

5-20 Infantry Board Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. Which of the following best describes "force protection"?**
 - A. Measures taken to secure friendly forces**
 - B. Strategies to engage enemy forces**
 - C. Training exercises conducted off-site**
 - D. Logistical support systems**
- 2. Which of the following is NOT a type of NCOER?**
 - A. Annual**
 - B. Change of Rater**
 - C. Temporary Evaluation**
 - D. Relief for Cause**
- 3. What does "enemy composition" refer to in military terms?**
 - A. The morale and spirit of enemy forces**
 - B. The makeup of enemy forces regarding numbers, types, and capabilities**
 - C. The training level of enemy troops**
 - D. The logistics and supply lines of enemy units**
- 4. What does "stand-to" indicate in military readiness?**
 - A. A period of relaxation before a mission**
 - B. A state of increased readiness before an estimated attack or mission**
 - C. An order for troops to move to their barracks**
 - D. A strategy to conserve ammunition**
- 5. What is the regulation governing H2F?**
 - A. FM 7-22**
 - B. AR 600-9**
 - C. FM 5-19**
 - D. AR 670-1**
- 6. What does combined arms refer to in military operations?**
 - A. The coordination of artillery and infantry only**
 - B. The integration of different branches of forces**
 - C. The use of air support exclusively**
 - D. The deployment of auxiliary units**

- 7. What are the two ways to hold a compass?**
- A. Center hold and shoulder hold**
 - B. Compass to cheek and extended arm**
 - C. Center hold and compass to cheek**
 - D. Diagonal hold and upright hold**
- 8. What color on a map typically represents water?**
- A. Green**
 - B. Black**
 - C. Blue**
 - D. Red**
- 9. What is an appropriate action to take during a soldier's Transition Assistance Program?**
- A. Ignore their participation**
 - B. Ensure soldier is progressing over time**
 - C. Completely disallow their participation**
 - D. Encourage delays in enrollment**
- 10. How is "fire superiority" defined in military operations?**
- A. The ability to overwhelm an enemy with artillery**
 - B. The capability to prevent the enemy from effectively using fires**
 - C. The dominance in aerial combat**
 - D. The effectiveness of close combat techniques**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. Which of the following best describes "force protection"?

A. Measures taken to secure friendly forces

B. Strategies to engage enemy forces

C. Training exercises conducted off-site

D. Logistical support systems

The concept of "force protection" encompasses a variety of measures and strategies specifically designed to ensure the safety and security of military personnel, equipment, and installations from threats such as hostile actions, terrorism, and natural disasters. The primary focus is on securing friendly forces from harm. This includes physical security measures, intelligence operations, and increased situational awareness to mitigate risks to forces in the field. The other choices do not align with the primary intent of force protection. Strategies to engage enemy forces primarily relate to offensive operations, while training exercises, although important, are not focused on security measures themselves. Logistical support systems are crucial for operational effectiveness but do not specifically address the safeguarding of personnel and resources from threats. Therefore, the option that best encapsulates the meaning of "force protection" is the one that emphasizes securing friendly forces.

2. Which of the following is NOT a type of NCOER?

A. Annual

B. Change of Rater

C. Temporary Evaluation

D. Relief for Cause

The type of NCOER that is not recognized within the standard framework is the Temporary Evaluation. In the context of evaluations, NCOERs (Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports) are typically categorized into specific types that reflect different circumstances of performance assessment during an NCO's career. Annual evaluations are conducted every year to assess an NCO's overall performance within a set evaluation period. Change of Rater evaluations occur when there is a change in the supervisor responsible for reporting on the NCO's performance, thus requiring a new evaluation to capture how the NCO performed under different leadership. Relief for Cause evaluations are specific to situations where an NCO is removed from their duties due to substandard performance or misconduct, necessitating a formal report to document these circumstances. The lack of a Temporary Evaluation category indicates that evaluations are instead based on defined periods or specific circumstances as mentioned, ensuring that NCOs are given fair assessments based on consistent and established criteria.

3. What does "enemy composition" refer to in military terms?

- A. The morale and spirit of enemy forces
- B. The makeup of enemy forces regarding numbers, types, and capabilities**
- C. The training level of enemy troops
- D. The logistics and supply lines of enemy units

"Enemy composition" in military terms specifically refers to the makeup of enemy forces concerning their numbers, types, and capabilities. This includes understanding the different categories of units the enemy possesses, such as infantry, armor, artillery, and support units, as well as the quantity of each type and their overall capabilities in various roles. This information is critical for strategic planning and decision-making, as it provides insight into what kind of threats a force might face and informs tactics that can be employed in battle. Recognizing the structure and strength of enemy forces allows military leaders to assess potential strengths and weaknesses, and to plan their own operations accordingly to achieve tactical advantages. The other options address different aspects of military consideration but do not accurately define "enemy composition." Morale and spirit focus on psychological factors, training level pertains to the readiness and proficiency of troops, and logistics and supply lines relate to the operational capacity of units to sustain themselves; all of these elements contribute to overall military effectiveness but are not the definition of enemy composition itself.

4. What does "stand-to" indicate in military readiness?

- A. A period of relaxation before a mission
- B. A state of increased readiness before an estimated attack or mission**
- C. An order for troops to move to their barracks
- D. A strategy to conserve ammunition

"Stand-to" indicates a state of increased readiness before an estimated attack or mission. This term is commonly used in military contexts to signal that troops should prepare for potential engagement. The concept implies that units are positioned to react quickly to threats, ensuring that they are vigilant and ready to respond effectively in case of an enemy action or unexpected events. This period usually occurs at dawn and dusk, which are often considered times of heightened vulnerability when attacks are more likely. During "stand-to," soldiers may be required to be fully equipped and on alert, ready to defend their position or execute their orders, demonstrating a proactive approach to operational security and preparedness. The other options do not align with the term's definition; periods of relaxation, orders for movement to barracks, or strategies for ammunition conservation do not reflect the readiness and alertness that "stand-to" conveys.

