

BOATSWAIN'S MATE CHIEF (BMC) SWE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. During which war were Coast Guard fatalities the highest compared with any other service?**
 - A. WWII
 - B. WWI
 - C. Civil War
 - D. Korean War
- 2. Be consistent with the use of what on memos?**
 - A. Margins
 - B. Signatures
 - C. Enclosures
 - D. Distribution
- 3. Which statement correctly describes female hair regulations?**
 - A. Bun up to 2 inches; Braids up to 1/2 inch
 - B. Bun up to 3 inches; Braids up to 1/4 inch
 - C. Bun up to 4 inches; Braids up to 1/8 inch
 - D. Bun up to 3 inches; Braids up to 1/2 inch
- 4. How to number enclosures, memo and business letters?**
 - A. Use a separate stamping method
 - B. Type Ssep Cover after the description in the enclosure block
 - C. Write 'Enclosure' at the bottom
 - D. Number with Roman numerals
- 5. Abbie Burgess is associated with which two Maine lighthouses?**
 - A. Lime Rock Lighthouse and Cape Elizabeth
 - B. Matinicus Rock and White Head Light
 - C. Portland Head Light and Owls Head
 - D. Portage River Light and Pemaquid Point
- 6. How to indent subdivisions of paragraphs (like a. or (1) or (a))?**
 - A. Single
 - B. Double
 - C. Triple
 - D. Quadruple

7. Live fire shall be conducted _____ nm offshore?
- A. 1
 - B. 5
 - C. 12
 - D. 20
8. Under CORR manual, how many digits for the year are acceptable?
- A. One digit
 - B. Two digits
 - C. Three digits
 - D. Two or four digits
9. The unit training plan shall be established at least how many days in advance?
- A. 7 days
 - B. 14 days
 - C. 30 days
 - D. 60 days
10. The PEPIRB is stored in which pocket of the SAR vest?
- A. Left pocket
 - B. Right pocket
 - C. Shoulder pocket
 - D. 45 degree

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. During which war were Coast Guard fatalities the highest compared with any other service?

- A. WWII
- B. WWI**
- C. Civil War
- D. Korean War

World War I brought the greatest risk to Coast Guard personnel because they were deployed directly into high stakes naval warfare as part of the Navy, with a primary mission of protecting transatlantic convoys from German U boat attacks. Those convoy escort duties placed crews in constant danger from submarine shells, mines, and the harsh realities of sea combat, leading to more Coast Guard fatalities than in any other conflict. In later wars, although losses occurred, the scale and nature of the fighting shifted, and the Coast Guard did not experience the same level of casualties as in World War I.

2. Be consistent with the use of what on memos?

- A. Margins
- B. Signatures
- C. Enclosures
- D. Distribution**

Be consistent with the distribution on memos. The distribution line shows who should read or receive the memo, and keeping a uniform format every time ensures the right people are informed, avoids omissions, and creates a clear record of who got the document. This consistency also helps with filing and searching past memos, since the recipients are always presented in the same way. Other elements like margins, signatures, and enclosures have different purposes—margins manage layout, signatures show approval, and enclosures note attached documents—so they're not about who gets the memo, which is why the distribution line is the focus for consistency.

3. Which statement correctly describes female hair regulations?

- A. Bun up to 2 inches; Braids up to 1/2 inch
- B. Bun up to 3 inches; Braids up to 1/4 inch**
- C. Bun up to 4 inches; Braids up to 1/8 inch
- D. Bun up to 3 inches; Braids up to 1/2 inch

Hair regulations focus on keeping hair neatly secured so it won't interfere with headgear, equipment, or safety. The standard allows a bun no higher than 3 inches and braids no wider than 1/4 inch. This size limit keeps hair tucked away and secure while wearing helmets or other gear, and prevents strands or bulky sections from snagging or affecting fit. A bun constrained to 2 inches is too restrictive, while a 4-inch bun could protrude under equipment. Braids wider than 1/4 inch or much narrower than that can cause snagging or look uneven with the uniform. So the combination of a 3-inch bun and 1/4-inch braids best matches the practical, safety-conscious requirements.

4. How to number enclosures, memo and business letters?

- A. Use a separate stamping method
- B. Type Ssep Cover after the description in the enclosure block**
- C. Write 'Enclosure' at the bottom
- D. Number with Roman numerals

The main idea here is to clearly communicate how enclosures are handled when you send a memo, memo, or business letter. You want the reader to know exactly what's included and how it's packaged so nothing gets lost or split up. The best approach is to add a Separate Cover note right after the description of each enclosure in the enclosure block. This tells the recipient that the enclosed item isn't bound into the main document but is accompanied by its own cover sheet or separate packet. That small label helps filing, distribution, and security processes by making the handling explicit and preventing confusion about whether something is missing or included elsewhere. This method is preferred because it provides precise, immediate guidance about how the documents are packaged. Other options either don't explicitly indicate a separate cover (which can lead to items being overlooked) or use nonstandard conventions that can confuse the reader. By stating Separate Cover after the enclosure description, you keep the record tidy, traceable, and in line with formal correspondence practices.

