

JFS MQF FIRE SUPPORT TEAM (FIST) CERTIFICATION PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

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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. ____ is the authority to control the maneuver of and grant weapons release clearance to attacking aircraft.
 - A. Terminal Attack Control (TAC)
 - B. Close Air Support (CAS)
 - C. Close Combat Attack (CCA)
 - D. Tactical Risk Assessment (TRA)
2. The establishment of which control is essential for coordinating multiple air strikes on a single target by a JTAC/FAC?
 - A. Type 1 Control
 - B. Type 2 Control
 - C. Type 3 Control
 - D. Type 4 Control
3. What process is necessary for the success of joint maneuvers during assessments of engagement?
 - A. Targeting
 - B. Planning
 - C. MDMP
 - D. COA Development
4. Which radar zone is considered critical for protecting an asset whose loss would jeopardize the mission?
 - A. Critical Friendly Zone
 - B. Censor Zone
 - C. Artillery Target Intelligence Zone
 - D. Call for Fire Zone
5. Which of the following can be sent separately or along with the MTO?
 - A. Probable Error in Range
 - B. Angle T
 - C. PRF Code
 - D. All of the Above

- 6. Which branch is specific to the Battlefield Coordination Line?**
- A. Army
 - B. Navy
 - C. Air Force
 - D. Marine Corps
- 7. What step comes after "Attack" in the CAS execution template?**
- A. Battle damage assessment
 - B. Assess effects
 - C. Correlation
 - D. Readbacks
- 8. What is a known target in the operational environment upon which actions are planned using deliberate targeting?**
- A. Established Target
 - B. Approved Target
 - C. Priority Target
 - D. Planned Target
- 9. Which employment option allows for a more decentralized fire support operation?**
- A. Battalion Fire Support Team
 - B. Company or Troop FIST
 - C. Platoon Forward Observer
 - D. Consolidated FIST
- 10. Which deviation spotting indicates that a round impacted short of the adjusting point?**
- A. Left
 - B. Right
 - C. LINE
 - D. None of the above

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. ____ is the authority to control the maneuver of and grant weapons release clearance to attacking aircraft.

A. Terminal Attack Control (TAC)

B. Close Air Support (CAS)

C. Close Combat Attack (CCA)

D. Tactical Risk Assessment (TRA)

Terminal Attack Control (TAC) is the authority responsible for directing the engagement of attacking aircraft and granting them clearance to release their weapons. This role is crucial in ensuring the effectiveness and safety of air support, particularly in close support environments where ground forces may be operating in proximity to enemy targets. Terminal Attack Controllers coordinate with pilots and ground units to establish targets, disseminate clear instructions, and ensure that air strikes do not jeopardize the safety of friendly forces. In contrast, Close Air Support (CAS) refers to the air action against hostile targets that are in close proximity to friendly forces, but it does not inherently include the authority to control maneuver or grant weapon release. Close Combat Attack (CCA) refers to operations that involve the direct engagement of targets that are near friendly forces, but like CAS, it does not specify the control and clearance aspect attributed to TAC. Tactical Risk Assessment (TRA) involves evaluating the risks associated with potential actions but does not encompass the authority to control aircraft or approve weapon releases. Thus, TAC is the correct term that captures the essential authority and operational responsibility in this context.

2. The establishment of which control is essential for coordinating multiple air strikes on a single target by a JTAC/FAC?

A. Type 1 Control

B. Type 2 Control

C. Type 3 Control

D. Type 4 Control

The establishment of Type 1 Control is essential for coordinating multiple air strikes on a single target by a Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) or Forward Air Controller (FAC) because it allows for precise control of air support while ensuring the safety of friendly forces. Type 1 Control is defined as a method employed when the JTAC requires visual confirmation of the target before giving clearance for the aircraft to engage. This level of control is necessary for ensuring that munitions are delivered accurately and that the risk of friendly fire is minimized. In situations where multiple air strikes are coordinated on a specific target, Type 1 Control ensures that the JTAC can observe the effects of previous strikes and the battlefield environment before authorizing additional ordnance drop. The requirement for visual identification and continuous monitoring helps in making real-time decisions to adjust tactics or vectors for subsequent strikes, maintaining a high level of command and oversight. The other control types, while useful for various scenarios, do not provide the same level of interaction and oversight for closely coordinating multiple strikes on a single target as Type 1 Control does.

3. What process is necessary for the success of joint maneuvers during assessments of engagement?

- A. Targeting**
- B. Planning
- C. MDMP
- D. COA Development

The success of joint maneuvers during assessments of engagement heavily relies on the targeting process. Targeting involves the identification, selection, and prioritization of targets for action, which is essential in ensuring that military efforts are focused and effective. This process integrates intelligence, operational planning, and joint forces to align efforts towards achieving desired effects on the battlefield. Effective targeting enables forces to assess the engagement accurately by determining what resources are necessary, when to allocate those resources, and how to coordinate actions among various units. By focusing on targeting, commanders can synchronize actions, minimize collateral damage, and optimize the use of available combat power, thus enhancing the overall effectiveness of joint maneuvers. In contrast, while planning, MDMP (Military Decision Making Process), and COA (Course of Action) development are all important elements in military operations, they serve broader roles and do not directly focus on the specific requirements of engagement assessments as targeting does. Planning sets the framework for operations, MDMP provides a structured method for decision-making, and COA development outlines possible strategies but does not specifically address the prioritization and selection of targets necessary for successful engagement assessments.

4. Which radar zone is considered critical for protecting an asset whose loss would jeopardize the mission?

- A. Critical Friendly Zone**
- B. Censor Zone
- C. Artillery Target Intelligence Zone
- D. Call for Fire Zone

The designation of the Critical Friendly Zone is essential as it pertains to the protection of high-value assets that, if compromised, could significantly impair mission success. This zone serves as a protective buffer around assets deemed essential to the operational integrity of a mission. The primary focus of this zone is to ensure the safety and security of these key resources, allowing for tactical actions to prevent their loss. In operational contexts, maintaining awareness within the Critical Friendly Zone is crucial for effective force protection and to enable prompt responses to any threats. This aspect of the zone is integrated into mission planning and execution, helping units understand where their vulnerabilities lie and how they can fortify those areas against potential adversarial actions. The other options represent different areas related to fire support coordination and intelligence but do not specifically address the proactive measures needed to safeguard an asset that is critical to mission success. For example, the Censor Zone might pertain to monitoring enemy activities, while the Artillery Target Intelligence Zone involves gathering intelligence for artillery operations. The Call for Fire Zone is primarily concerned with coordinating fire support rather than asset protection. Thus, the focus of the Critical Friendly Zone aligns directly with the objective of protecting mission-critical assets effectively.

5. Which of the following can be sent separately or along with the MTO?

- A. Probable Error in Range
- B. Angle T
- C. PRF Code
- D. All of the Above**

The option indicating that all the items can be sent separately or along with the Mission Targeting Order (MTO) is the correct answer because each of the components mentioned plays a critical role in the fire support process, and they can be communicated individually as needed. Probable Error in Range refers to the anticipated deviation in the range, which is crucial for adjusting fire and ensuring that munitions impact accurately near the designated target. This information can be specifically provided when adjusting fire or making targeting decisions and does not necessarily have to be included in the MTO but can be sent alongside it for clarity. Angle T specifies the leading angle to account for various factors like movement and the trajectory of the projectile. This can also be communicated independently when tactical situations change or when operational conditions dictate a need for immediate adjustments. The PRF Code (Pulse Repetition Frequency) is essential in the context of laser-guided munitions as it identifies the specific laser designator being used to avoid confusion during targeting. This code can be sent separately from the MTO to ensure that the receiving element has the correct information for engagement. Each of these components can enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of fire support missions, making it advantageous to communicate them as needed, either individually or packaged with

6. Which branch is specific to the Battlefield Coordination Line?

- A. Army
- B. Navy
- C. Air Force
- D. Marine Corps**

The Battlefield Coordination Line (BCL) is a concept that is primarily associated with the Marine Corps, which operates in a manner that emphasizes close coordination between different combat and support elements on the battlefield. The BCL is utilized to facilitate the safe and effective integration of air and ground forces by providing a designated line that helps define the area of engagement. The Marine Corps has a unique operational doctrine that involves rapid maneuver and the need to coordinate fire support across various platforms, making the BCL a critical tool for enhancing battlefield effectiveness and minimizing the risk of fratricide. This focus on coordination and the use of designated lines reflects the Marine Corps' approach to combined arms operations, where various military branches and assets must work together seamlessly to achieve mission objectives. While other branches may have similar lines or concepts, the BCL is specifically articulated and applied within the context of Marine Corps operations, distinguishing it from typical Army, Navy, or Air Force practices.

