

BASIC ENLISTED SUBMARINE SCHOOL (BESS) TEST 2 PRACTICE (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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

<https://bess2.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. The Reactor Plant Control Panel (RPCP) is responsible for what?**
 - A. Controlling the secondary plant
 - B. Controlling the primary plant
 - C. Monitoring radiation only
 - D. Managing propulsion systems
- 2. What term means the after part of a ship toward the stern?**
 - A. Aft
 - B. GRP
 - C. Forward
 - D. Clamshell
- 3. Safety Precautions (Surfacing): risk?**
 - A. High pressure air will cause severe bodily harm or death
 - B. Venting air has no risk
 - C. Low pressure air frostbite
 - D. Water entering MBTs hazard
- 4. Auxiliary Tanks 1 and 2 are located where?**
 - A. In the stern
 - B. In the bow
 - C. Port and starboard side of the torpedo room
 - D. In the middle beneath AMR
- 5. The Main Storage Battery primarily serves as what type of power source?**
 - A. Normal source of DC power
 - B. Primary propulsion power
 - C. Emergency source of DC power
 - D. Lighting power
- 6. If you need to take slack out of the mooring line while avoiding strain, which directive applies?**
 - A. Take Line ___ to the Capstan
 - B. Ease Line
 - C. Avast Heaving
 - D. Check Line ___

7. Hearing protection when venting air?

- A. Ensure personnel are wearing hearing protection when venting air
- B. Wear hearing protection when venting air only if necessary
- C. No protective equipment required
- D. Protect eyes only

8. What is the relationship described by hydraulic theory?

- A. Force = Pressure x Area
- B. Force = Mass x Acceleration
- C. Pressure = Force / Area
- D. Energy = Force x Time

9. 125 psi header: which statement is true?

- A. Supplies ships loads that require air pressure of 21-125 psi
- B. Supplied from air bank #2
- C. Provides backup to 700 psi header
- D. Supplies 1-20 psi

10. Glass Reinforced Plastic is abbreviated as what?

- A. Centerline
- B. GRP
- C. MBT
- D. Cavitation

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. The Reactor Plant Control Panel (RPCP) is responsible for what?

- A. Controlling the secondary plant
- B. Controlling the primary plant**
- C. Monitoring radiation only
- D. Managing propulsion systems

The main idea is understanding what the Reactor Plant Control Panel is used for: it's the operator interface for the reactor's primary plant. This panel lets you regulate the reactor core power and the associated coolant system, including adjusting control rods and monitoring core and coolant conditions to keep the reactor operating safely. It also provides safety functions like initiating a reactor scram if something goes outside safe limits. The secondary plant, which includes the steam turbines and generators, is a separate system and not controlled by this panel. While radiation instrumentation is important for safety, the panel's primary purpose is to control the reactor and its coolant circuit, not just monitor radiation or directly manage propulsion components.

2. What term means the after part of a ship toward the stern?

- A. Aft**
- B. GRP
- C. Forward
- D. Clamshell

In nautical language, positions along the length of a vessel are described using fore and aft. The term toward the stern, or rear of the ship, is aft. So when you're talking about the after part toward the back, you're referring to the aft section of the vessel, as in an aft deck or aft compartment. The opposite direction is forward, meaning toward the bow. The other options don't fit: GRP is a material, not a directional term; forward points to the front, not the rear; and clamshell is a type of hatch, not a directional descriptor.

3. Safety Precautions (Surfacing): risk?

- A. High pressure air will cause severe bodily harm or death**
- B. Venting air has no risk
- C. Low pressure air frostbite
- D. Water entering MBTs hazard

During surfacing, compressed air is in use to push water out of ballast tanks. The main hazard is the release of high pressure air. When a valve or hose fails or is opened too quickly, the air jet can strike a person, causing severe injury or even death. It can cause blunt trauma, eye or ear injuries, and can drive debris at high speed or force air into wounds or body cavities, leading to serious harm. That's why procedures stress controlled, deliberate venting and keeping clear of pressurized lines. Venting air isn't risk-free, but it isn't the primary danger described here. Water entering ballast tanks is dangerous for buoyancy and stability, but the most immediate safety concern during surfacing involves the powerful energy of high pressure air. Frostbite from low pressure air is not the typical or primary risk in this context, which is why the high pressure air statement best captures the risk.

4. Auxiliary Tanks 1 and 2 are located where?

- A. In the stern
- B. In the bow
- C. Port and starboard side of the torpedo room**
- D. In the middle beneath AMR

Auxiliary ballast tanks are small ballast compartments used for fine-tuning buoyancy and trim. They're placed on the port and starboard sides of the torpedo room so you can shift ballast evenly where the heavy torpedo load sits in the forward part of the submarine. This arrangement lets you adjust trim and balance without disturbing the main ballast system or altering weight distribution elsewhere. Placing them in the bow, stern, or directly under the auxiliary machinery room would not provide the needed balance or would complicate access and system layout, so the side-by-torpedo-room position is the standard location.

5. The Main Storage Battery primarily serves as what type of power source?

- A. Normal source of DC power
- B. Primary propulsion power
- C. Emergency source of DC power**
- D. Lighting power

The Main Storage Battery is designed to provide a reliable emergency DC power source. It stores energy specifically to keep vital systems alive when the main power plant or other power sources fail, ensuring control, communication, safety, and essential lighting can operate long enough for the crew to restore power or surface. In normal operation, the ship's main generators supply DC power to the switchboards for routine operations, so the battery isn't the usual power source. It isn't intended as the regular lighting power or as the normal propulsion power, though it can support propulsion if needed during submerged conditions; its primary role is to act as the emergency power reserve to keep critical functions running during power loss.

6. If you need to take slack out of the mooring line while avoiding strain, which directive applies?

- A. Take Line ___ to the Capstan**
- B. Ease Line
- C. Avast Heaving
- D. Check Line ___

When you need to remove slack without putting strain on the line or gear, directing the crew to take the line to the capstan is the right move. Wrapping the mooring line around the capstan and using the capstan winch allows for a controlled, gradual pull that tightens the line without sudden shocks. This transfers the load from the deck to the capstan, giving the team a reliable, steady method to bring in slack safely. Ease the line would let line out, increasing slack. Avast heaving stops pulling entirely. Check line is about holding the line once tension is already applied, not initiating the tension. Taking the line to the capstan provides the precise, controlled tension needed to remove slack without creating strain.

7. Hearing protection when venting air?

- A. Ensure personnel are wearing hearing protection when venting air**
- B. Wear hearing protection when venting air only if necessary
- C. No protective equipment required
- D. Protect eyes only

Venting compressed air creates a loud noise burst that can damage hearing in a short amount of time. Wearing hearing protection whenever venting is performed reduces the risk of noise-induced hearing loss and aligns with safety practices on submarines. The hazard here is the noise, not eye protection or other equipment, and protection isn't optional—it's needed whenever venting occurs to keep crewmembers safe.

8. What is the relationship described by hydraulic theory?

- A. Force = Pressure x Area**
- B. Force = Mass x Acceleration
- C. Pressure = Force / Area
- D. Energy = Force x Time

In hydraulics, the force you get from the fluid comes from pressure acting over an area. Pressure is the force per unit area, so the force on a piston is simply the pressure multiplied by the piston's area. That makes the relationship: force equals pressure times area. This is why hydraulic systems can multiply force: a small pressure acting on a small piston creates a certain force, and the same pressure acting on a larger piston yields a larger output force, $F_{out} = P \times A_{out}$. (For reference, pressure can also be expressed as F/A , but the hydraulic point is how that pressure translates into a usable force on a surface.)

9. 125 psi header: which statement is true?

- A. Supplies ships loads that require air pressure of 21-125 psi**
- B. Supplied from air bank #2
- C. Provides backup to 700 psi header
- D. Supplies 1-20 psi

A 125 psi header is designed to deliver air to equipment that operates anywhere up to its maximum of 125 psi. Because devices tied to this header are specified to run within a pressure range that can start around 21 psi and go up to 125 psi, the statement that it supplies loads requiring 21–125 psi reflects how this header is used in practice. The other options describe specifics about system layout or pressure ranges that aren't inherent to what a 125 psi header does: it isn't defined as being fed from a particular air bank, it isn't described as backing up a higher-pressure 700 psi header, and it isn't intended for only very low-pressure loads like 1–20 psi.

10. Glass Reinforced Plastic is abbreviated as what?

- A. Centerline
- B. GRP**
- C. MBT
- D. Cavitation

Glass Reinforced Plastic is a composite material formed by embedding glass fibers in a plastic resin to boost strength and stiffness while resisting corrosion. The abbreviation uses the initial letters of each word, producing GRP, which is the standard shorthand engineers use in drawings and manuals. The other terms don't describe a material abbreviation: Centerline is an alignment concept, MBT is unrelated, and Cavitation is a fluid-dynamics phenomenon.

SAMPLE

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://bess2.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE