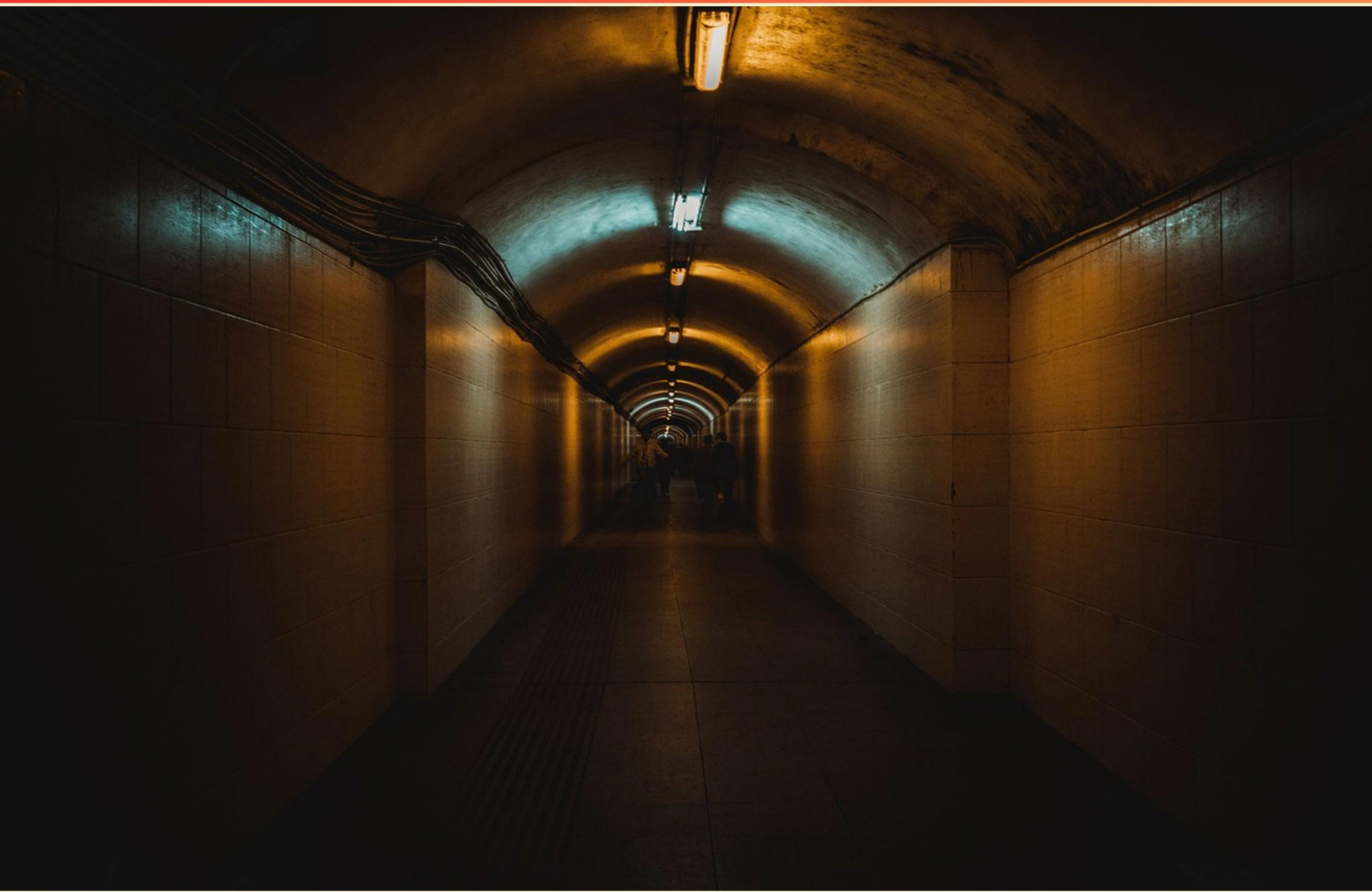


BASIC ENLISTED SUBMARINE SCHOOL (BESS) TEST 1 PRACTICE (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. In extinguisher use, what does the P.A.S.S. mnemonic stand for?**
 - A. Push, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep
 - B. Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep
 - C. Pull, Align, Squeeze, Sweep
 - D. Pull, Aim, Shoot, Sweep
- 2. Which element determines duties and responsibilities distributed to departments or personnel?**
 - A. Watch Organization
 - B. Unit Organization
 - C. Administrative Bills
 - D. Ships Regulations
- 3. Which term represents the second priority traffic?**
 - A. Administrative
 - B. Operational
 - C. Personal
 - D. Emergency
- 4. Which commander sank several ships but lost his own vessel due to a torpedo strike on the USS Tang?**
 - A. Fluckey
 - B. O'Kane
 - C. Street
 - D. CSS Hunley
- 5. Arrange the priority traffic levels in correct order from highest to lowest.**
 - A. Operational, Emergency, Administrative, Personal
 - B. Emergency, Operational, Administrative, Personal
 - C. Emergency, Administrative, Operational, Personal
 - D. Emergency, Personal, Operational, Administrative

6. Which instrument provides a submarine's heading?

- A. Depth gauge
- B. Speed log
- C. Radar display
- D. A compass (magnetic or gyro)

7. What defines a watertight door?

- A. A door that slides sideways
- B. A door that is always closed
- C. A door opens to the exterior
- D. A door designed to seal water out between compartments

8. SSORM requires preparation of which admin documents?

- A. Watch, quarter, and station bills
- B. Training rosters
- C. Inventory logs
- D. Dress code briefs

9. What term should be used instead of 'Prepared'?

- A. Set
- B. Standby
- C. Ready
- D. Prepared

10. 1MC function described as?

- A. Administrative information to the ENTIRE ship and casualty alerts
- B. Station-to-station messaging only
- C. Weather updates
- D. Engine data broadcast

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In extinguisher use, what does the P.A.S.S. mnemonic stand for?

- A. Push, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep
- B. Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep**
- C. Pull, Align, Squeeze, Sweep
- D. Pull, Aim, Shoot, Sweep

The essential idea is the proper sequence for using a handheld fire extinguisher: pull, aim, squeeze, sweep. Start by pulling the pin to unlock the extinguisher and allow the lever to actuate. Then aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, not the flames, so you target the fuel source. Squeeze the handle to release the extinguishing agent. Finally sweep the nozzle from side to side at the base of the fire, continuing until it's extinguished or you need to retreat. Other options miss at least one part: pushing instead of pulling won't activate the mechanism; aligning instead of aiming misses the crucial target at the fire's base; and using "shoot" instead of "squeeze" uses the wrong action and terminology.

