UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION (USPA) A LICENSE PRACTICE EXAM (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

1. What would happen if the main riser attached to the RSL breaks?

A. The reserve deploys with the main still attached by the other riser

B. The RSL automatically disconnects

C. The jumper must pull the reserve manually

D. The reserve will not deploy at all

2. What actions should be taken if a reserve parachute is also malfunctioning?

A. Follow emergency procedures for a total cutaway

B. Attempt to repack the reserve in freefall

C. Use tactical maneuvers to slow descent

D. Abandon the jump and prepare for impact

3. What is the purpose of an audible altimeter?

A. To record jump altitude for future reference

B. To alert the skydiver of their altitude during descent

C. To track freefall time

D. To measure the speed of descent

4. What should you do if you land off-target?

A. Assess the landing area and move to a safe location

B. Immediately pack your parachute

C. Signal other jumpers for assistance

D. Remain where you landed until help arrives

5. What is the primary purpose of the wave-off before deployment?

A. To signal other jumpers

B. To check altitude

C. To prepare for the landing

D. To ensure the area is clear

6. What is the proper response if experiencing a malfunction during canopy deployment?

A. Wait and assess the situation before taking action

B. Execute the emergency procedures as trained

C. Try to fix the issue manually

D. Land at the nearest location regardless of safety

7. What is the minimum horizontal distance jumpers must maintain from any cloud below 10,000 feet MSL?

A. 1,000 feet

B. 1,500 feet

C. 2,000 feet

D. 3,000 feet

8. What type of canopy is recommended for A License holders?

A. A round canopy

B. A square, ram-air canopy

C. A circular canopy

D. A cross-braced canopy

9. How should you steer a parachute with a broken brake line?

A. Use the front risers to change direction

B. Release both brakes and use the back risers

C. Pull down on the steering toggles

D. Drop the parachute and use a backup

10. What is the correct response if an open container is detected in freefall using a hand-deployed system?

A. No limit on attempts to locate and deploy

B. Cut away and deploy the reserve immediately

C. No more than two tries or two seconds to locate and deploy the main pilot chute; if no success, cut away and deploy the reserve

D. Attempt to regain altitude before deploying

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What would happen if the main riser attached to the RSL breaks?

A. The reserve deploys with the main still attached by the other riser

B. The RSL automatically disconnects

C. The jumper must pull the reserve manually

D. The reserve will not deploy at all

If the main riser attached to the RSL (Reserve Static Line) breaks, the primary function of the RSL comes into play. The RSL is designed to facilitate the automatic deployment of the reserve parachute when the main parachute is released or becomes non-functional. In this case, if the main riser breaks, the other riser would still be connected to the parachute harness and the reserve system. As a result, the reserve parachute deploys automatically, guided by the RSL, even though one side of the main riser is broken. This mechanism is a critical safety feature in parachuting that enhances the chances of a safe landing. A jumper must always be prepared to operate under various malfunction scenarios, which includes understanding the potential outcomes of riser failure. In situations where parts of the main parachute system may fail, the RSL helps ensure that the reserve parachute is deployed effectively and in a timely manner to ensure safety.

2. What actions should be taken if a reserve parachute is also malfunctioning?

A. Follow emergency procedures for a total cutaway

B. Attempt to repack the reserve in freefall

C. Use tactical maneuvers to slow descent

D. Abandon the jump and prepare for impact

When faced with a malfunctioning reserve parachute, following emergency procedures for a total cutaway is the most appropriate action. This procedure is specifically designed to maximize the chance of survival in the event of a main parachute failing and the reserve also being compromised. Executing a total cutaway entails detaching the malfunctioning main parachute from the harness, allowing the skydiver to focus on the reserve parachute deployment. This is crucial because the reserve parachute is intended as a backup option. If it's also malfunctioning, the priority shifts to quickly removing the source of the problem (the main parachute) to prevent further complications and to ensure the fastest possible separation from the hazardous situation. Attempting to repack the reserve in freefall is not feasible. Skydiving environments demand rapid decision-making, and there is no time to effectively reconfigure a reserve parachute while in freefall. Additionally, using tactical maneuvers to slow descent might provide temporary relief, but it will not resolve the underlying issue of a malfunctioning parachute—potentially leading to more severe consequences. Abandoning the jump is not a viable option, as it could lead to fatal outcomes; a proper response is needed to handle both the malfunctioning main and reserve

3. What is the purpose of an audible altimeter?

A. To record jump altitude for future reference

B. To alert the skydiver of their altitude during descent

C. To track freefall time

D. To measure the speed of descent

An audible altimeter serves the specific purpose of alerting a skydiver about their altitude during descent. Unlike visual altimeters, which require the skydiver to continuously check and interpret readings, an audible altimeter provides audio cues at predetermined altitudes. This feature is particularly beneficial during freefall when visual references are minimal, allowing skydivers to focus on their body positioning, the jump environment, and preparing for deployment without having to constantly monitor their altitude visually. By alerting the jumper at crucial points—like when they reach a certain altitude that indicates it's time to deploy the parachute—the audible altimeter enhances safety and ensures timely decision-making. This is especially important in the high-speed environment of a jump, where quick reactions can make a significant difference in safety. The other choices do represent some functionalities of various devices associated with skydiving, but they do not pertain specifically to the primary purpose of an audible altimeter. For instance, recording altitude for future reference is a feature of a data logger, tracking freefall time is related to timers, and measuring the speed of descent pertains to speedometers. However, none of these functions capture the core utility of the audible altimeter, which is centered on providing real-time audio altitude alerts to

4. What should you do if you land off-target?

A. Assess the landing area and move to a safe location

B. Immediately pack your parachute

C. Signal other jumpers for assistance

D. Remain where you landed until help arrives

If you land off-target, the most appropriate action is to assess the landing area and move to a safe location. This step is crucial for ensuring your safety and the safety of others around you. Upon landing off-target, you may find yourself in an area with potential hazards, such as power lines, busy roads, or wildlife. Evaluating your surroundings allows you to identify any dangers and determine the best course of action to avoid them. Moving to a safe location after assessing the area is important because it minimizes the risk of injury. Parachute landings can sometimes result in entanglement or other hazards that may arise from the environment in which you land. By relocating, you increase your safety and can better assess the situation. Packing your parachute immediately might not address the primary concern of safety after landing. It's essential to prioritize your wellbeing first. Signaling other jumpers for assistance may also be useful, but only if it's safe to do so without putting yourself at further risk. Remaining where you landed until help arrives could expose you to unnecessary dangers, particularly if the location is not secure. Thus, the most logical and safety-conscious choice is to first assess and then move to a safer area.

5. What is the primary purpose of the wave-off before deployment?

A. To signal other jumpers

B. To check altitude

C. To prepare for the landing

D. To ensure the area is clear

The primary purpose of the wave-off before deployment is to ensure that the area is clear for deployment. When jumpers perform a wave-off, they are signaling to those around them that they are not ready to deploy their parachute yet, which helps prevent collisions during parachute deployments. This communication is crucial, especially in a jump where multiple parachutists are exiting at once. While signaling other jumpers is an important aspect of the wave-off, the action is primarily about ensuring safety by verifying that the deployment area is free of obstacles or other jumpers. In this context, the wave-off is a precautionary measure that all jumpers should take seriously before deploying their parachutes. This is particularly vital given that being aware of one's surroundings and ensuring a safe opening area can significantly reduce the risk of accidents or injuries during skydiving. Checking altitude is more related to ensuring the jumper is at the correct height for deployment rather than the wave-off itself. Preparing for landing concerns the final stages of the jump and not the wave-off phase. While it's important to signal and check surroundings, the wave-off's core function is centered around readiness and safety for deployment.

6. What is the proper response if experiencing a malfunction during canopy deployment?

A. Wait and assess the situation before taking action

B. Execute the emergency procedures as trained

C. Try to fix the issue manually

D. Land at the nearest location regardless of safety

When experiencing a malfunction during canopy deployment, executing the emergency procedures as trained is crucial for safety. This response is based on the comprehensive training that skydivers receive regarding potential malfunctions. The prescribed emergency procedures are designed to help manage various types of malfunctions effectively and are developed from real-world experience and data. Following the emergency procedures allows a skydiver to systematically assess the situation and, if necessary, respond in a way that prioritizes stability and safety. For instance, if a skydiver encounters a partial malfunction (like a line twist or a slider not being in the correct position), the emergency procedures may involve techniques for correcting the issue. If faced with a more serious problem, such as a total malfunction, the procedures outline the required actions to deploy the reserve parachute promptly and safely. Moreover, acting based on training minimizes panic and ensures that the skydiver remains focused on recovery. This is far more productive than waiting and assessing the situation without taking action or trying to fix issues manually, which can introduce additional risks. Landing regardless of safety is never advisable, as it disregards the vital principles of safe parachuting. Following established procedures within the framework of training is the most effective approach to managing any malfunctions during canopy deployment.

7. What is the minimum horizontal distance jumpers must maintain from any cloud below 10,000 feet MSL?

A. 1,000 feet

B. 1,500 feet

C. 2,000 feet

D. 3,000 feet

Jumpers must maintain a minimum horizontal distance of 2,000 feet from any cloud below 10,000 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL) to ensure safety and compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. This distance helps to prevent accidental collisions with clouds, which can impair visibility and lead to potentially dangerous situations. The requirement is designed to provide enough separation to allow for clear and safe navigation while avoiding the risks associated with flying in or near clouds, such as turbulence and impaired situational awareness. Choosing 2,000 feet is crucial for the safety of skydivers, as jumping too close to clouds could result in disorientation or make it difficult to maintain visual reference to the ground. Other distances provided in the options, such as 1,000 feet, 1,500 feet, or 3,000 feet, do not meet the minimum required safety margins established for cloud clearance below 10,000 feet and therefore do not align with best practices and regulations for skydiving.

8. What type of canopy is recommended for A License holders?

A. A round canopy

B. A square, ram-air canopy

C. A circular canopy

D. A cross-braced canopy

B is the recommended choice for A License holders because a square, ram-air canopy is designed to provide better performance, control, and stability compared to other types of canopies. These canopies are shaped like a rectangle and create lift by having a series of cells that allow air to flow through them, which enhances the parachute's aerodynamic properties. This design gives the jumper increased maneuverability and the ability to land accurately, which are crucial skills for skydiving. Additionally, square, ram-air canopies offer a slower fall rate and a more controlled descent, making it easier for jumpers to manage their landings and react to changing wind conditions. This is especially important for A License holders, as they are expected to have a foundational understanding of canopy control and accuracy when landing. Other types of canopies, like round and circular canopies, do not provide the same level of performance and precision. Round canopies tend to descend more quickly and with less control, making them less suitable for jumpers looking to hone their landing skills. Cross-braced canopies, while they offer exceptional performance, are generally reserved for more advanced jumpers due to their complexity and the higher skill level required to fly them effectively. Hence, the square, ram-air

9. How should you steer a parachute with a broken brake line?

A. Use the front risers to change direction

B. Release both brakes and use the back risers

C. Pull down on the steering toggles

D. Drop the parachute and use a backup

Steering a parachute with a broken brake line requires a technique that can effectively control the parachute's direction while safely managing the limited functionality of the equipment. When the brake line is broken, using the back risers becomes the most effective method for steering. Pulling down on the back risers will cause the parachute to turn in the desired direction, even with one of the primary steering controls (the brake toggles) compromised. This technique helps maintain control and allows the jumper to navigate towards a safe landing area. Using front risers to steer is an option; however, this does not provide the same degree of control and may lead to a more aggressive turn, affecting the descent rate and stability. Releasing both brakes could further compromise control, and pulling down on the steering toggles is ineffective because the broken line means those toggles won't function correctly. Dropping the parachute and using a backup is not a viable option when attempting to steer for a safe landing; a backup system should only be activated in extreme situations where deploying a main parachute is no longer feasible. Thus, the correct method for steering a parachute with a broken brake line is to rely on the back risers for directional control.

10. What is the correct response if an open container is detected in freefall using a hand-deployed system?

A. No limit on attempts to locate and deploy

B. Cut away and deploy the reserve immediately

C. No more than two tries or two seconds to locate and deploy the main pilot chute; if no success, cut away and deploy the reserve

D. Attempt to regain altitude before deploying

The correct response to the situation of detecting an open container in freefall using a hand-deployed system is to limit attempts to locate and deploy the main pilot chute to no more than two tries or two seconds. If these attempts are unsuccessful, the proper action is to cut away and deploy the reserve parachute immediately. This approach is rooted in safety and efficiency. The rationale behind the two-try limit is to minimize the time spent in a potentially unstable situation while maintaining control during freefall. Relying on a quick assessment allows a parachutist to react promptly to a malfunction, which is crucial for ensuring a safe deployment of the reserve parachute. The reserve system is designed to operate effectively and reliably, providing an alternative when the main system fails to perform as expected. In contrast, a response that suggests no limit on attempts would leave the jumper at risk for an extended period, increasing the chances of injury or further complications. Immediate deployment of the reserve without first attempting to address the main parachute might lead to unnecessary cutaway scenarios if the main could potentially be salvaged in the situation. Similarly, attempting to regain altitude before deploying is impractical in freefall, as altitude cannot be regained once in a freefall state. Thus, the emphasis

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:

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