

COMBAT ARMS TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE (CATM) CDC PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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 a common requirement for military personnel before participating in CATM training?**
 - A. Completion of an all-terrain course
 - B. Achieving physical fitness standards
 - C. Passing a firearms safety course
 - D. Holding a specific rank
- 2. Which type of ammunition is NOT used in the M9 pistol?**
 - A. M882 ball
 - B. M802 ball
 - C. M821 ball
 - D. M193 ball
- 3. Which MK 64 machine gun cradle assembly provides travel lock and mechanical fire control adjustment capability?**
 - A. Base assembly
 - B. Train and elevation assembly
 - C. Elevator assembly
 - D. Locking assembly
- 4. Which malfunction occurs if there is a projectile lodged in the barrel of the M249 AR?**
 - A. Failure to eject
 - B. Squib load
 - C. Double feed
 - D. Failure to chamber
- 5. Which malfunction may indicate a worn extractor in the M249 AR?**
 - A. Failure to strip
 - B. Failure to feed
 - C. Failure to chamber
 - D. Failure to extract

- 6. In the context of firing exercises, why is range safety emphasized?**
- A. To allow more shooters on the range at once
 - B. To enhance scoring accuracy during drills
 - C. To ensure safe handling and minimize accident risks
 - D. To facilitate faster shooting techniques
- 7. What is the maximum effective range for the M240B machine gun?**
- A. 2500 meters
 - B. 3000 meters
 - C. 3500 meters
 - D. 3725 meters
- 8. The main purpose of the tripod head in a machine gun mount is to?**
- A. Stabilize the weapon
 - B. Support frontal stability
 - C. Adjust elevation
 - D. Secure the barrel
- 9. What is the action performed on the M870 shotgun when the shooter pushes the fore end towards the front of the weapon?**
- A. Firing
 - B. Loading
 - C. Ejecting
 - D. Unlocking
- 10. What is the approximate muzzle velocity for the M4 Carbine?**
- A. 2500 fps
 - B. 2970 fps
 - C. 3200 fps
 - D. 3600 fps

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a common requirement for military personnel before participating in CATM training?

- A. Completion of an all-terrain course
- B. Achieving physical fitness standards
- C. Passing a firearms safety course**
- D. Holding a specific rank

Passing a firearms safety course is a common requirement for military personnel before participating in Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) training. This prerequisite ensures that all participants have a foundational understanding of firearm safety principles, which is crucial for maintaining a safe training environment. Firearms safety courses cover essential topics such as proper handling, storage, and the responsibilities associated with using firearms, which directly contribute to reducing the risk of accidents during training. The emphasis on completing a firearms safety course reflects the military's commitment to safety and effective training, as personnel must demonstrate knowledge of safe practices prior to engaging in more advanced training scenarios. This requirement prepares individuals for the responsibilities they will encounter when operating weapons in various situations. Understanding safety protocols not only protects the individual but also the unit and the broader operational environment.

2. Which type of ammunition is NOT used in the M9 pistol?

- A. M882 ball
- B. M802 ball
- C. M821 ball**
- D. M193 ball

The M9 pistol, which is a standard issue handgun for the United States Armed Forces, is typically designed to fire specific types of ammunition. Among the choices presented, M882 ball ammunition is the standard 9mm ball round used with the M9, while M802 is a training round also compatible with the pistol. The M821 is a different type of round that is often used for training purposes. In contrast, the M193 ball ammunition is a 5.56mm round designed for use in rifles such as the M16 and M4, not pistols. Therefore, it is not suitable for use in the M9 pistol. This distinction is important to understand the compatibility of different ammunition types with specific firearms, ensuring proper training and operational effectiveness.

3. Which MK 64 machine gun cradle assembly provides travel lock and mechanical fire control adjustment capability?

- A. Base assembly
- B. Train and elevation assembly**
- C. Elevator assembly
- D. Locking assembly

The choice indicating the train and elevation assembly is correct because this component of the MK 64 machine gun cradle assembly is specifically designed to facilitate adjustments for both horizontal (train) and vertical (elevation) movement of the weapon. It incorporates mechanisms that allow shooters to lock the machine gun in place securely and adjust fire control mechanically, which is crucial for accurate targeting and stability during engagements. These functionalities ensure that the operator can efficiently aim and fire the weapon while maintaining control over its positioning. The train and elevation assembly effectively enhances the versatility and operational readiness of the machine gun system. In contrast, the other components, such as the base assembly, elevator assembly, and locking assembly, do not encompass the combined capabilities for mechanical fire control adjustments as effectively as the train and elevation assembly, thus making it the appropriate choice for this particular question.

4. Which malfunction occurs if there is a projectile lodged in the barrel of the M249 AR?

- A. Failure to eject
- B. Squib load**
- C. Double feed
- D. Failure to chamber

A projectile lodged in the barrel of the M249 AR is characteristic of a squib load malfunction. A squib load occurs when a cartridge produces insufficient pressure to propel the projectile through the entire length of the barrel, resulting in a bullet becoming stuck within the barrel. If another round is fired after the projectile has become lodged, this can create a very dangerous situation known as a "barrel obstruction," which can potentially lead to serious damage to the firearm or injury to the shooter. In contrast, other types of malfunctions like failure to eject, double feed, and failure to chamber involve different mechanisms within the firearm's operation and do not specifically relate to a projectile being stuck in the barrel. A failure to eject occurs when a spent cartridge case does not exit the chamber, while a double feed refers to a situation where two rounds are attempting to be fed into the chamber simultaneously. Failure to chamber happens when a round does not seat properly in the chamber, which is also unrelated to a lodged projectile. Thus, recognizing a squib load as the correct answer is critical for safe firearm handling and maintenance.

5. Which malfunction may indicate a worn extractor in the M249 AR?

- A. Failure to strip
- B. Failure to feed
- C. Failure to chamber
- D. Failure to extract**

A worn extractor in the M249 Automatic Rifle can lead to specific malfunctions, and one of the primary indicators of this wear is the failure to extract. The extractor is a crucial component responsible for removing the spent cartridge case from the chamber after firing. When the extractor is worn or damaged, it may not grip the case properly, which can result in the cartridge not being pulled out of the chamber. This malfunction can manifest as a failure to extract, where the round is fired, but the spent casing remains lodged in the chamber instead of being ejected. This situation can lead to stovepipe jams or double feeds, complicating further operation of the weapon. Recognizing this symptom is important for maintenance and repair, as it directly relates to the functionality of the extractor, distinguishing it from other issues that might arise in the feeding or chambering processes. The other malfunctions indicate separate issues: failure to strip involves the belt or ammunition not being lifted properly, failure to feed pertains to a round not getting into position to chamber, and failure to chamber concerns rounds not being seated correctly in the chamber. Each of these problems has different causes and does not specifically signal an extractor issue like a failure to extract does.

6. In the context of firing exercises, why is range safety emphasized?

- A. To allow more shooters on the range at once
- B. To enhance scoring accuracy during drills
- C. To ensure safe handling and minimize accident risks**
- D. To facilitate faster shooting techniques

Range safety is a critical aspect of firing exercises because it directly addresses the well-being of all individuals present and aims to prevent accidents that could lead to injuries or fatalities. Emphasizing safety ensures that all participants follow established protocols regarding the handling of firearms, the use of ammunition, and the conduct expected on the range. This includes maintaining proper control of the weapon at all times, ensuring that firing is conducted only when it is safe to do so, and that specific safety gear is worn as required. By prioritizing safety, the training environment not only protects shooters but also instills a culture of responsibility and alertness, motivating everyone to be vigilant. This ultimately enhances the overall effectiveness of the training exercise, as participants can focus on skill development without being distracted by concerns about their safety or that of others. In contrast, while allowing more shooters on the range, enhancing scoring accuracy, or facilitating faster shooting may seem beneficial, they do not directly address the fundamental necessity of ensuring a safe training environment. These aspects are secondary and rely on safety being the foremost priority to be effective.

7. What is the maximum effective range for the M240B machine gun?

- A. 2500 meters
- B. 3000 meters
- C. 3500 meters
- D. 3725 meters**

The maximum effective range of the M240B machine gun is indeed 3725 meters when used against area targets. This figure represents the maximum distance at which the weapon can effectively engage and deliver accurate fire. The M240B is a highly versatile crew-served weapon that operates on the principles of gas operation and is known for its reliability and sustained fire capability. In engagements, the effective range is a critical factor as it determines the distance at which the gunner can deliver effective fire while maintaining accuracy and ensuring that the rounds can reach the target with sufficient impact. This maximum range may take into account various factors such as terrain, type of target, and firing conditions. Understanding this specific capability of the M240B is vital for operational planning and tactical engagements in the field. It allows commanders and gunners to strategize effectively based on the weapon's limitations and strengths, ensuring they can engage the enemy effectively at appropriate distances within its operational envelope.

8. The main purpose of the tripod head in a machine gun mount is to?

- A. Stabilize the weapon
- B. Support frontal stability**
- C. Adjust elevation
- D. Secure the barrel

The main purpose of the tripod head in a machine gun mount is to support frontal stability. This is critically important because a stable foundation allows for accurate firing and helps maintain control over the weapon during sustained fire. The tripod head attaches securely to the machine gun, ensuring that it is held firmly in position, which minimizes any unwanted movements that could adversely impact aiming and make the gunner's job more difficult. While stabilization and adjustment of elevation are important functions, they are secondary to the main goal of providing a stable platform for firing. The ability to adjust elevation is typically handled through other mechanisms or features of the mount itself. Securing the barrel, while important, is not the primary role of the tripod head; rather, it integrates with other parts of the mount system to ensure overall operational effectiveness. Thus, the primary role centers around providing a solid and reliable support, which underscores the significance of frontal stability in machine gun operation.

9. What is the action performed on the M870 shotgun when the shooter pushes the fore end towards the front of the weapon?

- A. Firing
- B. Loading**
- C. Ejecting
- D. Unlocking

When the shooter pushes the fore end towards the front of the M870 shotgun, this action is part of the loading process. In this specific action, the fore end is moved forward to chamber a round from the magazine tube into the chamber of the shotgun. This movement corresponds to the operation of the shotgun's pump mechanism, which readies the firearm for firing. The loading process is critical for ensuring that a round is properly seated in the chamber, allowing the shotgun to function as intended when the trigger is pulled. Proper loading technique contributes not only to the reliability of the firearm but also to the overall safety of the operation.

10. What is the approximate muzzle velocity for the M4 Carbine?

- A. 2500 fps
- B. 2970 fps**
- C. 3200 fps
- D. 3600 fps

The muzzle velocity of the M4 Carbine is approximately 2970 feet per second (fps). This velocity is the speed at which a bullet leaves the barrel of the firearm upon firing. The M4 Carbine, which is chambered for the 5.56x45mm NATO cartridge, is designed to deliver a high velocity for effective range and accuracy. Muzzle velocity is a critical factor in determining the performance characteristics of a firearm, such as its effective range, terminal ballistics, and the trajectory of the projectile. The 2970 fps figure reflects the M4's ability to maintain a flat trajectory and deliver energy onto the target effectively, which is essential for the type of engagements typically encountered by military personnel. The other choices represent velocities that are either too low or too high for the standard M4 Carbine, making 2970 fps the accurate and reliable figure in this context.

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://catmcdc.examzify.com>

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

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