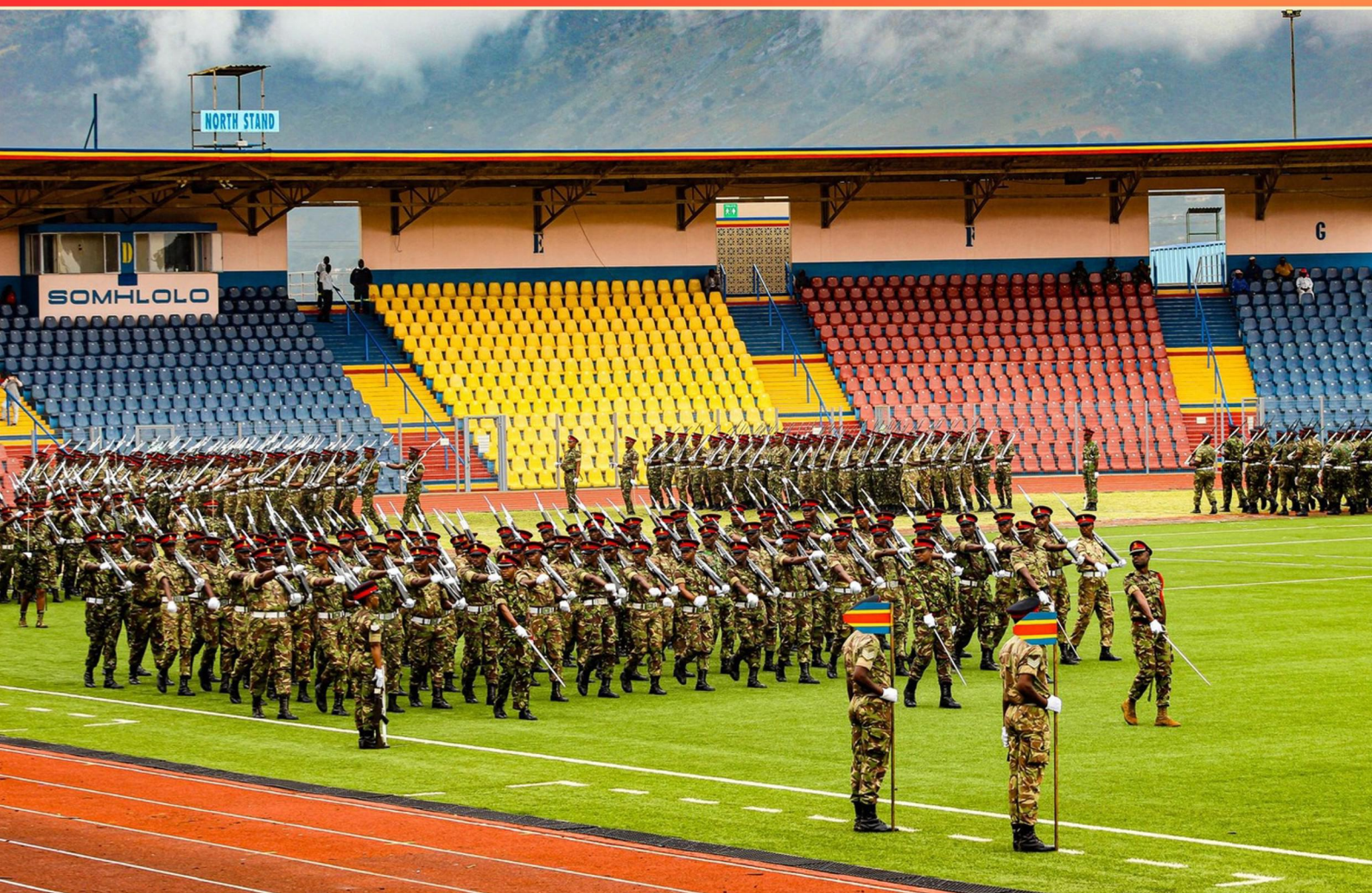


1502 NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER (NCOM) AND SOLDIER OF THE MONTH (SOM) BOARD PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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	15

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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. Where should a tourniquet be applied in relation to a wound?**
 - A. At the site of the wound
 - B. 2-4 inches above the wound
 - C. At the groin area
 - D. Anywhere on the affected limb
- 2. What can affect the requirement of a Change of Rater NCOER?**
 - A. When the rater leaves their position
 - B. When the rated NCO completes a school
 - C. When there is an evaluation pending
 - D. When a soldier is promoted
- 3. How should items worn on the uniform display team identification badges?**
 - A. Centered on the left pocket, above skill badges
 - B. Centered on the right pocket, below ribbons
 - C. Centered on the left pocket, below skill badges
 - D. Directly on the collar
- 4. How often should PMCS be conducted?**
 - A. Once a week
 - B. Every day
 - C. Monthly only
 - D. Before, during, and after operations
- 5. Which of the following is a basic step in remedial action?**
 - A. Attempt to put the weapon on safe
 - B. Fire a warning shot
 - C. Direct the team to cover
 - D. Switch to a different weapon
- 6. Which choice constitutes verbal sexual harassment?**
 - A. Making inappropriate jokes
 - B. Unwanted physical contact
 - C. Sending suggestive texts
 - D. Both making inappropriate jokes and sending suggestive texts

- 7. What does the principle of "Optimization" in H2F emphasize?**
- A. Maximizing team performance
 - B. Efficient use of resources
 - C. Improving an individual's performance to their highest potential
 - D. Standardizing training for all soldiers
- 8. Who is the Brigade Command Sergeant Major (CSM)?**
- A. CSM Del Rey
 - B. COL Stultz
 - C. MAJ Cannon
 - D. CSM Lynn
- 9. Which document covers Drill and Ceremonies?**
- A. TC 3-21.5
 - B. TC 3-22.1
 - C. FM 3-21.3
 - D. AR 600-20
- 10. When is a soldier eligible for an extended annual NCOER?**
- A. After 60 days of duty
 - B. After attending multiple schools for over 30 days
 - C. After serving with a new Rater
 - D. Every year on the soldier's birthday

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Where should a tourniquet be applied in relation to a wound?

- A. At the site of the wound
- B. 2-4 inches above the wound**
- C. At the groin area
- D. Anywhere on the affected limb

Applying a tourniquet 2-4 inches above the wound is crucial for effectively controlling severe bleeding from a limb injury. This placement helps ensure that the tourniquet can occlude the blood flow from the major arteries supplying the injured area without being applied directly over the wound itself. Direct application over the wound could interfere with assessing the injury and could lead to complications such as tissue damage due to excessive pressure, as well as potential infection risks. The 2-4 inch interval also allows for effective compression of the blood vessels while minimizing the risk of damaging soft tissue that could occur if the tourniquet were placed too close to the wound. Properly placed tourniquets are critical in emergency situations as they can significantly reduce the risk of exsanguination and improve the victim's chances of survival until further medical treatment is available. This method of application is in line with established emergency medical practices and guidelines for trauma management.

2. What can affect the requirement of a Change of Rater NCOER?

- A. When the rater leaves their position**
- B. When the rated NCO completes a school
- C. When there is an evaluation pending
- D. When a soldier is promoted

A Change of Rater NCOER (Non-Commissioned Officer Evaluation Report) is required when the rater, who is responsible for evaluating the soldier, leaves their position. This change signifies that the individual who has been providing the performance evaluation no longer holds that role, which necessitates a new evaluation to capture the soldier's performance under different leadership. The rationale behind this requirement is to ensure that evaluations are fair and reflect the soldier's performance under their immediate supervisor. While the departure of the rater implies a significant change in the evaluation process, other scenarios might not always warrant a Change of Rater NCOER. For instance, if a soldier completes a school, it typically results in an update to their qualifications but does not automatically trigger a new evaluation unless there's a change in rater. Similarly, pending evaluations or a soldier being promoted may relate to performance assessments but do not inherently require a Change of Rater NCOER unless the rater also departs the position.

