

COLLATERAL DAMAGE ESTIMATION (CDE) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://collateraldamageestimation.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. What is a recommended approach when inputs conflict across data sources in a CDE calculation?**
 - A. Always take the most recent source as definitive.
 - B. Use only the source with the highest credibility, ignoring others.
 - C. Assess credibility, weigh sources, perform sensitivity analysis, document assumptions, and use conservative defaults when uncertain.
 - D. Average the inputs without regard to source credibility.
- 2. In Case 1 hazard analysis, which organizations may receive the target for additional analysis?**
 - A. CIA, DIA, or FBI
 - B. DTRA, NCMI, or NAVO
 - C. CDC, NIOSH, or EPA
 - D. NOAA, USGS, or NASA
- 3. In Case 1, why is the hazard analysis CE added to the overall target CE?**
 - A. To reflect hazard analysis alongside target characteristics
 - B. To reduce the target CE
 - C. To remove hazard information
 - D. To delay the assessment
- 4. Explain why data quality is critical in CDE and give two examples of poor data consequences.**
 - A. Inaccurate inputs yield unreliable estimates; examples: underestimation leads to unforeseen casualties; overestimation leads to excessive operational risk avoidance and mission delay.
 - B. Data quality only affects post-operation reporting.
 - C. Poor data has no impact on CDE outputs.
 - D. Data quality affects only the speed of computation.
- 5. What does the principle of Distinction require?**
 - A. Distinguish between ally and enemy soldiers only.
 - B. Distinguish between armed forces and civilian, and unprotected objects.
 - C. Distinguish between old and new weapons.
 - D. Distinguish between offense and defense.

- 6. What is the CDM product?**
- A. A detailed battlefield map
 - B. A legal brief on proportionality
 - C. A casualty estimate only after action
 - D. An estimation of the outcome of weapon employment
- 7. Which is a responsibility of the Joint Technical Coordinating Group for Munitions Effectiveness (JTTCG/ME)?**
- A. Develop, maintain, and publish the CER Reference Tables in coordination with Joint Staff Targeting
 - B. Provide CDE qualification training for personnel assigned to a position or billet performing CDE
 - C. Audit and accreditation of Service and CCMD CDE programs
 - D. Set ROE for all operations
- 8. TLE90 is defined as a circle in the ground and vertical planes centered on the target coordinates. Which planes are used?**
- A. Ground and horizontal
 - B. Ground and vertical
 - C. Horizontal and vertical
 - D. Ground only
- 9. Which CER reference tables support CDE Level 3?**
- A. 2A (PGM) 2B (ASUGM) 2C (SSBM)
 - B. 1A and 1B only
 - C. 4A, 4B, 4C
 - D. 3A (PGM), 3B (ASUGM), 3C (SSBM)
- 10. Which of the following is NOT listed as a core data input for CDE?**
- A. Population density
 - B. Proximity to sensitive sites (schools, hospitals, utilities)
 - C. Global temperature trends
 - D. Timing of the operation

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is a recommended approach when inputs conflict across data sources in a CDE calculation?

- A. Always take the most recent source as definitive.
- B. Use only the source with the highest credibility, ignoring others.
- C. Assess credibility, weigh sources, perform sensitivity analysis, document assumptions, and use conservative defaults when uncertain.**
- D. Average the inputs without regard to source credibility.

When inputs conflict across data sources in a CDE calculation, the goal is to combine evidence thoughtfully rather than treating every input as equally valid. Start by evaluating each source's credibility: consider data quality, provenance, how it was collected, timeliness, and the methods used to derive the numbers. Then assign weights or influence to inputs based on that credibility, so more trustworthy sources have more impact on the result. Next, test how sensitive the outcome is to different inputs. Running sensitivity analyses reveals which sources drive the result and where the estimate is most uncertain. This helps you understand the range of possible outcomes and communicate risk more clearly. Document the assumptions you're making and the reasoning behind why certain inputs were weighted more than others. This transparency is crucial for traceability and future updates. Finally, when uncertainty remains after weighing evidence and testing sensitivity, adopt conservative defaults. This means leaning toward values that err on the side of caution to avoid underestimating potential harm. Choosing the most recent source alone can be biased if that data isn't the most accurate or appropriate for the context. Relying only on the highest-credibility source discards useful corroboration, and averaging inputs without considering source quality can blur important differences. The described approach integrates evidence, respects data quality, and manages uncertainty, which is essential in CDE calculations.

2. In Case 1 hazard analysis, which organizations may receive the target for additional analysis?

- A. CIA, DIA, or FBI
- B. DTRA, NCMI, or NAVO**
- C. CDC, NIOSH, or EPA
- D. NOAA, USGS, or NASA

In Case 1 hazard analysis, the target for additional analysis is directed to organizations that bring defense-focused, medical-intelligence, and environmental modeling expertise to the table. DTRA specializes in weapons of mass destruction and threat reduction, so it's the right partner to carry forward analyses involving high-risk threats. The National Center for Medical Intelligence provides crucial medical threat assessment and epidemiological context, making it essential when health or biological factors are in play. NAVO (Naval Oceanographic Office) contributes environmental and geospatial data and modeling capabilities, which are important for understanding how hazards move and affect operations in maritime or joint settings. Together, these three institutions cover the defense, medical, and environmental angles needed for deeper, technical hazard evaluation. The other options don't fit as naturally because they focus on different domains—civil public health and regulatory agencies, or civilian science and space authorities—whose primary missions aren't the specific combination of defense threat analysis, medical intelligence, and naval environmental modeling that Case 1 hazard analysis requires.

3. In Case 1, why is the hazard analysis CE added to the overall target CE?

- A. To reflect hazard analysis alongside target characteristics
- B. To reduce the target CE
- C. To remove hazard information
- D. To delay the assessment

The key idea here is that the overall collateral damage estimate should capture both the target's characteristics and the hazards identified in the analysis. In Case 1, adding the hazard analysis CE to the target CE makes the final figure reflect not only the direct impact on the target but also the secondary and indirect consequences that hazards can cause in the surrounding area. This ensures hazards like debris, secondary fires, structural failures, and other risk factors are included in the total estimate, giving a more complete and realistic assessment of collateral damage. That approach keeps the assessment consistent and avoids underestimating risk by treating hazards separately or omitting them, and it avoids delaying the evaluation. In short, the hazard analysis CE is combined with the target CE to reflect hazard information alongside target characteristics, yielding a more accurate overall estimate.

4. Explain why data quality is critical in CDE and give two examples of poor data consequences.

- A. Inaccurate inputs yield unreliable estimates; examples: underestimation leads to unforeseen casualties; overestimation leads to excessive operational risk avoidance and mission delay.
- B. Data quality only affects post-operation reporting.
- C. Poor data has no impact on CDE outputs.
- D. Data quality affects only the speed of computation.

Data quality directly shapes the reliability of collateral damage estimates because the estimates are driven by the inputs you feed into the model. When inputs are accurate and complete, the resulting estimates of casualties, damage, and risk are trustworthy and can support sound decisions. When data is poor, the outputs become unreliable, which means planners might underestimate harm or overestimate it. Underestimation is dangerous because it can leave you unprepared for actual impact, potentially resulting in unforeseen casualties and greater harm than anticipated. Overestimation, on the other hand, tends to make operations excessively cautious, leading to unnecessary risk avoidance, longer mission timelines, and wasted resources. Both scenarios show why high-quality data is essential for safe, effective decision-making in CDE. The other options miss the broader impact of data quality. Data quality doesn't only affect post-operation reporting, it doesn't have no impact at all, and it isn't limited to just how fast computations run—the quality of the inputs directly shapes the credibility and usefulness of the entire analysis.

5. What does the principle of Distinction require?

- A. Distinguish between ally and enemy soldiers only.
- B. Distinguish between armed forces and civilian, and unprotected objects.**
- C. Distinguish between old and new weapons.
- D. Distinguish between offense and defense.

Distinction is about protecting civilians by ensuring that only legitimate military targets are attacked. It requires clearly separating armed forces from civilians and civilian objects, and identifying what can be lawfully attacked as a military objective. In practice, attacks should be directed at military targets and not at people or civilian infrastructure that are not contributing to hostilities. Civilian objects and civilians receive protection, and unprotected objects are those not serving a military function and thus should be spared. The other ideas—focusing on ally versus enemy, old versus new weapons, or offensive versus defensive posture—do not address the core duty to distinguish between military targets and noncombatants.

6. What is the CDM product?

- A. A detailed battlefield map
- B. A legal brief on proportionality
- C. A casualty estimate only after action
- D. An estimation of the outcome of weapon employment**

The CDM product is the estimation of the outcome of weapon employment. It represents the predicted effects that would result from using a weapon against a target, including potential casualties, collateral damage to people and property, and other operational impacts. This assessment is used during planning and decision-making to weigh proportionality, minimize harm to civilians, and choose the most appropriate course of action. It's not simply a detailed battlefield map, nor a standalone legal brief on proportionality, nor limited to casualty tallies after the action. Instead, it provides a forward-looking estimate of what could happen if a weapon is employed, guiding safer and legally sound targeting choices.

7. Which is a responsibility of the Joint Technical Coordinating Group for Munitions Effectiveness (JTCEG/ME)?

- A. Develop, maintain, and publish the CER Reference Tables in coordination with Joint Staff Targeting**
- B. Provide CDE qualification training for personnel assigned to a position or billet performing CDE
- C. Audit and accreditation of Service and CCMD CDE programs
- D. Set ROE for all operations

The main idea is standardizing how collateral-damage estimates are produced. The Joint Technical Coordinating Group for Munitions Effectiveness develops, maintains, and publishes the CER Reference Tables so all services and components use the same data and methods when assessing collateral effects. They do this in coordination with the Joint Staff Targeting to ensure the tables align with joint targeting guidance and policy. Other functions listed aren't handled by this group. Training personnel in CDE qualifications is typically done through service or DoD training programs, not by JTCEG/ME. Auditing and accrediting Service and CCMD CDE programs fall under different oversight or assessment bodies, and setting rules of engagement is a policy decision made higher up the chain of command and outside this group's remit.

8. TLE90 is defined as a circle in the ground and vertical planes centered on the target coordinates. Which planes are used?

- A. Ground and horizontal
- B. Ground and vertical**
- C. Horizontal and vertical
- D. Ground only

The idea being tested is how a 3D footprint is defined using planes. TLE90 uses a circle laid out on the ground plane (the horizontal surface) centered on the target coordinates, and vertical planes that pass through that same center to bound the region in elevation. So the planes involved are the ground plane and vertical planes. This matches the description directly: a circle on the ground plus vertical planes through the target. The other pairings don't fit because a horizontal plane would be redundant with the ground, omitting the explicit vertical constraints, or would miss the required ground circle.

9. Which CER reference tables support CDE Level 3?

- A. 2A (PGM) 2B (ASUGM) 2C (SSBM)
- B. 1A and 1B only
- C. 4A, 4B, 4C
- D. 3A (PGM), 3B (ASUGM), 3C (SSBM)**

Level 3 CDE relies on the 3-series CER reference tables across all three CER domains to provide the necessary detail and coverage for higher-level impact estimates. The three tables labeled 3A, 3B, and 3C correspond to the PGM, ASUGM, and SSBM domains, respectively. Using this complete set ensures consistency in methods and data used across the different parts of the analysis, which is essential for Level 3 scenarios. So, the best choice is the set that includes 3A (PGM), 3B (ASUGM), and 3C (SSBM) because it directly aligns with the requirement to pull from the 3-series tables in all three domains. The other options point to tables from levels 2, 1, or 4, which do not meet the Level 3 requirement.

10. Which of the following is NOT listed as a core data input for CDE?

- A. Population density
- B. Proximity to sensitive sites (schools, hospitals, utilities)
- C. Global temperature trends**
- D. Timing of the operation

Core data inputs in collateral damage estimation are the factors that directly affect how many people could be harmed and where they are located. Population density directly scales potential casualties by showing how many people occupy a given area. Proximity to sensitive sites like schools, hospitals, or utilities helps assess indirect harm and the severity of impacts on critical infrastructure. Timing of the operation matters because occupancy and presence of vulnerable groups change with time of day or day of week, altering both casualty estimates and disruption potential. Global temperature trends, while relevant to broad climate analysis, don't feed into the immediate, location- and time-specific calculations used in a typical CDE. They're not tied to the specific occupancy or vulnerability of a target area for a particular operation, unlike the other inputs.

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://collateraldamageestimation.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE