

ENLISTED SURFACE WARFARE SPECIALIST (ESWS) OPERATIONS PRACTICE TEST (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. What are "green water" operations?**
 - A. Naval operations conducted in international waters
 - B. Naval operations conducted in coastal areas
 - C. Naval operations focused on deep-sea exploration
 - D. Naval operations conducted exclusively with submarines
- 2. What role do Air Intercept Controllers (AIC) primarily serve?**
 - A. Manage ship's supply operations
 - B. Coordinate air traffic control
 - C. Provide support during aerial engagements
 - D. Control communication between aircraft and ships
- 3. What role does the Operations Specialist play in the naval hierarchy?**
 - A. Logistical coordinator for subsurface missions
 - B. Technical expert for radar systems
 - C. Directly oversee weapon loading procedures
 - D. Assist in monitoring air and surface operations
- 4. Which term describes the assessment of the sea's impact on vessel operations?**
 - A. Wave height
 - B. Sea state
 - C. Tidal effect
 - D. Wind speed
- 5. Which system's primary responsibility is guiding missiles?**
 - A. Aegis Combat System
 - B. Rolling Airframe Guided Missile
 - C. Mk 45 Gun
 - D. Harpoon Missile System
- 6. What does the term "operational readiness" indicate for a ship?**
 - A. The ship's ability to embark on new missions
 - B. The ship's materials and systems are adequately prepared for operations
 - C. The ship's crew is trained to manage advanced combat systems
 - D. The ship has sufficient supplies for prolonged missions

- 7. What is one of the major components of surface warfare operations?**
- A. Amphibious landings
 - B. Electronic warfare
 - C. Anti-submarine warfare
 - D. Surface combat engagement
- 8. What are the primary responsibilities of the STRIKE department in naval operations?**
- A. Control logistics for surface missions
 - B. Check aircraft modes II and IV - OS operated
 - C. Manage subsurface operations and strategy
 - D. Oversee communications and signal operations
- 9. What is a significant aspect of surface navigation?**
- A. Celestial navigation
 - B. Land-based navigation
 - C. Dead reckoning and piloting
 - D. Satellite navigation
- 10. What is defined as a Marshall Stack?**
- A. A form of communication protocol
 - B. A holding pattern for aircraft
 - C. A type of navigational chart
 - D. A pre-flight briefing procedure

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What are "green water" operations?

- A. Naval operations conducted in international waters
- B. Naval operations conducted in coastal areas**
- C. Naval operations focused on deep-sea exploration
- D. Naval operations conducted exclusively with submarines

"Green water" operations refer specifically to naval operations that occur in coastal areas. This designation is used to differentiate between various operational environments in naval strategy. The term "green water" connects to the region where inland waterways, such as bays and river estuaries, meet the open ocean. These operations are significant because coastal areas are often where a great deal of naval activity occurs, including maritime security, amphibious operations, and engagement in operations supporting local navies or other forces. Navigating and conducting operations in these environments often require different tactical considerations compared to operations in open ocean (or "blue water") environments, where vessels operate farther away from land and may face different logistics and operational challenges. Therefore, understanding these distinctions is essential for a comprehensive grasp of naval operational planning and the tactical implications associated with conducting military operations in varying maritime environments.

2. What role do Air Intercept Controllers (AIC) primarily serve?

- A. Manage ship's supply operations
- B. Coordinate air traffic control
- C. Provide support during aerial engagements**
- D. Control communication between aircraft and ships

The role of Air Intercept Controllers (AIC) is fundamentally centered around providing support during aerial engagements. AICs possess specialized training to facilitate and manage the actions of friendly aircraft during operations, particularly in dynamic combat environments. They are responsible for ensuring that air engagements are executed efficiently and effectively, which includes directing fighters or interceptors towards potential threats, relaying vital information, and making tactical recommendations. Their involvement is crucial in coordinating responses to airborne threats, thereby enhancing the overall combat effectiveness of naval forces. This function underscores their importance in maintaining situational awareness and ensuring that air support is integrated seamlessly with naval operations.

3. What role does the Operations Specialist play in the naval hierarchy?

- A. Logistical coordinator for subsurface missions
- B. Technical expert for radar systems
- C. Directly oversee weapon loading procedures
- D. Assist in monitoring air and surface operations**

The role of the Operations Specialist primarily involves assisting in monitoring air and surface operations. This position is essential for situational awareness and ensuring effective communication and coordination within the naval environment. Operations Specialists are trained to interpret radar and sonar data, track aircraft and vessels, and provide vital information that supports mission planning and execution. Their expertise contributes to the overall effectiveness of naval operations by helping to identify potential threats, coordinate responses, and ensure the safety of the vessel and its crew. The responsibilities associated with this role extend beyond simply monitoring; they also include analyzing data and working closely with other members of the command team to make informed decisions in real-time, particularly in dynamic situations that involve air and surface engagements. This ability to function effectively within the broader context of naval operations highlights the integral nature of the Operations Specialist's role in maintaining fleet readiness and effectiveness.

4. Which term describes the assessment of the sea's impact on vessel operations?

- A. Wave height
- B. Sea state**
- C. Tidal effect
- D. Wind speed

The term that describes the assessment of the sea's impact on vessel operations is "sea state." Sea state is a comprehensive descriptor that takes into account various factors such as wave height, frequency, and general conditions of the sea's surface. It provides an understanding of how these elements affect vessel performance and safety during operations. In maritime contexts, sea state is crucial for navigational decisions and operational planning, impacting everything from maneuverability to stability. A higher sea state, for instance, indicates rougher seas, which can affect a ship's speed and a crew's ability to carry out missions efficiently. By evaluating the sea state, operators can make informed decisions to ensure safety and mission effectiveness at sea.

5. Which system's primary responsibility is guiding missiles?

- A. Aegis Combat System
- B. Rolling Airframe Guided Missile**
- C. Mk 45 Gun
- D. Harpoon Missile System

The primary responsibility of guiding missiles falls to the Rolling Airframe Guided Missile (RAM) system. RAM is specifically designed to provide close-in defense against anti-ship missiles and other aerial threats. It utilizes advanced guidance systems that enable it to effectively track and guide projectiles towards targets. In the context of this question, while the Aegis Combat System provides overall command and control capabilities, including missile guidance through its integrated systems, its primary function is broader, encompassing the coordination of various weapon systems rather than being solely dedicated to guiding missiles. The Mk 45 Gun, primarily used for naval surface fire support, does not guide missiles but fires standard naval projectiles. The Harpoon Missile System, while it does engage targets, relies on its own internally programmed guidance rather than acting as a guiding system like RAM. Consequently, RAM is distinct in its direct responsibility for missile guidance, making it the correct choice in this scenario.

6. What does the term "operational readiness" indicate for a ship?

- A. The ship's ability to embark on new missions
- B. The ship's materials and systems are adequately prepared for operations**
- C. The ship's crew is trained to manage advanced combat systems
- D. The ship has sufficient supplies for prolonged missions

The term "operational readiness" specifically refers to the condition of a ship in terms of its materials and systems being adequately prepared for operations. This encompasses a broad range of factors, including the functionality of equipment, the state of repairs, maintenance levels, and overall system performance. A ship that is deemed operationally ready has undergone all necessary checks and is equipped to respond effectively to missions and contingencies. While the ability to embark on new missions, crew training on advanced combat systems, and the availability of sufficient supplies for prolonged missions are all important aspects of maritime operations, they are subsets of broader operational readiness. Specifically, a ship may possess sufficient supplies or have a trained crew, but if its materials and systems are not ready, it cannot effectively undertake operations. Therefore, the primary focus of operational readiness is on the preparedness of the ship itself in terms of its technical and mechanical status.

7. What is one of the major components of surface warfare operations?

- A. Amphibious landings
- B. Electronic warfare
- C. Anti-submarine warfare
- D. Surface combat engagement**

Surface combat engagement is a major component of surface warfare operations because it directly involves the tactics, strategies, and combat actions taken by surface ships against enemy vessels and forces. This aspect encompasses a wide range of activities, such as engaging in naval gunfire, missile exchanges, and tactical maneuvers to gain superiority over opposing ships. The effectiveness of surface combat engagement determines the outcome of naval battles and the ability to project power at sea. While other components like amphibious landings, electronic warfare, and anti-submarine warfare are also important within the broader naval warfare context, they serve different purposes and are often specialized operations. Amphibious landings focus on the integration and assault of naval and ground forces, electronic warfare involves disrupting enemy systems through electromagnetic means, and anti-submarine warfare addresses the threat posed by submarines. However, surface combat engagement remains central to the direct confrontation of opposing naval forces and is essential for maintaining maritime dominance.

8. What are the primary responsibilities of the STRIKE department in naval operations?

- A. Control logistics for surface missions
- B. Check aircraft modes II and IV - OS operated**
- C. Manage subsurface operations and strategy
- D. Oversee communications and signal operations

The primary responsibilities of the STRIKE department in naval operations focus on planning and executing air operations that support naval missions. One of the key elements of this department is the management and operation of aircraft, which includes checking and ensuring that aircraft systems are functioning properly, particularly in specific modes that are crucial for various operational scenarios. This encompasses both offensive and defensive readiness, ensuring the aircraft meet the tactical needs of the mission. Additionally, a strong emphasis is placed on the operational procedures and systems checks that differentiate modes of operation. Modes II and IV may refer to specific operational states that aircraft are required to be in for optimal performance during missions, which is critical for maintaining air superiority and effectively supporting surface forces. Thus, the work done by the STRIKE department in this area is foundational to the success of naval operations. The other responsibilities outlined in the options provided, while important to naval operations, pertain to different departments or functions and do not specifically align with the core focus of the STRIKE department.

9. What is a significant aspect of surface navigation?

- A. Celestial navigation
- B. Land-based navigation
- C. Dead reckoning and piloting**
- D. Satellite navigation

The correct choice illustrates that dead reckoning and piloting are fundamental aspects of surface navigation. Dead reckoning involves calculating one's current position based on previously determined positions, accounting for speed, time, and direction. This is critical in situations where navigational aids are limited or unavailable, allowing mariners to maintain awareness of their vessel's location. Piloting refers to the practical navigation methods used in close proximity to land or in confined waters, which includes using visual references and navigational charts to determine a vessel's position. Together, these techniques allow for safer and more effective navigation, especially in areas where other forms of navigation, like satellite or celestial methods, may not be as reliable or effective due to geographic features or weather conditions.

10. What is defined as a Marshall Stack?

- A. A form of communication protocol
- B. A holding pattern for aircraft**
- C. A type of navigational chart
- D. A pre-flight briefing procedure

A Marshall Stack is defined as a holding pattern for aircraft, specifically used at busy airports to manage the flow of incoming traffic. This circular or racetrack-shaped pattern allows aircraft that are arriving to circle in a designated area, enabling them to maintain a safe distance from each other while waiting for clearance to land. The use of a Marshall Stack is particularly important in situations where weather conditions, high traffic, or other factors might delay the landing of aircraft. By utilizing this method, air traffic controllers can efficiently manage aircraft arrivals, thereby enhancing safety and improving overall air traffic flow. The other options, while related to aviation, do not accurately define Marshall Stack. For example, a communication protocol relates to how information is transmitted, a navigational chart assists pilots with flight paths but does not serve the same purpose as a holding pattern, and a pre-flight briefing procedure involves preparations before takeoff rather than managing aerial traffic during approach.

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://eswsoperations.examzify.com>

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

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