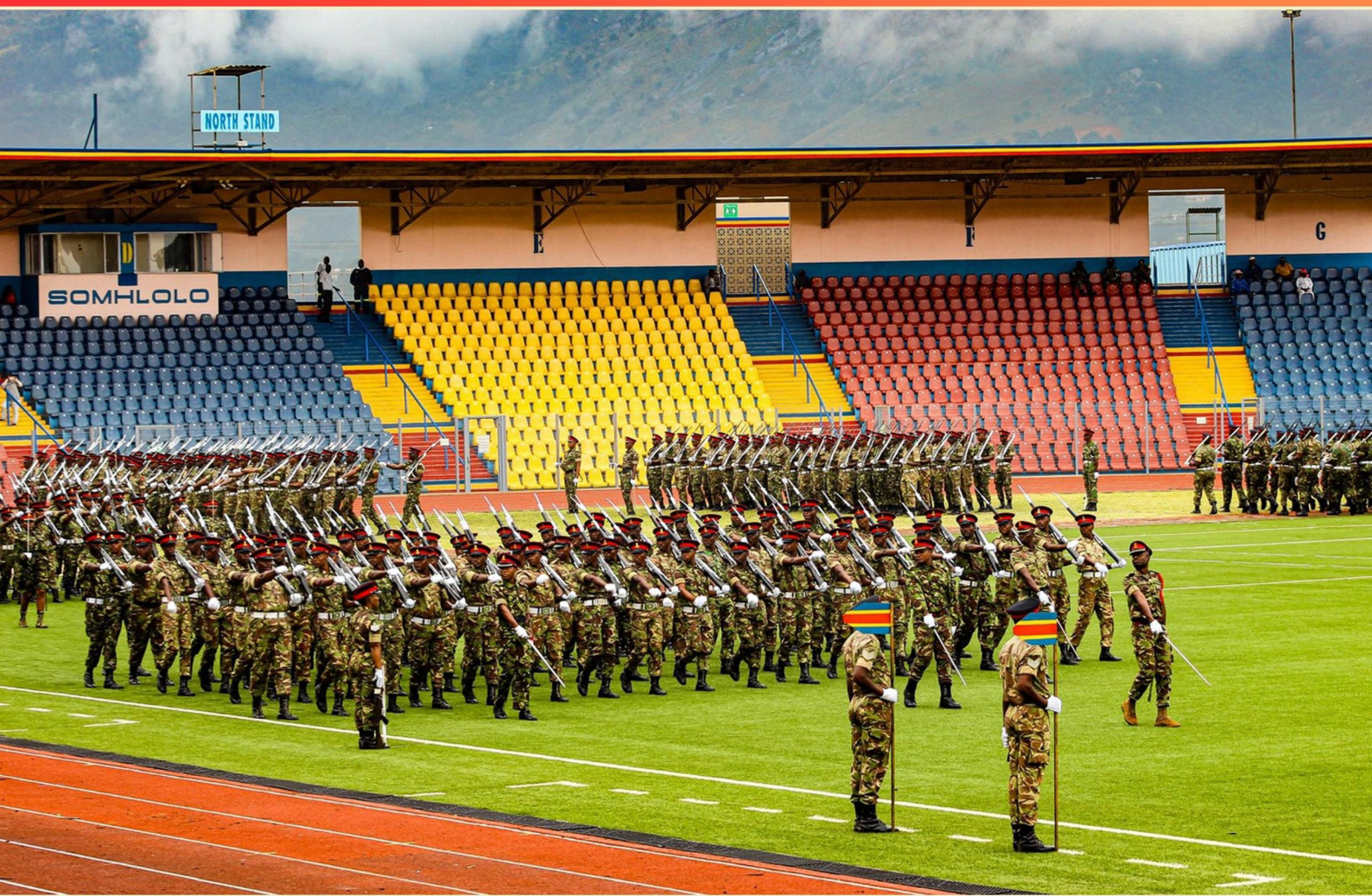


1502 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER (NCOM) AND SOLDIER OF THE MONTH (SOM) BOARD PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. What is the primary weapon system for the standard rifleman?**
 - A. M4A1 Carbine
 - B. MP5 Submachine Gun
 - C. AK-47 Assault Rifle
 - D. FN SCAR
- 2. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of an unrestricted report?**
 - A. Allows for official investigation
 - B. Notifies law enforcement
 - C. Remains anonymous
 - D. Involves chain of command notification
- 3. What is the maximum effective range for an area target with the M4A1?**
 - A. 300 meters
 - B. 600 meters
 - C. 800 meters
 - D. 1000 meters
- 4. Who is responsible for validating Company-level training?**
 - A. Company Commanders
 - B. Brigade Commanders
 - C. Battalion Commanders
 - D. Regimental Commanders
- 5. Which is one of the preparatory drills for agility and flexibility?**
 - A. Prone Row
 - B. Rear Lunge
 - C. Push Up
 - D. Plank Hold
- 6. Which color on a military map indicates man-made features such as buildings and roads?**
 - A. Black
 - B. Red
 - C. Blue
 - D. Green

7. What is the standard unit of measurement used in adjusting a weapon's sights?

- A. Millimeters
- B. Inches
- C. Yards
- D. Minute of Angle

8. What is the key focus of a Battalion CSM?

- A. Define the unit's mission
- B. Ensure soldier readiness and welfare
- C. Develop training programs
- D. Oversee logistical operations

9. What are the four levels of maintenance in the Army?

- A. Unit
- B. Repair Shop
- C. Direct Support
- D. Depot

10. 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

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary weapon system for the standard rifleman?

- A. M4A1 Carbine**
- B. MP5 Submachine Gun
- C. AK-47 Assault Rifle
- D. FN SCAR

The primary weapon system for the standard rifleman is the M4A1 Carbine. This weapon is widely used by the U.S. military due to its versatility, modular design, and reliability under various combat conditions. The M4A1 is lightweight and offers the shooter the ability to engage targets effectively at varying distances, which is crucial for a standard rifleman's role in modern combat scenarios. The M4A1 features a 5.56x45mm NATO caliber, which allows for manageable recoil and good accuracy, making it suitable for various types of engagements. Its design includes a collapsible stock and a rail system for mounting optics and accessories, enhancing the soldier's capability in the field. In contrast, while the MP5 Submachine Gun is effective in close-quarters combat, it does not have the range or versatility of the M4A1. The AK-47, though historically significant and widely recognized, is not the standard weapon for U.S. forces. The FN SCAR, while also a modern and capable weapon, is not as widely issued as the M4A1. Overall, the M4A1 Carbine meets the needs of the standard rifleman, combining firepower, precision, and adaptability.

2. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of an unrestricted report?

- A. Allows for official investigation
- B. Notifies law enforcement
- C. Remains anonymous**
- D. Involves chain of command notification

The correct answer is that remaining anonymous is not a characteristic of an unrestricted report. An unrestricted report is designed to ensure that the individual making a report of sexual assault receives all available services, including medical care and counseling, while also allowing for an official investigation to take place. This means that the information shared in an unrestricted report goes to the appropriate authorities, including law enforcement and command, and the individual is not guaranteed anonymity. In contrast, an unrestricted report actively engages the chain of command and notifies law enforcement, which is essential for following through with an investigation. While confidentiality is a priority in such cases, the nature of an unrestricted report necessitates transparency to handle the incident appropriately.

3. What is the maximum effective range for an area target with the M4A1?

- A. 300 meters
- B. 600 meters**
- C. 800 meters
- D. 1000 meters

The maximum effective range for an area target with the M4A1 is 600 meters. This figure is established based on the rifle's design and capabilities, intended for engaging targets with a relatively high degree of accuracy over that distance. The M4A1, which is a lightweight, air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine-fed carbine, is effective in both close-quarters and medium-range engagements, making 600 meters a suitable limit for area target purposes. For engaging individual targets, the effective range is reduced, typically around 500 meters, allowing for more precision when aiming at a single person-sized target. The distinctions in these ranges help soldiers understand their operational effectiveness depending on the type of engagement—area versus individual—thereby enhancing tactical planning and execution on the battlefield.

4. Who is responsible for validating Company-level training?

- A. Company Commanders
- B. Brigade Commanders**
- C. Battalion Commanders
- D. Regimental Commanders

The responsibility for validating Company-level training primarily rests with Company Commanders. They are directly in charge of their units and are tasked with ensuring that the training conducted meets the standards and objectives set forth by higher command. This includes evaluating the training plans, assessing the performance of their Soldiers, and ensuring that training is aligned with mission preparedness. Brigade Commanders oversee multiple battalions and typically focus on broader operational readiness and compliance with training requirements across several units, rather than the validation of training at the company level. Battalion Commanders support and assist Company Commanders, but the ultimate responsibility for training validation lies with the Company Commander. Regimental Commanders have a higher-level responsibility that encompasses multiple brigades and rarely engage in the specifics of company-level training validation.

5. Which is one of the preparatory drills for agility and flexibility?

- A. Prone Row
- B. Rear Lunge**
- C. Push Up
- D. Plank Hold

The rear lunge is considered a preparatory drill for agility and flexibility because it involves a movement that challenges the muscles of the legs, hips, and core while promoting balance and stability. Performing a rear lunge requires the individual to lower their body and shift their weight, which helps improve the range of motion in the hips and legs. Additionally, lunging enhances coordination and proprioception, which are critical components of agility. In the context of preparatory drills, lunging exercises, like the rear lunge, serve to activate the muscles and joints needed for more dynamic movements. This activation not only contributes to overall flexibility but also aids in preparing the body for activities that require quick direction changes and rapid movements, hence developing agility. The other options, while beneficial for strength and endurance, do not specifically target agility and flexibility in the same manner as the rear lunge. For instance, exercises like the prone row and push-up primarily focus on upper body strength, and the plank hold is geared more towards core stability rather than the dynamic flexibility and mobility that lunges provide.

6. Which color on a military map indicates man-made features such as buildings and roads?

- A. Black**
- B. Red
- C. Blue
- D. Green

The correct choice highlights that black is the color used on military maps to represent man-made features, such as buildings and roads. This convention is standard across various military mapping systems, allowing soldiers to easily identify and navigate around urban and developed areas. Understanding the color coding on maps is crucial for effective navigation, planning, and operational execution in diverse environments. The other colors have specific meanings as well; for instance, blue typically indicates water features, green represents vegetation such as forests and agricultural areas, and red often denotes important boundaries or special terrain, rather than man-made structures. Mastering these color codes is essential for accurate map reading and situational awareness in military operations.

7. What is the standard unit of measurement used in adjusting a weapon's sights?

- A. Millimeters
- B. Inches
- C. Yards

D. Minute of Angle

The standard unit of measurement used in adjusting a weapon's sights is the Minute of Angle (MOA). MOA is particularly relevant in shooting because it allows shooters to make precise adjustments to their sights for accuracy at various distances. One MOA subtends an angle of approximately one inch at 100 yards, making it easier for shooters to calculate adjustments based on their distance to the target. This precision is crucial in a military context, where accuracy can significantly impact performance and mission outcomes. Other units, such as millimeters, inches, or yards, lack the specific angular measurement useful for sight adjustments across varying distances. MOA provides a standardized method to communicate and execute these critical adjustments, ensuring consistency and accuracy in weapon handling and targeting.

8. What is the key focus of a Battalion CSM?

- A. Define the unit's mission
- B. Ensure soldier readiness and welfare**
- C. Develop training programs
- D. Oversee logistical operations

The key focus of a Battalion Command Sergeant Major (CSM) is ensuring soldier readiness and welfare. This role is crucial because the CSM acts as the senior non-commissioned officer within the battalion, directly influencing the morale, welfare, and professional development of the soldiers. By prioritizing readiness, the CSM helps to maintain high levels of training and preparedness for all personnel, which is essential for mission success. The CSM also plays a critical role in addressing the needs and concerns of soldiers and their families, fostering a supportive environment that encourages both personal and professional growth. This focus on the soldiers' well-being directly contributes to the overall effectiveness and operational capability of the battalion. While defining the unit's mission, developing training programs, and overseeing logistical operations are important responsibilities, they fall under the broader umbrella of soldier readiness and welfare. A well-prepared and supported soldier is more likely to perform effectively in these other areas, making the focus on their welfare a top priority.

9. What are the four levels of maintenance in the Army?

- A. Unit**
- B. Repair Shop
- C. Direct Support
- D. Depot

The question inquires about the four levels of maintenance in the Army, which are essential for ensuring equipment and vehicles remain operational and mission-ready. The correct answer identifies one of those levels, specifically the unit level. At the unit level, maintenance is performed by the personnel who operate the equipment. This involves routine checks, servicing, and minor repairs that can be executed on-site, ensuring that unit readiness is maintained without sending the equipment away for repairs. This level focuses on preventive maintenance and minor corrective actions that can be handled quickly to keep operations running smoothly. In addition to the unit level, the other maintenance levels include direct support, which provides more specialized support and repairs not possible at the unit level; general support, which encompasses more in-depth repair capabilities; and depot maintenance, which is the highest level of support, performed at specialized facilities where extensive repairs and overhauls can be conducted. Each of these levels plays a crucial role in the Army's maintenance strategy, ensuring equipment is functional and effective for operational demands.

10. 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.

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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