

E5 WEIGHTED AIRMAN PROMOTION SYSTEM (WAPS) TESTING PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. Why is accurate EPR important in the WAPS process?

- A. Because EPRs are used to award a substantial portion of promotion points and reflect job performance and leadership
- B. Because EPRs determine only retirement eligibility
- C. Because EPRs are optional for promotion consideration
- D. Because EPRs replace the knowledge test for promotion decisions

2. The U.S. Army is what type of branch?

- A. The Air Force
- B. The Land-Based Branch
- C. The Coast Guard
- D. The Space Force

3. Which components contribute to the WAPS composite score?

- A. EPR, PFE, and SKT (and related components)
- B. EPR only
- C. EPR and PFE only
- D. SKT and PFE only

4. Approximately how many members are in the National Guard and Reserve Forces?

- A. 826,000
- B. 1.0 million
- C. 1.3 million
- D. 2.0 million

5. In the WAPS promotion process, the PFE contributes to what overall measure?

- A. The base fitness assessment.
- B. The promotion composite score.
- C. The annual performance score.
- D. The aviation rating.

- 6. What statistic about the Navy is highlighted?**
- A. It is the world's largest aircraft carrier fleet.
 - B. It is the world's smallest navy.
 - C. It operates only submarines.
 - D. It relies on other nations for aircraft carriers.
- 7. The Chairman normally manages the Joint Staff through which office?**
- A. The Secretary of Defense
 - B. The Director of the Joint Staff
 - C. The Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman
 - D. The Deputy Director of the Joint Staff
- 8. The VCJCS is appointed by whom?**
- A. The President, with advice and consent of the Senate
 - B. The Secretary of Defense
 - C. The Vice President
 - D. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- 9. Which individuals compose the top-level membership of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?**
- A. The Chairman; Vice Chairman; Chief of Staff of the Army; Chief of Naval Operations; Chief of Staff of the USAF; Chief of Space Operations; Commandant of the Marine Corps; and Chief of the National Guard Bureau.
 - B. The President; the Secretary of Defense; and the National Security Advisor.
 - C. The four service secretaries.
 - D. The Chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force only.
- 10. What resources can you use to prepare for the PFE?**
- A. Official study guides, practice tests, Air Force knowledge centers, flashcards.
 - B. Only official study guides.
 - C. Internet memes about the Air Force.
 - D. Military history novels.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Why is accurate EPR important in the WAPS process?

- A. Because EPRs are used to award a substantial portion of promotion points and reflect job performance and leadership**
- B. Because EPRs determine only retirement eligibility
- C. Because EPRs are optional for promotion consideration
- D. Because EPRs replace the knowledge test for promotion decisions

In WAPS, your promotion score is built from several factors that reflect your overall performance and potential. The Enlisted Performance Report records how you actually performed and led during the reporting period, and it directly translates into a substantial portion of your promotion points. Because boards rely on this documented performance to gauge readiness for higher responsibilities, accuracy matters a lot. A precise, complete EPR shows your true contributions, leadership, and impact, which helps ensure fair comparisons with peers. EPRs are not about retirement eligibility, they aren't optional for promotion consideration, and they don't replace the knowledge test. They're one of the main performance-based inputs that drive your final score, so getting them right is essential to accurately reflect your qualifications.

2. The U.S. Army is what type of branch?

- A. The Air Force
- B. The Land-Based Branch**
- C. The Coast Guard
- D. The Space Force

Military branches are defined by where they operate. The Army is the land-based branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, trained for ground warfare and operations on the Earth's surface. It includes infantry, armor, engineers, artillery, and logistics to win battles on land. In contrast, the Air Force handles air power (and now space-related operations), the Coast Guard focuses on maritime security and safety, and the Space Force concentrates on operations in space. That makes the Army the best answer for being the land-based branch.

3. Which components contribute to the WAPS composite score?

- A. EPR, PFE, and SKT (and related components)**
- B. EPR only
- C. EPR and PFE only
- D. SKT and PFE only

WAPS promotion scoring blends multiple measures to gauge overall readiness, not just one facet. The composite score incorporates three major sources of evaluation: the Enlisted Performance Report, which reflects day-to-day performance and leadership in duties; the Promotion Fitness Examination, which tests general knowledge and readiness for promotion; and the Skill Knowledge Test, which targets job-specific knowledge and the ability to perform duties at a higher level. There are also related components that feed into the total, ensuring the score captures both how you perform and how well you know your job. Because the system weighs all these different dimensions together, the best approach is to develop strong performance, solid general knowledge, and solid job-specific knowledge.

4. Approximately how many members are in the National Guard and Reserve Forces?

- A. 826,000**
- B. 1.0 million
- C. 1.3 million
- D. 2.0 million

Think of the total as the sum of all guard and reserve components across every service. That includes the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve. When you add them up, the population sits around eight hundred thousand people, with 826,000 being a commonly cited precise figure. This reflects the overall strength of the reserves rather than the larger active-duty force, so numbers like 1.0 million or more would overshoot what these components together typically total. 1.3 million and 2.0 million are even larger gaps from the commonly reported total.

5. In the WAPS promotion process, the PFE contributes to what overall measure?

- A. The base fitness assessment.
- B. The promotion composite score.**
- C. The annual performance score.
- D. The aviation rating.

In the Weighted Airman Promotion System, the Promotion Fitness Examination is a knowledge-based test that feeds directly into the overall promotion score. This promotion composite score is the single metric used to rank airmen for promotion, combining several factors into one final number. Doing well on the PFE raises your contribution to that composite, helping your overall promotion standing when the other elements—like performance evaluations—are considered as well. It isn't a physical fitness test, nor is it the aviation rating or a separate annual performance measure; those are outside the promotion calculation.

6. What statistic about the Navy is highlighted?

- A. It is the world's largest aircraft carrier fleet.**
- B. It is the world's smallest navy.
- C. It operates only submarines.
- D. It relies on other nations for aircraft carriers.

The key idea here is the Navy's carrier power and global reach. The statistic highlights that it has the world's largest fleet of aircraft carriers, meaning more carriers than any other country and a strong ability to project air power worldwide. This capability enables forward presence, rapid response, and deterrence without relying on land bases. The other statements don't fit: the Navy isn't the smallest, it doesn't operate only submarines, and it does not depend on other nations for its aircraft carriers—the U.S. builds, owns, and operates its own carriers.

7. The Chairman normally manages the Joint Staff through which office?

- A. The Secretary of Defense
- B. The Director of the Joint Staff**
- C. The Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman
- D. The Deputy Director of the Joint Staff

Day-to-day management of the Joint Staff is handled by the Director of the Joint Staff, who oversees the staff's operations, coordinates cross branch work, and implements the Chairman's direction. The Chairman provides overall policy and military guidance, but the Director runs the Joint Staff on a daily basis and reports to the Chairman. The Secretary of Defense sits above the Joint Staff in the DoD chain of command, not as the manager of its day-to-day work. The Deputy Director supports the Director, but the primary authority rests with the Director of the Joint Staff.

8. The VCJCS is appointed by whom?

- A. The President, with advice and consent of the Senate**
- B. The Secretary of Defense
- C. The Vice President
- D. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Senior military appointments follow the President with advice and consent of the Senate. The Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is appointed through that same process — the President nominates, and the Senate confirms. This reflects the constitutional approach to selecting top uniformed leaders and keeps civilian authority over the military. The Secretary of Defense, Vice President, or the Chairman themselves do not appoint in their own right; they can influence recommendations, but the final appointment rests with the President and Senate.

9. Which individuals compose the top-level membership of the Joint Chiefs of Staff?

- A. The Chairman; Vice Chairman; Chief of Staff of the Army; Chief of Naval Operations; Chief of Staff of the USAF; Chief of Space Operations; Commandant of the Marine Corps; and Chief of the National Guard Bureau.**
- B. The President; the Secretary of Defense; and the National Security Advisor.
- C. The four service secretaries.
- D. The Chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Space Force only.

The top-level membership of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is made up of seven senior uniformed leaders: the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, the Chief of Space Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and the Chief of the National Guard Bureau. These officers form the most senior military advisory group to the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Council. The President, the Secretary of Defense, and the National Security Advisor are civilian policymakers and are not members of the Joint Chiefs. The four service secretaries are also civilian leaders and do not sit on the Joint Chiefs as members. The combination of these seven officers ensures all major service components and the National Guard are represented in the top-level military advice.

10. What resources can you use to prepare for the PFE?

- A. Official study guides, practice tests, Air Force knowledge centers, flashcards.
- B. Only official study guides.
- C. Internet memes about the Air Force.
- D. Military history novels.

To prepare for the PFE, use a mix of official materials and practice resources that align with the test content and format. Official study guides lay out the topics you'll be tested on and provide organized, authoritative material to study. Practice tests give you a feel for the question style and pacing, helping you identify areas to reinforce and track your progress over time. Air Force knowledge centers offer current, authoritative references on regulations, procedures, and programs you must know, keeping your study up to date. Flashcards are great for quick, spaced repetition of key facts, acronyms, and terms you'll need to recall. Using all these together covers content, practice, and memory—giving you a well-rounded preparation approach. Relying on a single resource—like only official guides—can leave gaps in test-taking practice or recall. In contrast, memes about the Air Force or military history novels don't provide accurate, test-focused content or current regulations needed for the PFE.

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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://e5wapstesting.examzify.com>

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

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