

Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) 3 Practice Exam (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 difference between risk to mission and risk to force?**
 - A. Risk to mission threatens mission success; risk to force threatens personnel and capabilities.**
 - B. Risk to mission threatens casualties; risk to force threatens only equipment.**
 - C. They are the same concept with different wording.**
 - D. Risk to mission is about time, risk to force is about terrain.**

- 2. What is the gunner's role and responsibility in a tactical convoy?**
 - A. Operation, maintenance, and employment of assigned weapon system and maintains proficient knowledge of EOF/continuum of force and ROE**
 - B. Drive the lead vehicle exclusively**
 - C. Coordinate cargo loading with no weapon use**
 - D. Manage convoy fuel consumption**

- 3. What ensures commanders gain a holistic, complete, and accurate appreciation of proficiency?**
 - A. Feedback from evaluators and other sources**
 - B. Rely solely on T&EOs**
 - C. Wait for the annual audit**
 - D. Focus only on mission metrics**

- 4. Which is the second step of the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP)?**
 - A. Mission analysis**
 - B. Receipt of mission**
 - C. COA development**
 - D. COA analysis**

- 5. In an OPORD, what is the difference between the Situation and Execution?**
 - A. Execution describes how the mission will be carried out.**
 - B. Situation describes enemy, terrain, weather, and other factors.**
 - C. Execution describes admin tasks.**
 - D. Situation describes weather only.**

- 6. In SPOD Operations, which organization operates in the port staging area?**
- A. PSA**
 - B. SDDC**
 - C. ASG**
 - D. Movement Control Organizations**
- 7. Subordinate leaders should give a back brief or confirmation brief to the _____ at the conclusion of all convoy briefings.**
- A. Convoy Commander**
 - B. Platoon Leader**
 - C. Company Commander**
 - D. Senior Analyst**
- 8. Define 'assumptions' in the MDMP and why they matter.**
- A. Beliefs about how the situation will evolve that fill knowledge gaps; they must be stated, validated, and tracked.**
 - B. Official orders that must be followed exactly.**
 - C. Predictions about weather only.**
 - D. Training requirements to address knowledge gaps.**
- 9. The maximum cargo load data includes which information?**
- A. It includes both weight and dimensions**
 - B. It lists only weight**
 - C. It lists only volume**
 - D. It lists cost**
- 10. What does reconnaissance contribute to planning in military operations?**
- A. It gathers essential information about terrain, enemy positions, and routes to improve decisions**
 - B. It develops ROE**
 - C. It manufactures equipment**
 - D. It assigns logistics responsibilities**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the difference between risk to mission and risk to force?

A. Risk to mission threatens mission success; risk to force threatens personnel and capabilities.

B. Risk to mission threatens casualties; risk to force threatens only equipment.

C. They are the same concept with different wording.

D. Risk to mission is about time, risk to force is about terrain.

The main idea here is recognizing two distinct kinds of risk in military operations: risk to mission and risk to force. Risk to mission is about whether hazards will prevent or degrade the ability to achieve the assigned objective. It asks how hazards affect mission success, timing, and the overall outcome of the operation. Risk to force, on the other hand, is about protecting people and the unit's essential capabilities. It covers potential harm to personnel, damage to equipment, and the loss of critical functions that would impair the unit's ability to continue operating. So the statement that risk to mission threatens mission success while risk to force threatens personnel and capabilities captures the proper distinction between the two. The other options mix up scope or imply they're the same, which isn't accurate.

2. What is the gunner's role and responsibility in a tactical convoy?

A. Operation, maintenance, and employment of assigned weapon system and maintains proficient knowledge of EOF/continuum of force and ROE

B. Drive the lead vehicle exclusively

C. Coordinate cargo loading with no weapon use

D. Manage convoy fuel consumption

In a tactical convoy, the gunner is the primary defender on the vehicle, responsible for weapon system readiness and proper use within escalation of force and the rules of engagement. This means operating, maintaining, and employing the assigned weapon, keeping it functional, zeroed, and ready to engage as needed, while staying proficient in escalation of force and ROE to ensure threats are handled legally and proportionally. The gunner works with the vehicle commander and driver to provide effective cover, manage sectors of fire, and call for support when required, all while maintaining situational awareness to prevent collateral damage. Driving the lead vehicle, coordinating cargo loading without weapons, or handling fuel aren't the gunner's duties; those tasks belong to the driver, logistics, or other crew roles.

3. What ensures commanders gain a holistic, complete, and accurate appreciation of proficiency?

- A. Feedback from evaluators and other sources**
- B. Rely solely on T&EOs**
- C. Wait for the annual audit**
- D. Focus only on mission metrics**

Gathering a complete read on proficiency comes from pulling in multiple perspectives, not just one source. Feedback from evaluators shows how well a commander meets defined standards, but adding input from other sources—peers, subordinates, self-assessments, after-action reviews, and relevant performance data—paints a fuller picture of how proficiency looks in different contexts and over time. This mix of observations and information helps triangulate strengths and gaps, so the assessment isn't skewed by a single viewpoint or moment. Relying only on training and evaluation outlines doesn't capture real-world application or how well a commander leads, adapts, or collaborates under varying conditions. Waiting for an annual audit is too slow to reflect ongoing performance, and focusing solely on mission metrics misses the broader set of skills and behaviors that define proficiency, such as leadership, ethics, communication, and risk management. So, the best approach is feedback from evaluators and other sources because it provides a well-rounded, accurate, and timely understanding of a commander's proficiency.

