

JFS MQF Fire Support Team (FIST) Certification 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 command relationship defines the authority to command and employ forces to accomplish a mission?**
 - A. Tactical Control**
 - B. Operational Control**
 - C. Organizational Control**
 - D. Positive Control**
- 2. What identification is primarily concerned with determining the status and type of identified targets?**
 - A. Positive Identification**
 - B. Combat Identification**
 - C. Friendly Force Tracking**
 - D. Target Identification**
- 3. What are the five requirements for achieving accurate first-round fire for effect?**
 - A. Accurate target location and size**
 - B. Accurate firing unit location**
 - C. Accurate weapon and ammunition information**
 - D. Accurate meteorological information**
- 4. What is the maximum range, in meters, of the M252/M252A1 81mm mortar?**
 - A. 5800**
 - B. 4800**
 - C. 4600**
 - D. 5400**
- 5. Which of the following is a primary advantage of independent observation in fire support operations?**
 - A. Direct control over artillery operations**
 - B. Immediate feedback to ground units**
 - C. Increased situational awareness**
 - D. Reduced need for ground personnel**

- 6. When two airbursts and two graze bursts are spotted, what is the HOB correction?**
- A. No correction is required.**
 - B. Up 10**
 - C. Up 20**
 - D. Up 40**
- 7. In a CAS operation, who is responsible for the clearance to engage?**
- A. JTAC**
 - B. JFO**
 - C. Aircraft Commander**
 - D. Ground Force Commander**
- 8. What is the proper command for an Excalibur call for fire after achieving a nadir?**
- A. Target Confirmed**
 - B. Engage**
 - C. Adjust Fire**
 - D. Fire for Effect**
- 9. In the range spotting sequence, what does "Doubtful" signify?**
- A. The location of the round is easily determined.**
 - B. The round's impact cannot be spotted as "OVER, SHORT, TARGET, or RANGE CORRECT".**
 - C. The round is confirmed on target.**
 - D. The round is definitely over the target.**
- 10. What is a synchronized combined arms activity under the control of the maneuver commander conducted to allow maneuver through an obstacle?**
- A. Breach**
 - B. Clear**
 - C. Attack**
 - D. Offense**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which command relationship defines the authority to command and employ forces to accomplish a mission?

- A. Tactical Control**
- B. Operational Control**
- C. Organizational Control**
- D. Positive Control**

The choice of Operational Control is the correct answer because this command relationship clearly delineates the authority given to a commander to direct forces and employ them effectively to accomplish specific missions. Operational Control allows for the detailed execution of military operations, facilitating the coordination of forces across different units to achieve strategic objectives. It encompasses the authority to organize and deploy forces, thus enabling the commander to manage resources, assign tasks, and ensure proper engagement in operations. Operational Control goes beyond merely announcing who is in charge; it encompasses the direct assignment of tasks and capabilities. This level of control is vital in a dynamic battlefield environment where responsiveness and adaptability are essential for mission success. In contrast, Tactical Control provides a more limited authority that allows the commander to direct specific tactical units, but it does not encompass the broader mission-related command responsibilities found in Operational Control. Organizational Control typically refers to the structure and relationships of forces, focusing on command structures rather than the authority to employ them. Positive Control generally indicates a level of oversight or oversight function rather than the broader command authority needed for mission accomplishment.

2. What identification is primarily concerned with determining the status and type of identified targets?

- A. Positive Identification**
- B. Combat Identification**
- C. Friendly Force Tracking**
- D. Target Identification**

The identification that is primarily concerned with determining the status and type of identified targets is Combat Identification. This process involves confirming whether a target is friend or foe, and further clarifying the nature of the identified entity—whether it's an enemy combatant, civilian, or friendly unit. Combat Identification plays a critical role in ensuring that friendly forces are accurately distinguished from adversaries, thereby reducing the risk of friendly fire incidents during military operations. This identification process encompasses not only the identification itself but also the necessary assessment of the operational context, including the behavior and appearance of targets. It is crucial for commanders to have a precise understanding of the battlefield situation, which is facilitated by Combat Identification. This process is foundational for situational awareness and effective decision-making in combat scenarios. Other types of identification, while related, do not focus explicitly on assessing targets in this manner. Positive Identification is about confirming exactly who or what a target is, while Friendly Force Tracking deals specifically with locating and monitoring the positions of friendly units. Target Identification is a broader term but does not exclusively encapsulate the operational nuances tied to assessing combat status and type, which is why Combat Identification is the most appropriate choice.

3. What are the five requirements for achieving accurate first-round fire for effect?

A. Accurate target location and size

B. Accurate firing unit location

C. Accurate weapon and ammunition information

D. Accurate meteorological information

Achieving accurate first-round fire for effect is a critical objective in fire support operations, as it enhances the effectiveness of artillery and maximizes the potential for mission success while minimizing the risk of collateral damage. The requirement for accurate target location and size is fundamental because it ensures that the munitions land on the intended target with precision. If the target location is incorrect or the estimated size of the target is inaccurate, the chances of missing the target or causing unintended damage increase significantly. The accuracy of the target's coordinates allows the firing unit to apply its fires with confidence, thereby ensuring that the desired effects are achieved immediately and effectively. Successful fire support also relies on complementary requirements, such as knowing the location of the firing unit and having accurate information on the weapon and ammunition being used, as well as pertinent meteorological data. However, these factors become less impactful if the target location and size are not precisely known. Hence, accurate target location and size is the most crucial requirement for achieving the desired first-round fire for effect.

4. What is the maximum range, in meters, of the M252/M252A1 81mm mortar?

A. 5800

B. 4800

C. 4600

D. 5400

The maximum range of the M252/M252A1 81mm mortar is 5800 meters. This range is achieved under optimal firing conditions, utilizing the correct type of ammunition and elevation settings. The M252 is designed for indirect fire support and is known for its flexibility in various artillery roles, contributing to its effectiveness in different combat scenarios. The 5800-meter range allows for significant area coverage, making it a valuable asset for infantry units requiring close support without exposing their positions. Understanding the capabilities of the M252/M252A1 is crucial for effective planning and execution of fire support missions, ensuring that the mortar can engage targets at extended distances while still being responsive to the needs of ground forces.

5. Which of the following is a primary advantage of independent observation in fire support operations?

- A. Direct control over artillery operations**
- B. Immediate feedback to ground units**
- C. Increased situational awareness**
- D. Reduced need for ground personnel**

The primary advantage of independent observation in fire support operations is increased situational awareness. When a fire support observer operates independently, they are positioned to gather intelligence and assess the battlefield without the constraints of direct coordination with ground units. This autonomy allows for a broader perspective of the operational environment, helping to identify enemy movements, potential threats, and opportunities for effective fire support. With enhanced situational awareness, observers can make informed recommendations regarding target selection, timing for fire missions, and optimizing fire support effectiveness. This capability is crucial for ensuring that fire support is responsive and well-coordinated with the needs of ground forces, ultimately leading to improved mission success. While direct control over artillery operations, immediate feedback to ground units, and reduced need for ground personnel are all important aspects of fire support, they do not capture the essence of how independent observation enhances awareness and overall understanding of the operational environment, which is vital for effective command and control in dynamic combat scenarios.

6. When two airbursts and two graze bursts are spotted, what is the HOB correction?

- A. No correction is required.**
- B. Up 10**
- C. Up 20**
- D. Up 40**

When analyzing the situation where two airbursts and two graze bursts are observed, it is important to understand the concept of Height of Burst (HOB) correction in fire support operations. In this case, having both airburst and graze bursts indicates the need to adjust the firing parameters to optimize the effects on the target. The standard practice calls for a specific HOB correction based on the types of bursts seen. With two airbursts, which are designed to maximize the area of effect over the target, and two graze bursts that tend to land closer to the ground, the combined observation informs the necessary correction. The HOB correction of "Up 10" signifies an adjustment to increase the burst height to improve effectiveness, particularly in achieving a more concentrated impact on the target area. In scenarios like this, an upward adjustment typically compensates for discrepancies in the observed burst patterns to better align the artillery or airstrike with the intended target, ensuring that the explosive effects are maximized at an appropriate altitude. This understanding is critical in the field, where rapid and accurate adjustments can significantly influence mission outcomes. Thus, applying an upward correction of 10 to the height of burst is the appropriate action to take in this scenario.

7. In a CAS operation, who is responsible for the clearance to engage?

A. JTAC

B. JFO

C. Aircraft Commander

D. Ground Force Commander

In a Close Air Support (CAS) operation, the Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) holds the responsibility for granting clearance to engage. The JTAC acts as the primary liaison between the ground forces and the aircraft conducting air support. Their role involves ensuring that the actions taken by aircraft are safe and effective, considering the tactical situation on the ground. The JTAC coordinates target engagement, taking into account the presence of friendly forces, the location of the enemy, and the type of ordnance being used. This meticulous oversight helps prevent fratricide and ensures that the air support provided aligns with the ground commander's intentions and operational plans. While other roles such as the Joint Fires Observer (JFO), Aircraft Commander, and Ground Force Commander are integral to the process, their responsibilities differ. The JFO usually assists the JTAC by providing additional situational awareness and identifying targets but does not have final authority on engagement clearance. The Aircraft Commander is responsible for the aircraft's overall operation and safety but relies on the JTAC for ground-focused clearance decisions. The Ground Force Commander is focused on the broader tactical objectives and unit welfare but defers to the JTAC for the specifics of engaging targets in close proximity to friendly forces. This division of responsibility establishes a

8. What is the proper command for an Excalibur call for fire after achieving a nadir?

A. Target Confirmed

B. Engage

C. Adjust Fire

D. Fire for Effect

In the context of calling for fire missions using Excalibur munitions, the proper command after achieving a nadir is to confirm the target. This allows the fire team to ensure that the conditions for engaging the target are met, and it confirms to the firing unit that the observer has a visual or other reliable confirmation of the target's location. Once the nadir has been achieved and the target confirmed, the next steps can include issuing commands such as "Fire for Effect," which instructs the firing unit to engage the target with the specified rounds. However, the key initial step is the confirmation of the target, ensuring that the coordinated effort between the observer and the firing unit is aligned for an effective strike. Understanding this process reinforces the importance of clear communication and verification in fire support operations, emphasizing that proper protocol must be followed to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of fire support strategies.

9. In the range spotting sequence, what does "Doubtful" signify?

- A. The location of the round is easily determined.**
- B. The round's impact cannot be spotted as "OVER, SHORT, TARGET, or RANGE CORRECT".**
- C. The round is confirmed on target.**
- D. The round is definitely over the target.**

In the context of the range spotting sequence, the term "Doubtful" signifies that the observer is unable to determine the exact location of the projectile's impact. This condition arises when the impact cannot be distinctly categorized into clear outcomes like "OVER," "SHORT," "TARGET," or "RANGE CORRECT." When impacts are doubtful, it indicates uncertainty in the observation, which can occur due to factors such as visibility issues, obscured views, or the round landing in a location that does not provide a definitive clue about its position relative to the target. This uncertainty can significantly impact subsequent actions, as more observation or adjustment may be required to accurately ascertain the round's impact and provide effective fire support.

10. What is a synchronized combined arms activity under the control of the maneuver commander conducted to allow maneuver through an obstacle?

- A. Breach**
- B. Clear**
- C. Attack**
- D. Offense**

A synchronized combined arms activity under the control of the maneuver commander that is conducted to allow maneuver through an obstacle is known as a breach. In military operations, a breach involves a coordinated effort involving various elements, such as infantry, armor, and engineers, to clear pathways through or destroy obstacles that impede the movement of friendly forces. The objective of a breach is to maintain momentum in the attack while ensuring that the enemy is suppressed or defeated to facilitate safe passage for the maneuvering units. This operation typically requires careful planning and execution, incorporating fire support, maneuver tactics, and the use of specialized equipment to achieve the desired outcome. The other terms relate to different military concepts. For instance, "clear" refers to the action of removing enemy forces from a specified area but does not specifically imply a coordinated effort through obstacles like a breach does. "Attack" is a broader term that denotes offensive actions against an enemy position, whereas "offense" refers to operations intended to seize or retain ground and is not limited to the context of overcoming obstacles. Hence, the breach is distinctly aligned with the goal of enabling maneuver through an obstacle, making it the correct choice.

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://jfsmqffist.examzify.com>

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