Combat Tactical Coordinator (COTAC) Board Practice Test (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

1. What does TPQ provide?

A. An associated AOU in square data miles and error distance

B. Positions quality indicator (PQ)

C. A measure of sensor reliability

D. A target's heading estimate

2. Which option describes the V/UHF modes that provide frequency hopping for jam resistance?

A. Manual

B. Maritime

C. HaveQuick and SINCGARS

D. SCAN

3. In COMSEC periodicity, which statement describes regular supersession?

A. It occurs irregularly without a pre-determined date

B. It is based on a specific, pre-determined date

C. It occurs only after an incident

D. Upon customer request

4. What is the purpose of filters in the Integrated Broadcast System?

A. Filters can be used to see all data regardless of interest.

B. Filters can be applied to see only what is of interest to the user.

C. Filters encrypt data streams.

D. Filters alter the appearance of the display.

5. Which statement correctly describes Interference Protection Feature and Time Slot Duty Factor in Link 16?

A. Interference Protocol Function; new encryption.

B. Integrated Protocol Filter; controls data rate.

C. Initial Pulse Frequency; a data rate parameter.

D. Interference Protection Feature; reduces interference and terminates transmission if interference exists.

6. For Link 16, what is the correct TQ range and interpretation?

A. 0-7; 7 indicates maximum accuracy.

B. 0-15; higher numbers indicate greater accuracy.

C. 0-31; 31 indicates greatest accuracy.

D. 0-100; 100 indicates best accuracy.

7. Which document designates airspace control sectors and contains deconfliction information?

A. DIMS

B. SPINS

C. ACO

D. ATO

8. The Four T's acronym stands for which combination?

A. Time, Target, Threat, Tactics

B. Task, Target, Threat, Tactics

C. Task, Threat, Target, Tactics

D. Task, Target, Tactics, Threat

9. Which aircraft provides on-scene, near real-time intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination and has a large sensor and comms suite making it highly capable?

A. E-6 Mercury

B. RC-135 Rivet Joint

C. E-3 AWACS

D. MQ-4 Triton

10. Which of the following describes the due regard requirements?

A. VMC only.

B. VMC; Must provide own separation; Outside controlled airspace; Must have ability to talk to ground facility

C. Must have a filed flight plan with ATC.

D. Must be inside controlled airspace.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What does TPQ provide?

A. An associated AOU in square data miles and error distance

B. Positions quality indicator (PQ)

C. A measure of sensor reliability

D. A target's heading estimate

TPQ is about how certain we are about a track point’s position. It provides the associated Area Of Uncertainty (AOU) expressed as an area in square data miles and the error distance that defines the confidence region around that position. In practice, TPQ tells you where the target is likely to be, within a defined two-dimensional footprint and a radial bound, rather than giving you heading, sensor reliability, or a general quality flag. The AOU gives the size of the uncertainty area, and the error distance gives the radius of the confidence bound, which together describe the positional uncertainty precisely.

2. Which option describes the V/UHF modes that provide frequency hopping for jam resistance?

A. Manual

B. Maritime

C. HaveQuick and SINCGARS

D. SCAN

Frequency hopping spreads a transmission across many frequencies in a synchronized, pseudo-random sequence, so a jammer can’t lock onto and stay on the signal. HaveQuick and SINCGARS are the V/UHF modes built to do this. They continuously switch frequencies in concert between the transmitting and receiving ends, giving strong jam resistance and, in the case of SINCGARS, added encryption for secure communications. A mode that stays on a fixed frequency or merely scans across channels doesn’t inherently resist jamming, since a jammer can concentrate on the single frequency in use or simply fill the scanned range. Maritime refers to channel usage rather than an anti-jam hopping method, so it doesn’t provide the hopping capability on its own.

3. In COMSEC periodicity, which statement describes regular supersession?

A. It occurs irregularly without a pre-determined date

B. It is based on a specific, pre-determined date

C. It occurs only after an incident

D. Upon customer request

Regular supersession means the cryptographic material is replaced on a fixed, pre-determined date. This scheduled turnover keeps security predictable and forward-looking, ensuring keys don’t remain valid longer than intended and reducing risk from stale material. It happens regardless of any incidents, and it isn’t something you arrange only after a problem or at a customer’s request.

4. What is the purpose of filters in the Integrated Broadcast System?

A. Filters can be used to see all data regardless of interest.

B. Filters can be applied to see only what is of interest to the user.

C. Filters encrypt data streams.

D. Filters alter the appearance of the display.

Filters in the Integrated Broadcast System are a tool for preventing information overload by selecting which streams or messages are shown. The main idea is to tailor the feed so you only see items that matter to you, which helps you monitor critical events, assign actions, and respond more quickly. That's why the best answer is that filters can be applied to see only what is of interest to the user—this focuses attention on relevant data. Encryption of data streams isn't what filtering does, so that choice doesn't fit. Similarly, filters don't just change how things look on the display; they determine which data are presented in the first place, so they aren't about altering appearance. Often you'll filter by factors like area of interest, priority level, or type of broadcast to keep the workflow efficient.

5. Which statement correctly describes Interference Protection Feature and Time Slot Duty Factor in Link 16?

A. Interference Protocol Function; new encryption.

B. Integrated Protocol Filter; controls data rate.

C. Initial Pulse Frequency; a data rate parameter.

D. Interference Protection Feature; reduces interference and terminates transmission if interference exists.

In Link 16, the Interference Protection Feature is designed to keep the network clear of harmful interference by actively monitoring the channel and taking action when interference is detected. If interference exists, it can terminate transmission to prevent worsening the congestion and to protect other users' transmissions. This behavior—detecting interference and stopping transmission to preserve network integrity—is what the Interference Protection Feature is all about. Time Slot Duty Factor is a separate concept that governs how much of a time slot a terminal may transmit, effectively shaping data rate and channel occupancy to keep access orderly. The option that describes the Interference Protection Feature and its response to interference is the best match because it directly captures how IPF protects the link by reducing impact on the channel and terminating when interference is present. The other choices mix in encryption, data rate control, or incorrect technical terms, which don't describe the interference protection behavior accurately.

6. For Link 16, what is the correct TQ range and interpretation?

A. 0-7; 7 indicates maximum accuracy.

B. 0-15; higher numbers indicate greater accuracy.

C. 0-31; 31 indicates greatest accuracy.

D. 0-100; 100 indicates best accuracy.

In Link 16, data reliability is conveyed with a Target Quality (TQ) value. The TQ scale runs from 0 to 15, and higher numbers mean greater accuracy and confidence in the data. This lets operators quickly assess whether a track or payload is trustworthy enough to rely on or fuse with other information. The maximum quality is 15, representing the best possible accuracy; lower values indicate degraded or less certain data. The other proposed ranges don't match how Link 16 represents data quality, so they would misrepresent the reliability of the information.

7. Which document designates airspace control sectors and contains deconfliction information?

A. DIMS

B. SPINS

C. ACO

D. ATO

The concept being tested is which document actually sets up the airspace control picture by naming the sectors and laying out deconfliction instructions. The Airspace Control Order is the one that publishes the boundaries of each airspace control sector, designates which authority controls which sector, and includes the deconfliction measures needed to prevent conflicts between airspace users. It provides the concrete, sector-by-sector view that controllers rely on to apply airspace control. General instructions for airspace control, such as SPINS, guide how the control measures are implemented but don't define the sector boundaries themselves. The Air Tasking Order focuses on assigning missions and which assets operate where and when, not on delineating the physical sectors or detailing deconfliction between sectors. DIMS isn't the standard publication for publishing sector boundaries either.

8. The Four T's acronym stands for which combination?

A. Time, Target, Threat, Tactics

B. Task, Target, Threat, Tactics

C. Task, Threat, Target, Tactics

D. Task, Target, Tactics, Threat

The Four T's organize planning by moving from what you want to achieve to how you'll do it: Task establishes the objective, Target identifies what you will affect, Threat assesses the risks and opposition you must counter, and Tactics are the methods you choose to accomplish the task while addressing those threats. This order keeps the plan focused and practical: define the goal, specify what you're acting on, understand what could stop you, then pick the actions that will succeed given those risks. Time is not part of this four-term sequence, so including it would shift the framework away from its intended structure.

9. Which aircraft provides on-scene, near real-time intelligence collection, analysis, and dissemination and has a large sensor and comms suite making it highly capable?

A. E-6 Mercury

B. RC-135 Rivet Joint

C. E-3 AWACS

D. MQ-4 Triton

This is about recognizing an aircraft that excels at signals intelligence with on-scene, near real-time analysis and rapid dissemination, powered by a large sensor and communications suite. The RC-135 Rivet Joint is built specifically for that role: it intercepts electronic emissions across the radio frequency spectrum, processes and analyzes the signals onboard, and pushes actionable intelligence out to theater commands and other nodes almost as the mission unfolds. The expansive sensor and comms suite enables simultaneous collection from many signals and fast distribution of findings, which is why it's described as providing near real-time intelligence on scene. Other aircraft serve related but different missions: the E-3 AWACS focuses on airspace surveillance and battle management using a dominant radar and command-and-control capability, not primarily signals intelligence; the E-6 Mercury is a strategic command and communications relay platform rather than a frontline ISR collection asset; and the MQ-4 Triton is a unmanned maritime reconnaissance platform with sensors designed to relay data back to operators rather than delivering on-scene, onboard analysis and dissemination in the same way Rivet Joint does.

10. Which of the following describes the due regard requirements?

A. VMC only.

B. VMC; Must provide own separation; Outside controlled airspace; Must have ability to talk to ground facility

C. Must have a filed flight plan with ATC.

D. Must be inside controlled airspace.

Due regard means you must see and avoid other air traffic and provide your own separation rather than relying on ATC to separate you. To do that safely, you operate in Visual Meteorological Conditions so you can maintain a clear line of sight to other aircraft. You also must be responsible for maintaining separation yourself, which means you're not counting on ATC to keep you apart. Because you're not under ATC control, you operate outside controlled airspace, and you need a means to coordinate with a ground facility to share position and intent when needed. This combination captures how due regard is typically applied: visual conditions, self-separation, outside controlled airspace, and two-way communication with a ground facility. The other options either omit one of these elements, or impose conditions (like filing a flight plan or being inside controlled airspace) that aren't inherent to due regard.

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://cotacboard.examzify.com

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