

USPA Skydiving A License Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Copyright | 1 |
| Table of Contents | 2 |
| Introduction | 3 |
| How to Use This Guide | 4 |
| Questions | 5 |
| Answers | 8 |
| Explanations | 10 |
| Next Steps | 16 |

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. How does the three-ring main canopy release system disconnect the main parachute from the harness?**
 - A. By pulling the ripcord attached to the harness**
 - B. By pulling the cables to release the cloth loop**
 - C. Through a manual locking mechanism**
 - D. By cutting the harness straps**

- 2. What may result if recovering altitude (floating up) under a freefall formation?**
 - A. Improved aerial formation**
 - B. Collision with the formation**
 - C. Increased freefall speed**
 - D. Enhanced canopy performance**

- 3. How many A-lines does a nine-cell canopy typically have?**
 - A. Nine**
 - B. Ten**
 - C. Eight**
 - D. Seven**

- 4. Who is ultimately responsible for the command of the aircraft during flight?**
 - A. Co-pilot**
 - B. Flight instructor**
 - C. Ground crew**
 - D. Pilot**

- 5. Why is it a bad idea to drag the harness and container system when stowing the lines?**
 - A. It can cause the pilot chute to malfunction**
 - B. It leads to unnecessary wear on the three-ring release webbing and loops**
 - C. It can cause misalignment of the parachute**
 - D. It prevents proper deployment of the main parachute**

- 6. What are the minimum visibility requirements below 10,000 feet MSL?**
- A. Two miles**
 - B. Three miles**
 - C. Four miles**
 - D. Five miles**
- 7. Describe the equipment pre-flight strategy to use before putting on your gear.**
- A. Bottom to top, front to back**
 - B. Side to side, top to bottom**
 - C. Top to bottom, back to front**
 - D. The order does not matter as long as all items are checked**
- 8. Which factor can affect the performance of a parachute canopy?**
- A. The pilot's weight alone**
 - B. The design of the aircraft**
 - C. The size and model of the canopy**
 - D. The altitude at which the jump is made**
- 9. What is the minimum pull altitude allowed for student skydivers and A license holders?**
- A. 2,500 feet**
 - B. 3,000 feet**
 - C. 4,000 feet**
 - D. 5,000 feet**
- 10. When executing the landing priorities, which is NOT a priority?**
- A. Flare to at least the half-brake position**
 - B. Land in a crowded area**
 - C. Land in a clear and open area**
 - D. Land with the wing level**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. How does the three-ring main canopy release system disconnect the main parachute from the harness?

- A. By pulling the ripcord attached to the harness**
- B. By pulling the cables to release the cloth loop**
- C. Through a manual locking mechanism**
- D. By cutting the harness straps**

The three-ring main canopy release system is designed to provide a reliable and efficient way to disconnect the main parachute from the harness in case of an emergency. The correct method of disconnection involves pulling on specific cables which engage the release mechanism. When the system is activated, pulling the cables causes a cloth loop to open, which in turn releases the main parachute from the harness. This design allows for a simple and effective release, which is crucial during high-stress situations. The redundancy in the design also enhances safety, making it less likely for accidental releases to occur. The other methods mentioned in the incorrect choices either involve procedures that are not part of the three-ring system or rely on mechanisms that do not facilitate the intended release properly. Understanding the mechanics of the three-ring release system is essential for any skydiver to ensure safety and proper function in the event of an emergency.

2. What may result if recovering altitude (floating up) under a freefall formation?

- A. Improved aerial formation**
- B. Collision with the formation**
- C. Increased freefall speed**
- D. Enhanced canopy performance**

Recovering altitude while in a freefall formation can indeed lead to a collision with the formation. When a skydiver begins to float upwards, they can inadvertently move closer to their fellow jumpers, disrupting the intended positions and spacing within the formation. This upward movement can occur due to body position adjustments or variations in relative wind, which results in entering a different vertical plane than the others. Since close proximity during a jump demands precise spatial awareness, floating up can significantly increase the risk of collisions, making it crucial for skydivers to maintain consistent altitude and relative positioning to ensure safety during formation flights. The other options reflect different aspects of freefall dynamics but do not directly relate to the consequences of recovering height. Improving the aerial formation typically requires stability and consistency rather than dramatic altitude changes. Increased freefall speed primarily results from body position and weight distribution rather than altitude recovery. While enhanced canopy performance is important, it is more related to the canopy phase of the jump, not the freefall phase.