5. What is the regulation governing H2F?

- A. FM 7-22**
- B. AR 600-9**
- C. FM 5-19**
- D. AR 670-1**

FM 7-22 is the regulating document that covers the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) program, which integrates physical training and health initiatives to enhance the overall fitness of soldiers. It establishes a comprehensive approach to soldier health by addressing physical fitness, nutrition, sleep, and mental resilience. This regulation outlines standard procedures, principles, and requirements for implementing H2F in a unit, aiming to optimize soldier performance and readiness. The selection of FM 7-22 as the correct response emphasizes the importance of a holistic approach to soldier health, recognizing that physical training alone is not sufficient for peak performance. Instead, the regulation incorporates a broad spectrum of health aspects, ensuring that soldiers are fit for duty not just physically, but mentally and nutritionally as well. This comprehensive framework is critical in maintaining operational readiness within the Army.

6. What does combined arms refer to in military operations?

- A. The coordination of artillery and infantry only**
- B. The integration of different branches of forces**
- C. The use of air support exclusively**
- D. The deployment of auxiliary units**

Combined arms refers to the integration of different branches of forces working together to achieve a more effective military operation. This approach combines the strengths and capabilities of various units, such as infantry, armor, artillery, and aviation, to create synergies on the battlefield. By coordinating the unique advantages of each branch, combined arms allows for a more versatile and adaptable fighting force, which can respond to a range of threats and challenges in dynamic combat scenarios. This integration enhances operational effectiveness and improves the overall effectiveness of military engagements, as each branch supports the others in achieving common objectives. The concept of combined arms emphasizes that no single type of unit can address all tactical situations effectively, thereby making the collaboration of different types of forces essential for success in military operations.

7. What are the two ways to hold a compass?

- A. Center hold and shoulder hold
- B. Compass to cheek and extended arm
- C. Center hold and compass to cheek**
- D. Diagonal hold and upright hold

Holding a compass is essential for effective navigation, and the techniques you use can greatly impact the accuracy of your readings. The correct answer highlights two specific methods: center hold and compass to cheek. In the center hold, the compass is held at the center of the body, keeping the arm close to the torso. This position stabilizes the compass and reduces the chances of parallax errors, allowing for more accurate readings by minimizing movement. It's particularly useful in situations where you need to quickly assess your bearing and location. On the other hand, the compass to cheek technique involves bringing the compass up to your cheek for alignment. This method allows for rapid and accurate sighting, as it enables the user to properly orient the compass with respect to their line of sight. It's an effective way to ensure the compass is level and aligned properly with distant landmarks when taking a bearing. These two methods are favored because they enhance the user's ability to take accurate readings while ensuring that the compass remains steady and aligned with the intended direction. Other choices list methods that may not be widely recognized or practical for accurate navigation, thereby reinforcing the significance of the techniques mentioned in the correct answer.

8. What color on a map typically represents water?

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

On maps, water bodies such as lakes, rivers, and oceans are commonly represented by the color blue. This convention is widely recognized and is used in various types of maps, including topographic and nautical charts, to distinguish water areas clearly from land features. The use of blue helps map readers quickly identify and assess the presence of water in a given area, which can be important for navigation, geographic study, and planning. This understanding of color representation is essential for interpreting maps effectively in various contexts, including military operations, environmental assessments, and geographical education.

9. What is an appropriate action to take during a soldier's Transition Assistance Program?

- A. Ignore their participation**
- B. Ensure soldier is progressing over time**
- C. Completely disallow their participation**
- D. Encourage delays in enrollment**

The appropriate action during a soldier's Transition Assistance Program is to ensure that the soldier is progressing over time. This program is designed to assist transitioning soldiers in their adjustment to civilian life, which includes finding employment, education opportunities, and understanding their benefits. Regularly assessing and supporting the soldier's progress helps ensure that they are effectively utilizing the resources available to them and are on track to meet their goals. Progress monitoring can help identify any barriers the soldier may be facing and allow for timely interventions or additional support. Supporting their journey in this manner fosters a successful transition and helps develop a sense of confidence and readiness for life after military service. It is crucial to show engagement with their experience, making the process more beneficial for the soldier as they seek to integrate into civilian society.

10. How is "fire superiority" defined in military operations?

- A. The ability to overwhelm an enemy with artillery**
- B. The capability to prevent the enemy from effectively using fires**
- C. The dominance in aerial combat**
- D. The effectiveness of close combat techniques**

Fire superiority in military operations is defined as the capability to prevent the enemy from effectively using their own firepower while maintaining the ability to deliver your own fire onto the enemy. This concept focuses not only on the volume of fire delivered but also on the ability to control the battlefield and deny the enemy the chance to respond effectively. By achieving fire superiority, a unit can operate with less risk and greater freedom to maneuver, leading to improved combat effectiveness. The other options do not adequately capture this strategic definition. Overwhelming an enemy with artillery might suggest a focus on quantity but does not address the overall control over the enemy's ability to return fire. Dominance in aerial combat refers specifically to air power, which does not encompass all fire capabilities across land and sea. Finally, the effectiveness of close combat techniques is important but relates more to ground engagement rather than the broader concept of fire superiority. Thus, the correct understanding of fire superiority emphasizes the suppression of the enemy's fire capabilities while maintaining one's own.

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://520infantryboard.examzify.com>

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