Exam simulation

EASA Drone License A2 - Flight performance and planning

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STUDENT NAME:	DATE AND TIME:

01. What is a 'Microburst'?

a) A small, localized thermal updraft

b) A gentle rain shower without wind

c) A sudden, intense, localized downdraft of air associated with a thunderstorm that spreads out violently upon hitting the ground

d) A minor electrical short circuit in the drone's motors

02. As aerodynamic speed increases, what happens to parasite drag?

a) It increases exponentially (proportional to the square of the speed)

b) It decreases steadily

c) It remains exactly the same

d) It converts into thrust

03. What atmospheric mechanism typically causes a 'sea breeze' during the daytime?

a) The ocean cooling down faster than the land

b) The land heating up faster than the sea, causing air to rise over land and drawing cooler air in from over the water

c) The gravitational pull of the moon on the ocean

d) High pressure systems stalling over mountain ranges

04. What is the primary function of an 'Obstacle Avoidance System' on a modern drone?

a) To automatically report the drone's position to ATC

b) To increase the top speed of the drone

c) To use optical, infrared, or ultrasonic sensors to detect physical barriers and either stop the drone or route it around the obstacle to prevent collisions

d) To track moving subjects for videography

05. According to the International Standard Atmosphere (ISA), what is the standard atmospheric pressure at mean sea level?

a) 1000.00 hPa

b) 1025.13 hPa

c) 1013.25 hPa

d) 995.50 hPa

06. What is the primary advantage of a VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) fixed-wing hybrid drone?

a) It can fly underwater

b) It combines the vertical hovering and runway-independent take-off ability of a multirotor with the long-range cruise efficiency of a fixed-wing aircraft

c) It requires no battery to fly

d) It is entirely invisible to radar

07. What is a 'Flight Log' and why is it recommended (or required by company procedures)?

a) A piece of hardware installed on the drone's camera

b) A live streaming service to social media

c) A manual switch to turn off the GPS

d) A record of flight times, locations, issues, and maintenance to track component lifespan and support incident investigations

08. What is 'Relative Humidity'?

a) The exact weight of water in the air

b) The ratio of the amount of water vapour actually in the air compared to the maximum amount the air could hold at that specific temperature

c) The temperature at which water freezes

d) The pressure exerted by water droplets on the drone's frame

09. What is the difference between an anemometer and a wind vane?

a) An anemometer measures direction, a wind vane measures speed

b) An anemometer measures wind speed, while a wind vane indicates wind direction

c) They are exactly the same instrument

d) An anemometer measures humidity, a wind vane measures pressure

10. In a TAF forecast, what is the primary difference between the codes 'FM' (From) and 'BECMG' (Becoming)?

a) 'FM' indicates a worsening of conditions, while 'BECMG' indicates an improvement

b) 'FM' indicates a rapid and significant change at a specific time, while 'BECMG' indicates a gradual change over a period of about two hours

c) There is no difference; they are interchangeable terms

d) 'BECMG' is used only for fog, while 'FM' is used only for wind

11. What is the recommended action if a drone pilot checks the space weather and sees a Kp-index of 7 or higher?

a) Proceed normally, as it means perfect satellite reception

b) Expect severe GPS degradation or loss of signal; fly with extreme caution in manual/ATTI modes or postpone the flight if precision GNSS is required

c) Only fly the drone using the 5.8 GHz frequency

d) Attach a heavier payload to stabilize the drone

12. What is the standard temperature lapse rate in the troposphere under ISA conditions?

a) It decreases by approximately 2.0 °C per 1,000 feet (or 6.5 °C per 1,000 metres) of altitude gained

b) It increases by 1 °C for every 100 metres of altitude

c) It remains completely constant up to 30,000 feet

d) It drops by exactly 10 °C per 1,000 feet

13. Which of these is an 'Operational Mitigation' to reduce ground risk?

a) Installing propeller guards

b) Scheduling the flight early in the morning on a Sunday to ensure the area is free of uninvolved people

c) Using a drone with an octocopter frame instead of a quadcopter

d) Applying a Class identification label to the drone

14. When flying with a Visual Observer (VO), what is 'Closed-Loop Communication'?

a) Talking through a private, encrypted radio channel

b) Using hand signals instead of speaking to avoid noise

c) A communication technique where a message is sent, received, understood, and verbally confirmed by the receiver to ensure zero misunderstandings

d) Limiting communication strictly to the moments before take-off and after landing

15. In the METAR 'LIRF 151250Z 32015KT 9999 FEW030 18/10 Q1012', what does '9999' mean?

a) Visibility is 10 kilometers or more

b) The wind is blowing at 9,999 knots

c) The altimeter setting is 999.9 hPa

d) The cloud base is at 99,990 feet

16. According to the '1:1 rule' for ground risk mitigation, how does increasing flight altitude affect the required horizontal safety buffer?

a) The horizontal distance remains constant regardless of flight altitude

b) The horizontal buffer must increase proportionally with altitude, as a drone falling from a greater height has a wider potential impact radius

c) The buffer can decrease because hitting people is less likely from a high altitude

d) The rule only applies during automatic takeoff and landing phases

17. Under EASA Open category rules, what is the policy on flying over assemblies of people?

a) It is allowed if the drone weighs less than 4 kg

b) It is allowed if the pilot holds an A2 certificate

c) It is permitted only during public festivals and events

d) It is strictly prohibited for all drones in the Open category

18. What causes 'Steam Fog'?

a) Very cold, dry air moving over much warmer water, causing rapid evapouration and immediate condensation

b) Warm air moving over a cold snowpack

c) Pollution trapped in a city by an inversion layer

d) A sudden drop in barometric pressure

19. If a METAR reports 'R27/1200U', what does this indicate?

a) The Runway Visual Range (RVR) for Runway 27 is 1,200 metres, and the visibility is trending Upward (improving)

b) There is a rainstorm (R) at 27 degrees, moving at 1,200 metres per hour

c) The wind is rotating 27 degrees every 1,200 seconds

d) Radar detects a storm 27 miles away at 1,200 feet

20. Under what conditions does 'Hoar Frost' form on an aircraft or drone?

a) When rain freezes immediately upon hitting a warm surface

b) When the surface of the aircraft is below freezing and below the dew point of the surrounding air, causing water vapour to deposit directly as ice crystals (sublimation)

c) When flying through a cloud of supercooled water droplets at 10 °C

d) When the drone flies too fast in dry air

21. What is the primary danger of fixing a broken propeller with superglue?

a) The glue will dissolve the plastic shell of the drone

b) It will make the drone completely waterproof

c) The structural integrity of the prop is permanently compromised; it will be unbalanced and is highly likely to shatter under the extreme centrifugal forces of flight

d) It changes the frequency of the ESCs

22. If you read a METAR and see the cloud group 'OVC045', what does this mean?

a) Overcast sky with the cloud base at 4,500 feet Above Ground Level (AGL)

b) Scattered clouds at 450 feet

c) Overcast clouds moving at 45 knots

d) Visibility is limited to 45 metres

23. How is 'Upslope Fog' formed?

a) By the sun heating a wet runway

b) By thunderstorms evapourating before hitting the ground

c) By high winds at altitudes above 20,000 ft

d) When moist, stable air is forced up a sloping landmass (like a mountain) by the wind, cooling adiabatically until it reaches its dew point

24. In meteorology, 'Convection' refers to:

a) The horizontal movement of air across the surface

b) The freezing of supercooled water droplets in a cloud

c) The deflection of wind by the Earth's rotation

d) The vertical transport of heat in the atmosphere, often causing warm, less dense air to rise and form thermals or cumulus clouds

25. In a METAR report, what does the abbreviation 'VCTS' stand for?

a) Very Clear and Tranquil Skies

b) Variable Cloud Thickness Status

c) Visibility Cleared To South

d) Thunderstorms in the Vicinity (within 8 to 16 km of the aerodrome reference point)

26. What does the altimeter setting 'QNE' refer to in aviation?

a) The local atmospheric pressure at the airfield

b) The pressure reduced to mean sea level

c) The standard pressure setting of 1013.25 hPa, used to fly at standardized Flight Levels (FL) regardless of local weather

d) The altitude of the drone above the ground

27. Which of these factors is most likely to increase the structural load factor on a fixed-wing UAV?

a) A steep, high-speed banked turn or pulling out of a steep dive

b) Flying perfectly straight and level at cruising speed

c) Descending slowly at 1 m/s

d) Connecting to a 5G network

28. In the lower troposphere, standard atmospheric pressure decreases by approximately 1 hPa for every:

a) 10 feet of altitude gained

b) 27 to 30 feet (approx. 8 metres) of altitude gained

c) 100 feet of altitude gained

d) 1,000 feet of altitude gained

29. When looking at a weather chart, what does the presence of isobars spaced very closely together in a specific region indicate?

