

DAU PERFORMANCE-BASED LOGISTICS (PBL) 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. Which statement about the relationship of maintenance and support concepts is true?**
 - A. The maintenance concept provides the overarching goals of logistics support, while the support concept provides the required steps.
 - B. The maintenance concept provides the steps; the support concept provides the goals.
 - C. They are unrelated.
 - D. They have no impact on logistics.
- 2. What is the fifth phase in the defense acquisition life cycle?**
 - A. Engineering and Manufacturing Development
 - B. Requirements analysis
 - C. Materiel Solution Analysis
 - D. Operations and Support
- 3. In the collaboration between life cycle logisticians and system engineers, the primary objective is to**
 - A. To integrate sustainment considerations into system design
 - B. To avoid design changes
 - C. To minimize maintenance
 - D. To accelerate procurement
- 4. Product support boundaries are designed to ensure individual weapon systems support strategies fit within the DoD overall support.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not sure
 - D. Not applicable
- 5. The analysis of alternatives evaluates which aspects?**
 - A. It evaluates alternative support concepts in terms of cost, sustainability and performance.
 - B. It determines the production schedule for each component.
 - C. It sets the pricing strategy for spares.
 - D. It defines the training requirements for maintenance personnel.

- 6. The statement 'Facilities & Infrastructure, Manpower & Personnel, support equipment and training and training support include the IPS elements that relate to technical management' is:**
- A. Not sure
 - B. Irrelevant
 - C. True
 - D. False
- 7. A product support arrangement typically includes which elements?**
- A. The environment and safety compliance guidelines.
 - B. The procurement contract terms only.
 - C. The products or services required, the metrics to determine if expectations are met, and the incentives.
 - D. The training curriculum for personnel.
- 8. Which phrase best fits the product support development definition related to integration?**
- A. Involves identifying required integrated product support elements
 - B. Involves ignoring user feedback
 - C. Involves only software maintenance
 - D. Involves delaying logistics planning
- 9. Which statement describes the Milestone Decision Authority's role?**
- A. Approves budgets
 - B. Approves the program phase and is accountable for outcomes and risk management
 - C. Approves requirements
 - D. Approves cost estimates
- 10. Which design components promote supportability?**
- A. Reliability, Maintainability, and Support Features
 - B. Cost, Weight, and Aesthetics
 - C. Power Consumption, Size, and Manufacturing Time
 - D. Accessibility, Modularity, and Color

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement about the relationship of maintenance and support concepts is true?

- A. The maintenance concept provides the overarching goals of logistics support, while the support concept provides the required steps.
- B. The maintenance concept provides the steps; the support concept provides the goals.
- C. They are unrelated.**
- D. They have no impact on logistics.

Maintenance and support concepts address different aspects of sustainment planning. The maintenance concept describes how maintenance will be performed—where repairs occur, the levels of maintenance, intervals, tasks, and the resources and processes needed to keep equipment fit for service. The support concept, meanwhile, lays out the overall logistics sustainment approach—how the system will be supported in the field, including provisioning, supply chains, data, training, and organizational roles to maintain readiness. Because they focus on separate questions—one on execution of maintenance, the other on the broader support structure—they don't prescribe each other's content. They are distinct elements within the larger logistics plan, and they must be aligned, but one does not provide the goals or the steps for the other. That's why this statement is considered true in this context.

2. What is the fifth phase in the defense acquisition life cycle?

- A. Engineering and Manufacturing Development
- B. Requirements analysis
- C. Materiel Solution Analysis
- D. Operations and Support**

The main idea here is the lifecycle flow from defining a need to delivering a system and then keeping it effective over time. After early work to analyze needs and explore possible solutions, and after maturing technology and completing system development and demonstration, the program moves into producing and deploying the system. The fifth phase is Operations and Support, which centers on sustaining the fielded system throughout its life. This includes maintenance, supply and logistics, training, repairs, upgrades, and overall support to ensure performance is maintained while controlling life-cycle cost. The earlier stages—requirements analysis and Materiel Solution Analysis—happen before fielding, and the development phase (including Engineering and Manufacturing Development) and Production and Deployment occur before Operations and Support, so that phase ordering places Operations and Support last.

3. In the collaboration between life cycle logisticians and system engineers, the primary objective is to

- A. To integrate sustainment considerations into system design**
- B. To avoid design changes
- C. To minimize maintenance
- D. To accelerate procurement

The main idea is designing with sustainment in mind from the start. Life cycle logisticians bring deep knowledge of maintenance, repair, supply, and total ownership cost, while system engineers shape how the system will perform and be built. When they collaborate, maintenance concepts, diagnostics, spare parts, accessibility for upkeep, and reliability considerations are incorporated into the design decisions early. This leads to a system that is easier to maintain, quicker to repair, and cheaper to operate over its life, with fewer costly changes needed after deployment. In short, the goal is to integrate sustainment considerations into system design so the system can be supported effectively throughout its life.

4. Product support boundaries are designed to ensure individual weapon systems support strategies fit within the DoD overall support.

- A. True**
- B. False
- C. Not sure
- D. Not applicable

Product support boundaries establish how the sustainment plan for an individual weapon system connects to the DoD's overall approach to keeping all systems ready and supported. By defining responsibilities, interfaces, and performance expectations, these boundaries ensure that each system's support strategy aligns with the DoD-wide sustainment architecture rather than working in isolation. This alignment helps prevent gaps or duplications, promotes consistent practices across programs, and enables coordinated use of resources, funding, and data to measure readiness and outcomes. In a performance-based logistics context, the goal is to deliver the required readiness at the lowest total ownership cost, with all sustainment activities integrated under a unified strategy. Therefore, this statement is true. If boundaries weren't designed this way, different programs could pursue conflicting approaches, increasing risk and cost.

5. The analysis of alternatives evaluates which aspects?

- A. It evaluates alternative support concepts in terms of cost, sustainability and performance.**
- B. It determines the production schedule for each component.
- C. It sets the pricing strategy for spares.
- D. It defines the training requirements for maintenance personnel.

Evaluating alternative support concepts focuses on comparing how each option affects cost, sustainability, and performance. The life-cycle cost includes what it takes to acquire, operate, sustain, and eventually dispose of the system, so the analysis seeks the overall economic impact over the system's life. Sustainability covers environmental impact, regulatory compliance, and supply-chain resilience, ensuring the chosen concept aligns with long-term stewardship and risk management. Performance looks at how well each concept maintains readiness, including reliability, maintainability, repair time, spare availability, and the ease of executing support tasks. Other ideas like producing schedules, setting spare-price strategies, or defining training requirements may be relevant to implementation, but they aren't the primary criteria used to compare and select between alternative support concepts.

6. The statement 'Facilities & Infrastructure, Manpower & Personnel, support equipment and training and training support include the IPS elements that relate to technical management' is:

- A. Not sure
- B. Irrelevant
- C. True**
- D. False

Technical management in Integrated Product Support is about planning and controlling the resources that enable effective product support. Facilities and infrastructure, manpower and personnel, support equipment, and training and training support are the tangible assets, people, tools, and knowledge needed to plan, implement, and sustain the support system. When you manage these areas well, you ensure readiness, availability, and lifecycle efficiency. Because these IPS elements directly influence how the support system is organized, operated, and costed, they indeed relate to technical management. Therefore, the statement is true.

7. A product support arrangement typically includes which elements?

- A. The environment and safety compliance guidelines.
- B. The procurement contract terms only.
- C. The products or services required, the metrics to determine if expectations are met, and the incentives.**
- D. The training curriculum for personnel.

In a product support arrangement, the key focus is on defining what will be delivered, how success will be measured, and how performance is rewarded or penalized. This trio—the required products or services, the metrics that determine if expectations are met, and the incentives tied to performance—forms the backbone of a performance-based approach. The scope clarifies exactly what is needed to support the system, the metrics establish objective criteria for evaluation (such as availability, response time, or MTTR), and the incentives align financial rewards with achieving or exceeding those criteria. That combination drives accountability, predictable readiness, and cost-effective outcomes. While environment and safety guidelines are important in any program, they don't by themselves define the deliverables or the performance framework. Contract terms alone are too narrow because they don't specify how success will be measured or what motivates the contractor. Training curricula can be part of the broader program, but they aren't the central elements that structure a product support arrangement.

8. Which phrase best fits the product support development definition related to integration?

- A. Involves identifying required integrated product support elements**
- B. Involves ignoring user feedback
- C. Involves only software maintenance
- D. Involves delaying logistics planning

In integration, the emphasis is on how all the different support elements come together so the system can be sustained throughout its life cycle. The phrase that best fits this idea is that it involves identifying required integrated product support elements. This captures the need to determine, from the outset, what pieces—such as maintenance concepts, training, spare parts, supply chains, support equipment, and processes—must be coordinated so they work as a coherent whole. Recognizing these elements early ensures tradeoffs are managed across disciplines and that the support structure is built into the product from the start. Ignoring user feedback undermines a collaborative, systems-wide approach and can lead to a support plan that misses real-world needs. Focusing only on software maintenance is too narrow to represent integration across all support elements, and delaying logistics planning prevents the formation of a cohesive, executable support strategy.

9. Which statement describes the Milestone Decision Authority's role?

- A. Approves budgets
- B. Approves the program phase and is accountable for outcomes and risk management**
- C. Approves requirements
- D. Approves cost estimates

The Milestone Decision Authority is the governance figure at major program milestones who approves the current program phase and is responsible for the outcomes and how risk is managed. This person or body reviews what's been accomplished, what remains, and the associated risks, then decides whether to proceed, adjust, or pause the program before moving to the next phase. They ensure the plan, performance expectations, and risk controls align with the program's objectives and contract. Budgets are usually set by funding authorities, requirements are managed through the system's requirements process, and cost estimates are developed by cost analysts and used to inform decisions—not the primary approval role of the MDA.

10. Which design components promote supportability?

- A. Reliability, Maintainability, and Support Features**
- B. Cost, Weight, and Aesthetics
- C. Power Consumption, Size, and Manufacturing Time
- D. Accessibility, Modularity, and Color

Design for supportability centers on building elements that keep the system available and easy to repair in the field. Reliability means the system fails less often, which lowers the amount of maintenance and the downtime that users experience. Maintainability focuses on how quickly and easily technicians can diagnose, access, disassemble, repair, and reassemble components, shortening repair cycles and getting the system back online faster. Support features include built-in diagnostics, modular or serviceable design, standardized interfaces, clear documentation, spare parts planning, and remote monitoring or troubleshooting capabilities—all of which help technicians locate and fix issues quickly. In PBL, readiness and uptime are core goals, so these design components directly promote supportability and reduce life cycle costs. Other options touch on cost, weight, aesthetics, or unrelated attributes like color; while they can influence supportability indirectly, they don't provide the direct design elements that actively promote supportability.

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://daupbl.examzify.com>

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

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