

Defensive Tactics (DT) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	9
Explanations	11
Next Steps	17

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What should an officer do when responding to a subject suspected of possessing a weapon?**
 - A. Rush in quickly to disarm the suspect**
 - B. Move in without commands if the weapon is suspected**
 - C. Use advance surprise techniques without warning**
 - D. Maintain distance, issue clear commands, and apply force only if necessary and proportional**

- 2. Which term describes a coordinated motor skill combining hand and eye coordination for a single event?**
 - A. Complex Motor Skills**
 - B. Fine Motor Skills**
 - C. Gross Motor Skills**
 - D. Heuristics**

- 3. What does safewording refer to in de-escalation?**
 - A. Clear, practiced phrases or signals used to safely and effectively de-escalate a situation.**
 - B. A rigid, pre-scripted command for the subject to follow.**
 - C. The protocol for reporting incidents to dispatch.**
 - D. A form used to record witness statements.**

- 4. What happens to blood flow to the extremities during vasoconstriction?**
 - A. It increases dramatically**
 - B. It is reduced and redirected toward vital organs**
 - C. It remains unchanged**
 - D. It circulates only in the upper limbs**

- 5. What is the meaning of aftercare in a use-of-force incident?**
 - A. Aftercare is primarily about documenting the incident for records.**
 - B. Medical assessment, hydration, rest, and monitoring to ensure safety and well-being**
 - C. Aftercare focuses on debriefing the officer only**
 - D. Releasing the subject without medical follow-up**

- 6. Which of the following is an example of deadly force resistance?**
- A. a subject refuses to drop a knife when ordered to by the officer and moves towards the officer.**
 - B. a subject withdraws and surrenders.**
 - C. a subject fails to move during a traffic stop.**
 - D. a subject shouts but remains at distance.**
- 7. Which term refers to combining fine and gross motor skills with hand-eye coordination for a timed event, such as driving a vehicle?**
- A. Heuristics**
 - B. Complex Motor Skills**
 - C. Eye Gaze**
 - D. Critical Incident Amnesia**
- 8. Appraisal in this context is defined as:**
- A. The officer's evaluation and assignment of challenge or threat value to a stimulus**
 - B. The suspect's intent**
 - C. The weather conditions**
 - D. The background noise during an encounter**
- 9. How does fatigue affect decision-making in defensive tactics?**
- A. It has no effect on judgment or reaction time.**
 - B. It speeds up and sharpens situational awareness.**
 - C. It impairs judgment, reaction time, and situational awareness, increasing risk of error.**
 - D. It enhances vigilance during long shifts.**

- 10. The U.S. Supreme Court said in *Graham v. Connor* that the reasonableness of a use of force must be judged from the perspective of how a reasonable officer on the scene would respond, rather than...**
- A. the 20/20 hindsight perspective**
 - B. the suspect's perspective**
 - C. the judge's perspective**
 - D. the department's internal policy**

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What should an officer do when responding to a subject suspected of possessing a weapon?

- A. Rush in quickly to disarm the suspect**
- B. Move in without commands if the weapon is suspected**
- C. Use advance surprise techniques without warning**
- D. Maintain distance, issue clear commands, and apply force only if necessary and proportional**

When approaching a subject who may be armed, the priority is to control the encounter safely through distance, clear communication, and measured response. Maintaining distance minimizes exposure to sudden moves and gives the officer time to observe weapon handling and dynamics. Clear commands establish expectations and offer the subject a chance to comply without escalation. Only after warning, if necessary, should force be used and it must be proportional to the threat, in line with the use-of-force continuum. This approach prioritizes safety, de-escalation where possible, and preservation of options for retreat or further control. Rushing in to disarm, moving in without commands, or using surprise without warning can trigger a violent reaction and remove the critical warning and assessment window that distance and commands provide.

2. Which term describes a coordinated motor skill combining hand and eye coordination for a single event?

- A. Complex Motor Skills**
- B. Fine Motor Skills**
- C. Gross Motor Skills**
- D. Heuristics**

Coordinated hand-eye action for a single task is described by complex motor skills. These skills require pulling together multiple muscle groups, precise timing, and spatial awareness to complete one movement successfully. They stand apart from fine motor skills, which focus on small, delicate movements like writing or buttoning, and from gross motor skills, which involve larger actions such as running or jumping. Hand-eye coordination is a core component of complex motor skills because the task hinges on syncing what you see with how your hands move to achieve a precise outcome in one event. Examples include catching a ball, swinging a racket to hit a target, or threading a needle. Heuristics are mental shortcuts and don't describe this physical coordination. That integration of vision, timing, and coordinated movement is why complex motor skills is the best fit.

3. What does safewording refer to in de-escalation?

- A. Clear, practiced phrases or signals used to safely and effectively de-escalate a situation.**
- B. A rigid, pre-scripted command for the subject to follow.**
- C. The protocol for reporting incidents to dispatch.**
- D. A form used to record witness statements.**

Safewording is about using clear, practiced phrases or signals that help de-escalate a situation safely and effectively. In tense encounters, a safeword provides a predictable cue to pause, reassess, or disengage, reducing the risk of escalation and keeping everyone safer. It's a collaborative tool learned ahead of time so both parties understand exactly when to slow down or stop, and how to proceed safely, rather than a rigid command. The phrases are meant to restore control and safety, not to force someone to do something against their will. The other options describe reporting or documentation processes, which don't address the communication and boundary-setting role of safewording.

4. What happens to blood flow to the extremities during vasoconstriction?

- A. It increases dramatically**
- B. It is reduced and redirected toward vital organs**
- C. It remains unchanged**
- D. It circulates only in the upper limbs**

During vasoconstriction, the sympathetic nervous system causes the smooth muscle in peripheral arteries and arterioles to contract. This tightens the vessels, increasing resistance and thereby reducing blood flow to the extremities. At the same time, the body prioritizes blood supply to essential organs like the brain and heart, redirecting more blood toward them to maintain function during stress or threat. You can think of it as shunting blood from the limbs to the core to keep vital organs well perfused. So the blood flow to the extremities is decreased and redirected toward vital organs. It wouldn't suddenly rise, stay the same, or be limited only to the upper limbs.

5. What is the meaning of aftercare in a use-of-force incident?

- A. Aftercare is primarily about documenting the incident for records.**
- B. Medical assessment, hydration, rest, and monitoring to ensure safety and well-being**
- C. Aftercare focuses on debriefing the officer only**
- D. Releasing the subject without medical follow-up**

The main idea here is that aftercare is about the immediate safety and physical well-being of the person involved after force is used. It includes medical assessment, hydration, rest, and ongoing monitoring to ensure they remain safe and in good condition. This approach recognizes that injuries can be visible or hidden, and symptoms can appear days after an incident due to adrenaline, stress, or positioning. Providing a medical evaluation, ensuring hydration, allowing rest, and watching for any changes helps catch problems early, reduces risk, and aligns with responsible, policy-based decisions about care. It also supports accountability and reduces potential liability by showing proper care was provided. While documentation is important, it serves a different purpose—record-keeping of the incident rather than addressing the person's health right after it occurs. Debriefing the officer focuses on organizational learning and officer readiness, not the subject's medical needs. Releasing the subject without medical follow-up ignores the possibility of injuries or delayed effects and is unsafe. Aftercare centers on the actual well-being of the person involved, ensuring they receive proper medical attention and supervision as needed.

6. Which of the following is an example of deadly force resistance?

- A. a subject refuses to drop a knife when ordered to by the officer and moves towards the officer.**
- B. a subject withdraws and surrenders.**
- C. a subject fails to move during a traffic stop.**
- D. a subject shouts but remains at distance.**

Deadly force resistance means the subject actively threatens or uses a weapon in a way that could cause serious harm, while the officer is attempting to stop the threat. Here, the subject refuses to drop a knife when commanded and moves toward the officer. That combination creates an imminent danger of serious injury or death, making it a clear example of deadly force resistance. The other scenarios show nonthreatening or non-weapon-related behaviors: withdrawing and surrendering is compliant, failing to move during a traffic stop is noncompliant but not a threat, and shouting while at a distance is verbal and not a weapon-enabled threat.

7. Which term refers to combining fine and gross motor skills with hand-eye coordination for a timed event, such as driving a vehicle?

- A. Heuristics**
- B. Complex Motor Skills**
- C. Eye Gaze**
- D. Critical Incident Amnesia**

Complex motor skills capture the idea of coordinating both fine and gross muscle actions with hand-eye coordination in a time-sensitive task. Driving a vehicle in a defensive-tactics scenario requires you to simultaneously steer, shift, brake, and accelerate with your hands while your eyes monitor the environment and your brain sequences each movement quickly. This integration of multiple motor systems under pressure is what defines complex motor skills. The other terms don't fit as well. Heuristics are mental shortcuts used to make quick decisions, not about coordinating physical actions. Eye gaze focuses on where you're looking, which is important for attention, but it doesn't describe the combined motor planning and execution. Critical incident amnesia refers to memory loss after a traumatic event, not to motor coordination or timed action.

8. Appraisal in this context is defined as:

- A. The officer's evaluation and assignment of challenge or threat value to a stimulus**
- B. The suspect's intent**
- C. The weather conditions**
- D. The background noise during an encounter**

Appraisal is the officer's assessment of a stimulus to determine its threat value and decide on an appropriate response. In practice, you quickly judge whether what you perceive represents a challenge or danger, and then choose the level of force or intervention that fits that assessment. This judgment uses training and observable cues—distance, stance, hand visibility, tempo of movement, and other risk indicators—to decide how risky the situation is and what response is warranted. The other factors—suspect's intent, weather conditions, or ambient noise—do not define appraisal itself. They may influence the context, but appraisal specifically refers to evaluating the perceived threat and shaping the next action.

9. How does fatigue affect decision-making in defensive tactics?

- A. It has no effect on judgment or reaction time.**
- B. It speeds up and sharpens situational awareness.**
- C. It impairs judgment, reaction time, and situational awareness, increasing risk of error.**
- D. It enhances vigilance during long shifts.**

Fatigue degrades the mental processes and sensory awareness you rely on for quick, sound decisions in defensive situations. When you're tired, information is processed more slowly, which hurts judgment about threats and the best course of action. Reaction time lengthens, so responses to changing danger come later, giving you less time to adapt. Situational awareness also suffers, with narrowed attention and missed cues, leading to a higher chance of misreading a scenario or overlooking important details. All of these combined increase the likelihood of errors under stress, making impaired judgment, slower responses, and reduced awareness a real risk when fatigue is present.

10. The U.S. Supreme Court said in *Graham v. Connor* that the reasonableness of a use of force must be judged from the perspective of how a reasonable officer on the scene would respond, rather than...

- A. the 20/20 hindsight perspective**
- B. the suspect's perspective**
- C. the judge's perspective**
- D. the department's internal policy**

In *Graham v. Connor*, the test for whether use of force was reasonable is anchored in what a reasonable officer on the scene would do, given the information available at the moment. This means we judge actions from the on-scene perspective, not with the full knowledge that might come after the fact. Because of that, evaluating the situation with hindsight—knowing how things turned out after everything has happened—skews the assessment and makes every split-second decision look excessive. That's the 20/20 hindsight perspective that the decision rejects. Thinking from the suspect's viewpoint isn't the standard either, since the Constitution's reasonableness is measured against an objective standard of what a reasonable officer would do under the circumstances, not what the suspect might perceive or experience. A judge's personal viewpoint isn't the measure either. The analysis isn't about how a judge might have acted in hindsight but about how a reasonable officer would have acted on the scene. Department policy matters for guidance and training, but it doesn't replace the constitutional standard. The reasonableness question centers on the officer's perspective in the moment, evaluated against what a typical, trained officer would do under the same conditions. So the best fit is the on-scene, reasonable-officer perspective, avoiding hindsight.

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://defensivetactics.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE