

Basic World War 2 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. Which nation invaded Juno Beach?**
 - A. Canada**
 - B. United States**
 - C. United Kingdom**
 - D. France**

- 2. What was the codename for the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944?**
 - A. Operation Sea Lion**
 - B. Operation Overlord**
 - C. Operation Torch**
 - D. Operation Barbarossa**

- 3. Which statement about VE Day and VJ Day is correct?**
 - A. VE Day marks Victory in Europe Day and VJ Day marks Victory over Japan Day, the dates of the German surrender and Japan's formal surrender**
 - B. VE Day marks the end of the Pacific War; VJ Day marks the beginning of the war**
 - C. VE Day marks the signing of the UN Charter; VJ Day marks the end of the Cold War**
 - D. VE Day marks the victory in North Africa; VJ Day marks the victory in the Atlantic**

- 4. Which president desegregated the armed forces in 1948?**
 - A. Eisenhower**
 - B. Kennedy**
 - C. Nixon**
 - D. Truman**

- 5. The North African campaign concluded with Allied victory in which country in 1943?**
 - A. Egypt**
 - B. Morocco**
 - C. Algeria**
 - D. Tunisia**

- 6. The invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany began in which year?**
- A. 1940**
 - B. 1939**
 - C. 1942**
 - D. 1941**
- 7. Which of the following statements most accurately describes the Secretariat's workforce size?**
- A. Tens of thousands of international UN staff members.**
 - B. A few hundred staff.**
 - C. Volunteers.**
 - D. No permanent staff.**
- 8. The Battle of the Atlantic primarily sought to protect Allied shipping from which threat?**
- A. Japanese air raids.**
 - B. German U-boat attacks.**
 - C. Italian ground forces.**
 - D. Spanish naval raids.**
- 9. Which beach was not attacked by British forces during the invasion?**
- A. Juno**
 - B. Gold**
 - C. Sword**
 - D. Utah**
- 10. Which of the following best captures the overall description of the UN Secretariat?**
- A. It is a purely advisory body with no staff.**
 - B. It only coordinates elections for member states.**
 - C. It consists solely of NGOs.**
 - D. The Secretary-General and tens of thousands of international UN staff who carry out the day-to-day work as mandated by the General Assembly and other principal bodies.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which nation invaded Juno Beach?

- A. Canada**
- B. United States**
- C. United Kingdom**
- D. France**

The main idea here is identifying which nation led the assault on Juno Beach during the D-Day landings in Normandy. On that day, the Allies divided the beaches among five sectors: Utah and Omaha were assaulted by American forces, Gold and Sword by British forces, and Juno by Canadian forces. Juno Beach was the Canadian invasion beach, with the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and supporting units driving the initial landings and securing a foothold to push inland. The other nations attacked different beaches, not Juno, so they aren't the correct match for this beach. France wasn't the invader on Juno Beach at that time; French forces and civilians were the recipients of the liberation that followed. So, the nation most closely associated with invading Juno Beach is Canada.

2. What was the codename for the Allied invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944?

- A. Operation Sea Lion**
- B. Operation Overlord**
- C. Operation Torch**
- D. Operation Barbarossa**

The main idea here is knowing the specific codename used for the big Allied invasion of Western Europe in 1944. Operation Overlord was the overall plan to invade occupied France, and its first major push took place on June 6, 1944. That day is often referred to as D-Day, but the official code name of the invasion effort is Overlord, with the actual assault on the beaches conducted under the naval component called Neptune. This distinguishes the Normandy landings from other major Allied or Axis operations. To place it in context, the operation brought together American, British, Canadian, and other Allied forces to land on five beaches in Normandy and begin the push to liberate Western Europe. For contrast, Sea Lion was the German plan to invade Britain that never happened, Torch was the Allied invasion of North Africa in 1942, and Barbarossa was the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

3. Which statement about VE Day and VJ Day is correct?

- A. VE Day marks Victory in Europe Day and VJ Day marks Victory over Japan Day, the dates of the German surrender and Japan's formal surrender
- B. VE Day marks the end of the Pacific War; VJ Day marks the beginning of the war
- C. VE Day marks the signing of the UN Charter; VJ Day marks the end of the Cold War
- D. VE Day marks the victory in North Africa; VJ Day marks the victory in the Atlantic**

Understanding what VE Day and VJ Day commemorate helps you see why the first statement is the best fit. VE Day stands for Victory in Europe Day, the moment when Germany agreed to surrender, effectively ending the war in Europe. VJ Day stands for Victory over Japan Day, marking Japan's surrender and the end of World War II in the Pacific (with the formal surrender taking place later). So describing VE Day as Europe's victory and VJ Day as Japan's victory over Japan's surrender aligns with the historical events that ended the war in the two theaters. The other ideas miss the key points: one option ties VE Day to the Pacific War ending or misstates the nature of VJ Day; another pairs VE Day with the UN Charter or the Cold War; and another confuses campaigns in North Africa or the Atlantic with these surrender events. The accurate pairing is Europe's surrender on May 8, 1945 (V-E Day) and Japan's surrender in mid-1945 (V-J Day, August 15, with the formal September 2 ceremony), signaling the end of World War II overall.

4. Which president desegregated the armed forces in 1948?

- A. Eisenhower
- B. Kennedy
- C. Nixon
- D. Truman**

The main idea here is how a president can use executive action to advance civil rights by ending formal discrimination in a key national institution. In 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981, which established that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin. This order marked the beginning of desegregation in the U.S. military and set up a mechanism to implement and monitor the policy across all branches. This move came after World War II showed that Black servicemen had served honorably alongside white troops, highlighting the inconsistency between democratic ideals and military practice. Pressure from veterans, civil rights advocates, and the public contributed to Truman's decision, signaling a clear national shift toward equality in one of the country's most visible institutions. While full integration took time, this executive action established the essential policy and momentum for desegregation. The other presidents listed did not initiate this 1948 desegregation step in the armed forces; Truman was the one who enacted it at that critical moment.

5. The North African campaign concluded with Allied victory in which country in 1943?

- A. Egypt
- B. Morocco
- C. Algeria
- D. Tunisia**

The North African campaign ends with the surrender of Axis forces in Tunisia in 1943. After Allied landings in Morocco and Algeria and a back-and-forth fight across Libya, the fighting consolidated in Tunisia. In May 1943, German and Italian troops in Tunisia surrendered, which marked the conclusion of the campaign and gave the Allies control of North Africa. This victory secured the Mediterranean sea lanes and opened the path to Sicily and Italy. Egypt remained an important Allied base, but the decisive end point of the North African fighting was Tunisia, not Egypt. Morocco and Algeria were where the Allies began their advance, not where the campaign concluded.

6. The invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany began in which year?

- A. 1940
- B. 1939
- C. 1942
- D. 1941**

The event being tested is the year Germany opened its war against the Soviet Union, which began in 1941. On June 22, 1941, German forces launched Operation Barbarossa, invading Soviet territory and breaking the non-aggression pact that had held since 1939. This invasion started the lengthy and brutal Eastern Front phase of World War II, lasting until 1945 and reshaping the war in Europe. Other years mark different milestones: 1939 is when World War II started with the invasion of Poland, and 1940 includes the Western European campaigns that followed. 1942 comes later, when the war on the Eastern Front intensified and key battles like Stalingrad occurred, but the invasion itself began in 1941.

7. Which of the following statements most accurately describes the Secretariat's workforce size?

- A. Tens of thousands of international UN staff members.**
- B. A few hundred staff.
- C. Volunteers.
- D. No permanent staff.

The size of the Secretariat's workforce reflects the broad, global scope of its work—from diplomacy and policy work to field operations and humanitarian programs. It relies on a large cadre of international civil servants working under formal contracts, plus locally recruited staff in duty stations around the world. When you combine headquarters, regional offices, and field offices, the total number is in the tens of thousands. Volunteers and interns exist, but they are not the core, permanent staff; the organization maintains a substantial permanent workforce to ensure ongoing operations.

8. The Battle of the Atlantic primarily sought to protect Allied shipping from which threat?

- A. Japanese air raids.
- B. German U-boat attacks.**
- C. Italian ground forces.
- D. Spanish naval raids.

Safeguarding transatlantic supply routes from German submarine warfare is what the Battle of the Atlantic is all about. German U-boats targeted merchant ships carrying food, fuel, and war materiel, aiming to choke off Britain and the Allied war effort by sinking trucks and tankers at sea. The struggle was not just about sinking ships but about keeping the sea lanes open, which is why convoy systems, long-range air cover, improved antisubmarine weapons, radar, and codebreaking became the turning points that protected Allied shipping. The other threats—Japanese air raids in the Pacific, Italian ground forces, or Spanish naval actions—were not the primary danger to Atlantic shipping, so they don't fit the main focus of this campaign.

9. Which beach was not attacked by British forces during the invasion?

- A. Juno**
- B. Gold
- C. Sword
- D. Utah

The key idea is how the D-Day beaches were divided among Allied forces. On June 6, 1944, Utah and Omaha were American landings, Gold and Sword were British landings, and Juno was the Canadian landing. So, the beach associated with non-British forces in this list is the one assigned to Canadian troops. That's why Juno is the correct choice. Gold and Sword were British, and Utah was American, leaving Juno as the non-British option among the given beaches.

10. Which of the following best captures the overall description of the UN Secretariat?

A. It is a purely advisory body with no staff.

B. It only coordinates elections for member states.

C. It consists solely of NGOs.

D. The Secretary-General and tens of thousands of international UN staff who carry out the day-to-day work as mandated by the General Assembly and other principal bodies.

The main idea being tested is what the UN Secretariat actually does and who makes up it. The Secretariat is the United Nations' day-to-day engine, led by the Secretary-General and comprising tens of thousands of international staff. These civil servants carry out the ongoing work the UN is tasked with—implementing mandates from the General Assembly and other principal organs, providing research and analysis, administering programs, coordinating peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts, and offering the administrative support that keeps UN activities running worldwide. This description matches the statement because it emphasizes both the leadership (the Secretary-General) and the large, international workforce that turns resolutions and policies into real actions on the ground. In contrast, the other options describe only advisory roles, limited functions like elections, or non-governmental organizations, which do not reflect the full operational nature of the Secretariat.

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://basiww2.examzify.com>

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

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