

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. Which FAR part is responsible for addressing Federal Supply Schedule contracting?**
 - A. Part 36**
 - B. Part 35**
 - C. Part 38**
 - D. Part 31**
- 2. What should a contracting officer do to ensure proper execution of a contract?**
 - A. Assign responsibilities to external agencies**
 - B. Develop a clear and comprehensive statement of work**
 - C. Focus solely on cost-cutting measures**
 - D. Rely on contractors to interpret contract terms**
- 3. In federal contracting, what does the term "competition" refer to?**
 - A. The process of evaluating risks associated with proposals**
 - B. The requirement to obtain offers from multiple contractors**
 - C. The ability of contractors to negotiate pricing**
 - D. The selection of a single vendor based on past performance**
- 4. Which term describes the process of limiting the number of proposals to streamline the evaluation process?**
 - A. Source selection**
 - B. Competitive range determination**
 - C. Proposal evaluation**
 - D. Coding**
- 5. What is the focus of FAR Part 7?**
 - A. Acquisition of services to enhance competition**
 - B. Acquisition planning to ensure efficient and effective purchases**
 - C. Promoting innovative procurement methods**
 - D. Establishing contract payment terms**

- 6. What is primarily covered under FAR Part 1?**
- A. Federal Acquisition Regulation System**
 - B. Administrative Procedures**
 - C. Contractor Qualifications**
 - D. Market Research Practices**
- 7. What is included in the FAR Appendix?**
- A. General contracting procedures**
 - B. Cost accounting preambles and regulations**
 - C. Special contract clauses**
 - D. Provisions for international contracts**
- 8. Which of the following best describes the role of contracting officers under FAR?**
- A. To report on the financial status of contracts**
 - B. To oversee compliance with environmental laws**
 - C. To manage the acquisition process and ensure adherence to regulations**
 - D. To provide legal representation for contract disputes**
- 9. What does the term “Source Selection” refer to in FAR?**
- A. The process of awarding contracts**
 - B. The process of evaluating proposals to determine the best value for the government**
 - C. The process of negotiating contract terms**
 - D. The process of finalizing contract documents**
- 10. Which FAR part is concerned with sealed bidding?**
- A. FAR Part 11**
 - B. FAR Part 14**
 - C. FAR Part 15**
 - D. FAR Part 18**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. Which FAR part is responsible for addressing Federal Supply Schedule contracting?

- A. Part 36
- B. Part 35
- C. Part 38**
- D. Part 31

The correct answer is based on the specific focus of FAR Part 38, which deals with Federal Supply Schedule (FSS) contracting. FAR Part 38 provides the policies and procedures that govern the acquisition of commercial items and services through these schedules, which are established by the General Services Administration (GSA). This part outlines the framework under which federal agencies can procure goods and services efficiently and economically by leveraging pre-negotiated contracts. The significance of Federal Supply Schedules lies in their ability to streamline the procurement process, enabling agencies to obtain commonly used items and services quickly and at favorable prices. This is essential for maintaining the efficiency and effectiveness of federal procurement operations. Each of the other parts mentioned in the question has a different focus. Part 36 pertains to construction and architect-engineer services, Part 35 addresses research and development contracting, and Part 31 focuses on contract cost principles and procedures. Therefore, they do not cover the scope of Federal Supply Schedule contracting, which is specifically and thoroughly addressed in FAR Part 38.

2. What should a contracting officer do to ensure proper execution of a contract?

- A. Assign responsibilities to external agencies
- B. Develop a clear and comprehensive statement of work**
- C. Focus solely on cost-cutting measures
- D. Rely on contractors to interpret contract terms

A contracting officer plays a crucial role in ensuring that a contract is properly executed, and developing a clear and comprehensive statement of work is fundamental to this process. A well-defined statement of work (SOW) outlines the specific tasks, deliverables, timelines, and performance standards expected from the contractor. This clarity helps to prevent misunderstandings and misinterpretations between the government and the contractor, ensuring that all parties are aligned in their expectations. The SOW acts as a foundational document that guides contract performance and provides a basis for measuring compliance. By ensuring that the SOW is detailed and precise, a contracting officer can facilitate effective communication and minimize disputes, which ultimately leads to successful contract performance. In contrast, while assigning responsibilities to external agencies could be part of a larger contract management strategy, it does not directly address the need for clarity within the contract itself. Focusing solely on cost-cutting measures can undermine the quality of the work and may lead to contracts that do not meet necessary requirements. Similarly, relying on contractors to interpret contract terms places the burden of understanding on the contractors, which can result in inconsistent interpretations and performance issues if the SOW is not adequately defined. Thus, the development of a clear and comprehensive statement of work stands out as the best

3. In federal contracting, what does the term "competition" refer to?

- A. The process of evaluating risks associated with proposals**
- B. The requirement to obtain offers from multiple contractors**
- C. The ability of contractors to negotiate pricing**
- D. The selection of a single vendor based on past performance**

The term "competition" in federal contracting fundamentally refers to the requirement to obtain offers from multiple contractors. This concept is integral to ensuring that the procurement process is conducted fairly and provides the government with the best value. By soliciting bids from different contractors, the government can compare prices, technical capabilities, and overall project approaches, fostering an environment where various entities can participate in fulfilling government needs. Promoting competition helps to drive down costs, increase innovation, and improve the quality of goods and services procured. It is a foundational principle in procurement practices emphasized in the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to ensure transparency and efficiency in government contracting. The other choices do not encapsulate the essence of competition in federal contracting. Evaluating risks related to proposals pertains more to the assessment phase rather than competition itself. Negotiating pricing focuses on interactions with individual contractors rather than the broader context of soliciting multiple offers. Finally, selecting a single vendor based on past performance emphasizes final award decisions and does not reflect the competitive nature of the earlier stages of the procurement process.

4. Which term describes the process of limiting the number of proposals to streamline the evaluation process?

- A. Source selection**
- B. Competitive range determination**
- C. Proposal evaluation**
- D. Coding**

The process of limiting the number of proposals to streamline the evaluation process is known as competitive range determination. This is an important phase in the procurement process where a contracting officer evaluates the proposals received against the solicitation's requirements and identifies which ones are considered to be within the competitive range. By narrowing down the proposals to a manageable number, the evaluation process becomes more efficient and focused. This allows the evaluation team to concentrate on the most promising submissions that meet the minimum requirements and have the potential for successful execution. This determination is crucial in ensuring that resources are allocated effectively and that the evaluation process is thorough without becoming unwieldy. It enables the agency to maximize its ability to select the best offeror based on the merits of the proposals that remain under consideration. The other options—source selection, proposal evaluation, and coding—do not specifically refer to the act of narrowing down proposals for evaluation, thereby making competitive range determination the appropriate choice.

5. What is the focus of FAR Part 7?

- A. Acquisition of services to enhance competition
- B. Acquisition planning to ensure efficient and effective purchases**
- C. Promoting innovative procurement methods
- D. Establishing contract payment terms

FAR Part 7 is primarily focused on acquisition planning, which is essential for ensuring that federal purchases are conducted efficiently and effectively. This part emphasizes the importance of developing comprehensive acquisition strategies that align with agency missions and objectives, ensuring that services and goods are acquired in a way that optimally meets the needs of the government. In acquisition planning, various elements are taken into consideration, such as market research, the determination of the appropriate procurement method, and the overall approach to meet program requirements. This is critical as it helps in establishing the framework within which contracting officers can operate, facilitating better decision-making regarding budget, resource allocation, and the selection of contract types. While the other options touch upon relevant aspects of federal acquisition — such as competition, innovative methods, and payment terms — they do not encapsulate the overarching goal of FAR Part 7, which is about creating a strategic plan for acquisitions. Hence, the focus on acquisition planning highlighted in the correct answer is aligned with the requirements and objectives set forth in FAR Part 7.

6. What is primarily covered under FAR Part 1?

- A. Federal Acquisition Regulation System**
- B. Administrative Procedures
- C. Contractor Qualifications
- D. Market Research Practices

The correct choice focuses on the Federal Acquisition Regulation System, which is foundational to understanding the entire structure of the FAR. Part 1 of the FAR establishes the overall regulatory framework and defines the purpose and roles of the various components that make up the FAR. This part outlines the system's objectives, the applicability of the regulations, and the organization of the FAR itself. Understanding this framework is essential, as it provides context for the rest of the regulations employed in federal procurement. The definitions and scope set forth in Part 1 are critical for interpreting the specific requirements laid out in subsequent parts of the FAR. By establishing these fundamental principles, Part 1 facilitates a cohesive and organized approach to federal acquisitions. The other options, while important, deal with more specific aspects of federal procurement. Administrative procedures, contractor qualifications, and market research practices are all covered in other parts of the FAR and are built upon the foundational understanding provided in Part 1. This systematic approach allows procurement officials to navigate the complex landscape of federal regulations effectively.

7. What is included in the FAR Appendix?

- A. General contracting procedures
- B. Cost accounting preambles and regulations**
- C. Special contract clauses
- D. Provisions for international contracts

The correct response highlights that the FAR Appendix contains cost accounting standards and related regulations, which are essential for ensuring that government contracts comply with the necessary financial guidelines. Cost accounting standards are vital for contractors to manage costs effectively and to ensure the government is charged fairly for the goods and services provided. In the broader context of the FAR, the appendix serves as a reference point for contractors and agencies regarding how costs should be calculated and reported. This includes provisions that govern how costs are allocated and the methods for pricing contracts, ensuring transparency and accountability in federal spending. Other aspects like general contracting procedures, special contract clauses, and provisions for international contracts are addressed in other parts of the FAR, but they do not fall under the purview of the FAR Appendix as specifically as cost accounting standards do. This distinction is crucial for anyone navigating federal contracts, as it underscores the focus of the appendix on financial regulations rather than procedural or contractual elements.

8. Which of the following best describes the role of contracting officers under FAR?

- A. To report on the financial status of contracts
- B. To oversee compliance with environmental laws
- C. To manage the acquisition process and ensure adherence to regulations**
- D. To provide legal representation for contract disputes

The role of contracting officers under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) is primarily to manage the acquisition process and ensure adherence to regulations. Contracting officers are responsible for overseeing the procurement of goods and services for the government, ensuring that all actions taken during the acquisition process comply with applicable laws and regulations, including the FAR. This includes tasks such as drafting and negotiating contracts, monitoring contractor performance, and ensuring that agreements are executed according to legal standards. The correct answer encapsulates the multifaceted duties of contracting officers, emphasizing their central role in maintaining compliance throughout the acquisition lifecycle, which is vital for the effective and lawful use of public funds. Other options, while reflecting important aspects of contract management, do not accurately capture the primary responsibilities of contracting officers. Reporting on the financial status of contracts is typically handled by financial analysts or project managers, and overseeing compliance with environmental laws falls under environmental compliance officers or specialists. Lastly, while contracting officers may engage with legal matters related to contracts, they do not provide legal representation; legal representation is typically the responsibility of the agency's legal counsel. Thus, the best description of a contracting officer's role within the context of FAR is to manage the acquisition process and ensure adherence to regulations.

9. What does the term "Source Selection" refer to in FAR?

- A. The process of awarding contracts
- B. The process of evaluating proposals to determine the best value for the government**
- C. The process of negotiating contract terms
- D. The process of finalizing contract documents

The term "Source Selection" in the context of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) specifically refers to the process of evaluating proposals to determine which offer provides the best value for the government. This evaluation goes beyond merely selecting the lowest bid; it involves assessing multiple factors including technical capability, past performance, and cost effectiveness. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the government receives the most advantageous outcome based on the criteria set forth in the solicitation. This process is crucial because it ensures transparency, fairness, and competitiveness in the acquisition process. It involves a thorough assessment against the evaluation criteria specified in the request for proposals (RFP) or other solicitation documents. This way, the government can make informed decisions that align with its objectives while fostering a marketplace that encourages innovation and value. In contrast, the other options describe processes that are related but do not encompass the full scope of "Source Selection." Awarding contracts primarily focuses on the final step of formalizing the selection of a supplier rather than evaluating the proposals. Negotiating contract terms is a separate phase following the selection process, and finalizing contract documents is the administrative task that finalizes the agreement reached after source selection has been completed.

10. Which FAR part is concerned with sealed bidding?

- A. FAR Part 11
- B. FAR Part 14**
- C. FAR Part 15
- D. FAR Part 18

The correct answer is B, as FAR Part 14 specifically addresses the sealed bidding process in government procurements. Sealed bidding is a method of procurement used when the conditions allow for the receipt of sealed bids and is based primarily on price. The regulations outlined in this part provide the framework for the submission, evaluation, and award of contracts through sealed bids, emphasizing transparency, fairness, and competition. FAR Part 11, meanwhile, focuses on the solicitation and contract format, guiding how agencies should write their solicitations in a standardized manner. FAR Part 15 deals with contracting by negotiation, which differs significantly from sealed bidding as it allows for discussion and revisions in proposals. FAR Part 18 addresses emergency procurement and does not pertain directly to sealed bidding processes. Therefore, these parts do not govern the sealed bidding process in the same way that FAR Part 14 does.

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://federalacquisitionregulation.examzify.com>

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