7. What step comes after "Attack" in the CAS execution template?

- A. Battle damage assessment
- B. Assess effects**
- C. Correlation
- D. Readbacks

Following the "Attack" phase in the Close Air Support (CAS) execution template, the next step involves assessing the effects of the air strike. This phase is critical as it allows the personnel involved to evaluate whether the intended objectives were achieved and to determine the effectiveness of the attack. Assessing effects includes reviewing the observed results against the desired outcomes, looking at the impact on enemy forces, and any collateral damage that may have occurred. This assessment is essential for making informed decisions about follow-up actions and refining future operations, contributing to overall operational success and safety of friendly forces. Understanding this step is fundamental for FIST personnel, as it directly influences the planning and execution of subsequent CAS missions and ensures continuous improvement in tactics and strategies employed in fire support operations.

8. What is a known target in the operational environment upon which actions are planned using deliberate targeting?

- A. Established Target
- B. Approved Target
- C. Priority Target
- D. Planned Target**

In the context of military operations and targeting, a known target that is selected for action often refers to a "Planned Target." This term indicates that specific actions have been predetermined based on the strategic importance of the target within the operational environment. It suggests that extensive intelligence, reconnaissance, and operational planning have been conducted to determine the best approach for engaging the target and that these targets align with the overall mission objectives. A planned target is identifiable and measurable, and it comes with an established set of parameters to guide the execution of operations against it. The planning phase typically involves a thorough understanding of the target's capabilities, location, and the potential impact of engaging it. This ensures that the actions taken are deliberate and aligned with the desired outcomes of the mission. The other terms refer to various stages or types of targets, but "Planned Target" specifically focuses on those that are pre-identified and have undergone a level of detailed planning associated with them, which is crucial for operational effectiveness.

9. Which employment option allows for a more decentralized fire support operation?

- A. Battalion Fire Support Team**
- B. Company or Troop FIST
- C. Platoon Forward Observer
- D. Consolidated FIST

The employment option that allows for a more decentralized fire support operation is the Company or Troop FIST. This team operates at a lower level within the overall military hierarchy, enabling them to respond more directly and adaptively to the immediate needs of the ground forces they support. By functioning at the company or troop level, the FIST can provide timely and coordinated fire support that is closely aligned with the unit's maneuver objectives. This level of decentralization enhances the ability to make real-time adjustments to fire support requirements, improving responsiveness to changing tactical situations on the battlefield. Other options, such as the Battalion Fire Support Team, typically involve a higher command level, making them more centralized and focused on broader strategic objectives rather than on immediate, tactical needs. A Platoon Forward Observer can offer direct support but does not have the same breadth of capability and resources that a Company or Troop FIST possesses. A Consolidated FIST combines resources from various units, which can lead to a more centralized command structure, thus reducing the degree of decentralization in fire support operations.

10. Which deviation spotting indicates that a round impacted short of the adjusting point?

- A. Left
- B. Right
- C. LINE
- D. None of the above**

The correct answer is that there is no deviation spotting term that specifically indicates that a round impacted short of the adjusting point. In artillery terms, deviations such as "left," "right," and "line" typically relate to the horizontal and vertical placement of a round concerning the target or adjusting point, but they don't explicitly address distance. When a round impacts short, it means that it did not travel far enough to reach the target area, and this is generally indicated by a specific term, often referred to as "short." Since "short" is not among the provided choices, selecting "none of the above" accurately reflects that there is no correct term in the provided options to indicate a short impact. Therefore, understanding the difference between horizontal deviations and the more critical vertical deviations is crucial for interpreting the results of an artillery strike correctly.

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!

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