

Communications Progress Test 1 Practice (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

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- 1. Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM) is used by the Navy for what?**
 - A. Digital communications, systems, radars, and single baseband modulators**
 - B. Analog voice transmissions only**
 - C. Satellite navigation**
 - D. Emergency signaling devices**

- 2. What is propagation in radio communications?**
 - A. The way radio waves move through the air**
 - B. The process of converting digital data to analog signals**
 - C. The rate at which data is transmitted**
 - D. The frequency range of signals**

- 3. COMMSPLAN defines what in naval communications?**
 - A. Defines communication specifications for a ship; minimum classification= confidential.**
 - B. Lists forbidden frequencies.**
 - C. Specifies user training requirements.**
 - D. Describes the ship's antenna placements.**

- 4. What is the second node in the SAR transmission order?**
 - A. COMMO**
 - B. FLTCMDR**
 - C. RSSC/GSSC**
 - D. NCTAMS**

- 5. Which characteristic describes UHF (300 MHz to 3 GHz) in naval communications?**
 - A. Easily jammed but supports high mobility**
 - B. Highly anti-jam**
 - C. Low bandwidth**
 - D. Not used in naval communications**

- 6. What type of communications provide data and voice transmissions when ships are over the visible horizon?**
- A. Long-range communications**
 - B. Line of Sight communications**
 - C. In-band channels**
 - D. Narrowband voice**
- 7. What is the first node in the SAR transmission order?**
- A. COMMO**
 - B. FLTCMDR**
 - C. RSSC/GSSC**
 - D. NCTAMS**
- 8. How many distinct nodes are listed in the SAR transmission chain?**
- A. 3**
 - B. 4**
 - C. 5**
 - D. 6**
- 9. In certain frequencies, what causes interference?**
- A. Increment weather**
 - B. Thermal noise**
 - C. Ionospheric scintillation**
 - D. Intermodulation distortion**
- 10. Which node is first in the SAR chain?**
- A. COMMO**
 - B. FLTCMDR**
 - C. RSSC/GSSC**
 - D. NCTAMS**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM) is used by the Navy for what?

A. Digital communications, systems, radars, and single baseband modulators

B. Analog voice transmissions only

C. Satellite navigation

D. Emergency signaling devices

Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM) is a digital modulation method that encodes data by varying both the amplitude and the phase of two carrier components that are 90 degrees apart (the I and Q channels). This lets you pack more bits into each symbol, giving higher data rates within the same bandwidth and making digital processing more straightforward. In Navy applications, that efficiency and compatibility with digital processing are critical for digital communications links, system integration, radar signal processing, and baseband modulation chains. QAM supports robust, high-speed data transfer and flexible waveform generation, which are essential for modern naval communications and sensing systems. Analog voice transmissions rely on purely analog modulation (like FM or AM), not QAM. Satellite navigation uses specific navigation signals and spread-spectrum techniques rather than QAM data links. Emergency signaling devices rely on simple, robust signaling schemes designed for reliability, not the high-rate digital modulation of QAM. So the best match is its use for digital communications, systems, radars, and single baseband modulators.

2. What is propagation in radio communications?

A. The way radio waves move through the air

B. The process of converting digital data to analog signals

C. The rate at which data is transmitted

D. The frequency range of signals

Propagation describes how radio waves travel from the transmitter to the receiver through air and space, and how their path and strength change along the way. It includes the different ways waves can move—line-of-sight for many bands, ground waves that hug the surface, and skywaves that bounce off the ionosphere to reach distant receivers—and the environmental effects that shape the signal, such as reflection, refraction, diffraction, scattering, and absorption. This concept focuses on the movement and behavior of the waves themselves, not on converting data to analog, the data rate, or the frequency range the signal uses.

3. COMMSPLAN defines what in naval communications?

- A. Defines communication specifications for a ship; minimum classification= confidential.**
- B. Lists forbidden frequencies.**
- C. Specifies user training requirements.**
- D. Describes the ship's antenna placements.**

COMMSPLAN defines the ship's communications framework, specifying how, when, and with whom signals are exchanged. It sets the communication specifications for a ship, covering which channels and frequencies to use, how to address stations, the formats and procedures for messages, and how security and classifications are handled. The note that the minimum classification is confidential reflects protecting sensitive information within the plan so that only authorized personnel can access it. This plan keeps operations coordinated and secure across the ship and allied units. The other options don't fit because they describe areas outside the plan's scope: forbidden frequencies relate to spectrum control rather than the plan itself; training requirements belong to a separate training program; antenna placements are part of installation or engineering drawings, not the communications plan.

4. What is the second node in the SAR transmission order?

- A. COMMO**
- B. FLTCMDR**
- C. RSSC/GSSC**
- D. NCTAMS**

In SAR transmission order, a message moves through a fixed path from local responsibility up to higher-level networks. The first stop is the local COMMO, who prepares and initiates the transmission. The next hop, the second node, is the fleet-level communications hub (FLTCMDR), which takes the message from the local node and hands it off toward the fleet's backbone so it can be routed further up the chain. After that come the regional/satellite centers (RSSC/GSSC) and finally the Navy's area master station (NCTAMS) for wide-area distribution. So the second node is the fleet-level communications hub.