2. Which element determines duties and responsibilities distributed to departments or personnel?

- A. Watch Organization
- B. Unit Organization**
- C. Administrative Bills
- D. Ships Regulations

Unit Organization determines how a ship or unit is structured and who is responsible for what. It lays out the departments, roles, and reporting lines, so duties and responsibilities are clearly defined across the entire organization and assigned to specific personnel and units. This creates clear accountability and smooth coordination for everyday operations, maintenance, and administration. Watch Organization, by contrast, focuses on who is on duty at a given time and their tasks during that watch—it's about temporary coverage rather than the ongoing distribution of duties. Administrative Bills and Ships Regulations are about procedures and rules, not how responsibilities are allocated. So, the element that best explains how duties and responsibilities are distributed is Unit Organization.

3. Which term represents the second priority traffic?

- A. Administrative
- B. Operational**
- C. Personal
- D. Emergency

Traffic priority levels dictate how quickly messages are sent; emergencies come first because they involve immediate danger or critical risk. The next level is operational traffic, which covers messages essential to conducting and sustaining the current mission, such as changes in orders, situation updates, or coordination between units. This traffic should be delivered promptly to keep the operation moving, but it does not require the instantaneous urgency of an emergency. Administrative traffic consists of routine, non-urgent information, and personal traffic is non-work-related and can be delayed until higher-priority traffic is handled. So the term for the second priority traffic is operational.

4. Which commander sank several ships but lost his own vessel due to a torpedo strike on the USS Tang?

- A. Fluckey
- B. O'Kane**
- C. Street
- D. CSS Hunley

Richard H. O'Kane is the commander who fits this description. He led the USS Tang in WWII and was famous for a string of successful torpedo attacks that sank several Japanese ships, making him one of the most effective submarine skippers of the war. Tang was ultimately lost with all hands during the conflict, illustrating how a submarine could achieve significant enemy losses even while its own vessel was destroyed. The other names refer to different submarines or eras and don't match both the record of multiple sinkings and the loss of the vessel in this context.

5. Arrange the priority traffic levels in correct order from highest to lowest.

- A. Operational, Emergency, Administrative, Personal
- B. Emergency, Operational, Administrative, Personal**
- C. Emergency, Administrative, Operational, Personal
- D. Emergency, Personal, Operational, Administrative

In submarine communications, messages are prioritized to protect safety and keep critical operations running smoothly. The highest priority is Emergency traffic—anything that directly affects life, ship integrity, or immediate safety must go through right away. Next is Operational traffic, which supports ongoing missions and essential ship functions; these are crucial for the safe and effective conduct of operations but not necessarily life-threatening at that moment. Administrative traffic comes after, covering non-urgent paperwork, logistics, and routine tasks. Personal traffic is the lowest, reserved for messages not related to safety or mission, and should yield to higher-priority messages when capacity is limited. So the correct order from highest to lowest is Emergency, Operational, Administrative, Personal.

6. Which instrument provides a submarine's heading?

- A. Depth gauge
- B. Speed log
- C. Radar display
- D. A compass (magnetic or gyro)**

Heading is the direction the submarine is pointing, usually measured relative to north. The instrument that provides this information is the compass. A magnetic compass uses Earth's magnetic field to show heading relative to magnetic north, while a gyro compass uses gyroscopic principles to give true heading relative to true north; both directly indicate the vessel's orientation. This is essential for navigation and plotting a course. Depth gauge measures how deep you are, not direction. Speed log measures speed through the water, not direction. Radar display shows objects and returns for situational awareness, but it does not indicate the submarine's own heading.

7. What defines a watertight door?

- A. A door that slides sideways
- B. A door that is always closed
- C. A door opens to the exterior
- D. A door designed to seal water out between compartments**

Watertight doors are built to keep water from moving from one compartment to another. In submarines, the hull is divided into compartments so flooding in one area doesn't overwhelm the whole ship. The door must form a tight seal and withstand the water pressure between compartments, locking securely so water cannot pass through. That is the essential function: prevent water from entering the adjacent compartment and thereby contain flooding. Doors that merely slide, ones that are always closed, or those that open to the outside don't define this protective stopping of water between compartments.

8. SSORM requires preparation of which admin documents?

- A. Watch, quarter, and station bills**
- B. Training rosters
- C. Inventory logs
- D. Dress code briefs

SSORM focuses on keeping administrative readiness by clearly assigning personnel to watches and stations. The watch, quarter, and station bills are the official records that lay out who is on duty, where they are stationed, and what watches they are responsible for at any given time. This makes it possible to maintain proper coverage, accountability, and quick relief if needed, which is exactly what SSORM is designed to ensure. Training rosters, inventory logs, and dress code briefs serve other purposes—training scheduling, supply tracking, and uniform policy—not the daily watch and station management SSORM emphasizes.

9. What term should be used instead of 'Prepared'?

- A. Set
- B. Standby
- C. Ready**
- D. Prepared

Using consistent status terminology communicates current capability. In operational contexts, the term that signals you can act immediately is "Ready"—it conveys immediate capability and that all prerequisites are in place. Standby means you're waiting for further orders and aren't prepared to execute yet. Set generally describes being configured or positioned for a task, but it doesn't by itself denote immediate action. Prepared is less precise and not the standard procedural vocabulary for indicating readiness. So, Ready best communicates that you're fully able to proceed without delay.

10. 1MC function described as?

- A. Administrative information to the ENTIRE ship and casualty alerts
- B. Station-to-station messaging only
- C. Weather updates
- D. Engine data broadcast

The 1MC is the ship's general public-address system, meant to reach every hand on board. Its function is to deliver administrative information to the entire ship and casualty alerts, so the commanding officer can quickly issue orders, muster calls, safety notices, or emergency instructions to all crew. It isn't meant for station-to-station messaging or niche feeds like weather updates or engine data, which come from other systems. For example, announcements such as "All hands, report to battle stations" or casualty procedures are broadcast over the 1MC to ensure everyone hears and can respond together.

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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://bess1.examzify.com>

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

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