3. How many A-lines does a nine-cell canopy typically have?

- A. Nine**
- B. Ten**
- C. Eight**
- D. Seven**

A nine-cell canopy typically has a total of ten A-lines. The general structure of a nine-cell canopy includes rows of cells that are interconnected with suspension lines. Each of these rows has an A-line that connects the front edge of the cell to the risers. In a canopy with nine cells, there is a row of cells that runs the entire width; thus, it requires two A-lines for each of the outermost cells plus one A-line for each of the middle cells. This results in ten A-lines in total. Understanding the design of the canopy is crucial for skydivers, as the configuration of lines affects the behavior of the parachute during deployment and descent. Knowing the specific parts and their functions helps in ensuring proper maintenance and safety checks of the equipment.

4. Who is ultimately responsible for the command of the aircraft during flight?

- A. Co-pilot**
- B. Flight instructor**
- C. Ground crew**
- D. Pilot**

The pilot is ultimately responsible for the command of the aircraft during flight due to several key reasons. As the designated pilot-in-command (PIC), this individual holds the legal authority and accountability for the safety of the aircraft, crew, and passengers. The pilot must make crucial decisions regarding flight operations, navigation, aircraft handling, and any necessary emergency procedures. Training and certification prepare the pilot to handle a wide range of scenarios, ensuring they can maintain control and manage risks effectively. It is not merely a matter of having control over the aircraft; it also involves understanding regulations, ensuring adherence to safety protocols, and executing proper flight planning. While other roles, such as co-pilots or flight instructors, may assist or provide guidance, the ultimate responsibility and authority lie with the pilot. The ground crew and flight instructor have important supportive roles but do not command the aircraft once it is airborne. The co-pilot assists the pilot but does not hold the ultimate responsibility for the flight's command.

5. Why is it a bad idea to drag the harness and container system when stowing the lines?

A. It can cause the pilot chute to malfunction

B. It leads to unnecessary wear on the three-ring release webbing and loops

C. It can cause misalignment of the parachute

D. It prevents proper deployment of the main parachute

Dragging the harness and container system while stowing the lines can lead to unnecessary wear on the three-ring release webbing and loops. This is significant because these components are crucial for the safe and effective release of the parachute system. Over time, excessive wear can compromise the integrity of the webbing and loops, potentially leading to failures during deployment or while in freefall. Ensuring these components remain in good condition is vital for both safety and reliability. The other options, while they may sound plausible, do not address the primary issue related to wear and maintenance of the parachute system components in the context mentioned. Misalignment or malfunction of the pilot chute could be related to other factors, but they are not directly tied to the act of dragging the harness and container when stowing lines. The focus should always be on maintaining the equipment in optimal condition to ensure safe skydiving operations.

6. What are the minimum visibility requirements below 10,000 feet MSL?

A. Two miles

B. Three miles

C. Four miles

D. Five miles

The minimum visibility requirement for operations below 10,000 feet mean sea level (MSL) is indeed three miles. This standard is established to ensure that pilots can maintain visual contact with the ground, other aircraft, and navigational landmarks. This visibility criterion is essential for safe flight operations, particularly in terms of avoiding collisions and navigating through controlled airspace. When visibility is at least three miles, pilots are better equipped to make informed decisions concerning their flight paths, particularly during maneuvers such as takeoffs and landings, which are critical phases of flight. The regulation aims to establish a baseline for visual flight rules (VFR) and helps prevent accidents that can occur in low visibility conditions. Understanding these requirements is crucial for student skydivers and pilots to ensure they are operating safely in the sky.

7. Describe the equipment pre-flight strategy to use before putting on your gear.

A. Bottom to top, front to back

B. Side to side, top to bottom

C. Top to bottom, back to front

D. The order does not matter as long as all items are checked

The pre-flight equipment strategy of using a "top to bottom, back to front" approach is essential for ensuring that all necessary gear is checked systematically before gearing up for a skydive. This method allows the skydiver to start by inspecting the helmet and any upper gear first, such as the altimeter and other altitude-sensing devices. Moving from the top to the bottom ensures that any adjustments needed on the helmet or upper gear do not interfere with later actions. Following this, moving from the back to the front allows the skydiver to adequately assess the main parachute pack, reserve parachute, and harness. This sequence helps ensure that the critical components closest to the body, such as the harness and cutaway system, are properly checked before the final preparatory steps, which include securing any front-facing items like the leg straps or audible altimeters. This systematic approach minimizes the chances of overlooking any essential safety checks and fosters a habit of thoroughness, significantly reducing the risks associated with skydiving. Other strategies like "side to side" or "bottom to top" may not provide the same efficiency or logic in checking these critical components in a safe and effective manner.

8. Which factor can affect the performance of a parachute canopy?

A. The pilot's weight alone

B. The design of the aircraft

C. The size and model of the canopy

D. The altitude at which the jump is made

The performance of a parachute canopy is significantly influenced by the size and model of the canopy. Different canopies are designed for specific purposes, such as stability, glide performance, or maneuverability. For instance, larger canopies typically provide more lift and are easier to control, making them ideal for beginners or those looking for a slower descent. In contrast, smaller canopies often allow for quicker descents and are preferred by experienced jumpers for more agile flying. Furthermore, various models of canopies come with unique characteristics that affect aspects like responsiveness and landing performance. For example, some canopies are designed to be more responsive to inputs, allowing for precise control during flight, which is crucial for skillful landings in challenging conditions. In this context, while factors such as the pilot's weight, the aircraft design, and the altitude can have an impact on the overall jump experience, the specific characteristics of the canopy are central to its performance in the air. Therefore, considering the size and model of the canopy is essential for understanding how it will behave during a jump.

9. What is the minimum pull altitude allowed for student skydivers and A license holders?

- A. 2,500 feet
- B. 3,000 feet**
- C. 4,000 feet
- D. 5,000 feet

The minimum pull altitude for student skydivers and A license holders is established to ensure safety and provide adequate time for the deployment of the parachute. Pulling at 3,000 feet allows for a reasonable altitude where a skydiver can safely deploy their parachute and have sufficient time to manage any potential issues that may arise during descent. This altitude is designed with safety margins in mind, as it provides enough time for parachute deployment and altitude awareness. Above this minimum, skydivers have the ability to gain more experience while maintaining safety protocols. However, pulling at too low an altitude reduces the available time for deployment and decision-making in emergency situations, which is why 3,000 feet is specified as both a minimum and a standard for this level of skydiving certification.

10. When executing the landing priorities, which is NOT a priority?

- A. Flare to at least the half-brake position
- B. Land in a crowded area**
- C. Land in a clear and open area
- D. Land with the wing level

Prioritizing safety during a skydive landing is crucial, and this involves making strategic decisions about where and how to land. One of the primary considerations is avoiding potentially hazardous situations, which is why landing in a crowded area is not a priority. Skydivers aim to avoid landing in locations where there are people, obstacles, or any hazards that could pose risks to themselves or others. The correct approach involves selecting landing areas that are clear and open, as this maximizes safety and reduces the potential for accidents. Additionally, managing the parachute's flare to at least the half-brake position helps to control the descent speed, and ensuring the wings are level during landing aids in maintaining stability as the ground is approached. All these elements focus on executing a safe landing while avoiding crowded areas altogether, making option B the answer that does not align with the landing priorities.

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://uspaskydivinglicense.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE