

Firearms Instructor 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. During a victim assessment, which of the following should you check first?**
 - A. Responsiveness**
 - B. Pulse**
 - C. Breathing**
 - D. Injuries**

- 2. In the modified Harries technique, how is the palm of the flashlight hand positioned?**
 - A. Facing downward**
 - B. Facing upward**
 - C. Perpendicular**
 - D. Outward**

- 3. What term describes a situation where a cartridge goes off without the trigger being pulled?**
 - A. Out of battery issue**
 - B. Negligent discharge**
 - C. Misfire**
 - D. Squib load**

- 4. Which of the following is NOT one of the four cardinal rules for safe gun handling?**
 - A. Keep finger outside of trigger guard**
 - B. Let others handle your weapon**
 - C. Treat every weapon as if it was loaded**
 - D. Keep every weapon pointed in a safe direction**

- 5. What was a significant finding in the case of Popow v City of Margate?**
 - A. Extensive training on night shooting**
 - B. Inadequate training on the use of force**
 - C. Regular training on moving targets**
 - D. Monthly shooting drills**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a popular shooting stance?**
- A. Isosceles**
 - B. Modified Weaver**
 - C. Dynamic**
 - D. Square Stance**
- 7. How is the light held in the Rogers/syringe/cigar technique?**
- A. Between the first two fingers**
 - B. Between four fingers**
 - C. In the support hand's palm**
 - D. Wrapped by both hands**
- 8. What are the two main types of rifles categorized by their operation mechanism?**
- A. Battle rifle and sniper rifle**
 - B. Battle rifle and assault rifle**
 - C. Assault rifle and bolt-action rifle**
 - D. Lever-action rifle and semi-automatic rifle**
- 9. What is meant by "sight alignment"?**
- A. The position of the front sight in relation to the rear sight**
 - B. The overall view of the target with the gun sights**
 - C. The correct positioning of the user's grip**
 - D. The distance between the user and the target**
- 10. #00 buck shot is equivalent to how many projectiles?**
- A. Three .50 caliber projectiles**
 - B. Six .40 caliber projectiles**
 - C. Nine .33 caliber projectiles**
 - D. Twelve .25 caliber projectiles**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. During a victim assessment, which of the following should you check first?

A. Responsiveness

B. Pulse

C. Breathing

D. Injuries

In the context of a victim assessment, checking for responsiveness is the most critical first step. This involves assessing whether the victim is conscious and aware of their surroundings. If the victim is unresponsive, immediate actions may need to be taken, such as calling for emergency assistance or beginning CPR. Assessing responsiveness not only helps in determining the victim's condition but also guides further assessment and intervention steps. Once responsiveness is established, the next logical steps would typically involve checking for breathing and pulse, as these are critical indicators of a person's immediate medical status. However, the priority is always to first ascertain if the victim can respond, as this influences the urgency and type of assistance needed. Understanding this sequence is crucial for effective emergency response and victim management.

2. In the modified Harries technique, how is the palm of the flashlight hand positioned?

A. Facing downward

B. Facing upward

C. Perpendicular

D. Outward

In the modified Harries technique, positioning the palm of the flashlight hand facing upward is essential for effectively illuminating a target while maintaining control over the firearm. This orientation allows the shooter to angle the flashlight beam toward the target while retaining a stable grip on the firearm. It provides a solid platform for the non-dominant hand—which is holding the flashlight—to create a more secure stance and improved alignment with the dominant shooting hand. Additionally, the upward-facing palm facilitates a better field of vision, enabling the shooter to see the target and the surrounding environment clearly. This technique enhances the overall tactical abilities of the shooter in low-light situations, balancing the need for illumination without compromising firearm control or handling. The other positioning options, such as facing downward or outward, would hinder the direct illumination of the target or disrupt the effective posture needed to align the firearm accurately. Additionally, a perpendicular orientation might not provide the necessary light direction or grip stability, detracting from the efficiency of the technique.

3. What term describes a situation where a cartridge goes off without the trigger being pulled?

- A. Out of battery issue**
- B. Negligent discharge**
- C. Misfire**
- D. Squib load**

The correct answer describes a negligent discharge, which occurs when a firearm unintentionally discharges without the trigger being pulled. This situation can arise from various factors, such as mechanical failure, a faulty firing pin, or operator error. A negligent discharge highlights the importance of safe handling practices and the need for firearms to be treated as if they are always loaded. It is crucial for firearms instructors to educate students on the risks associated with negligent discharges and the proper procedures for handling firearms to prevent such incidents. The other terms mentioned refer to different firearm-related issues: an out of battery issue occurs when the bolt is not fully locked, leading to a potentially dangerous situation; a misfire represents a failure of a cartridge to fire when the trigger is pulled; and a squib load refers to an underpowered cartridge that does not propel the bullet properly, potentially causing a blockage in the barrel. Each of these terms pertains to specific malfunctions or scenarios that differ fundamentally from the concept of a negligent discharge.

4. Which of the following is NOT one of the four cardinal rules for safe gun handling?

- A. Keep finger outside of trigger guard**
- B. Let others handle your weapon**
- C. Treat every weapon as if it was loaded**
- D. Keep every weapon pointed in a safe direction**

The statement that letting others handle your weapon is not one of the four cardinal rules for safe gun handling is accurate because safe gun handling emphasizes responsibility and caution at all times. The cardinal rules focus on practices that minimize the risk of accidents and ensure that firearms are handled safely. Keeping your finger outside the trigger guard, treating every weapon as if it were loaded, and keeping every weapon pointed in a safe direction are fundamental practices designed to prevent negligent discharges and ensure everyone's safety around firearms. Allowing others to handle a weapon without limitations can increase the risk of accidents and goes against the principles of responsible firearm ownership and handling. A firearm should only be handled by someone who is trained and aware of the responsibilities that come with it, thereby reinforcing the importance of maintaining control and ensuring safety at all times.