5. Which characteristic describes UHF (300 MHz to 3 GHz) in naval communications?

- A. Easily jammed but supports high mobility**
- B. Highly anti-jam**
- C. Low bandwidth**
- D. Not used in naval communications**

UHF signals use higher frequencies, which lets you send more data and use smaller antennas—perfect for fast-moving platforms like ships and aircraft. But that comes with a trade-off: these links rely on line-of-sight and can be more easily disrupted by jamming or interference. So the description that fits best is that UHF is easily jammed yet supports high mobility: the moving platforms can carry compact, high-frequency antennas and maintain high-speed links, while the same frequency range is more susceptible to jamming when an adversary transmits noise or a deceptive signal. The other options don't match: UHF isn't inherently anti-jam unless spread-spectrum or other techniques are used; it typically offers higher bandwidth rather than low bandwidth; and UHF is indeed used in naval communications.

6. What type of communications provide data and voice transmissions when ships are over the visible horizon?

- A. Long-range communications**
- B. Line of Sight communications**
- C. In-band channels**
- D. Narrowband voice**

When you're beyond what you can see over the horizon, signals that rely on a direct line from one ship to another won't reach. Long-range communications are designed to cover these distances, using methods such as satellite links or high-frequency radio that can bounce off the ionosphere or travel via satellites. These systems provide both data and voice across oceans, even when ships aren't in sight of each other. In-band channels and narrowband voice describe how signals are carried within a band or the data rate, not how far they can travel, so they don't address the horizon issue. That's why long-range communications are the appropriate choice for beyond-horizon transmissions.

7. What is the first node in the SAR transmission order?

- A. COMMO**
- B. FLTCMDR**
- C. RSSC/GSSC**
- D. NCTAMS**

The first node in the SAR transmission order is the COMMO—the Communications Officer. This person is the local authority responsible for initiating SAR transmissions, ensuring the message is properly formed, authenticated, and assigned the correct priority. Starting at the COMMO guarantees the transmission is entered into the formal chain from the origin point, where it can be accurately documented and then handed off to the next echelon for escalation. After the COMMO, the path typically proceeds to higher levels such as the Fleet Commander, then regional centers (RSSC/GSSC), and finally the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station (NCTAMS) for long-haul routing and processing. The other nodes are involved in higher-level oversight, regional routing, or centralized processing, not at the point of origin, which is why the COMMO is listed first.

8. How many distinct nodes are listed in the SAR transmission chain?

- A. 3**
- B. 4**
- C. 5**
- D. 6**

Counting distinct nodes means tracing the signal's path and listing each unique block it passes through, counting each stage only once even if the signal moves through the same block again. In a SAR transmission chain, you look at every functional block the signal enters from start to finish and tally how many separate blocks appear. The four distinct stages shown in the diagram are the four nodes the signal traverses, so the total is four. If there were fewer blocks, you'd get three; if there were more, you'd get five or six. The key idea is to ignore repeated visits to a node and focus on how many unique stages exist in the chain.

9. In certain frequencies, what causes interference?

- A. Increment weather**
- B. Thermal noise**
- C. Ionospheric scintillation**
- D. Intermodulation distortion**

Interference is often tied to how signals propagate through the atmosphere and how external conditions affect that propagation. In certain frequency bands, especially at higher microwave frequencies, weather can cause noticeable interference because moisture, rain, and precipitation absorb, scatter, or reflect RF energy. This leads to attenuation and fading of the desired signal, sometimes degrading reception enough to appear as interference or signal disruption. This weather-related effect tends to be frequency-specific, becoming more pronounced as you move to higher bands where rain fade is a real concern. By contrast, thermal noise is a baseline electronic noise that exists across frequencies and isn't caused by weather. Ionospheric scintillation involves irregularities in the ionosphere and mainly affects certain bands (often HF to VHF and satellite paths), not weather per se. Intermodulation distortion comes from nonlinearities in transmitters or receivers and creates spurious signals independent of atmospheric conditions.

10. Which node is first in the SAR chain?

- A. COMMO**
- B. FLTCMDR**
- C. RSSC/GSSC**
- D. NCTAMS**

The first link in the SAR chain is the unit's COMMO. The communications officer is the one who monitors distress nets and receives reports, and it's their responsibility to initiate the rescue process immediately by alerting the duty SAR officer and passing the information up the chain. This quick, authoritative relay gets assets and coordination started without delay. The Fleet Commander would become involved to authorize and direct resources once the chain is activated, but they are not the initial point of contact. Regional SAR centers (RSSC/GSSC) coordinate searches at a higher level once the process is underway, and NCTAMS provides the communications backbone to support messaging, not the act of initiating SAR.

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://ptcbsupplychaininventorymgmt.examzify.com>

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

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