3. How should items worn on the uniform display team identification badges?

- A. Centered on the left pocket, above skill badges**
- B. Centered on the right pocket, below ribbons
- C. Centered on the left pocket, below skill badges
- D. Directly on the collar

The correct placement for team identification badges on the uniform is centered on the left pocket, above skill badges. This positioning allows for a consistent and recognizable display of a service member's affiliations and achievements, adhering to the established uniform regulations. Centering the badge on the left pocket ensures that it is prominently visible, signifying important team identification while maintaining a neat appearance. By placing it above skill badges, it highlights the team affiliation as a prioritized element of the uniform recognition system. This organization is crucial for clarity in identification, as it helps others quickly understand a service member's roles and contributions without confusion. Such standardization in badge placement reinforces the professionalism and discipline expected in military attire.

4. How often should PMCS be conducted?

- A. Once a week
- B. Every day
- C. Monthly only
- D. Before, during, and after operations**

The correct answer highlights the significance of conducting Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) before, during, and after operations to ensure equipment reliability and readiness. This approach emphasizes a proactive maintenance strategy that seeks to identify and address potential issues in equipment functionality at all stages of operation. By performing checks in these timeframes, soldiers can minimize the likelihood of equipment failure, optimize performance, and maintain operational effectiveness. Conducting PMCS before operations allows personnel to identify any existing defects that could hinder mission success. During operations, continuous monitoring can help catch emerging problems that may arise from wear and use. Finally, performing checks after operations offers an opportunity to assess the equipment's condition and prepares it for subsequent tasks or maintenance requirements. This continuous maintenance philosophy ultimately reinforces the army's commitment to readiness and safety, ensuring equipment is always in the best possible condition to perform its intended functions. Other options, while they may suggest maintenance practices, do not encapsulate the comprehensive approach necessary for effective PMCS.

5. Which of the following is a basic step in remedial action?

- A. Attempt to put the weapon on safe**
- B. Fire a warning shot
- C. Direct the team to cover
- D. Switch to a different weapon

The first basic step in remedial action when a weapon malfunctions is to attempt to put the weapon on safe. This action is crucial because ensuring the weapon is safe helps prevent accidental injury to oneself or others while addressing the malfunction. By engaging the safety mechanism, the shooter can handle the weapon without the risk of firing it inadvertently while diagnosing the problem. In tactical situations, maintaining safety with a malfunctioning weapon is paramount, as it allows the individual to assess and resolve the issue without adding additional danger. This measure embodies the principle of safety first, which is essential in all firearm handling contexts. The other options, while relevant to different scenarios or aspects of managing firearm usage, do not represent the initial step in remedial action. Firing a warning shot, for instance, is not advisable in most situations as it may be considered unsafe or unnecessary. Directing the team to cover is a tactical maneuver, but it does not address the immediate need to ensure safe handling of the malfunctioning weapon. Switching to a different weapon may be a last resort but does not address the fundamental issue of safely handling the original weapon first.

6. Which choice constitutes verbal sexual harassment?

- A. Making inappropriate jokes
- B. Unwanted physical contact
- C. Sending suggestive texts
- D. Both making inappropriate jokes and sending suggestive texts**

Verbal sexual harassment includes actions that create a hostile or uncomfortable environment due to sexual content or connotations. Making inappropriate jokes fits this definition, as these jokes can demean, objectify, or sexualize individuals, thereby creating a discomforting atmosphere. Additionally, sending suggestive texts also falls under verbal sexual harassment, as these messages can be unwelcome and create feelings of intimidation or unease, particularly in a workplace or professional setting. Both behaviors contribute to an environment that is not conducive to respect and professionalism, which is why this choice combines both examples. Together, they illustrate the multifaceted nature of verbal sexual harassment, encompassing both the spoken word and other forms of communication, such as texting. Thus, the correct answer acknowledges the multifaceted approach to recognizing verbal sexual harassment.

