

2-77 MQF FIRE SUPPORT TEAM (FIST) CERTIFICATION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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 spotting would you use when you suspect a round but cannot confirm its location?**
 - A. Cannot Observe
 - B. Doubtful
 - C. Over
 - D. Target
- 2. Which offensive operation is taken to develop the situation and reestablish contact?**
 - A. Exploitation
 - B. Deliberate Attack
 - C. Movement to Contact
 - D. Attack
- 3. Under conditions where PER is 38 meters or larger, you may justify calling for FFE when which bracket is split?**
 - A. 50 meter bracket
 - B. 25 meter bracket
 - C. 100 meter bracket
 - D. 200 meter bracket
- 4. Using flash-to-bang, a 20-second interval corresponds to approximately how many meters?**
 - A. 6000
 - B. 6500
 - C. 7000
 - D. 8000
- 5. Which zone is used to conceal radar acquisitions around friendly weapons to avoid friendly radar detection?**
 - A. Artillery Target Intelligence Zone
 - B. Censor Zone
 - C. Call for Fire Zone
 - D. Critical Friendly Zone

6. If target length, or length and width are given, the observer must also give _____.
- A. Radius
 - B. Depth
 - C. Attitude
 - D. Altitude
7. Occupying an observation post using SLOCTOP; Identify the item that is NOT part of L-Location.
- A. Select a position that is not sky lined or easily identifiable as an observation post
 - B. Select a position on the highest terrain in order to quickly detect enemy forces
 - C. Send the team location to the fires cell, artillery/mortar FDC, and supported maneuver organization
 - D. The team should prepare its OF fan for use and begin its terrain sketch
8. Which radar zone is an area where reporting of acquisitions is prohibited and is typically placed around friendly weapon systems to prevent detection by friendly radars?
- A. Artillery Target Intelligence Zone
 - B. Call for Fire Zone
 - C. Critical Friendly Zone
 - D. Censor Zone
9. Which term describes a person-specific target that, if neutralized, would greatly hamper enemy capabilities?
- A. High-Value Target
 - B. High-Value Individual
 - C. High-Payoff Target
 - D. High-Yield Target
10. What term describes the planning and execution of fires so targets are adequately covered by a suitable weapon or group of weapons?
- A. Fire Support Coordination
 - B. Indirect Fires Execution
 - C. Fire Support Planning
 - D. Joint Fires Coordination

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which spotting would you use when you suspect a round but cannot confirm its location?

- A. Cannot Observe
- B. Doubtful**
- C. Over
- D. Target

In spotting, you communicate how sure you are about what you've observed. When you suspect a round but can't confirm its location, you use the Doubtful status. This clearly tells the Fire Direction Center that something may have occurred near the target area, but you can't positively identify the round's impact or exact position. It allows the FDC to proceed cautiously—reacquire, adjust fire with extra checks, or request additional observations—without assuming a confirmed hit. The other options don't fit: Cannot Observe means you can't observe anything at all, which isn't the case here; Over is a radio discipline cue to end or switch transmissions; Target is about designating a location for engagement, not about expressing uncertainty of a round's position.

2. Which offensive operation is taken to develop the situation and reestablish contact?

- A. Exploitation
- B. Deliberate Attack
- C. Movement to Contact**
- D. Attack

Movement to Contact is the action used when you need to locate or reconnect with the enemy and begin shaping the situation by moving toward them to establish or reestablish contact. This type of operation focuses on discovery and momentum—finding where the enemy is, fixing their position, and seizing the initiative by getting into contact. It's exactly about developing the situation and reestablishing contact, rather than immediately striking, exploiting, or conducting a planned assault. The other options serve different ends: exploitation is about rapidly advancing after a success to disrupt the enemy, a deliberate attack is a planned, synchronized effort to defeat the foe, and an attack is a broader term for offensive action aimed at defeating the enemy. So the scenario described fits movement to contact.

3. Under conditions where PER is 38 meters or larger, you may justify calling for FFE when which bracket is split?

- A. 50 meter bracket
- B. 25 meter bracket
- C. 100 meter bracket
- D. 200 meter bracket**

Probable error range describes how far your rounds can land from the aim point due to dispersal and accuracy limitations. When PER is 38 meters or larger, that uncertainty is significant, so using small range brackets won't give you enough room to pinpoint where the target sits within the dispersion. Splitting a larger bracket gives you a way to bracket the target within a range that can still accommodate the expected error and lets you identify which subrange the target falls into. The 200 meter bracket is the only one large enough to absorb that level of dispersion and still allow an effective adjustment path. By splitting that bracket, you can determine the target's location within the larger range and then call for Fire For Effect with confidence that the firing will produce the desired impact. The smaller brackets wouldn't provide enough margin to manage a 38 meter+ PER, so they aren't suitable for justifying FFE in this scenario.

4. Using flash-to-bang, a 20-second interval corresponds to approximately how many meters?

- A. 6000
- B. 6500
- C. 7000**
- D. 8000

Flash-to-bang uses how far away lightning is by the time delay between seeing the flash and hearing the thunder. Sound travels about 343 meters in one second in air at sea level. Multiply the delay by that speed: $343 \text{ m/s} \times 20 \text{ s} \approx 6,860$ meters, which is about 6.9 kilometers. That rounds to roughly 7,000 meters, so the best estimate is about 7,000 meters. If you used a slightly different speed of sound (e.g., 340 m/s), you'd get around 6,800 meters—still near 7,000 meters.

5. Which zone is used to conceal radar acquisitions around friendly weapons to avoid friendly radar detection?

- A. Artillery Target Intelligence Zone
- B. Censor Zone**
- C. Call for Fire Zone
- D. Critical Friendly Zone

Concealing radar acquisitions around friendly weapons is achieved by designating a censor zone, a protected area where radar data is suppressed or not shared with other friendly sensors. The word censor clearly signals hiding or filtering information, which matches the goal of preventing friendly radars from detecting or tracking those acquisitions. The other zones serve different purposes: one is tied to intelligence gathering for artillery targets, another to the process of calling for fire, and the last is not a standard term for radar concealment.

6. If target length, or length and width are given, the observer must also give _____.

- A. Radius
- B. Depth
- C. Attitude**
- D. Altitude

Describing a target for fire support requires both size and orientation. Length (and width) tell you how large the target appears, but they don't indicate which way the target is facing. Attitude communicates the target's orientation—the direction its main axis is pointing relative to the reference frame. Knowing attitude lets the observer and firing unit understand which surfaces are exposed and how the target presents itself to the weapon, which can significantly affect aiming points and hit probability, especially for elongated targets. Radius and depth are alternative size descriptors that don't capture orientation, and altitude is a vertical measure not needed to complete the target's description when length or length and width are already given. So, the missing piece is attitude.

7. Occupying an observation post using SLOCTOP; Identify the item that is NOT part of L-Location.

- A. Select a position that is not sky lined or easily identifiable as an observation post
- B. Select a position on the highest terrain in order to quickly detect enemy forces**
- C. Send the team location to the fires cell, artillery/mortar FDC, and supported maneuver organization
- D. The team should prepare its OF fan for use and begin its terrain sketch

Occupying an observation post with SLOCTOP centers on placing the OP where you can observe and control fires while staying hidden and ready to communicate. The steps involve selecting a position that won't be easily spotted or silhouetted against the sky, establishing and locating the team there, preparing the observation field of fire (the OF fan) so you know your firing arcs, and drawing a terrain sketch to map key features and potential targets. Importantly, you also communicate the OP's location to the fires cell, artillery/mortar FDC, and the supported maneuver unit so they can coordinate fires. Choosing the highest terrain is not part of this process because being on high ground can reveal you more easily and doesn't guarantee the best concealment or stable observation. The other actions—avoiding a sky-lined spot, configuring the OF fan and terrain sketch, and informing the appropriate fire-support cells—are all integral to establishing a usable OP.

8. Which radar zone is an area where reporting of acquisitions is prohibited and is typically placed around friendly weapon systems to prevent detection by friendly radars?

- A. Artillery Target Intelligence Zone
- B. Call for Fire Zone
- C. Critical Friendly Zone
- D. Censor Zone**

A censor zone is a radar reporting restriction around friendly weapon systems. Its purpose is to prevent acquisition data from being reported or shared, which helps keep those assets from being detected or tracked by friendly (and potentially adversary) radar networks. In practice, this zone protects stealth and reduces radar clutter by ensuring that sensing information about the protected systems isn't broadcast or disseminated. Other zones are focused on different aspects of fire support and targeting—one is tied to intelligence gathering on targets, another to requesting fire support, and another to safety considerations for friendly forces. They don't enforce a blanket prohibition on reporting acquisitions around friendly assets, which is why the censor zone is the correct choice.

9. Which term describes a person-specific target that, if neutralized, would greatly hamper enemy capabilities?

- A. High-Value Target
- B. High-Value Individual**
- C. High-Payoff Target
- D. High-Yield Target

A person-specific target whose neutralization would greatly hamper the enemy is called a High-Value Individual. This term focuses on individuals who hold critical roles—leaders, planners, or key staff—whose removal disrupts command and control, decision-making, or essential operations, producing a disproportionately large effect on enemy capabilities. The broader term High-Value Target describes targets of significant importance in general, which can include equipment, facilities, or people, but isn't limited to a person. High-Payoff Target emphasizes the expected effect of striking a target, not specifically who is targeted. High-Yield Target isn't a standard designation in this context.

10. What term describes the planning and execution of fires so targets are adequately covered by a suitable weapon or group of weapons?

- A. Fire Support Coordination**
- B. Indirect Fires Execution
- C. Fire Support Planning
- D. Joint Fires Coordination

Fire support coordination is the process of aligning and synchronizing all fire support to ensure targets are covered by the appropriate weapon systems and effects. It combines planning and the actual execution of fires, determining which weapons will engage which targets, when, and under what conditions, so that each target receives the right coverage while keeping friendly forces safe and avoiding fratricide. This makes it the best fit for the description since it explicitly encompasses both the preparation (planning) and the moment-to-moment conduct (execution) of fires to achieve adequate target coverage. The other terms are more narrowly focused on either planning or execution, or on coordination across services, rather than the full planning-and-execution scope of fire support coverage.

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:

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

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