a) An area of dead calm with a total absence of wind

b) An area with constant temperatures and high visibility

c) The imminent end of a cyclonic disturbance

d) A strong pressure gradient, which results in high-intensity winds

30. If you are operating near an airport, what is the primary risk you must mitigate?

a) Collisions with low-flying manned aircraft taking off or landing, which can result in catastrophic accidents

b) The noise of your drone disturbing passengers in the terminal

c) The drone's camera being blinded by runway lights

d) The airport radar charging the drone's battery too quickly

31. How does the Coriolis effect behave at the Earth's equator?

a) It is at its absolute maximum strength

b) It is effectively zero, meaning winds do not get deflected by planetary rotation at the equator

c) It pulls air directly into space

d) It causes water to drain counter-clockwise in sinks

32. What is the primary characteristic of an 'Unstable' atmosphere?

a) Thick fog lasting all day

b) Continuous, smooth wind from one direction

c) Air parcels forced upwards continue to rise because they remain warmer than the surrounding air, leading to vertical cloud development (cumulus) and turbulence

d) No clouds ever form

33. In the EASA framework, what is a Standard Scenario (STS)?

a) A predefined flight path loaded into the drone's memory

b) A standard weather condition perfect for flying

c) The default camera settings on a C2 drone

d) A predefined operation in the Specific category with known risks and mandatory mitigations, allowing an operator to submit a simple declaration instead of a full SORA

34. What is the maximum legally permitted flight height in the EASA Open category?

a) 50 metres above the take-off point

b) 120 metres from the closest point of the surface of the earth, except where the obstacle rule applies

c) 500 metres from the take-off point

d) There is no height limit in the Open category

35. When working with a Visual Observer (VO), what is a critical human factor requirement?

a) Clear, unambiguous, and continuous communication between the VO and the remote pilot must be established and maintained

b) The VO must use a separate controller to steer the camera

c) The VO must always stand at least 100 metres away from the pilot

d) The VO assumes legal responsibility for the flight

36. When the low-speed mode is activated on a C2 drone, what is the maximum permitted speed according to EASA standards?

a) 1 m/s

b) 3 m/s

c) 5 m/s

d) 10 m/s

37. In a METAR report, what does the abbreviation 'TS' stand for?

a) Tropical Storm

b) Thick Smog

c) Thunderstorm

d) Top Speed

38. Which specific features are mandatory for a UAS to receive a C2 class identification label under EASA regulations?

a) Direct Remote ID, geo-awareness and a selectable low-speed mode

b) A 4K camera and a parachute

c) A mass of exactly 249 g

d) The ability to carry human passengers

39. A UAS 'Fly-away' is classified as an emergency because:

a) The pilot has lost all command and control, and the drone is travelling uncontrollably outside the operational volume, posing an immediate risk to people and other aircraft

b) It means the drone has successfully returned to home

c) It indicates the battery is fully charged

d) The SD card has stopped recording

40. Which type of cloud is generally associated with steady, continuous, and prolonged precipitation rather than heavy, showery bursts?

a) Cumulonimbus

b) Cirrocumulus

c) Nimbostratus

d) Altocumulus

41. What does a green 'CE' mark on a drone indicate?

a) The drone was manufactured in China

b) The drone is completely waterproof

c) The drone is exempt from all aviation laws

d) The manufacturer declares the product complies with the essential health, safety, and environmental protection requirements of the European Economic Area

42. What is 'QNH' in altimetry?

a) The atmospheric pressure measured at the exact altitude of the drone

b) The local atmospheric pressure reduced to mean sea level; setting this on an altimeter makes it read altitude above sea level (AMSL)

c) The standard pressure of 1013.25 hPa

d) The altitude above ground level (AGL)

43. What is the primary benefit of the 'Low-Speed Mode' required on C2 drones in the A2 subcategory?

a) It completely eliminates the noise produced by the propellers

b) By limiting speed to 3 m/s, it reduces the kinetic energy of a potential impact and gives the pilot more time to react, justifying the reduction of the safety distance from 30 m to 5 m

c) It allows the drone to fly indefinitely without draining the battery

d) It overrides all restricted airspace limitations

44. If an air mass is pushed up a mountain and its temperature drops below its dew point, what happens?

a) The invisible water vapour condenses into visible water droplets, forming clouds and potentially precipitation (Orographic lifting)

b) The air mass instantly becomes a jet stream

c) The air becomes perfectly dry and clear

d) The air mass catches fire

45. If the space weather forecast shows a Kp-index of 6, what is the operational impact?

a) The air density will be too low to fly

b) The video transmission will fail entirely

c) A moderate-to-strong geomagnetic storm is occurring, which can cause significant GPS positioning errors or complete loss of satellite lock

d) The drone's battery will drain in half the normal time

46. In Human Factors, what is the best way to handle 'Peer Pressure' when bystanders urge you to fly closer or perform dangerous manoeuvres?

a) Assert your authority as the Remote Pilot in Command, decline the requests firmly, and strictly adhere to safety regulations and operational limits

b) Comply with their requests briefly to keep them happy

c) Give the controller to the bystanders so they take liability

d) Fly faster so the manoeuvres are completed quickly

47. According to EASA regulations, what is the minimum horizontal distance from uninvolved people for a C2 class UAS operating in the A2 subcategory?

a) 50 metres under all flight conditions

b) 30 metres, which may be reduced to 5 metres when low-speed mode is active and the conditions are assessed as safe

c) 150 metres from residential, commercial, industrial or recreational areas

d) No minimum distance, provided assemblies of people are not overflown

48. If you are flying under the A2 subcategory and you lose the visual line of sight (VLOS) because the drone flies behind a thick row of trees, what is your immediate required action?

a) Switch to FPV (First Person View) on your screen and continue the mission

b) Immediately take action to re-establish VLOS, such as moving to a better vantage point, or command the drone to climb safely or initiate a Return to Home until it is visible again

c) Turn off the remote controller

d) Wait for 5 minutes to see if it comes out the other side

49. If you are involved in a drone incident that results in serious injury to a person or fatal damage to a manned aircraft, what are you legally required to do?

a) Delete the SD card footage to protect your privacy

b) Pack up the drone and leave the area quietly

c) Post the video on social media to warn others

d) Report the occurrence immediately to the relevant national aviation/safety investigation authority and emergency services

50. What happens if a UAS camera gimbal fails or locks up during flight?

a) The flight controller will automatically restart the drone in mid-air

b) The drone can usually still fly safely, but the pilot will lose stabilized video and should return to home to investigate the hardware issue

c) The drone will immediately lose GPS signal

d) The drone will roll over and crash because the gimbal balances the Centre of Gravity

51. If your drone's battery indicates it has 30% charge remaining, but the voltage drops drastically as soon as you push the throttle forward, what is happening?

a) The motors are becoming more efficient

b) The telemetry software is stuck

c) The battery is likely experiencing severe voltage sag due to high internal resistance (age/damage) or cold temperatures, meaning it cannot provide the necessary current

d) The drone is entering a hyper-lapse video mode

52. Which component in the drone's flight controller uses the Earth's magnetic field to determine the aircraft's heading?

a) The Magnetometer (Compass)

b) The Barometer

c) The Gyroscope

d) The Accelerometer

53. What does a 4S LiPo battery designation mean?

a) It contains 4 cells connected in series, adding their voltages together

b) It will last for exactly 4 hours of flight time

c) It is equipped with 4 separate temperature sensors

d) It contains 4 cells connected in parallel

54. In a METAR, visibility is reported as 0800. How will the obscuration be coded?

a) BR (Mist)

b) FG (Fog), because the visibility is less than 1,000 metres

c) HZ (Haze)

d) RA (Rain)

55. For standard aviation weather reporting (METAR), at what height above the ground is wind speed and direction officially measured by an anemometer?

a) 1 metre

b) 10 metres (approx. 33 feet)

c) 50 metres

d) 100 metres

56. Which cloud prefix indicates a 'Middle Cloud' (base typically between 6,500 and 20,000 ft)?

a) Cirro-

b) Nimbo-

c) Alto- (e.g., Altostratus, Altocumulus)

d) Strato-

57. Increasing the payload weight on a drone will have what effect on its flight performance?

a) It will significantly increase the maximum flight time

b) It will decrease the flight endurance (battery life) and reduce manoeuvreability due to higher inertia and power demands

c) It will improve the drone's top speed

d) It will have zero impact as long as it remains under the MTOM

58. On a sunny day, which of the following surfaces will absorb heat the fastest and generate the strongest thermal updrafts?

a) A deep, calm lake

b) A dark asphalt parking lot or a freshly plowed dirt field

c) A dense, green forest

d) A snow-covered field

59. If you inadvertently fly your drone over an assembly of people in the Open category, what is the safest immediate action?

a) Turn off the motors immediately

b) Maintain altitude and smoothly, safely fly the drone away from the crowd using the shortest safe path

c) Perform a rapid vertical descent into the crowd

d) Drop a warning flare

60. Which meteorological tool uses radio waves to determine the location, intensity, and movement of precipitation?

a) Anemometer

b) Barometer

c) Weather Radar

d) Hygrometer

61. Which ambient temperature range is generally the most critical and dangerous for the rapid accumulation of 'Clear Ice' (Glaze) on an aircraft or drone?

a) -20 °C to -40 °C

b) 0 °C to -10 °C, especially when flying through clouds with large supercooled water droplets

c) +5 °C to +15 °C

d) Above +20 °C

62. In a METAR report, what does the code '-RA' indicate?

a) Heavy Rain
b) Light Rain
c) No Rain
d) Freezing Rain

63. Flying a drone low over a densely packed city on a windy day is risky primarily due to:

a) Severe mechanical turbulence and funneling effects caused by the buildings disrupting the wind flow
b) The heat from the buildings melting the battery
c) Magnetic interference from streetlights
d) A total lack of wind between the buildings

64. When assessing the weather for a drone flight, the remote pilot's responsibility is to:

a) Check the weather once in the morning and ignore it thereafter
b) Only check the weather if flying above 100 metres
c) Obtain forecasts (METAR/TAF/Apps) during pre-flight planning and continuously monitor the real-time weather conditions visually during the entire operation
d) Rely entirely on the drone's internal barometer to warn them of bad weather

65. What is the primary danger of operating a multirotor drone in freezing rain?

a) The rain will wash off the drone's registration number
b) The motors will spin twice as fast
c) Supercooled droplets will freeze instantly upon contact with the propellers, rapidly destroying their aerodynamic shape, reducing lift, and likely causing a crash
d) There is no danger if the drone has an IP54 waterproof rating

66. What is a 'Stationary Front'?

a) A front moving faster than 50 knots
b) A boundary between two different air masses where neither is strong enough to replace the other, resulting in very little movement
c) A thunderstorm that stays in one place
d) A solid wall of fog

67. How do intense solar flares and geomagnetic storms (high Kp-index) primarily impact UAS operations?

a) They disrupt the Earth's ionosphere, causing severe GPS/GNSS positioning errors, loss of satellite lock, and compass interference

b) They cause the drone's plastic shell to melt

c) They create sudden thermal updrafts from the ground

d) They drain the LiPo battery in seconds

68. What does the acronym TAF stand for, and what is its typical validity period?

a) Terminal Aerodrome Forecast; typically valid for 9 to 30 hours

b) Terminal Aviation Forecast; valid for exactly 2 hours

c) Temporary Atmospheric Fluctuations; valid for 48 hours

d) Traffic And Flight; valid indefinitely

69. What is 'Altimeter Setting'?

a) The value to which the barometric altimeter is calibrated to indicate a specific altitude (e.g., QNH for altitude above sea level)

b) The color of the altimeter dial

c) The GPS coordinates of the drone

d) The physical placement of the sensor inside the drone

70. A drone's 'Endurance' is defined as:

a) The maximum horizontal distance it can travel away from the pilot

b) The maximum amount of time the drone can remain airborne on a single battery charge or tank of fuel

c) The physical toughness of the drone's plastic shell

d) The number of gigabytes the SD card can hold

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Response Scheme

Compare your answers with the following diagram and mark your score!

01: **C**	02: **A**	03: **B**	04: **C**
05: **C**	06: **B**	07: **D**	08: **B**
09: **B**	10: **B**	11: **B**	12: **A**
13: **B**	14: **C**	15: **A**	16: **B**
17: **D**	18: **A**	19: **A**	20: **B**
21: **C**	22: **A**	23: **D**	24: **D**
25: **D**	26: **C**	27: **A**	28: **B**
29: **D**	30: **A**	31: **B**	32: **C**
33: **D**	34: **B**	35: **A**	36: **B**
37: **C**	38: **A**	39: **A**	40: **C**
41: **D**	42: **B**	43: **B**	44: **A**
45: **C**	46: **A**	47: **B**	48: **B**
49: **D**	50: **B**	51: **C**	52: **A**
53: **A**	54: **B**	55: **B**	56: **C**
57: **B**	58: **B**	59: **B**	60: **C**
61: **B**	62: **B**	63: **A**	64: **C**
65: **C**	66: **B**	67: **A**	68: **A**
69: **A**	70: **B**		

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Response form

Use this form to mark your answers

01:	02:	03:	04:
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