7. What does the principle of "Optimization" in H2F emphasize?

- A. Maximizing team performance
- B. Efficient use of resources
- C. Improving an individual's performance to their highest potential**
- D. Standardizing training for all soldiers

The principle of "Optimization" in the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) framework centers on improving an individual's performance to their highest potential. This approach acknowledges that each soldier possesses unique strengths, weaknesses, and potential for growth. By focusing on optimizing individual performance, the H2F program aims to tailor training and development opportunities to meet personal needs, thereby enhancing overall effectiveness and readiness. This principle is crucial because it promotes personalized growth, ensuring that soldiers receive the necessary tools and guidance to excel in their respective roles. It allows for a more versatile and capable force, reflecting the understanding that success is built on the individual contributions of each soldier. While maximizing team performance, efficient use of resources, and standardizing training for all soldiers are important considerations in military training and operations, they do not encapsulate the essence of "Optimization" as it pertains specifically to individual improvement. The focus on individual potential and tailored development distinguishes the principle of optimization within the H2F framework.

8. Who is the Brigade Command Sergeant Major (CSM)?

- A. CSM Del Rey
- B. COL Stultz
- C. MAJ Cannon
- D. CSM Lynn**

The Brigade Command Sergeant Major (CSM) is a senior non-commissioned officer who serves as the principal advisor to the brigade commander. The CSM is responsible for the health, welfare, and training of enlisted soldiers within the brigade. The knowledge and experience brought by the CSM are essential for guiding the soldiers and ensuring the unit maintains high standards in readiness and discipline. In this instance, identifying CSM Lynn as the Brigade Command Sergeant Major indicates that he holds the specific rank and position necessary for this role. The other individuals mentioned in the choices, such as COL Stultz and MAJ Cannon, hold officer ranks and responsibilities that do not align with the role of the CSM. CSM Del Rey could potentially be a CSM in another capacity or unit but does not represent the Brigade Command Sergeant Major in this context. Therefore, CSM Lynn is correctly recognized as fulfilling the vital leadership role of Brigade Command Sergeant Major.

9. Which document covers Drill and Ceremonies?

- A. TC 3-21.5**
- B. TC 3-22.1
- C. FM 3-21.3
- D. AR 600-20

The correct choice is substantiated by the fact that TC 3-21.5 specifically addresses Drill and Ceremonies within the U.S. Army. This training circular provides comprehensive guidance on the execution of drill movements and ceremonial procedures, which are fundamental components of military training and discipline. By focusing on the structured methodology of drill techniques, the document emphasizes the importance of precision and discipline in maintaining unit cohesion and readiness. This resource is widely utilized by units to ensure that soldiers are proficient in their performance during drills and ceremonies, contributing to the overall effectiveness of military operations. Other documents mentioned, such as TC 3-22.1, FM 3-21.3, and AR 600-20, cover different aspects of Army operations and standards. For example, FM 3-21.3 deals primarily with Infantry platoon and squad operations, while AR 600-20 is focused on Army command policy, including issues related to leadership and the Army's Equal Opportunity program. Therefore, while those documents are crucial for other areas of Army training and policy, TC 3-21.5 is distinctly focused on the topic of Drill and Ceremonies.

10. When is a soldier eligible for an extended annual NCOER?

- A. After 60 days of duty
- B. After attending multiple schools for over 30 days**
- C. After serving with a new Rater
- D. Every year on the soldier's birthday

The eligibility for an extended annual NCOER (Non-Commissioned Officer Evaluation Report) is typically connected to a soldier's professional development and training. In this context, attending multiple schools for over 30 days demonstrates significant engagement in professional military education, which can justify an extended evaluation period. This option reflects the Army's recognition of the time and effort invested in furthering a soldier's skills and capabilities through educational opportunities, which can impact their performance and professional development. Extended NCOERs can provide a more comprehensive assessment of a soldier's abilities and achievements during this crucial training period, thereby facilitating career progression and ensuring that evaluation reflects their most current contributions. The other options may not meet the specific criteria set forth for an extended NCOER: - Simply serving for a minimal period, such as 60 days, does not provide enough context or substantial performance metrics to warrant an extension. - While serving with a new Rater may influence an NCOER, it does not directly align with the established criteria for an extended evaluation. - The suggestion of evaluations occurring on a soldier's birthday does not match the structured assessment cycles and does not account for the necessity of actual performance metrics over standard evaluation timelines. Thus, the correct understanding of the extended N

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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