

ALS Military Studies Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 geographic combatant command is responsible for the North American region?**
 - A. USNORTHCOM**
 - B. USSOUTHCOM**
 - C. USEUCOM**
 - D. INDOPACOM**

- 2. Which geographic combatant command is responsible for Europe?**
 - A. USEUCOM**
 - B. USCENTCOM**
 - C. USNORTHCOM**
 - D. INDOPACOM**

- 3. Which geographic combatant command covers the Southern region?**
 - A. USSOUTHCOM**
 - B. INDOPACOM**
 - C. USNORTHCOM**
 - D. USEUCOM**

- 4. Which term best describes the overall objective of integrating military power with other national instruments?**
 - A. Whole government approach**
 - B. Single-issue focus**
 - C. Uncoordinated strategy**
 - D. Offensive-only posture**

- 5. What does A3 stand for?**
 - A. Air, Space & Information Operations**
 - B. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance**
 - C. Logistics**
 - D. Manpower, Personnel, and Services**

- 6. Which level serves as the bridge between strategy and tactics by conducting campaigns and operations?**
- A. Strategic Warfare**
 - B. Operational Warfare**
 - C. Tactical Warfare**
 - D. Nuclear Task Force**
- 7. Detaining criminals and terrorists uses which national instrument?**
- A. Diplomatic**
 - B. Law Enforcement**
 - C. Financial**
 - D. Military**
- 8. Which level would be involved in battles and engagements to achieve military objectives?**
- A. Tactical Warfare**
 - B. Strategic Warfare**
 - C. Operational Warfare**
 - D. Nuclear Task Force**
- 9. Which statement is the first Principle of Mission Command?**
- A. Provide clear CC's intent**
 - B. Create shared understanding**
 - C. Exercise Disciplined Initiative**
 - D. Accept prudent risk**
- 10. Which role is explicitly listed as controlling the Administrative Branch?**
- A. President of the United States, Secretary of Defense/Chairman**
 - B. The Combatant Commanders**
 - C. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**
 - D. The Director of National Intelligence**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which geographic combatant command is responsible for the North American region?

- A. USNORTHCOM**
- B. USSOUTHCOM**
- C. USEUCOM**
- D. INDOPACOM**

Geographic combatant commands are assigned specific regions, and the one charged with North America is United States Northern Command. Its mission centers on homeland defense and civil support within the North American area, coordinating military relief and security efforts to protect the continent. The other commands handle their own regions: Southern Command covers Central and South America and the Caribbean; European Command covers Europe; and Indo-Pacific Command covers the Indo-Pacific region. So for North America, the responsible command is United States Northern Command.

2. Which geographic combatant command is responsible for Europe?

- A. USEUCOM**
- B. USCENTCOM**
- C. USNORTHCOM**
- D. INDOPACOM**

Geographic combatant commands are organized by region, with each command responsible for planning and conducting operations within its designated area. Europe falls under United States European Command, which maps to security and military activities across that continent and works with European allies, including NATO, to address regional priorities. The other commands focus on different regions: CENTCOM handles the Middle East and parts of Central Asia, NORTHCOM covers North America, and INDOPACOM oversees the Indo-Pacific. So for Europe, the command charged with that region is United States European Command.

3. Which geographic combatant command covers the Southern region?

- A. USSOUTHCOM**
- B. INDOPACOM**
- C. USNORTHCOM**
- D. USEUCOM**

Geographic combatant commands are organized by area of responsibility, with each command focused on a specific region. The Southern region of the Americas—the Central and South American countries plus the Caribbean—is covered by United States Southern Command. This command is responsible for planning, operations, and security cooperation in that area, including disaster response and counterdrug efforts. The other commands administer different parts of the world: INDOPACOM for the Indo-Pacific, USNORTHCOM for North America, and USEUCOM for Europe and parts of Africa and the Middle East. Therefore, SOUTHCOM is the command that corresponds to the Southern region.

4. Which term best describes the overall objective of integrating military power with other national instruments?

A. Whole government approach

B. Single-issue focus

C. Uncoordinated strategy

D. Offensive-only posture

Integrating military power with other national instruments is best described by a whole-of-government approach. This idea centers on using all parts of the state—military, diplomacy, economics, development, intelligence—in a coordinated, synchronized way to pursue a single national objective. It's about aligning what you want to achieve (ends) with how you will do it (ways) and the tools you have (means) across different government agencies, so their efforts reinforce each other rather than compete or duplicate. In practice, this means crisis response, policy planning, and operations are designed with a unified plan: diplomatic outreach, economic measures, development efforts, information efforts, and, if necessary, military action all coordinated under one strategy. The goal is to maximize overall effectiveness by ensuring every instrument of national power supports the same outcome. The other options don't fit because they describe fragmented or narrow approaches. A single-issue focus concentrates on one domain and leaves others out of the calculation. An uncoordinated strategy lacks the necessary synchronization, leading to mixed messages or wasted efforts. An offensive-only posture ignores the nonmilitary tools that often determine whether an objective is achievable and sustainable.