4. Which is the second step of the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP)?

- A. Mission analysis**
- B. Receipt of mission**
- C. COA development**
- D. COA analysis**

The second step is Mission Analysis, and it focuses on turning the received mission into a clear, solvable problem. After you've received the mission, you dive into Mission Analysis to understand exactly what must be accomplished, identify higher command intent and specified tasks, and recognize constraints, assumptions, and initial facts about the environment, forces, and resources. This step also involves identifying unknowns, risks, and critical tasks that will drive planning decisions. By thoroughly analyzing the mission, you establish a solid foundation for developing feasible Courses of Action. Only after you've grounded the problem in solid understanding do you move on to creating COAs, then analyzing those COAs, and so forth. The other steps—for example, the initial receipt of the mission or the later development and analysis of COAs—fit later in the process, not as the second step.

5. In an OPORD, what is the difference between the Situation and Execution?

- A. Execution describes how the mission will be carried out.**
- B. Situation describes enemy, terrain, weather, and other factors.**
- C. Execution describes admin tasks.**
- D. Situation describes weather only.**

OPORDERS separate the environment from the plan of action. The Situation section sets the stage by describing what the operating environment looks like: who the enemy is and how they're disposed, the terrain and weather that will influence movement and visibility, and civil considerations or local factors that could affect operations. It may also note attachments, detachments, and constraints from higher HQ. The Execution section then translates that context into action: it outlines the commander's concept of operations, the sequence and method of attacking or maneuvering, and the specific tasks assigned to subordinate units, along with coordinating instructions, fire support, timing, and synchronization. So the best understanding is that the Execution describes how the mission will be carried out, while the Situation describes enemy, terrain, weather, and other factors that frame the mission.

6. In SPOD Operations, which organization operates in the port staging area?

- A. PSA**
- B. SDDC**
- C. ASG**
- D. Movement Control Organizations**

In SPOD operations, the port staging area is handled by the Port Support Activity. This unit provides on-site port operations, coordinating unloading from ships, staging of cargo for onward movement, and liaison with terminal operators and transportation to ensure a smooth flow from ship to the next leg of the journey. The broader distribution mission is managed by SDDC, while ASG and Movement Control Organizations perform other sustainment or routing roles, not the direct port staging operations. So the Port Support Activity is the organization that operates in the port staging area.

7. Subordinate leaders should give a back brief or confirmation brief to the _____ at the conclusion of all convoy briefings.

- A. Convoy Commander**
- B. Platoon Leader**
- C. Company Commander**
- D. Senior Analyst**

The main idea is to close the communication loop by having subordinate leaders confirm their understanding and readiness directly with the person in charge of the convoy. After all convoy briefings, the back brief to the convoy commander ensures everyone knows their tasks, routes, signals, hazards, and contingencies, and it gives the commander a final opportunity to ask questions, address gaps, and authorize movement. The convoy commander is the person responsible for the execution and safety of the convoy, so they must receive the confirmation to endorse the plan and proceed. While a platoon leader or company commander may oversee portions of the operation, they do not have the on-the-ground authority to approve a convoy for movement. A senior analyst isn't the appropriate recipient for this execution-focused brief. In short, guiding the back brief to the convoy commander ensures accountability, clear understanding, and proper authorization before the convoy moves.

8. Define 'assumptions' in the MDMP and why they matter.

- A. Beliefs about how the situation will evolve that fill knowledge gaps; they must be stated, validated, and tracked.**
- B. Official orders that must be followed exactly.**
- C. Predictions about weather only.**
- D. Training requirements to address knowledge gaps.**

In the MDMP, assumptions are beliefs about how the situation will unfold that fill knowledge gaps. They matter because planning often proceeds with incomplete information, so you state the key unknowns as assumptions, ensure they're reasonable, and then track and validate them as new facts emerge. This keeps the plan moving, supports risk assessment, and lets you adjust courses of action if an assumption proves false. They are not official orders, not limited to weather, and not training requirements; they're forward-looking statements about how the environment and enemy actions are likely to develop, used to guide planning and be tested against reality as the operation unfolds.

9. The maximum cargo load data includes which information?

- A. It includes both weight and dimensions**
- B. It lists only weight**
- C. It lists only volume**
- D. It lists cost**

Planning cargo loads requires knowing both weight and dimensions. Maximum cargo load data includes weight so you don't exceed the vehicle's weight rating and can manage load distribution across axles. It also includes dimensions to verify the item will physically fit in the cargo space, allow for safe clearance, and enable proper securing. Weight alone or volume alone doesn't tell you about fit and structural limits, and cost isn't part of the load-carrying capacity data.

10. What does reconnaissance contribute to planning in military operations?

A. It gathers essential information about terrain, enemy positions, and routes to improve decisions

B. It develops ROE

C. It manufactures equipment

D. It assigns logistics responsibilities

Reconnaissance provides the information that shapes how a plan will work on the ground. By uncovering details about terrain, enemy positions, routes, and possible obstacles, it reduces uncertainty and gives planners a realistic picture of what can be achieved. This information informs the commander's intent, helps develop feasible courses of action, and guides decisions on where to maneuver, how to mass or disperse forces, and when to move. It also helps anticipate risks, identify the best avenues of approach, and plan logistics and timing around actual on-ground conditions. Other functions like setting rules of engagement, producing equipment, or assigning logistics responsibilities come from separate planning activities and are not the primary contribution of reconnaissance.

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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://bolc3.examzify.com>

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

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