USPA Skydiving 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. Don’t worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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 action should be taken if there are signs of a parachute malfunction during descent?

A. Immediately cut away and deploy the reserve

B. Attempt to correct the issue by pulling toggles

C. Wait until landing to report the issue

D. Signal the instructor

2. To regain currency after four months of inactivity, an A-licensed jumper must jump in which category?

A. Category A

B. Category B or D with an instructor

C. Category C

D. Category E

3. What is the fastest way to slow down from a freefall swoop approach?

A. Spiral down for a controlled descent

B. Adopt a slow fall position with arms forward and knees down

C. Pull the parachute harder

D. Seek drag by spreading arms and legs out

4. How can a skydiver determine their glide path?

A. By watching the angle of the wind.

B. By identifying a stable point on the ground.

C. By measuring their altitude relative to the clouds.

D. By checking the parachute's descent speed.

5. What is the main responsibility of the pilot regarding jumpers?

A. Provide instructions for all maneuvers

B. Ensure the aircraft's maintenance

C. Monitor jumpers' reactions

D. Ensure safe flight conditions

6. Is it better to pull at planned altitude or fall lower to achieve stability before deploying the parachute?

A. Pull at planned altitude, regardless of stability

B. Fall lower to stabilize before pulling

C. Wait for the altitude to drop significantly

D. Pull only after checking surrounding jumpers

7. What is a key privilege of holding a USPA A license?

A. Jump under mentor supervision

B. Jump without supervision

C. Conduct jumps for others

D. Perform solo tandem jumps

8. In the event of an aircraft emergency without students or instructors, who should coordinate procedures?

A. Pilot

B. Instructor

C. Jumpmaster or spotter

D. Ground crew

9. What condition occurs with a visual altimeter when it is in the jumper's burble?

A. Works normally

B. Reads incorrectly

C. Shows an increase in altitude

D. Stops functioning

10. What are some of the possible results of a turn made too low to the ground?

A. Improved landing accuracy

B. Serious injury or death

C. A successful emergency landing

D. Increased satisfaction from the jump

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What action should be taken if there are signs of a parachute malfunction during descent?

A. Immediately cut away and deploy the reserve

B. Attempt to correct the issue by pulling toggles

C. Wait until landing to report the issue

D. Signal the instructor

In the event of a parachute malfunction during descent, the recommended action is to immediately cut away and deploy the reserve. This protocol is essential because the primary parachute is no longer functioning properly, and prolonging the situation by trying to troubleshoot or correct it can lead to critical time loss or increased risk of injury. The decision to cut away is rooted in safety and the understanding that time is crucial in emergency situations. Statistically, successful reserve deployments increase drastically when actions are taken promptly. Therefore, cutting away and then deploying the reserve are fundamental steps designed to enhance the likelihood of a successful landing without injury. Attempting to correct the issue by pulling toggles can hinder recovery efforts, especially if the malfunction is severe, while waiting until landing to report the issue misses the opportunity to secure a safer outcome. Signaling the instructor can be useful but is not a substitute for the immediate actions required to resolve a parachute malfunction.

2. To regain currency after four months of inactivity, an A-licensed jumper must jump in which category?

A. Category A

B. Category B or D with an instructor

C. Category C

D. Category E

To regain currency after a period of four months of inactivity, the A-licensed jumper is indeed required to jump in specific categories with the guidance of an instructor. This is crucial for ensuring the safety and proficiency of the jumper who may be out of practice and needs to refresh both their skills and knowledge of current procedures. Jumping in Category B or D with an instructor allows the jumper to receive direct supervision and support, which is essential for assessing their readiness to continue skydiving confidently and competently. Categories B and D typically involve more complex jumps or those with specific requirements, providing an opportunity for the instructor to evaluate the jumper's familiarity with safety protocols and technique. Maintaining currency is important for all jumpers, as it ensures that they are aware of the latest safety procedures and can execute jumps effectively. A-licensed jumpers benefit from this structured approach to regain currency after a break, which emphasizes skill reinforcement and the importance of instructor oversight during their return to the sport.

3. What is the fastest way to slow down from a freefall swoop approach?

A. Spiral down for a controlled descent

B. Adopt a slow fall position with arms forward and knees down

C. Pull the parachute harder

D. Seek drag by spreading arms and legs out

Adopting a slow fall position with arms forward and knees down is the fastest way to slow down during a freefall swoop approach because this body position increases drag, which reduces your vertical speed effectively. By positioning your arms forward and bending your knees, you create a more streamlined shape, allowing for better control and stability while also maximizing the drag force acting against your fall. This position is often referred to as the “box position” or "arch," which is conducive for slowing down without altering the body’s orientation too much. Maintaining a coordinated position can help mitigate excessive spinning or tumbling, allowing for a more controlled descent. In contrast, while seeking drag by spreading arms and legs can also slow your descent, it can lead to an unwieldy position that might affect your stability and control. Spiral descent can enhance your maneuverability but generally leads to an increase in forward speed rather than a rapid slowdown, and pulling the parachute harder is not relevant in a freefall context, as it refers to deploying the parachute rather than slowing down in freefall.

4. How can a skydiver determine their glide path?

A. By watching the angle of the wind.

B. By identifying a stable point on the ground.

C. By measuring their altitude relative to the clouds.

D. By checking the parachute's descent speed.

Determining a skydiver's glide path is essential for achieving a safe and accurate landing. Identifying a stable point on the ground is critical because it serves as a visual reference for the skydiver during descent. This stable point helps the skydiver gauge their descent and adjust their glide path accordingly. By focusing on a fixed location, the skydiver can better understand how they are progressing horizontally and can make necessary adjustments to ensure they land in the desired zone. Watching the angle of the wind can provide information about current conditions, but it doesn't directly inform the skydiver about their glide path. Measuring altitude relative to the clouds may give an idea of height but lacks specific references for horizontal navigation. Checking the parachute's descent speed can help in understanding the rate of descent but does not offer guidance on horizontal positioning, which is crucial for determining the glide path effectively.

5. What is the main responsibility of the pilot regarding jumpers?

A. Provide instructions for all maneuvers

B. Ensure the aircraft's maintenance

C. Monitor jumpers' reactions

D. Ensure safe flight conditions

The primary responsibility of the pilot regarding jumpers is to ensure safe flight conditions. This encompasses various elements, such as maintaining the aircraft's altitude and speed, adhering to airspace regulations, and avoiding any potential hazards that could endanger the safety of the jumpers during takeoff, jump, and landing phases. While providing instructions for maneuvers, monitoring jumpers' reactions, and ensuring aircraft maintenance are also important tasks in the broader context of jump operations, they do not fall solely within the pilot's direct responsibilities. For example, jumpmasters typically guide jumpers on safety procedures and maneuvers, and aircraft maintenance is usually managed by qualified personnel in accordance with regulatory standards. Therefore, ensuring safe flight conditions is the pilot's main focus, as it directly impacts the safety of all onboard, including both the jumpers and crew.

6. Is it better to pull at planned altitude or fall lower to achieve stability before deploying the parachute?

A. Pull at planned altitude, regardless of stability

B. Fall lower to stabilize before pulling

C. Wait for the altitude to drop significantly

D. Pull only after checking surrounding jumpers

Pulling at a planned altitude is crucial for maintaining safety and ensuring that you have the appropriate time and altitude to execute a safe deployment of your parachute. Skydiving is based on a balance of altitude awareness and stability. When you pull at your predetermined altitude, you achieve a couple of important outcomes. Firstly, deploying at the planned altitude ensures that you allow enough time for a safe and controlled deployment, which ideally occurs between 3,000 and 4,500 feet AGL. This altitude is calculated to provide sufficient time for the parachute to fully deploy and for the jumper to check that everything is functioning correctly. Pulling too low may not allow adequate time for the parachute to open, increasing the risk of a hard landing or other mishaps. Secondly, consistent altitude pulling helps develop good habits and discipline in jumping. This discipline is essential not only for individual safety but also for the safety of other jumpers in a group jump scenario. Other options suggest delaying deployment for the sake of achieving stability or assessing surroundings, which could be risky. Instability can often be managed with proper body position and awareness during freefall, allowing for a planned altitude pull without compromising safety. Overall, the focus should always be on adhering to the