5. What does A3 stand for?

A. Air, Space & Information Operations

B. Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance

C. Logistics

D. Manpower, Personnel, and Services

The important idea here is that A3 refers to the operations-focused directorate within Air Force/Space Force-style staffs, and its title explicitly covers the domains it commands in modern warfare: air, space, and information operations. This directorate handles the planning and execution of operational activities across those domains, coordinating how airpower, space assets, and information-enabled capabilities come together in missions. That cross-domain emphasis is why the designation is written as Air, Space & Information Operations. The other areas are handled by different staff sections: intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance falls under the intelligence directorate; logistics is the logistics directorate; and manpower, personnel, and services are the personnel directorate.

6. Which level serves as the bridge between strategy and tactics by conducting campaigns and operations?

- A. Strategic Warfare**
- B. Operational Warfare**
- C. Tactical Warfare**
- D. Nuclear Task Force**

The level that connects strategy to tactics is the operational level. It takes the broad ends and ways defined by strategy and translates them into campaigns and major operations designed to achieve those ends. This involves planning how to stage and sequence actions across a theater or area of operations, coordinating forces, logistics, intelligence, and timing to create a sustained tempo that shapes the battlefield and ultimately the strategic outcome. Within campaigns, a series of linked operations are designed to produce effects larger than any single battle, moving toward the objective set by strategic goals. The tactical level handles the individual battles and engagements inside those operations, while the strategic level addresses long-term policy and overall aims. A nuclear task force isn't a standard level of warfare.

7. Detaining criminals and terrorists uses which national instrument?

- A. Diplomatic**
- B. Law Enforcement**
- C. Financial**
- D. Military**

Detaining criminals and terrorists falls under law enforcement. Police and other law enforcement agencies are empowered by statute to arrest suspects, hold them for investigation, and process them through the criminal justice system, including due process protections and evidence-based prosecutions. This use of policing powers—arrests, detentions, investigations, and courtroom handovers—defines the appropriate national instrument for handling criminal and terrorist detentions. Diplomatic tools involve negotiations with other states, financial tools focus on funding and sanctions, and the military handles defense and armed conflict; while the military may assist in extraordinary security operations, the routine detention of criminals and terrorists is a law enforcement function governed by criminal law and the judiciary.

8. Which level would be involved in battles and engagements to achieve military objectives?

- A. Tactical Warfare**
- B. Strategic Warfare**
- C. Operational Warfare**
- D. Nuclear Task Force**

Battles and engagements to achieve specific battlefield objectives happen at the tactical level. This level covers direct combat actions by units—infantry, armor, artillery, and supporting arms—focused on winning the immediate fight, seizing or holding terrain, and defeating enemy forces in a defined area. Those direct actions are the building blocks that contribute to larger operations and campaigns, which in turn connect to strategic aims. The strategic level deals with broad policy, national goals, resources, and long-term aims, while the operational level links multiple battles into campaigns and major operations to achieve those ends. A Nuclear Task Force is not a level of warfare; it's a type of force, not a level of warfare hierarchy.

9. Which statement is the first Principle of Mission Command?

- A. Provide clear CC's intent**
- B. Create shared understanding**
- C. Exercise Disciplined Initiative**
- D. Accept prudent risk**

The main idea being tested is how mission command relies on a clearly communicated commander's intent to enable agile action in uncertain situations. Providing a clear commander's intent is the foundational driver of how subordinates know what must be achieved and why, even when specific steps aren't scripted. By articulating the purpose, the desired end state, and the essential tasks that must be accomplished, the leader creates a mental picture of success. This clarity lets teams exercise disciplined initiative, because individuals can make decisions and act within the boundaries of the intended outcome rather than waiting for further orders. Think of intent as the compass that guides all actions. When everyone understands what success looks like and what is non-negotiable, they can adapt to changing circumstances, exploit opportunities, and stay aligned with the larger goal. Creating shared understanding is vital as a follow-on effect—it ensures everyone orients in the same direction—but it hinges on having a well-communicated intent in the first place. The other principles—encouraging initiative, accepting prudent risk, and building understanding—support and expand on that foundation, but without a clear commander's intent, those actions can drift off course.

10. Which role is explicitly listed as controlling the Administrative Branch?

A. President of the United States, Secretary of Defense/Chairman

B. The Combatant Commanders

C. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

D. The Director of National Intelligence

Civilian control over the armed forces rests with the President and the Department of Defense. The President, as Commander in Chief, holds the ultimate authority over military matters, while the Secretary of Defense is responsible for the administrative running of the Department of Defense. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the senior military adviser, not the administrator over the branch. Combatant Commanders have operational control of forces, not administrative control, and the Director of National Intelligence heads the intelligence community, not military administration. So the roles that are explicitly tied to controlling the Administrative Branch are the President and the civilian-military leadership within the DoD (Secretary of Defense, with the Chairman as the senior adviser).

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://alsmilitarystudies.examzify.com>

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

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