COMBAT TACTICAL COORDINATOR (COTAC) BOARD PRACTICE TEST (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

1. What is the Bullseye primarily used for in submarine operations?

A. It is used to pass positions quickly and securely to friendly units

B. It marks the geographic center of a target area

C. It designates the center of circular force

D. It serves as a general waypoint beacon for all units

2. What defines a time-sensitive target (TST) and what is the engagement flow?

A. A target with long planning time

B. A target far from friendly forces

C. A target requiring rapid action due to imminent threat; ID, authorization, and target engagement with minimal delay

D. A target with uncertain location

3. What is the Link-16 system primarily used for?

A. A high-capacity digital information distribution system providing secure real-time information transfer; TDMA; JTRS for MIDS.

B. HF voice channel.

C. An analog video link.

D. A satellite-only system.

4. In Link 16, what are JNLs used for?

A. JTIDS Network Libraries that specify network parameters for entry.

B. Encryption keys for KG-40A.

C. Physical cables.

D. Time slots.

5. Explain how 'deception' can be used to support a tactical objective and provide an example.

A. Broadcasting false weather reports to mislead logistics.

B. Misleading the enemy to fix or misdirect; e.g., feints to draw attention away from the true objective.

C. Deception involves attacking friendly units to create confusion.

D. Deception is used to trick the enemy into surrendering without a fight.

6. In ASW duties, what is MDEC used for?

A. MDEC for dynamic events and sinker

B. MDEC for weather updates

C. MDEC for mission planning

D. MDEC for data encryption

7. In common brevity, which term means to maintain surveillance?

A. Lat/Long reported

B. Maintain surveillance

C. 3PT track production

D. Surface vessel identified as enemy

8. In a COTAC plan, which statement best describes how environmental factors influence sensor performance and timing?

A. Weather and terrain do not affect sensor performance.

B. Sensor performance is fixed and independent of environment.

C. Weather, terrain, and environment can affect visibility, range, and sensor effectiveness, influencing timing.

D. Only operator preference affects sensor timing.

9. Which US Navy platform is an all-weather carrier-based aircraft designed for airborne early warning and command and control for the Carrier Strike Group?

A. E-2 Hawkeye

B. E-6 Mercury

C. MQ-4 Triton

D. RC-135 Rivet Joint

10. How are IBS feeds connected to INMARSAT and ENTR?

A. INMARSAT uses a dedicated fiber line.

B. ENTR is not used with IBS.

C. INMARSAT is established over SIPR and ENTR via SATCOM 2.

D. ENTR requires no configuration.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What is the Bullseye primarily used for in submarine operations?

A. It is used to pass positions quickly and securely to friendly units

B. It marks the geographic center of a target area

C. It designates the center of circular force

D. It serves as a general waypoint beacon for all units

The key idea is quick and secure position reporting. In submarine operations, time and stealth matter, so a Bullseye provides a prearranged, common reference point for sharing a unit's location with allied forces. By giving a concise bearing and distance relative to that reference, a submarine can communicate where it is rapidly and with minimal risk of misinterpretation, helping others plot and respond quickly without lengthy or exposed messages. The Bullseye isn't about marking a geographic center, the center of a formation, or serving as a general waypoint for all units; its primary role is to convey positions efficiently to friendly units.

2. What defines a time-sensitive target (TST) and what is the engagement flow?

A. A target with long planning time

B. A target far from friendly forces

C. A target requiring rapid action due to imminent threat; ID, authorization, and target engagement with minimal delay

D. A target with uncertain location

Time-sensitive targets are defined by the need for rapid action because the threat is imminent or the window to act is very short. The engagement flow for a TST is streamlined to minimize delay: quickly identify and confirm the target, obtain the necessary authorization to engage, and execute the engagement as promptly as possible while still adhering to safety and rules of engagement. This rapid sequence ensures the target is engaged before it can change position, escalate, or disappear. The other scenarios don't capture the essential urgency of a TST. A target with long planning time isn't time-sensitive, a target far from friendly forces affects risk and logistics but not the immediacy of action, and a target with uncertain location complicates targeting but doesn't by itself define the need for a rapid engagement flow.

3. What is the Link-16 system primarily used for?

A. A high-capacity digital information distribution system providing secure real-time information transfer; TDMA; JTRS for MIDS.

B. HF voice channel.

C. An analog video link.

D. A satellite-only system.

Link-16 is a high-capacity digital tactical data link that provides secure, real-time information sharing among connected forces. It uses Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) to let many units talk on the same channel without stepping on each other, which creates a common operating picture with up-to-date track data, status information, weather, and command-and-control data shared across air, ground, and maritime assets. The system is implemented through the Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS) and is often fielded with Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) for MIDS, making it software-defined and highly interoperable. This capability is what sets it apart from an HF voice channel, an analog video link, or a satellite-only system, because Link-16 focuses on secure, jam-resistant digital data distribution in near real time across a distributed network of participants.

4. In Link 16, what are JNLs used for?

A. JTIDS Network Libraries that specify network parameters for entry.

B. Encryption keys for KG-40A.

C. Physical cables.

D. Time slots.

JNLs in Link 16 are JTIDS Network Libraries that specify the network entry parameters a unit must load to join a specific Link 16 network. They define the settings the terminal needs to know to synchronize and speak on that network—things like the network identity, timing and configuration requirements, and other parameters needed for interoperable operation. This makes sure your terminal and the network are aligned before any data is exchanged. Encryption keys are separate crypto material used for securing communications, not the entry parameters defined by a JNL. Link 16 is a wireless TDMA system, so it's not about physical cables or the time slots themselves—the JNL focuses on how to enter and configure for the correct network.

5. Explain how 'deception' can be used to support a tactical objective and provide an example.

A. Broadcasting false weather reports to mislead logistics.

B. Misleading the enemy to fix or misdirect; e.g., feints to draw attention away from the true objective.

C. Deception involves attacking friendly units to create confusion.

D. Deception is used to trick the enemy into surrendering without a fight.

Deception in warfare is about shaping the enemy's decisions by presenting a misleading picture of the situation, so you can move where you want with less resistance. The most effective use is to fix or misdirect the enemy—making them respond to a false threat while you carry out your real plan. A classic form of this is a feint: a convincing display or activity intended to draw attention and provoke a reaction, pulling their forces away from the true objective. For example, you might stage a loud, visible feint of a crossing or assault on one part of the front. The enemy, seeing movement and believing a major attack is coming there, pours reserves and directs air or artillery support to that area. Meanwhile, the actual maneuver happens somewhere else, where the defender is weaker or less prepared, allowing you to achieve the real objective with fewer obstacles and casualties. Other options either describe actions that aren't focused on influencing the enemy's decisions in a controlled way or involve unethical or impractical outcomes. The key idea is using deception to fix or misdirect the enemy's attention so your true operation can succeed.

6. In ASW duties, what is MDEC used for?

A. MDEC for dynamic events and sinker

B. MDEC for weather updates

C. MDEC for mission planning

D. MDEC for data encryption

MDEC in ASW duties is used to manage dynamic events and sinker-related tasks during a mission. In antisubmarine warfare, conditions and contacts can change rapidly, and the team needs a centralized way to log those developing events and coordinate any actions tied to the sinker equipment. This focused role makes MDEC the best fit, since weather updates, overall mission planning, and encryption are handled by other systems and aren't the primary function of MDEC in this context.

7. In common brevity, which term means to maintain surveillance?

A. Lat/Long reported

B. Maintain surveillance

C. 3PT track production

D. Surface vessel identified as enemy

In common brevity, a direct command to keep watching a target is a clear instruction to continue observing. The phrase that conveys this ongoing watch is "maintain surveillance." It tells the observer to keep monitoring the contact and to continue reporting any changes or developments, ensuring constant situational awareness. The other options don't express this ongoing observation directive: reporting latitude/longitude is about sharing location data, not instructing continued surveillance; a term about track production isn't about observation; and identifying a vessel as an enemy is a classification label, not a directive to keep watching.

8. In a COTAC plan, which statement best describes how environmental factors influence sensor performance and timing?

A. Weather and terrain do not affect sensor performance.

B. Sensor performance is fixed and independent of environment.

C. Weather, terrain, and environment can affect visibility, range, and sensor effectiveness, influencing timing.

D. Only operator preference affects sensor timing.

Environmental factors directly shape how sensors perform and when you can expect to get information. In a COTAC plan, you plan actions around what the sensors can actually see and measure, and that depends on weather, terrain, and the overall environment. These conditions change visibility, range, and sensor effectiveness, which in turn shifts the timing of detections, identifications, and subsequent actions. For example, rain, fog, or snow scatters or absorbs optical and infrared signals, reducing contrast and effective range, so targets may take longer to detect and confirm. Dense forests or rough terrain can obstruct line of sight or create clutter, lowering detection reliability and delaying reaction times. Dust, sand, or humidity can degrade optics and sensor clarity, further affecting how quickly you can rely on sensor data. Radar performance can also be influenced by atmospheric conditions and terrain, altering range and resolution. Because all these factors alter what the sensors can reliably produce at any moment, timing is inherently linked to the environment. That's why the best answer reflects that weather, terrain, and environment can affect visibility, range, and sensor effectiveness, influencing timing. The other statements overlook the real impact of the environment, suggesting sensors are fixed, independent of conditions, or that only operator preference drives timing.

9. Which US Navy platform is an all-weather carrier-based aircraft designed for airborne early warning and command and control for the Carrier Strike Group?

A. E-2 Hawkeye

B. E-6 Mercury

C. MQ-4 Triton

D. RC-135 Rivet Joint

Airborne early warning and fleet command and control from a carrier requires a platform that can stay on station for long periods, provide radar coverage in all weather, and act as an airborne hub to direct fighters, ships, and sensors. The E-2 Hawkeye is built for exactly that role. It carries a powerful radar dome that scans the surrounding airspace, delivers the fleet a real-time picture of aerial threats, and uses data links to share that information with the Carrier Strike Group, enabling coordinated air defense and battle management. Its all-weather capability and onboard mission crew allow it to cue interceptors, vector aircraft, and manage operations across the fleet from the carrier environment. The other options serve different missions: the E-6 Mercury is a strategic airborne command post not carried on ships of the strike group; the MQ-4 Triton is a long-endurance unmanned maritime patrol aircraft mainly land-based; and the RC-135 Rivet Joint is a USAF signals-intelligence platform, not Navy carrier-based.

10. How are IBS feeds connected to INMARSAT and ENTR?

A. INMARSAT uses a dedicated fiber line.

B. ENTR is not used with IBS.

C. INMARSAT is established over SIPR and ENTR via SATCOM 2.

D. ENTR requires no configuration.

The feed setup relies on a satellite path rather than a fiber line. INMARSAT provides the satellite transport, while ENTR handles the secure routing and access control needed for the feed. The traffic is carried over the SIPR network to keep it classified, and it uses a designated SATCOM channel (SATCOM 2) to reach both INMARSAT and ENTR. In short, the IBS feed is established over SIPR and ENTR via the SATCOM 2 link to INMARSAT, which is why this connection method is the correct description. A fiber connection isn't used, ENTR is involved in the secure routing, and ENTR typically requires configuration for proper routing, so the other statements don't fit.

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!