

ALS Enlisted Warfighter Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What is emphasized in the preparation phase of AFFORGEN?**
 - A. Mission planning**
 - B. Operational deployment**
 - C. Advanced training**
 - D. Maintenance procedures**
- 2. What are the two distinct chains of command within military operations?**
 - A. Operational and Tactical**
 - B. Operational and Administrative**
 - C. Command and Control**
 - D. Strategic and Tactical**
- 3. Which national challenge is prioritized in the Indo-Pacific according to the National Defense Strategy?**
 - A. Economic challenge from the EU**
 - B. Cyber challenge from Russia**
 - C. Military challenge from PRC**
 - D. Environmental challenge from nations**
- 4. Which type of warfare involves the use of conventional forces like infantry and naval vessels?**
 - A. Irregular Warfare**
 - B. Hybrid Warfare**
 - C. Conventional Warfare**
 - D. Cyber Warfare**
- 5. What is the deliberate process for determining how military capabilities will be utilized in time and space to achieve objectives?**
 - A. Joint Planning**
 - B. Interagency Coordination**
 - C. Mission Strategy**
 - D. Operational Execution**

- 6. Which principle helps in understanding the objectives and enhances the effectiveness of operations under a single commander?**
- A. Joint Command**
 - B. Unity of Command**
 - C. Operational Coordination**
 - D. Joint Efforts**
- 7. Which military branch is tasked with space-based communication, surveillance, and missile warning?**
- A. Army**
 - B. Navy**
 - C. Space Force**
 - D. Coast Guard**
- 8. What enables freedom of action and decision advantage in Agile Combat Employment (ACE)?**
- A. Centralized control AND Commanders Intent**
 - B. Decentralized command AND Commanders Intent**
 - C. Controlled freedom AND Centralized decisions**
 - D. Decentralization AND Authority delegation**
- 9. What do the instruments of national power also refer to as?**
- A. DIME-FIL**
 - B. WAR-FIGHT**
 - C. NAVAL STRATEGY**
 - D. MILITARY OPTIONS**
- 10. Which level of warfare involves integrating national policy decisions?**
- A. Tactical**
 - B. Operational**
 - C. Strategic**
 - D. Administrative**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is emphasized in the preparation phase of AFFORGEN?

- A. Mission planning**
- B. Operational deployment**
- C. Advanced training**
- D. Maintenance procedures**

The preparation phase of AFFORGEN (AF Force Generation) primarily emphasizes advanced training. This phase is crucial for ensuring that personnel are adequately prepared to meet the demands of future operational scenarios. Advanced training involves rigorous exercises and simulations that enhance the readiness levels of the forces. It focuses on instilling the necessary skills and ensuring that troops can effectively execute their designated missions when called upon. During this phase, units engage in collective training exercises that are designed to replicate potential real-world situations they may face during deployment. This not only builds unit cohesion but also helps in identifying potential gaps in skills that need to be addressed. The importance of advanced training cannot be overstated, as it contributes significantly to operational effectiveness and ultimately to mission success. While mission planning, operational deployment, and maintenance procedures are important components of military readiness and logistics, they do not take precedence in the preparation phase of AFFORGEN. The primary goal during this phase is to enhance capabilities through training, which sets the foundation for all subsequent actions that follow before deployment.

2. What are the two distinct chains of command within military operations?

- A. Operational and Tactical**
- B. Operational and Administrative**
- C. Command and Control**
- D. Strategic and Tactical**

The correct option identifies the two distinct chains of command within military operations as Operational and Administrative. The Operational chain of command focuses on the planning and execution of military operations. This involves the command structure that directs forces in carrying out missions, operational readiness, and the movement and deployment of troops. The emphasis here is on achieving specific operational objectives and ensuring effective execution of combat operations. On the other hand, the Administrative chain of command handles support functions that are essential to keeping the military effective but are not directly tied to operational missions. This includes personnel management, logistics, resource allocation, training, and welfare of service members. The administrative chain ensures that forces are properly equipped, staffed, trained, and maintained, allowing the operational chain to function efficiently. Together, these two chains of command ensure that military operations are both effective in the field and sustainable in the long term, addressing both the immediate needs on the battlefield and the broader strategic goals of military readiness and support.