5. What was a significant finding in the case of Popow v City of Margate?

- A. Extensive training on night shooting**
- B. Inadequate training on the use of force**
- C. Regular training on moving targets**
- D. Monthly shooting drills**

In the case of Popow v. City of Margate, a significant finding was the inadequacy of training on the use of force. This case highlighted the importance of police departments providing sufficient training to their officers on how to appropriately apply and assess the use of force in various situations. The court found that the lack of proper training contributed to the improper actions taken by the officers involved in the incident. This emphasizes the critical role training plays not only in enhancing officer performance but also in safeguarding public safety and promoting accountability within law enforcement agencies. Inadequate training can lead to misunderstandings and misuse of authority, which can have severe consequences for both officers and civilians. Thus, the finding underscored the necessity for ongoing, comprehensive training programs that clearly define the guidelines and principles governing the use of force.

6. Which of the following is NOT a popular shooting stance?

- A. Isosceles**
- B. Modified Weaver**
- C. Dynamic**
- D. Square Stance**

The square stance is not typically characterized as a popular shooting stance in the context of modern shooting techniques. The isosceles and modified Weaver stances are widely recognized due to their stability and versatility when shooting. The isosceles stance, where the shooter faces the target with both arms extended forward and feet shoulder-width apart, allows for quick target acquisition and balanced mobility. The modified Weaver stance, which involves a slightly angled position with one foot back, focuses on support and recoil management, often utilized for precision shooting. While the dynamic stance refers to shooting while moving or in a more fluid posture, it is also more commonly used in tactical and competitive scenarios. The square stance, which involves a body position square to the target, lacks the inherent advantages of the other stances regarding stability and mobility, which is why it is less favored among shooters today. This lack of adaptability in various shooting situations contributes to its classification as the least popular option in this context.

7. How is the light held in the Rogers/syringe/cigar technique?

- A. Between the first two fingers**
- B. Between four fingers**
- C. In the support hand's palm**
- D. Wrapped by both hands**

In the Rogers/syringe/cigar technique, the correct method for holding the light involves positioning it between the first two fingers. This grip allows for precise control and stability when handling the light, which is crucial during firearm instruction or tactical situations. By using only the first two fingers, the instructor or shooter can maintain a solid grip while keeping the remaining fingers free to manipulate the firearm or perform other tasks. This technique also minimizes the chance of the light being inadvertently dropped or misaligned, ensuring greater effectiveness in target identification and illumination. The grip method emphasizes mobility and versatility in various shooting positions, enhancing overall performance.

8. What are the two main types of rifles categorized by their operation mechanism?

- A. Battle rifle and sniper rifle**
- B. Battle rifle and assault rifle**
- C. Assault rifle and bolt-action rifle**
- D. Lever-action rifle and semi-automatic rifle**

The two main types of rifles categorized by their operation mechanism are commonly identified as battle rifles and assault rifles. A battle rifle is typically characterized by its capability to fire full-power cartridges and is designed for use by military forces. These rifles generally have a more robust construction and are effective at longer ranges. On the other hand, an assault rifle operates on a different mechanism, usually allowing for selective fire, meaning it can operate in semi-automatic and fully automatic modes. This type of rifle fires intermediate cartridges which provide a balance between the heavier cartridges of battle rifles and the lighter cartridges used in most civilian rifles. The distinction between these two types revolves around their design, intended use, and operational capabilities, making the combination of battle rifles and assault rifles the most fitting answer for classifying rifles by their operational mechanisms. Understanding these classifications aids in grasping the broader context of firearm designs and applications in various scenarios, particularly in military and tactical environments.

9. What is meant by "sight alignment"?

- A. The position of the front sight in relation to the rear sight**
- B. The overall view of the target with the gun sights**
- C. The correct positioning of the user's grip**
- D. The distance between the user and the target**

Sight alignment refers specifically to the relationship between the front sight and the rear sight of a firearm. It involves ensuring that the front sight is positioned centrally within the rear sight and that the top of the front sight is level with the top of the rear sight. Proper sight alignment is critical for accurate shooting because it ensures that the shooter is aiming correctly at the desired point of impact on the target. When shooters achieve proper sight alignment, they create a visual reference that helps reduce errors in aiming and enhances precision in shooting. The other choices focus on different aspects of shooting that are important but do not define sight alignment itself. While the overall view of the target with the gun sights is essential for aiming, it does not capture the specific alignment of the sights. Similarly, grip positioning and the distance between the user and the target are crucial elements for overall shooting technique and effectiveness, but they do not relate directly to the concept of sight alignment.

10. #00 buck shot is equivalent to how many projectiles?

- A. Three .50 caliber projectiles**
- B. Six .40 caliber projectiles**
- C. Nine .33 caliber projectiles**
- D. Twelve .25 caliber projectiles**

The correct response is that #00 buck shot is equivalent to nine .33 caliber projectiles. Understanding the size and number of projectiles in buckshot is essential for both comprehension of its use in firearms and for practical shooting applications. #00 buck shot typically comprises lead pellets that are approximately .33 inches in diameter. When a shotgun fires #00 buck, it releases multiple pellets at once, which is beneficial for hunting and self-defense scenarios where multiple impacts can increase the likelihood of hitting a target. Therefore, when you consider the dimensions of the pellets that make up #00 buck shot, it is accurate to state that this load typically includes nine individual projectiles, each about the size of a .33 caliber ball. This information is crucial for understanding the effective range, pattern, and stopping power of a shotgun using buckshot.

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://firearmsinstructor.examzify.com>

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

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