

Army Training Publication (ATP) 3-21.8: Infantry Platoon and Squads 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. What is the role of the medic in an infantry squad?**
 - A. To provide logistics and supply support**
 - B. To provide medical care and assist with casualty evacuation**
 - C. To lead the unit in combat maneuver planning**
 - D. To conduct reconnaissance missions**

- 2. Which offensive task typically follows a successful attack?**
 - A. Pursuit**
 - B. Exploitation**
 - C. Movement to Contact**
 - D. Disruption**

- 3. Where should a Platoon Leader place themselves to effectively support the mission?**
 - A. Where they can observe all squad actions**
 - B. In the safest location away from combat**
 - C. Where they are most needed to accomplish the mission**
 - D. At the command center for better communication**

- 4. Why is it important for a platoon to modify tactics as necessary?**
 - A. To maintain constant movement**
 - B. To exploit opportunities and counter threats effectively**
 - C. To follow outdated strategies**
 - D. To ensure superior firepower**

- 5. Which of the following best describes the term 'combined arms' in infantry operations?**
 - A. The use of multiple logistic units to support infantry**
 - B. The integration of various military branches to achieve operational success**
 - C. The coordination of communication systems in the field**
 - D. The deployment of troops with similar equipment types**

6. Which warfighting function is critical for delivering indirect fire support in military operations?

- A. Fires**
- B. Intelligence**
- C. Movement and Maneuver**
- D. Protection**

7. What factors determine the placement of supports during an attack?

- A. Availability of personnel**
- B. Weather conditions**
- C. Capability to deliver effective fire and flexibility**
- D. Enemy weapons system locations**

8. What is the goal of executing a movement under fire?

- A. To retreat to a safer location**
- B. To safely maneuver while suppressing enemy fire and reducing exposure**
- C. To regroup with other units**
- D. To flank the enemy position**

9. What is the final step of the offense?

- A. Maneuver**
- B. Follow through**
- C. Disrupt the enemy**
- D. Gain and maintain enemy contact**

10. What is the kill radius of a 120mm HE round?

- A. 20m**
- B. 40m**
- C. 60m**
- D. 80m**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the role of the medic in an infantry squad?

- A. To provide logistics and supply support**
- B. To provide medical care and assist with casualty evacuation**
- C. To lead the unit in combat maneuver planning**
- D. To conduct reconnaissance missions**

The role of the medic in an infantry squad primarily focuses on providing medical care and assisting with casualty evacuation. Medics are trained to handle medical emergencies, perform first aid, and stabilize injured personnel in the field, ensuring that soldiers receive the necessary care as quickly as possible. In the chaos of combat, where time and conditions can be critical, the medic's ability to provide immediate medical intervention can significantly affect the survival and recovery of injured soldiers. Additionally, they coordinate the evacuation of casualties to higher medical care facilities, ensuring that these soldiers get the treatment they need beyond the immediate battlefield. In contrast, the other roles outlined do not align with the primary responsibilities of the medic. Providing logistics and supply support involves managing equipment and resources necessary for the unit's operations, which is not part of a medic's duties. Leading the unit in combat maneuver planning is typically the responsibility of the squad leader, focused on tactical strategies and mission execution. Conducting reconnaissance missions is generally assigned to designated scout roles within a unit aimed at gathering intelligence and assessing enemy positions. Each of these roles serves a vital purpose but does not encompass the essential responsibilities of a medic in ensuring the health and safety of squad members on the battlefield.

2. Which offensive task typically follows a successful attack?

- A. Pursuit**
- B. Exploitation**
- C. Movement to Contact**
- D. Disruption**

The offensive task that typically follows a successful attack is exploitation. Once an attack has successfully breached the enemy's defenses or achieved a specific objective, exploitation is the phase where forces aim to capitalize on the success by rapidly moving deeper into enemy territory. The idea is to take advantage of disorganized enemy units, create confusion, and seize opportunities to disrupt the enemy's overall defense, forcing them into a retreat or further disarray. Exploitation focuses on maintaining momentum and can involve advancing into areas that may have been poorly defended as a result of the enemy's shock from the initial attack. This phase is critical as it seeks to extend the battlefield advantages gained during the successful attack, allowing for the potential capture of key terrain, resources, or enemy personnel. Understanding the flow of offensive operations is essential in military strategy, where each phase builds upon the previous one. In this context, exploitation serves as a crucial follow-up to ensure that the initiative is retained and that the enemy's ability to regroup and respond is diminished.

3. Where should a Platoon Leader place themselves to effectively support the mission?

- A. Where they can observe all squad actions
- B. In the safest location away from combat
- C. Where they are most needed to accomplish the mission**
- D. At the command center for better communication

The most effective placement of a Platoon Leader is where they are most needed to accomplish the mission because this ensures that they can provide immediate support, guidance, and decision-making in response to dynamic battlefield situations. By being positioned at the critical point of need, the Leader can assess the situation first-hand, understand the strengths and weaknesses of their units, and make informed decisions that directly impact the outcome of the mission. This placement allows for a more efficient allocation of resources and personnel, ensuring that units are supported and directed effectively. It also fosters better communication with soldiers engaged in combat, allowing the Leader to understand their challenges and adapt plans as necessary. Being in the right place at the right time is crucial for leadership effectiveness in the field. Other positions, while they may have some advantages, do not offer the same level of direct influence on mission success. For instance, observing all squad actions could limit the Leader's ability to respond quickly to changing circumstances, while a safest location away from conflict would hinder effective command. Being at the command center may enhance communication, but it disconnects the Leader from the realities faced on the ground, which can severely limit their effectiveness in leading troops.

4. Why is it important for a platoon to modify tactics as necessary?

- A. To maintain constant movement
- B. To exploit opportunities and counter threats effectively**
- C. To follow outdated strategies
- D. To ensure superior firepower

A platoon must modify tactics as necessary primarily to exploit opportunities and counter threats effectively. The battlefield is dynamic; conditions can change quickly due to various factors such as enemy movements, terrain, weather, and unforeseen circumstances. By adapting their tactics, a platoon can seize advantageous situations that arise, such as unexpected vulnerabilities in the enemy's formation, while also ensuring that they respond appropriately to emerging threats that could compromise their objectives. This flexibility is essential for maintaining tactical superiority, as rigid adherence to a fixed plan can lead to missed opportunities and heightened risk in the face of new challenges. Effective modification of tactics empowers the unit to remain responsive and strategic, positioning them to achieve their mission objectives while minimizing exposure to danger. In contrast, constant movement, while important, is not the primary reason for tactical modification; the right timing and context dictate when and how movement should occur. Following outdated strategies undermines strategic effectiveness, and simply ensuring superior firepower does not guarantee success in a fluid situation without the ability to adapt. Thus, the ability to adjust tactics is critical for operational success in combat scenarios.

5. Which of the following best describes the term 'combined arms' in infantry operations?

- A. The use of multiple logistic units to support infantry**
- B. The integration of various military branches to achieve operational success**
- C. The coordination of communication systems in the field**
- D. The deployment of troops with similar equipment types**

The term 'combined arms' in infantry operations specifically refers to the integration of various military branches, such as infantry, armor, artillery, and aviation, to achieve operational success. This concept is essential as it maximizes the combat power of a force by ensuring that the strengths of one branch can complement the weaknesses of another. By effectively coordinating different elements of combat power, units can create synergies on the battlefield that lead to more effective and versatile operations. In practical terms, combined arms operations allow for a more flexible and adaptive approach to combat, where units can provide mutual support and cover each other's vulnerabilities. This concept is critical for executing complex missions and achieving objectives against a variety of threats. The coordination of diverse capabilities also enhances situational awareness and can significantly improve the effectiveness of a unit's overall strategy.

6. Which warfighting function is critical for delivering indirect fire support in military operations?

- A. Fires**
- B. Intelligence**
- C. Movement and Maneuver**
- D. Protection**

The warfighting function that is critical for delivering indirect fire support in military operations is Fires. This function encompasses all aspects of the joint fire support system, which includes the coordination and employment of indirect artillery, mortars, and air support to achieve desired effects on the battlefield. It is essential for creating a synchronized and effective fire plan that maximizes the use of firepower in support of maneuver units, helping to shape the battlefield and support the overall operational objectives. Indirect fire support relies on precise targeting and the integration of various systems to ensure that the intended targets are effectively engaged while minimizing collateral damage. This function involves careful planning, coordination, and execution of fire missions to support offensive and defensive operations. The Fires function also includes the use of targeting data and intelligence to identify enemy positions and optimize the effectiveness of fire support in achieving mission success. While the other warfighting functions—Intelligence, Movement and Maneuver, and Protection—play significant roles in military operations, they do not specifically focus on the employment and coordination of indirect fire support as the Fires function does. Each of these functions has its unique contributions to overall military effectiveness, but Fires is the foundational aspect specifically associated with delivering indirect fire capabilities.

7. What factors determine the placement of supports during an attack?

- A. Availability of personnel**
- B. Weather conditions**
- C. Capability to deliver effective fire and flexibility**
- D. Enemy weapons system locations**

The placement of supports during an attack is fundamentally influenced by the capability to deliver effective fire and the flexibility of those supports. This factor emphasizes the need for supports, such as weapons systems or additional units, to have the ability to provide comprehensive fire coverage in a way that responds to the fluid dynamics of combat. Effective fire capabilities ensure that suppressive or destructive fire can be directed toward enemy positions to minimize their effectiveness and protect the attacking force. Flexibility, on the other hand, is critical because the battlefield environment is rarely static. The ability to reposition or adjust the fires as the situation evolves is vital to maintaining operational effectiveness. This adaptability also allows forces to respond to unforeseen enemy movements or changes in terrain that could affect the attack's effectiveness. Therefore, thorough consideration must be given to how these factors enhance the overall strategy, ensuring that supports can act decisively and in coordination with the maneuvering elements of the attack.

8. What is the goal of executing a movement under fire?

- A. To retreat to a safer location**
- B. To safely maneuver while suppressing enemy fire and reducing exposure**
- C. To regroup with other units**
- D. To flank the enemy position**

Executing a movement under fire aims to maneuver safely while suppressing enemy fire and minimizing exposure to the enemy. This is crucial for maintaining squad and platoon effectiveness during engagements. Proper execution allows units to reposition, engage the enemy effectively, and avoid casualties. During movement under fire, soldiers must combine tactical mobility with the capability to provide suppressive fire to keep the enemy's heads down, thereby reducing the threat to themselves and allowing for strategic positioning. This technique enhances the effectiveness of follow-up actions, such as executing flanking maneuvers or regrouping with units, by creating opportunities while managing risk. The other options, while related to tactical scenarios, do not encapsulate the primary objective. For example, retreating to a safer location lacks the focus on suppression and exposure reduction. Regrouping with other units is a potential outcome but does not specifically address the immediate tactical response during engagement. Flanking the enemy position is a strategy that could be employed but is not the main goal of executing the movement under fire itself.

9. What is the final step of the offense?

- A. Maneuver
- B. Follow through**
- C. Disrupt the enemy
- D. Gain and maintain enemy contact

The final step of the offense is to follow through. This step is crucial because it ensures that the forces maintain momentum after achieving initial success in the attack. Following through involves consolidating gains, ensuring enemy units are not allowed to regroup or counterattack, and preparing for subsequent operations or objectives. It emphasizes the need to maintain pressure on the enemy and exploit any initial breakthroughs to achieve the overall mission objectives. Successfully following through can lead to significant advantages, such as the ability to seize key terrain, destroy enemy capabilities, or force the enemy into a defensive posture. This also involves repositioning forces, redistributing supplies, and reinforcing successful units. The follow-through ensures that an army does not merely achieve a temporary success but instead translates that success into a lasting operational or strategic advantage.

10. What is the kill radius of a 120mm HE round?

- A. 20m
- B. 40m
- C. 60m**
- D. 80m

The kill radius of a 120mm high-explosive (HE) round is indeed 60 meters. This distance represents the area in which the blast effect is capable of inflicting lethal damage on personnel and potentially destroying certain types of equipment. Understanding the kill radius is crucial for planning and conducting operations, as it aids in assessing the effective use of artillery support while minimizing the risk to friendly forces. When employing artillery, knowing the effective kill radius helps leaders coordinate engagements with a focus on maximizing impact while ensuring that their positions and those of allied forces remain secure. The capability to accurately judge this radius is also essential for the safety of troops in the area and for making real-time decisions in combat scenarios. This makes the understanding of artillery effects a fundamental aspect of infantry tactics and operational planning.

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://atp3to218.examzify.com>

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

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