7. What is a key privilege of holding a USPA A license?

A. Jump under mentor supervision

B. Jump without supervision

C. Conduct jumps for others

D. Perform solo tandem jumps

Holding a USPA A license grants you the privilege to jump without supervision. This means that once you achieve the A license, you have demonstrated the necessary skills and knowledge to safely conduct your jumps independently. You have completed the required training, including a specific number of jumps and other competencies, which indicates that you can assess your own readiness and make informed decisions during jumps. This autonomy is a significant milestone in a skydiver's progression, as it represents the transition from being a student to becoming a solo jumper capable of making choices in the air and ground operations. An A license also allows you to participate in certain types of recreational skydiving activities, further enhancing your experience and enjoyment of the sport. The other options pertain to privileges that are either restricted for novices or not applicable to A license holders. For example, jumping under mentor supervision is a privilege associated with student status, while conducting jumps for others and performing solo tandem jumps are more advanced privileges reserved for licensed skydivers with higher certifications.

8. In the event of an aircraft emergency without students or instructors, who should coordinate procedures?

A. Pilot

B. Instructor

C. Jumpmaster or spotter

D. Ground crew

In the context of an aircraft emergency without students or instructors on board, the jumpmaster or spotter plays a crucial role in coordinating procedures. This individual is responsible for overseeing jump operations and maintaining safety protocols related to skydiving. In an emergency scenario, the jumpmaster or spotter is expertly trained to manage the situation effectively, utilizing their knowledge of skydiving practices and emergency response techniques. The jumpmaster or spotter can assess the situation, communicate necessary information to the pilot, and ensure that all safety measures are implemented. Their position allows them to have a clear understanding of the operational environment, making them ideally suited to coordinate immediate actions during an emergency. Other individuals such as the pilot have critical responsibilities and are primarily focused on the operation of the aircraft. While ground crew personnel play a supportive role in terms of logistics and post-jump activities, they are not present in the aircraft during the emergency. Therefore, the jumpmaster or spotter's specific training and responsibilities make them the most appropriate choice for handling coordination in this kind of scenario.

9. What condition occurs with a visual altimeter when it is in the jumper's burble?

A. Works normally

B. Reads incorrectly

C. Shows an increase in altitude

D. Stops functioning

When a visual altimeter is within a jumper's burble, it tends to read incorrectly. The burble is an area of disturbed air caused by the jumper's own body as they fall through the atmosphere. This turbulence can lead to fluctuations in air pressure around the altimeter, which relies on consistent atmospheric pressure to provide accurate readings of altitude. As the jumper moves through this burble, the changes in pressure can cause the altimeter to react unevenly, which may lead to significant inaccuracies in the displayed altitude. This is particularly crucial for jumpers to understand, as relying on an inaccurate altimeter during critical phases of a jump could lead to miscalculations regarding altitude awareness, especially during deployment of the parachute. Understanding this interaction between the burble and altimeter function is important for jumpers to maintain safety and accuracy in their skydiving activities.

10. What are some of the possible results of a turn made too low to the ground?

A. Improved landing accuracy

B. Serious injury or death

C. A successful emergency landing

D. Increased satisfaction from the jump

Making a turn too low to the ground during a skydive can lead to serious injury or death due to several critical factors related to parachute flying and landing dynamics. When the parachute is too close to the ground, there is insufficient time and altitude for the jumper to recover from any errors in judgment, control, or execution of the turn. At low altitudes, the speed of the descent is still considerable, and the turn could result in a collision with the ground before the parachute can open fully or recover from the maneuver. Additionally, turns generate centrifugal force, which can increase the descent rate and cause the jumper to hit the ground with greater force. This is especially dangerous if a hard or untreated landing occurs. Injuries from improperly executed low turns can range from sprains and fractures to severe trauma that may be fatal. In contrast to this risk, options like improved landing accuracy or increased satisfaction from the jump do not occur due to low turns; they generally result from controlled and thoughtful canopy maneuvers well within safe height limits. Similarly, a successful emergency landing typically requires altitude that allows for assessment and corrections, which wouldn't be viable with low turns.

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://uspaskydivingalicense.examzify.com

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