

FDNY COF FOR FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS INSPECTION, TESTING AND SERVICE TECHNICIAN (S- 98) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

**VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://fdnycofs98.examzify.com>



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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. To assure proper calibration, which method is NOT permitted for testing a smoke detector?**
 - A. An aerosol spray or canned smoke
 - B. A calibrated test instrument
 - C. A manufacturer-approved test gas
 - D. A controlled lab test procedure
- 2. What is the purpose of tagging an uninstalled device during inspection?**
 - A. To trigger automatic testing
 - B. To bypass the device
 - C. To distinguish it from active devices and document its status
 - D. To enable immediate use
- 3. Complete records of all signals received at a supervising station must be retained for at least how long?**
 - A. 6 months
 - B. 1 year
 - C. 2 years
 - D. 3 years
- 4. Which documents are included as part of the required information to be provided?**
 - A. As built design and installation documents and equipment specifications
 - B. Warranty certificates only
 - C. Maintenance logs only
 - D. Employee training records
- 5. Secondary power supplies are required to have sufficient power to operate the fire alarm system in a non alarm condition for how many hours and then be capable of operating all notification devices for a minimum of how many minutes?**
 - A. 12 hours and 3 minutes
 - B. 24 hours and 5 minutes
 - C. 36 hours and 10 minutes
 - D. 48 hours and 15 minutes

- 6. Which type of document is included among the required information to be provided on site?**
- A. As built design and installation documents and equipment specifications
 - B. Annual budget reports
 - C. Employee payroll records
 - D. Marketing materials
- 7. Which metal is commonly used as a reliable electrical conductor in wiring?**
- A. Copper
 - B. Carbon
 - C. Plastic
 - D. Glass
- 8. What unit of measurement is used to express the output rating of visible signaling devices?**
- A. Candela (cd)
 - B. Lumen
 - C. Lux
 - D. Watt
- 9. Which standard forms the basis for fire alarm system design, installation, testing, and maintenance referenced by the FDNY S-98 exam?**
- A. NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code
 - B. NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems
 - C. NFPA 70, National Electrical Code
 - D. NFPA 101, Life Safety Code
- 10. The phrase 'as built design and installation documents and equipment specifications' refers to which type of content?**
- A. Documentation that must be provided on site
 - B. Public notices posted at the site
 - C. Warranty certificates from manufacturers
 - D. Occupancy permits

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. To assure proper calibration, which method is NOT permitted for testing a smoke detector?

- A. An aerosol spray or canned smoke**
- B. A calibrated test instrument
- C. A manufacturer-approved test gas
- D. A controlled lab test procedure

Testing smoke detectors must use approved, reliable methods that simulate real smoke in a controlled, repeatable way. Aerosol spray or canned smoke is not permitted for calibration because its particle size, concentration, and distribution can vary greatly and it may leave residues inside the sensing chamber. That can lead to inconsistent results, nuisance alarms, or sensor drift, and it may not be approved by manufacturers or standards. In contrast, a calibrated test instrument provides a known, traceable stimulus; manufacturer-approved test gas can emulate smoke with a defined concentration and properties; and a controlled lab test procedure follows standardized steps to ensure repeatable, accurate verification. So the aerosol spray or canned smoke method is the one to avoid for proper calibration.

2. What is the purpose of tagging an uninstalled device during inspection?

- A. To trigger automatic testing
- B. To bypass the device
- C. To distinguish it from active devices and document its status**
- D. To enable immediate use

Tagging an uninstalled device during inspection is about clearly marking that device so it is distinguished from live, active devices and its status is documented. This keeps the installation queue and records accurate, prevents confusion about what is or isn't part of the active system, and provides traceability for future installation or follow-up work. It also helps ensure safety and proper coordination, since everyone knows that device is not yet installed or tested. This tag is not meant to trigger tests, bypass the device, or enable immediate use, which is why those options don't fit.

3. Complete records of all signals received at a supervising station must be retained for at least how long?

- A. 6 months
- B. 1 year**
- C. 2 years
- D. 3 years

Records kept at a supervising station must be kept for one year. This retention period ensures there is a complete, verifiable history of every signal received—alarms, supervisory, and trouble signals—so the monitoring facility can review events, verify responses, support investigations, and satisfy regulatory and auditing needs. Keeping a full log for a year provides enough time to resolve disputes, analyze performance, and confirm that proper procedures were followed. Six months often isn't enough to cover longer investigation windows, while two or three years adds unnecessary storage burden for routine operations; one year strikes the right balance for standard monitoring activities.

4. Which documents are included as part of the required information to be provided?

- A. As built design and installation documents and equipment specifications**
- B. Warranty certificates only
- C. Maintenance logs only
- D. Employee training records

The essential idea is to provide a complete record of what was installed and how it was intended to operate. As-built design and installation documents capture the actual field conditions, including locations of devices, wiring routes, panel configurations, and any changes from the original plan. Equipment specifications list the exact models, ratings, and capabilities of every component used. Together, these documents give a precise, verifiable picture of the fire alarm system, which is critical for future maintenance, testing, troubleshooting, upgrades, and regulatory inspections. Warranty certificates, maintenance logs, and employee training records are useful in their own right, but they don't supply the comprehensive detail about the installed design and components that the required information packet should include.

5. Secondary power supplies are required to have sufficient power to operate the fire alarm system in a non alarm condition for how many hours and then be capable of operating all notification devices for a minimum of how many minutes?

- A. 12 hours and 3 minutes
- B. 24 hours and 5 minutes**
- C. 36 hours and 10 minutes
- D. 48 hours and 15 minutes

Backup power duration and signaling requirements ensure the fire alarm system stays functional during a power outage. The secondary power supply must be sized to keep the system operating in non-alarm condition for 24 hours, so the control panel, detectors, and other non-alarm functions remain active even if utility power is out. After that standby period, it must be capable of operating all notification devices for at least 5 minutes, providing continuous audible and visual alerts to warn occupants and support evacuation until power is restored or the incident is resolved. This combination ensures reliable monitoring and effective warning during extended outages, aligning with standard fire alarm code expectations.

6. Which type of document is included among the required information to be provided on site?

- A. As built design and installation documents and equipment specifications**
- B. Annual budget reports
- C. Employee payroll records
- D. Marketing materials

The key idea here is what documentation must be available on-site to verify and service a fire alarm system. The correct type of document is the as-built design and installation documents along with equipment specifications. These papers show the exact configuration that was actually installed—how devices are wired, what model numbers and ratings are used, and how the system was laid out. Having them on-site lets the inspector confirm that the installed work matches the approved design, understand the precise components in the system, and perform accurate testing and maintenance. The other options don't relate to the on-site fire alarm system information needed for inspection or service. Budget records, payroll files, and marketing materials are business documents and aren't used to verify or support the installation and operation of the fire alarm system on site.

7. Which metal is commonly used as a reliable electrical conductor in wiring?

- A. Copper**
- B. Carbon
- C. Plastic
- D. Glass

Copper is favored for wiring because it combines high electrical conductivity with excellent ductility and workability. Its conductivity is among the best of metals, allowing thin wires to carry substantial currents with minimal voltage loss. Copper can be drawn into long, flexible wires and terminated reliably at terminals, and it accepts soldering or crimping without degrading the connection. It also resists corrosion and forms durable joints with standard insulation and fittings, helping maintain performance over time. Although silver conducts slightly better, its cost makes it impractical for general wiring, so copper remains the common choice. The other options don't fit: plastic and glass are insulators, so they don't conduct under normal conditions, and carbon, while conductive in some forms, is not a metal and isn't used as the standard reliable conductor in building wiring.

8. What unit of measurement is used to express the output rating of visible signaling devices?

- A. Candela (cd)**
- B. Lumen
- C. Lux
- D. Watt

Brightness for visible signaling devices is described by luminous intensity, measured in candela. Candela indicates how bright the light appears from a given direction, which is exactly what matters for a strobe or other visual signal to be seen at a distance or from various viewing angles. Lumen would be total light emitted, not how bright it seems in a particular direction; lux is illumination on a surface (which depends on distance and incidence), and watt is electrical power, not brightness. In fire alarm systems, the device's output rating is specified in candela to reflect its visibility to occupants, with higher cd values meaning the signal is visible over greater distances.

9. Which standard forms the basis for fire alarm system design, installation, testing, and maintenance referenced by the FDNY S-98 exam?

- A. NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code**
- B. NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems
- C. NFPA 70, National Electrical Code
- D. NFPA 101, Life Safety Code

NFPA 72, National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, is the standard used as the basis for fire alarm system design, installation, testing, and maintenance. It defines how fire alarm systems should detect, alert, and respond to a fire, including initiation devices, signaling methods, control functions, power and supervision requirements, and interface with other building systems. It also provides the required testing procedures, inspection frequencies, and maintenance practices to keep the system reliable over time. While NFPA 25 covers inspection and maintenance of water-based systems, NFPA 70 governs general electrical installations, and NFPA 101 addresses life safety requirements, none of these establish the comprehensive, specific rules for fire alarm design and operation the way NFPA 72 does.

10. The phrase 'as built design and installation documents and equipment specifications' refers to which type of content?

A. Documentation that must be provided on site

B. Public notices posted at the site

C. Warranty certificates from manufacturers

D. Occupancy permits

The key idea is that the phrase refers to material that must be available on the job site so inspectors and maintenance personnel can verify what was actually installed. As-built design and installation documents, along with equipment specifications, show the real configuration, changes made during construction, device lists, wiring diagrams, and the exact models and ratings of equipment installed. Having this documentation on site lets the fire alarm team confirm that the installed system matches the approved design, meets the required standards, and provides the necessary references for future service or upgrades. Public notices, warranty certificates, and occupancy permits serve different purposes and do not convey the technical details of the installed system, so they aren't the correct type of content in this context.

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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://fdnycofs98.examzify.com>

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

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