5. Abbie Burgess is associated with which two Maine lighthouses?

- A. Lime Rock Lighthouse and Cape Elizabeth
- B. Matinicus Rock and White Head Light**
- C. Portland Head Light and Owls Head
- D. Portage River Light and Pemaquid Point

Abbie Burgess is remembered as a lighthouse keeper on Maine's coast, celebrated for her bravery and service in keeping the light at Matinicus Rock during a fierce storm. Historical accounts also link her to White Head Light, another Maine beacon, highlighting her contributions along the coast. Because of these documented associations, the two Maine lighthouses connected to her are Matinicus Rock Light and White Head Light. The other lighthouse pairings don't have the same historical connection to her. In short, this question tests your recall of which two Maine lighthouses are tied to Abbie Burgess's lighthouse-keeping career.

6. How to indent subdivisions of paragraphs (like a. or (1) or (a))?

- A. Single
- B. Double**
- C. Triple
- D. Quadruple

The main idea is to use a second level of indentation for subpoints. When you have subdivisions within a paragraph—labels like a., (1), or (a)—giving them a double indentation creates a clear visual hierarchy between the main text and the subpoints. It keeps the subpoints distinctly separated from the leading text, making the outline easy to skim and understand. Single indentation often isn't enough to separate levels, so the subpoints can look cramped or merge visually with the main text. A triple or quadruple indentation would waste space and look unbalanced with typical margins and line lengths, and it can disrupt consistent formatting across documents. Using a double indentation strikes a practical balance, providing enough space to house the label and the content while maintaining a clean, organized layout.

7. Live fire shall be conducted _____ nm offshore?

- A. 1
- B. 5
- C. 12
- D. 20**

Safety for live-fire training depends on a large, clearly defined hazard boundary. Establishing a minimum offshore distance creates a wide buffer so that any errant projectile, fragmentation, or debris stays well away from shorelines, populated areas, and busy waterways, while giving range safety personnel space to monitor and halt the event if needed. Twenty nautical miles offshore is chosen because it provides this ample protection across varying sea states and traffic conditions, making it a practical standard that keeps the training safely out of shore-based and civilian maritime risk zones. Shorter distances—such as one, five, or twelve nautical miles—do not reliably guarantee that debris or misfires won't reach near-shore areas or shipping lanes, especially given drift and wind.

8. Under CORR manual, how many digits for the year are acceptable?

- A. One digit
- B. Two digits
- C. Three digits
- D. Two or four digits**

Year fields in the CORR manual accept either two-digit or four-digit entries. This lets you handle older records that used YY and newer entries that use YYYY without forcing a single format. Two-digit years keep compatibility with historical data, while four-digit years remove any ambiguity about the century. The result is flexible data entry that works across both legacy and current records.

9. The unit training plan shall be established at least how many days in advance?

- A. 7 days
- B. 14 days
- C. 30 days**
- D. 60 days

Planning ahead for unit training requires a sufficient lead time to coordinate resources, schedules, and safety prerequisites. Establishing the unit training plan at least 30 days in advance gives you time to secure instructors and training spaces, gather and prepare materials, coordinate with other units or departments, and ensure all safety briefs and prerequisites are in place before training begins. Shorter windows, like 7 or 14 days, often clash with instructor availability and facility bookings or prerequisite completion. A longer window, such as 60 days, can be more than necessary and may hinder agility if priorities change. The 30-day minimum provides a practical balance that supports readiness and smooth execution.

10. The PEPiRB is stored in which pocket of the SAR vest?

- A. Left pocket
- B. Right pocket
- C. Shoulder pocket
- D. 45 degree**

The main idea here is ensuring rapid, reliable access to distress gear on a SAR vest. The PEPiRB is placed in the 45-degree pocket because that orientation makes it easy to reach with one hand even in rough seas or while wearing gloves, so you can activate it quickly when needed. The angled pocket also helps keep the beacon oriented so its antenna has a clear view of the sky and is less likely to snag on other gear as you grab it. Other pockets are not as convenient for fast retrieval or may be blocked by straps and equipment, making them slower to access in an emergency.

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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://bmcswe.examzify.com>

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

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