

Fire Support Team (FIST) Certification Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 type of operation practices are prioritized by the targeting process?**
 - A. Mission Planning**
 - B. Engagement Decisions**
 - C. Fires Coordination**
 - D. Allied Operations**

- 2. In what manner is the sheaf adjusted for mortars during a registration?**
 - A. On line with a 40 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the observer-target line.**
 - B. On line with a 50 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the gun-target line.**
 - C. On line with a 75 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the observer-target line.**
 - D. On line with a 40 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the gun-target line.**

- 3. Which type of smoke is a smoke curtain used to mask friendly forces, positions, and activities on the battlefield?**
 - A. Signaling smoke**
 - B. Obscuring smoke**
 - C. Screening smoke**
 - D. Deception smoke**

- 4. What does JLDR stand for in relation to JTAC operations?**
 - A. Joint Long Range Digital Relay**
 - B. Joint Laser Designation Receiver**
 - C. Joint Link Data Relay**
 - D. Joint Land-Based Direct Reporting**

- 5. What FDC command does the FO receive after sending a CFF as "At My Command"?**
 - A. Ready**
 - B. Laid**
 - C. In Position Ready to Fire**
 - D. Aimed On**

- 6. Which illumination pattern would you use to illuminate an area with practically no shadows or dark spots?**
- A. Two Gun Illumination**
 - B. Illumination Lateral Spread**
 - C. Illumination OTL and GTL Spread**
 - D. Four Gun Illumination Pattern**
- 7. What is the DA form used for the Target List Worksheet?**
- A. DA Form 4856**
 - B. DA Form 4187**
 - C. DA Form 4655**
 - D. DA Form 5429**
- 8. What is the primary goal of a fire support team (FIST)?**
- A. To manage logistics**
 - B. To coordinate air support**
 - C. To conduct reconnaissance**
 - D. To provide artillery information**
- 9. What is the minimum range correction for smoke?**
- A. 50 meters**
 - B. 100 meters**
 - C. 200 meters**
 - D. 400 meters**
- 10. What task involves manipulating forces in a way that impacts enemy actions significantly?**
- A. Divert**
 - B. Deceive**
 - C. Distract**
 - D. Disrupt**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of operation practices are prioritized by the targeting process?

- A. Mission Planning**
- B. Engagement Decisions**
- C. Fires Coordination**
- D. Allied Operations**

The targeting process specifically prioritizes Fires Coordination because it focuses on integrating and synchronizing various fire support assets to ensure effective engagement of targets in support of the commander's objectives. This aspect of the targeting process is critical, as it involves determining the best means to employ fire support while considering factors such as the operational environment, available resources, and potential impact on friendly forces and civilians. Fires Coordination encompasses the necessary planning and execution phases to optimize the effectiveness of all types of fire support, whether from artillery, air support, or naval gunfire. Its aim is to provide the right fire support at the right time and place, ensuring that operations can be conducted efficiently and safely while achieving desired effects on the battlefield. Mission Planning, Engagement Decisions, and Allied Operations, while important in the broader context of military operations, do not specifically encapsulate the primary focus of the targeting process as effectively as Fires Coordination does. Mission Planning is more about strategizing overall objectives and logistics, Engagement Decisions pertain to the immediate tactical choices made during combat, and Allied Operations deal with collaboration with partner forces, none of which directly home in on the crucial element of coordinating fire support operations that is emphasized in the targeting process.

2. In what manner is the sheaf adjusted for mortars during a registration?

- A. On line with a 40 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the observer-target line.**
- B. On line with a 50 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the gun-target line.**
- C. On line with a 75 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the observer-target line.**
- D. On line with a 40 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the gun-target line.**

The correct answer focuses on the method used to adjust the sheaf pattern for mortars during registration. When registering mortars, the sheaf is aligned with a specific spread pattern to ensure effective coverage of the target area and to account for the inherent dispersion of mortar rounds. In this case, aligning the sheaf with a 40 meter lateral spread, perpendicular to the gun-target line is critical. This method helps to concentrate the fire in a manner that maximizes the probability of affecting the target area while considering the mortar's capabilities and the operational requirements. The perpendicular alignment to the gun-target line is particularly important in this context because it ensures that the adjustments being made account for the direct line of sight and the trajectory of the mortar rounds, allowing for precise targeting and reducing the likelihood of missing the intended zone. Other options propose different lateral spreads or alignments that do not conform to standard practices for mortars during a registration process, such as using incorrect distances or aligning with the observer-target line instead of the gun-target line, which would not be suitable for ensuring accuracy and effectiveness in targeting.

3. Which type of smoke is a smoke curtain used to mask friendly forces, positions, and activities on the battlefield?

- A. Signaling smoke**
- B. Obscuring smoke**
- C. Screening smoke**
- D. Deception smoke**

A smoke curtain is specifically designed to provide cover for friendly forces, positions, and activities by obscuring them from enemy observation. This type of smoke creates a visual barrier that effectively conceals movement and the location of troops, equipment, or installations, making it more difficult for the enemy to target them. Obscuring smoke plays a critical role in battlefield tactics, as it helps to protect soldiers from direct fire and observation. This allows friendly forces to reposition, maneuver, or conduct operations without being easily detected. By employing screening smoke, commanders can create a safer operating environment, facilitate tactical movements, or execute surprise attacks while minimizing the risk of enemy engagement. In contrast, signaling smoke is intended for communication purposes rather than concealment, and deception smoke is used to mislead the enemy about troop movements or operational intentions. Understanding these distinctions enhances the effective use of smoke in various military operations.

4. What does JLDR stand for in relation to JTAC operations?

- A. Joint Long Range Digital Relay**
- B. Joint Laser Designation Receiver**
- C. Joint Link Data Relay**
- D. Joint Land-Based Direct Reporting**

The term JLDR specifically refers to Joint Link Data Relay in relation to Joint Tactical Air Control (JTAC) operations. This system is essential for facilitating effective communication and data transfer between different military platforms during coordinated operations. The JLDR supports the exchange of essential information such as targeting data and situational awareness, which enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of air-ground operations. By utilizing this relay system, JTACs can ensure that air support is properly coordinated and integrated into ground operations, ultimately improving mission success rates. The option referring to Joint Long Range Digital Relay, for example, may sound plausible but does not accurately reflect the established terminology used within JTAC operations. Similarly, while Joint Laser Designation Receiver is a term relevant to laser target designation, it does not align with JLDR's function. The term Joint Land-Based Direct Reporting is also unrelated to the data link communication necessary for JTAC operations. Thus, Joint Link Data Relay is the most appropriate and relevant term in this context.

5. What FDC command does the FO receive after sending a CFF as "At My Command"?

A. Ready

B. Laid

C. In Position Ready to Fire

D. Aimed On

When the Forward Observer (FO) sends a Call for Fire (CFF) as "At My Command," the command they receive from the Fire Direction Center (FDC) is "Ready." This command indicates that the firing unit is prepared to fire but is waiting for the FO to give, at their discretion, the order to commence firing. The "Ready" command serves to confirm that the unit is set and capable of delivering the requested fire support when directed. The situation implies that the FO has control over when the fire mission will commence, establishing a clear chain of command and operational flexibility for the FO to time the engagement to coincide with tactical needs. Other options like "Laid" or "In Position Ready to Fire" may indicate different statuses or actions of the artillery unit but do not directly correspond to the timing mechanism that "At My Command" suggests. "Aimed On" typically refers to the status of being on target rather than signaling readiness at the FO's discretion.

6. Which illumination pattern would you use to illuminate an area with practically no shadows or dark spots?

A. Two Gun Illumination

B. Illumination Lateral Spread

C. Illumination OTL and GTL Spread

D. Four Gun Illumination Pattern

The four gun illumination pattern is the ideal choice for illuminating an area with minimal shadows or dark spots. This pattern utilizes multiple firing units positioned to cover a larger area of the terrain. By spreading the illumination source over a wider area, it ensures that overlapping illumination occurs, which significantly reduces the potential for shadows. Each gun contributes to a comprehensive coverage, enabling a more thorough and uniform illumination effect, thereby enhancing visibility and situational awareness for personnel operating in the area. Using this pattern effectively fills any gaps between illumination points, allowing for a continuous light effect that is essential in operations where visibility is critical. It maximizes the total area that is lit, making it especially useful in tactical situations where avoiding dark spots can lead to improved safety and operational effectiveness.

7. What is the DA form used for the Target List Worksheet?

- A. DA Form 4856
- B. DA Form 4187
- C. DA Form 4655**
- D. DA Form 5429

The correct choice is the DA Form 4655, which is specifically designated as the Target List Worksheet. This form is critical in coordinating and managing targets for fire support operations. It provides a format for documenting all necessary details about targets, such as location, type, and priority, which is essential for effective planning and execution of fire support within military operations. Other forms in the list have different purposes. For instance, DA Form 4856 is used for counseling sessions, focusing on individual soldier performance and development, while DA Form 4187 serves as a request for personnel action, dealing with administrative changes for soldiers. DA Form 5429 is used for the representation of a soldier's records in relation to earnings and benefits, again unrelated to target management. Understanding the specific uses of these forms is crucial for ensuring efficiency and accuracy in military operations.

8. What is the primary goal of a fire support team (FIST)?

- A. To manage logistics
- B. To coordinate air support**
- C. To conduct reconnaissance
- D. To provide artillery information

The primary goal of a fire support team (FIST) is centered around coordinating air support. This involves integrating various fire support assets, which may include air-to-ground munitions, into the larger scheme of battle in order to achieve mission objectives effectively. A FIST operates as a tactical liaison, ensuring that air support is utilized efficiently and effectively to provide timely and accurate fire on designated targets. The role of the FIST is crucial in the joint and combined arms operations environment, where close coordination with both aviation and artillery is necessary to optimize the effects of fires on the battlefield. This coordination improves situational awareness among the team and enhances their ability to communicate critical information to commanders, leading to decisive advantages in combat scenarios. While managing logistics, conducting reconnaissance, and providing artillery information are important functions in military operations, they are not the primary focus or operational goal of the FIST. Instead, the FIST is primarily concerned with fires and their integration within the maneuver framework, mainly focusing on facilitating effective air support.

9. What is the minimum range correction for smoke?

- A. 50 meters
- B. 100 meters**
- C. 200 meters
- D. 400 meters

The minimum range correction for smoke is 100 meters. This standard is established to ensure that the smoke effects can be deployed effectively without risking friendly troops or unintended targeting. Smoke rounds are utilized for a variety of purposes such as concealment, signaling, or marking areas on the battlefield. By requiring a minimum range correction, the risk of smoke drifting back toward friendly forces or affecting the mission negatively is minimized. The 100-meter minimum allows for sufficient distance between the point of impact and friendly locations, permitting the smoke to properly disperse and create effective coverage as intended. This is particularly important, as the effectiveness of smoke on the battlefield often relies on its ability to create a safe area of operation without compromising visibility or engagement of one's own forces in any way.

10. What task involves manipulating forces in a way that impacts enemy actions significantly?

- A. Divert
- B. Deceive
- C. Distract
- D. Disrupt**

The task that involves manipulating forces in a way that significantly impacts enemy actions is disrupting. Disruption refers to the strategy of interfering with the enemy's operations, plans, or capabilities, thereby hindering their ability to execute their mission effectively. This can include targeting command and control structures, logistics, or other critical nodes that the enemy relies upon, forcing them to react to changing circumstances rather than follow a predetermined course of action. Disruption is key in warfare as it can create confusion and disarray within enemy ranks, ultimately leading to opportunities for one's own forces to achieve tactical advantages. It is an active engagement that influences the enemy's decision-making process, making it difficult for them to maintain cohesion and execute their strategies. In contrast, diversion, deception, and distraction have different focuses. Diversion typically means redirecting enemy attention without necessarily causing major disruption, while deception involves creating false impressions or misleading the enemy to achieve strategic advantage. Distraction can temporarily draw an enemy's focus away from the true objective, but it doesn't inherently alter their operational capability or intent as significantly as disruption does. Thus, disruption stands out as the most impactful in terms of fundamentally altering enemy actions.

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://firesupportteam.examzify.com>

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

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