel on the ground, and ensure that any actions taken will be the safest and most effective. It's crucial to take into account the specific circumstances on the building, such as obstacles, hazards, or the presence of other people. Assessing these factors with the help of others can lead to better clinical judgment regarding whether to cut away or how to proceed. Cutting away immediately could potentially lead to an uncontrolled descent or further emergencies, especially if the jumper is unsure of their surroundings. Similarly, attaching to another jumper or performing a parachute landing fall (PLF) may not be viable or safe options, given the complexities involved on a building landing, where conditions can vastly differ from a typical landing zone. This highlights the importance of careful assessment and prioritizing personal safety by waiting for appropriate help before taking action.

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://uspaalicense.examzify.com

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