

1-502 Non-Commissioned Officer (NCOM) and Soldier of the Month (SOM) Board Practice Test (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

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- 1. Which regulation covers the Army's SHARP program?**
 - A. AR 600-10**
 - B. AR 600-20 Chapter 7-8**
 - C. AR 600-30**
 - D. AR 700-20**

- 2. What must be performed prior to executing an ACFT?**
 - A. 10 preparatory drills**
 - B. 5 warm-up exercises**
 - C. 15 strength training sessions**
 - D. 20 mobility movements**

- 3. How many major battles did 1-502 participate in during World War II?**
 - A. One**
 - B. Two**
 - C. Three**
 - D. Four**

- 4. What is the policy letter that covers incentives for 1-502?**
 - A. Policy Letter #6**
 - B. Policy Letter #7**
 - C. Policy Letter #8**
 - D. Policy Letter #9**

- 5. How many degrees are there on a compass?**
 - A. 180 degrees**
 - B. 360 degrees**
 - C. 720 degrees**
 - D. 400 degrees**

- 6. Which of the following lists the four steps to the counseling process?**
- A. Identify need for counseling, Prepare counseling, Counsel soldier, Follow up**
 - B. Assess needs, Develop plan, Implement, Review**
 - C. Plan, Execute, Monitor, Adjust**
 - D. Identify issues, Gather data, Provide feedback, Conclude session**
- 7. Where must boots be bloused?**
- A. No lower than the 1st lace eyelet of the boot**
 - B. No lower than the 2nd lace eyelet of the boot**
 - C. No lower than the 3rd lace eyelet of the boot**
 - D. No lower than the 4th lace eyelet of the boot**
- 8. How many mils are on a compass?**
- A. 4000 mils**
 - B. 6400 mils**
 - C. 1000 mils**
 - D. 3600 mils**
- 9. What exercise focuses on lateral stability and strength?**
- A. Single-Leg Tuck**
 - B. Lateral Leg Raise**
 - C. Back Bridge**
 - D. Push Up**
- 10. How long after the "THRU" date must an NCOER be completed and submitted to HRC?**
- A. No later than 30 days**
 - B. No later than 60 days**
 - C. No later than 90 days**
 - D. No later than 120 days**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which regulation covers the Army's SHARP program?

- A. AR 600-10
- B. AR 600-20 Chapter 7-8**
- C. AR 600-30
- D. AR 700-20

The Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) program is specifically covered under Army Regulation 600-20, particularly in Chapter 7, which addresses the policies and procedures concerning the prevention of sexual harassment and sexual assault within the Army. This regulation outlines the responsibilities of Army leaders and establishes clear guidelines for reporting incidents, providing support to victims, and ensuring a command climate that promotes a culture of respect and accountability. Understanding the content of this regulation is crucial for leaders and soldiers alike, as it sets the framework for how the Army addresses these serious issues and strives to eliminate sexual harassment and assault in the forces. The information specified in Chapter 7-8 provides essential guidance for implementation at all levels. The other options do not focus on SHARP-related policies. For instance, AR 600-10 does not pertain to SHARP, AR 600-30 is related to the Army's officer evaluation system, and AR 700-20 is focused on supply and logistics processes within the Army.

2. What must be performed prior to executing an ACFT?

- A. 10 preparatory drills**
- B. 5 warm-up exercises
- C. 15 strength training sessions
- D. 20 mobility movements

Prior to executing the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), it is essential to perform 10 preparatory drills. These drills are designed to warm up the body and prepare the muscles and joints for the demands of the test. Engaging in these preparatory drills helps reduce the risk of injury, enhances performance, and increases the overall effectiveness of the test. These drills typically emphasize mobility, flexibility, and movement patterns that participants will engage in during the actual test, making them critical for optimal readiness. By ensuring that soldiers are appropriately warmed up and prepared, the preparatory drills support a safe and effective testing environment. This requirement demonstrates the Army's commitment to physical fitness and injury prevention. The other options listed do not align with the established requirements for the ACFT preparation, emphasizing the significance of the 10 preparatory drills as a necessary step.

3. How many major battles did 1-502 participate in during World War II?

- A. One**
- B. Two**
- C. Three**
- D. Four**

The correct answer is three major battles. The 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, known for its significant role during World War II, participated in three key engagements: the Normandy invasion, the Operation Market Garden, and the Battle of the Bulge. Each battle showcased the battalion's effectiveness and resilience in combat, contributing to the overall success of the Allied forces during the war. The historical context surrounding these battles highlights the regiment's critical involvement in major operations that shaped the course of the conflict, underscoring its importance in military history.

4. What is the policy letter that covers incentives for 1-502?

- A. Policy Letter #6**
- B. Policy Letter #7**
- C. Policy Letter #8**
- D. Policy Letter #9**

The correct response identifies Policy Letter #8 as the document that specifically outlines the incentives for the 1-502 unit. This policy letter typically details the programs and rewards available to soldiers, enhancing motivation and performance. By establishing clear incentives, the leadership aims to foster a productive and committed environment among soldiers, encouraging them to reach their full potential. Understanding this policy is crucial for personnel in the 1-502 to fully grasp the benefits available to them, and how they can leverage these incentives for personal and professional development. The other policy letters may cover various operational, administrative, or other unit-specific guidelines, but Policy Letter #8 is specifically focused on incentive structures.

5. How many degrees are there on a compass?

- A. 180 degrees**
- B. 360 degrees**
- C. 720 degrees**
- D. 400 degrees**

A compass is divided into 360 degrees, allowing it to represent a full circle. Each degree corresponds to a specific direction, with 0 degrees typically pointing north. This division facilitates navigation by providing detailed directional guidance. For example, if you move clockwise from north, you reach east at 90 degrees and south at 180 degrees, completing the full circle back at 360 degrees, which aligns with 0 degrees. In contrast, other answer choices do not correctly represent the divisions on a standard compass. 180 degrees would only cover half of the circle, while 720 degrees would suggest two full circles, which is unnecessary for conventional navigation. Lastly, 400 degrees is not a standard measurement for angles in a compass setting. Thus, the accurate answer highlighting the complete range of directional guidance on a compass is 360 degrees.

6. Which of the following lists the four steps to the counseling process?

- A. Identify need for counseling, Prepare counseling, Counsel soldier, Follow up**
- B. Assess needs, Develop plan, Implement, Review**
- C. Plan, Execute, Monitor, Adjust**
- D. Identify issues, Gather data, Provide feedback, Conclude session**

The correct answer highlights the established and recognized steps in the counseling process within a military context. The steps consist of identifying the need for counseling, preparing for the counseling session, conducting the counseling itself, and then following up afterward. Identifying the need for counseling is crucial as it ensures that the counselor understands the reason and urgency for the meeting. Preparing for the counseling allows the counselor to gather necessary information and plan the session effectively. During the actual counseling, the soldier receives guidance and support, which is the core purpose of the process. The follow-up step is equally important as it helps in reinforcing the counseling and ensuring that the soldier has the support they need to improve or maintain their performance, making it a holistic approach. In contrast, the other options represent different frameworks or concepts that do not align with the specific four-step process of counseling in the military. The other selections, while they may contain relevant skills in different contexts, do not correctly capture the unique structure that is emphasized in military counseling.

7. Where must boots be bloused?

- A. No lower than the 1st lace eyelet of the boot**
- B. No lower than the 2nd lace eyelet of the boot**
- C. No lower than the 3rd lace eyelet of the boot**
- D. No lower than the 4th lace eyelet of the boot**

Boots must be bloused no lower than the third lace eyelet of the boot to ensure a neat and professional appearance in uniform. This regulation helps maintain a standard that reflects discipline and attention to detail, which are essential qualities in military service. By blousing the trousers at this specific height, it prevents them from being too loose and can contribute to a more streamlined silhouette. Additionally, proper blousing can protect the boots and the lower part of the uniform from dirt and debris, thereby maintaining overall uniform readiness. This standard is set to promote uniformity among service members, but it also serves a pragmatic purpose in terms of functionality and safety while in the field or during physical activities.

8. How many mils are on a compass?

- A. 4000 mils
- B. 6400 mils**
- C. 1000 mils
- D. 3600 mils

The correct answer is that there are 6400 mils on a compass. This is based on the concept of the mil, which is a unit of angular measurement commonly used in military applications, especially in artillery and navigation. One full circle is divided into 6400 units (mils), which allows for more precise measurement of angles compared to degrees. The use of 6400 mils enables easier calculations when converting between distance and angular measurements, particularly because these calculations are often done when aiming or setting up artillery and other equipment that requires highly precise orientation. This system also aligns with the metric system, facilitating its use in various tactical and operational environments. In comparison, the other values represent different systems or divisions. For instance, 360 degrees equals one full rotation, while 4000 mils is an outdated standard. The mil system provides more granularity and is specifically designed for the needs of military applications, hence the use of 6400 mils in most contemporary compasses.

9. What exercise focuses on lateral stability and strength?

- A. Single-Leg Tuck
- B. Lateral Leg Raise**
- C. Back Bridge
- D. Push Up

The lateral leg raise is particularly effective in enhancing lateral stability and strength due to its direct engagement of the hip abductors, primarily the gluteus medius and minimus. These muscles are crucial for maintaining balance and stability during movements that involve lateral motion, such as running, jumping, and even basic balancing tasks. By performing lateral leg raises, individuals strengthen these key muscle groups, which contributes to improved overall stability, particularly when navigating side-to-side movements or preventing injuries associated with weak lateral muscles. In contrast, the other exercises target different muscle groups or types of strength. For instance, the single-leg tuck primarily develops core strength and coordination, the back bridge focuses on the posterior chain and core stability without significant lateral engagement, and the push-up predominantly targets the chest, triceps, and shoulders. While all these exercises have their benefits, none specifically focus on lateral stability and strength to the same extent as the lateral leg raise does.

10. How long after the "THRU" date must an NCOER be completed and submitted to HRC?

- A. No later than 30 days**
- B. No later than 60 days**
- C. No later than 90 days**
- D. No later than 120 days**

The correct response highlights that an NCOER (Non-Commissioned Officer Evaluation Report) must be completed and submitted to HRC (Human Resources Command) no later than 90 days after the "THRU" date. This 90-day window is established to ensure that evaluations are processed in a timely manner and that NCOs receive feedback on their performance in a reasonable timeframe. The submission guidelines are designed to maintain the integrity and effectiveness of the evaluation system, ensuring that performance assessments are current and relevant for personnel management decisions. This time frame fosters a structured approach to evaluations, assuring that all required documentation is completed while allowing sufficient time for review and processing. Delays beyond this period could result in administrative complications, lack of timely feedback, or discrepancies in a service member's record, which can be detrimental to career progression and overall unit accountability. Understanding the 90-day requirement ensures that NCOs remain compliant with Army regulation and support the efficient functioning of personnel management systems.

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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://1502ncomsomboard.examzify.com>

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

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