3. Which national challenge is prioritized in the Indo-Pacific according to the National Defense Strategy?

- A. Economic challenge from the EU**
- B. Cyber challenge from Russia**
- C. Military challenge from PRC**
- D. Environmental challenge from nations**

The national challenge prioritized in the Indo-Pacific, according to the National Defense Strategy, is the military challenge posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC). This focus reflects the strategic recognition that the PRC's growing military capabilities and assertive actions in the region, including territorial claims and military expansion, pose significant risks to U.S. interests and regional stability. The emphasis on the military challenge highlights not only the need to counter potential aggression from China but also underscores the importance of strengthening alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific to ensure a free and open region. This strategic priority is part of a broader approach to manage competition with great powers and to enhance deterrence. In contrast, the other options do not align with the specific focus of the National Defense Strategy regarding the Indo-Pacific. While all various challenges such as those from other nations exist, the military posture and actions of the PRC have been singled out as the foremost concern in this context.

4. Which type of warfare involves the use of conventional forces like infantry and naval vessels?

- A. Irregular Warfare**
- B. Hybrid Warfare**
- C. Conventional Warfare**
- D. Cyber Warfare**

Conventional warfare is characterized by the use of regular military forces, such as infantry and naval vessels, engaging in direct, organized military conflict against an enemy force. This type of warfare typically adheres to traditional battlefield norms and rules of engagement, focusing on the application of military power to achieve strategic objectives. It emphasizes the use of conventional weapons and formations, as opposed to unconventional tactics or asymmetric engagements. The key aspect of conventional warfare is the reliance on structured and uniform military units that operate following established codes and doctrines. This includes the strategic use of land, air, and maritime forces, showcasing the organized nature of military operations. Understanding this concept is essential for comprehending how different military conflicts are approached and managed, right from state-on-state engagements to historical battles that shaped military doctrine. In contrast, irregular warfare primarily involves non-state actors who may use guerilla tactics, terrorism, and other unconventional methods. Hybrid warfare combines elements of both conventional and irregular approaches, often blurring the lines between traditional military engagements and asymmetric conflicts. Cyber warfare focuses on attacks against information systems, without direct physical combat, emphasizing the growing importance of digital domains in modern conflict. Thus, the unique characteristics of conventional warfare distinctly set it apart from the other types mentioned.

5. What is the deliberate process for determining how military capabilities will be utilized in time and space to achieve objectives?

A. Joint Planning

B. Interagency Coordination

C. Mission Strategy

D. Operational Execution

The correct answer is the process referred to as Joint Planning. This entails a systematic and collaborative effort among different branches of the military and related agencies to effectively coordinate and synchronize actions in a way that aligns with specific objectives, considering both the operational environment and the timing of deployment. Joint Planning is crucial in accomplishing military goals because it allows for the integration of varying capabilities from multiple agencies, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and effectively. This process focuses on understanding the broader operational context, determining communication strategies, and plotting courses of action that leverage military assets to achieve desired outcomes. In contrast, the other options focus on different areas. Interagency Coordination refers to the collaboration among various governmental agencies outside the military, and while it is essential for holistic operations, it does not specifically address the planning of military capabilities in time and space. Mission Strategy is more about the overarching approach or philosophy for a specific military task rather than the detailed procedural aspects of planning capabilities. Operational Execution, on the other hand, implies carrying out the plans established during Joint Planning, but does not encompass the detailed assessment and decision-making process that precedes execution.

6. Which principle helps in understanding the objectives and enhances the effectiveness of operations under a single commander?

A. Joint Command

B. Unity of Command

C. Operational Coordination

D. Joint Efforts

Unity of Command is a fundamental principle that reinforces the effectiveness and coherence of military operations under a single commander. This principle establishes that there should be one responsible commander for each operation, ensuring all forces are working towards the same objectives without confusion or conflicting directives. When a single commander has authority over all resources and troops involved in an operation, it streamlines communication, fosters clear decision-making, and enhances coordination among units. This singular leadership structure is crucial for maintaining operational focus and efficiency. Furthermore, it helps to mitigate the risks associated with misunderstandings and fragmentation of command that can occur in multi-unit or multinational operations. The other principles such as Joint Command, Operational Coordination, and Joint Efforts, while important, do not emphasize the single authority aspect as directly as Unity of Command does. Instead, they address aspects like collaboration across services or operational integration, which are indeed vital for comprehensive military strategy but do not inherently provide the clarity of command structure that is essential for mission success.

