

BASIC DIVISION OFFICER COURSE (BDOC) MARITIME WARFARE (MW) 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 VBSS boarding type is invited?

- A. Consensual
- B. Compliant
- C. Non-Compliant
- D. Opposed

2. What is a target priority list and how is it used in CIC?

- A. A list of friendly assets to protect during engagements.
- B. A ranked set of targets based on threat and mission priority; used to guide engagement decisions and resource allocation.
- C. A schedule of the next potential contact times.
- D. An emergency protocol for disengagement.

3. What is the Secondary value for the Strike Warfare Commander?

- A. Secondary value is J
- B. Secondary value is L
- C. Secondary value is M
- D. Secondary value is K

4. In the Surface Warfare kill chain, what is the second step?

- A. Find
- B. Fix
- C. Track
- D. Target

5. Which statement best describes ROE compared to escalation of force in maritime operations?

- A. ROE are informal guidelines; escalation of force is a fixed policy
- B. ROE are formal directives governing use of force; escalation of force is the progressive steps taken to deter and compel compliance, up to authorized lethal force
- C. ROE cover only non-lethal means; escalation of force covers all weapons
- D. ROE and escalation of force are identical concepts

6. Which role corresponds to the Marine Interception Operations Commander?

- A. Marine Interception Operations Commander
- B. Mine Warfare Commander
- C. Screen Commander
- D. Air Resource Element Coordinator

7. What is the range boundary for AEZ?

- A. 10 nautical miles
- B. Under 2 nautical miles
- C. 2 to 5 nautical miles
- D. 5 nautical miles and greater

8. Which engagement zone covers air and surface engagements?

- A. SEZ (Surface Only)
- B. DEZ (Air and Ship)
- C. AEZ (Air Only)
- D. All-Zone Engagement

9. Which statement about threat prioritization and CIC decision-making is false?

- A. Threats are prioritized based on immediacy, lethality, and mission impact.
- B. Higher command guidance is used in ranking threats.
- C. Threat assessment relies on risk assessment.
- D. They rely solely on the color of a target's hull to determine priority.

10. Area Defense is performed by which platforms?

- A. CG, DDG, F/A-18, F-35, AV-8
- B. CG and DDG only
- C. F/A-18 and F-35 only
- D. HVAA Protection assets only

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which VBSS boarding type is invited?

- A. Consensual
- B. Compliant
- C. Non-Compliant
- D. Opposed

In VBSS operations, boarding types describe how much consent the host vessel provides. When the vessel invites the boarding team to come aboard, that is a consensual boarding. This means explicit permission is given by the ship's master or designated authority, allowing the team to enter and search without force or coercion. The invitation signals cooperation, lets the search be conducted in a controlled, safe manner, and respects the host's sovereignty. That's why this is the best answer: inviting indicates voluntary permission, which defines a consensual boarding. The other types involve no invitation or active resistance, which isn't described by being invited.

2. What is a target priority list and how is it used in CIC?

- A. A list of friendly assets to protect during engagements.
- B. A ranked set of targets based on threat and mission priority; used to guide engagement decisions and resource allocation.
- C. A schedule of the next potential contact times.
- D. An emergency protocol for disengagement.

A target priority list in CIC is a ranked set of potential targets ordered by threat level and mission importance. This ranking guides engagement decisions and the allocation of limited resources like sensors, weapons, and personnel. By prioritizing what poses the greatest risk or furthers the mission, the CIC team can quickly decide which contacts to track, engage, or monitor first, and how to distribute resources as the situation evolves. The list is dynamic, updating with new data and changing conditions, and it aligns with rules of engagement and risk assessments. For example, a fast-moving, high-threat contact near your course would be at the top, drawing priority attention and resources, while lower-threat or non-threatening contacts stay lower on the list. It isn't a schedule of future contacts or an emergency disengagement protocol; it's the live tool used to focus actions where they matter most.

3. What is the Secondary value for the Strike Warfare Commander?

- A. Secondary value is J
- B. Secondary value is L
- C. Secondary value is M
- D. Secondary value is K

In this mapping, each role has a secondary value used to label and distinguish its data and orders in the command system. For the Strike Warfare Commander, that secondary value is K. This label is predefined in the standard role-to-value chart, so K uniquely identifies the Strike Warfare Commander's secondary channel. The other options (J, L, M) are assigned to different roles, so they don't match the Strike Warfare Commander.

4. In the Surface Warfare kill chain, what is the second step?

- A. Find
- B. Fix**
- C. Track
- D. Target

Fix is the step that follows Find. After a contact is found, you must determine its exact position in your reference frame—establish a precise location (range, bearing, and motion information) so the contact is fixed in place on the sensor data. This reduces uncertainty and provides a stable reference from which you can start tracking its movement. With a solid fix, you can continuously update the contact's position as it maneuvers, enabling accurate tracking and, later, targeting decisions. Without fixing, tracking would be unreliable because you wouldn't have a precise, stable location to base updates on.

5. Which statement best describes ROE compared to escalation of force in maritime operations?

- A. ROE are informal guidelines; escalation of force is a fixed policy
- B. ROE are formal directives governing use of force; escalation of force is the progressive steps taken to deter and compel compliance, up to authorized lethal force
- C. ROE cover only non-lethal means; escalation of force covers all weapons
- D. ROE and escalation of force are identical concepts**

ROE set the rules for when and how force may be used, while escalation of force describes the staged responses you follow to deter and compel compliance within those rules. In maritime operations, ROE define the authority, thresholds, and proportionality required for any use of force (for example, self-defense or defense of others). Escalation of force is the practical sequence you apply to reach those authorized options: start with presence and deterrence, progress through verbal commands and non-lethal means, move to physical control or forceful but non-lethal measures, and only then, if justified and authorized, move to lethal force. They work together, but they are not the same thing: ROE provide the authority framework, while escalation of force provides the graduated actions within that framework.

6. Which role corresponds to the Marine Interception Operations Commander?

- A. Marine Interception Operations Commander**
- B. Mine Warfare Commander
- C. Screen Commander
- D. Air Resource Element Coordinator

This question tests who leads Marine Interception Operations. The role that corresponds to the Marine Interception Operations Commander is the Marine Interception Operations Commander itself—the person designated to plan and direct the interception phase of Maritime Interdiction Operations. This commander oversees all intercept efforts, coordinates between surface ships, aircraft, and boarding teams, and makes key decisions within the rules of engagement and applicable law. The other roles describe different mission areas: Mine Warfare Commander handles mine countermeasures; Screen Commander leads the protective screen around a high-value asset or convoy; Air Resource Element Coordinator coordinates airborne assets for support. Because the question asks for who leads the interception operations, the explicit title of Marine Interception Operations Commander is the correct mapping.

7. What is the range boundary for AEZ?

- A. 10 nautical miles
- B. Under 2 nautical miles
- C. 2 to 5 nautical miles
- D. 5 nautical miles and greater**

The range boundary being tested is where air threats start falling under the Air Engagement Zone. In this doctrine, the AEZ boundary is set at 5 nautical miles and greater, meaning targets at 5 NM or farther are considered within the AEZ for engagement planning and weapon allocation. This 5 NM threshold gives enough sensor tracking time and command-and-control runway to assign appropriate long-range defenses, while closer threats (inside 5 NM) are typically handled by closer-in defense measures or other ROE rules. The other distances would either push the boundary too far outward or too close, not matching how the AEZ is intended to function.

8. Which engagement zone covers air and surface engagements?

- A. SEZ (Surface Only)
- B. DEZ (Air and Ship)**
- C. AEZ (Air Only)
- D. All-Zone Engagement

Engagement zones define what kinds of threats you're prepared to engage and with which weapons. The zone that handles both air and surface threats is the one that covers air and ship engagements. This DEZ is designed so you can engage enemy aircraft and surface vessels within the same defended area, using appropriate weapons for either air or surface targets. The surface-only zone is limited to surface threats, the air-only zone to aircraft, and All-Zone Engagement isn't the standard single-zone designation for combined air and surface threats.

9. Which statement about threat prioritization and CIC decision-making is false?

- A. Threats are prioritized based on immediacy, lethality, and mission impact.
- B. Higher command guidance is used in ranking threats.
- C. Threat assessment relies on risk assessment.
- D. They rely solely on the color of a target's hull to determine priority.**

Threat prioritization and CIC decision-making hinge on evaluating immediacy, lethality, and mission impact. This combination helps determine which threat requires immediate action, how dangerous it is, and how much it could affect the mission if not addressed. Higher command guidance provides the overarching framework—rules of engagement, escalation steps, and engagement priorities—that shape how threats are ranked to keep actions aligned with intent and policy. Threat assessment is built on risk assessment, pairing the likelihood of a threat materializing with the severity of its consequences to produce a risk level that guides how resources and attention are allocated. Basing priority on the color of a target's hull isn't reliable: color can be misleading, targets can be camouflaged or misidentified, and many valid threats won't present distinguishing color cues. Therefore, hull color alone is not an appropriate basis for prioritization.

10. Area Defense is performed by which platforms?

A. CG, DDG, F/A-18, F-35, AV-8

B. CG and DDG only

C. F/A-18 and F-35 only

D. HVAA Protection assets only

Area defense relies on a layered, joint mix of platforms to detect, track, and defeat airborne threats within a defined airspace around the fleet. Surface combatants like cruisers and destroyers provide the core shield with their integrated air-defense systems, offering long-range protection and fleet-wide coordination. Aircraft extend that shield by operating in the air domain, capable of intercepting threats earlier, expanding engagement reach, and sharing threat information with ships. F/A-18s and F-35s bring strong air-defense and interceptor capabilities, enhancing situational awareness and response time for the entire force. The AV-8 Harrier, used in some operations as a fleet or expeditionary air-defense asset, adds another layer of defense in appropriate contexts. Together, these platforms form a comprehensive area-defense capability, which is why that option is the best fit.

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://bdocmw.examzify.com>

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

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