7. Which military branch is tasked with space-based communication, surveillance, and missile warning?

- A. Army
- B. Navy
- C. Space Force**
- D. Coast Guard

The Space Force is the military branch specifically designated to manage and operate space-based capabilities, including communication, surveillance, and missile warning systems. This branch was established to address the growing importance of space in military operations and to ensure the U.S. maintains an edge in space capabilities. The Space Force works on various satellites and technologies that enable secure communications across vast distances, conduct surveillance of potential threats in space, and provide early warning systems for missile launches. Its focus on these crucial areas underscores the strategic role that space plays in contemporary military engagements. In contrast, other military branches like the Army, Navy, and Coast Guard have distinct roles that do not primarily focus on space operations. While they may utilize space-based systems, their core responsibilities revolve around land, sea, and coastal missions respectively. Hence, the unique designation of the Space Force for these critical functions makes it the correct answer.

8. What enables freedom of action and decision advantage in Agile Combat Employment (ACE)?

- A. Centralized control AND Commanders Intent
- B. Decentralized command AND Commanders Intent**
- C. Controlled freedom AND Centralized decisions
- D. Decentralization AND Authority delegation

The concept of Agile Combat Employment (ACE) revolves around enhancing the flexibility and responsiveness of military operations in a dynamic battlefield environment. The principal factor that enables freedom of action and decision advantage within ACE is the combination of decentralized command and commander's intent. Decentralized command empowers subordinate leaders to make decisions based on the tactical situation at hand, leading to faster and more effective responses to emerging threats and opportunities. This approach allows units to operate more autonomously, adapting quickly to real-time conditions without waiting for directions from higher echelons. Commander's intent plays a crucial role in this framework by providing a clear understanding of the overall objectives and desired outcomes. Even though decisions are made at lower levels, the intent ensures that all actions remain aligned with the broader mission goals. This balance between decentralized command and a strong commander's intent fosters an operational environment where commanders can maintain agility while retaining a cohesive strategic approach. The other options, while incorporating relevant themes of command structure and decision-making, do not encapsulate the essence of ACE as effectively as the combination of decentralized command and commander's intent. Centralized control, for instance, would inhibit the freedom of action that is central to ACE, and controlled freedom alongside centralized decisions could stifle the needed agility. Similarly

9. What do the instruments of national power also refer to as?

A. DIME-FIL

B. WAR-FIGHT

C. NAVAL STRATEGY

D. MILITARY OPTIONS

The instruments of national power are often referred to as DIME-FIL, which stands for Diplomacy, Information, Military, and Economic, along with their respective functional categories: Financial, Intelligence, and Law Enforcement. This acronym encapsulates the various means through which a nation can exert influence and achieve its objectives on the global stage. Each component plays a vital role in formulating strategies that leverage a country's strengths while addressing challenges. Diplomacy covers the non-violent means of influencing other countries through negotiations and alliances. Information encompasses the dissemination of ideas and the shaping of public perception. Military refers to the use of armed forces to protect national interests and respond to threats, while Economic focuses on utilizing economic tools, such as trade policies and sanctions, to achieve national goals. The additional categories under FIL—Financial, Intelligence, and Law enforcement—further extend the scope of national power by addressing financial resources, intelligence operations, and enforcement mechanisms that support global and domestic stability. Understanding DIME-FIL is crucial for military strategists and policymakers in crafting comprehensive and effective national security strategies.

10. Which level of warfare involves integrating national policy decisions?

A. Tactical

B. Operational

C. Strategic

D. Administrative

The level of warfare that involves integrating national policy decisions is strategic warfare. This level is focused on the overarching goals and policies of a nation and the way military operations are designed to support these goals. Strategic warfare encompasses long-term planning, resource allocation, and the broader implications of military actions on national and international stability and security. In this context, strategic warfare is concerned with how military capabilities align with political objectives, ensuring that military actions are not only effective in a battlefield sense but also complementary to the larger vision of a nation's interests and policy. This alignment allows for coordinated efforts across various elements of national power, including diplomacy, economics, and military force, enhancing overall national security. The operational level deals with the planning and execution of campaigns to achieve strategic objectives, while the tactical level focuses on the specifics of engagements and battles. Administrative does not pertain directly to warfare but instead involves management and logistics, which support military operations but do not integrate national policy decisions. Thus, strategic warfare is essential for ensuring that military actions are intentional and aligned with national objectives.