

# Marine Corps Academics Officer Candidates School (OCS) Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Copyright</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Table of Contents</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>How to Use This Guide</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Questions</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Answers</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>Explanations</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>Next Steps</b> .....	<b>15</b>

SAMPLE

# 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. Which rank uses Three stripes up and Crossed Rifles on its insignia?**
  - A. Sergeant (E-5)**
  - B. Staff Sergeant (E-6)**
  - C. Master Sergeant (E-8)**
  - D. First Sergeant (E-8)**
  
- 2. Which are the firing modes of the M-16A4?**
  - A. Semiautomatic (one pull, one shot) and Automatic (one pull, three round burst)**
  - B. Semiautomatic (one pull, two shots) and Burst (one pull, two round burst)**
  - C. Burst mode only**
  - D. Single-shot only**
  
- 3. Which term is the slang for a supply locker or closet?**
  - A. Whiskey locker**
  - B. Inkstick**
  - C. Leadstick**
  - D. Head**
  
- 4. In OSMEAC, which component follows Mission?**
  - A. Execution**
  - B. Orientation**
  - C. Situation**
  - D. Command & Signal**
  
- 5. In military commands, the phrase 'As you were' means to do what?**
  - A. Disregard last order**
  - B. Carry out the last order**
  - C. Repeat the last order**
  - D. Await further instructions**

- 6. What is a Brig in Marine slang?**
- A. A military prison**
  - B. A ship's bridge**
  - C. A type of hat**
  - D. A dining area**
- 7. In OSMEAC, what does the initial component represent?**
- A. Orientation**
  - B. Situation**
  - C. Mission**
  - D. Execution**
- 8. Firewatch describes what kind of duty?**
- A. A term for sentries watching a specific non-combat area**
  - B. A firefighting instruction**
  - C. A weapon maintenance check**
  - D. A medical evacuation procedure**
- 9. Which rank corresponds to E-3?**
- A. Lance Corporal (E-3)**
  - B. Private First Class (E-2)**
  - C. Corporal (E-4)**
  - D. Gunnery Sergeant (E-7)**
- 10. How many articles are there in the Code of Conduct as presented in the material?**
- A. Six**
  - B. Five**
  - C. Seven**
  - D. Four**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which rank uses Three stripes up and Crossed Rifles on its insignia?**

- A. Sergeant (E-5)**
- B. Staff Sergeant (E-6)**
- C. Master Sergeant (E-8)**
- D. First Sergeant (E-8)**

Understanding Marine Corps enlisted insignia helps you read rank at a glance. The stripes (chevrons) indicate pay grade, while additional devices below or among the stripes show the exact rank and, in some cases, the branch. Three chevrons pointing up combined with the crossed rifles device is the insignia shown for a Sergeant, the first noncommissioned officer at pay grade E-5. The crossed rifles signify infantry, and the three stripes above indicate the E-5 level. The other options don't use that exact combo. A Staff Sergeant has three stripes plus a rocker underneath, not crossed rifles. Master Sergeant and First Sergeant feature more complex insignia (additional rockers and, in some cases, a central symbol like a star or diamond) rather than three stripes with crossed rifles. So the three-stripes-with-crossed-rifles combination points to the Sergeant.

**2. Which are the firing modes of the M-16A4?**

- A. Semiautomatic (one pull, one shot) and Automatic (one pull, three round burst)**
- B. Semiautomatic (one pull, two shots) and Burst (one pull, two round burst)**
- C. Burst mode only**
- D. Single-shot only**

The M-16A4 is designed to fire in two modes: semi-automatic and a three-round burst. In semi-automatic, each pull of the trigger fires one round. In three-round burst, a single trigger pull delivers three rounds in quick succession. There is no true fully automatic fire on the M-16A4. So a choice that lists semi-automatic and a burst mode with three rounds per pull accurately reflects how the weapon operates, even if the label used for burst isn't the best technical term. The other options either describe a two-round burst, claim burst is the only mode, or claim single-shot only, which don't match how the rifle actually functions.

**3. Which term is the slang for a supply locker or closet?**

- A. Whiskey locker**
- B. Inkstick**
- C. Leadstick**
- D. Head**

In Marine Corps slang, a supply locker or closet is called a whiskey locker. The term uses the word locker to signal a storage space for gear, uniforms, and other kit, with whiskey serving as a memorable, informal modifier. The other terms point to different things—inkstick and leadstick refer to writing instruments, while head is Navy slang for the bathroom—so they don't describe a storage space.

#### 4. In OSMEAC, which component follows Mission?

- A. Execution**
- B. Orientation**
- C. Situation**
- D. Command & Signal**

OSMEAC is a planning and briefing framework that moves from what must be done to how it will be done. After the mission states the task and purpose, the next step is Execution, which translates that mission into concrete actions. In Execution the commander lays out how forces will move, maneuver, and fight to accomplish the mission: which units do what, in what order, where they will go, and when they will act. It includes coordinating movements, fire support, task assignments to subunits, timelines, and the integration of effects across the force. This is the stage where the plan becomes action, turning intent into observable actions on the battlefield. For context, other parts of OSMEAC set up the why and the what and the logistics and communications needed to support action. Orientation provides the purpose and broad situation, Situation describes the enemy, terrain, and other factors, and Command & Signal covers leadership and communications structure, while Admin/Logistics covers support. Execution is specifically about how the mission will be executed in practice.

#### 5. In military commands, the phrase 'As you were' means to do what?

- A. Disregard last order**
- B. Carry out the last order**
- C. Repeat the last order**
- D. Await further instructions**

The phrase signals cancelling what was just directed and returning to how things were before that instruction. It tells the unit to disregard the most recent order as if it never happened and to resume the prior posture or plan. It isn't telling you to carry out the last order, repeat it, or wait for more instructions. Use it to halt an action that's no longer desired or appropriate and restore the previous state. For example, if you were told to advance to a point and then someone says "as you were," you stop moving forward and go back to your original formation.

#### 6. What is a Brig in Marine slang?

- A. A military prison**
- B. A ship's bridge**
- C. A type of hat**
- D. A dining area**

In Marine slang, a brig is a place of confinement—a military prison on a ship or at a base. The term comes from naval usage for the ship's jail, and you'll hear Marines say someone is "in the brig" when they're being held or detained under military authority. It's not the ship's bridge, which is the command/navigation area; it's not a hat, and not a dining area. So the best answer is that a brig is a military prison.

## 7. In OSMEAC, what does the initial component represent?

**A. Orientation**

**B. Situation**

**C. Mission**

**D. Execution**

Orientation provides the initial picture that frames everything else. It's about where you are, the terrain and environment you're operating in, the time of day, weather, and your first read on the forces and obstacles you'll face. This starting snapshot lets you orient yourself to the battlespace and build a clear mental map before you move into planning and execution. Without a solid orientation, later steps—like determining your mission, deciding how to carry it out, and arranging support and communications—can be misread or misaligned with reality. The other components describe what's happening around you, the task to accomplish, how you'll do it, and the support and command structure, but they rely on an accurate initial picture to be meaningful.

## 8. Firewatch describes what kind of duty?

**A. A term for sentries watching a specific non-combat area**

**B. A firefighting instruction**

**C. A weapon maintenance check**

**D. A medical evacuation procedure**

Firewatch is a guard duty where a Marine is posted to observe a specific area for signs of fire and to raise the alarm or respond if one starts. It's focused on early detection in non-combat spaces and is typically used where there's a fire hazard—like during hot work, in barracks, or around fuels—so that immediate action can be taken before a larger fire develops. It isn't a firefighting procedure, a maintenance check, or a medical evacuation procedure; those are different kinds of instructions or procedures, not the duty of watching for fires. By design, firewatch emphasizes vigilance in a defined area rather than performing the actual suppression or medical evacuation tasks.

## 9. Which rank corresponds to E-3?

**A. Lance Corporal (E-3)**

**B. Private First Class (E-2)**

**C. Corporal (E-4)**

**D. Gunnery Sergeant (E-7)**

In the Marines, enlisted ranks are tied to pay grades, and the pay grade E-3 corresponds to Lance Corporal. This rank comes after Private First Class (E-2) and before Corporal (E-4). Reaching Lance Corporal typically involves taking on increased responsibilities and beginning small-unit leadership within a squad or team. The other ranks map to different pay grades: Private First Class is E-2, Corporal is E-4, and Gunnery Sergeant is E-7, a much more senior noncommissioned officer.

**10. How many articles are there in the Code of Conduct as presented in the material?**

**A. Six**

**B. Five**

**C. Seven**

**D. Four**

The material is organized into discrete sections labeled as articles, and you can see six such sections, from Article I through Article VI. That explicit labeling makes the total count six. There isn't an Article VII or any hidden fourth, fifth, or seventh article tucked elsewhere, since the headings clearly end at six. If you're unsure, skim the Code of Conduct and tally the headings that say Article I, Article II, and so on—the sequence stops at Article VI, confirming six.

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## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://marinecorpsacadocs.examzify.com>**

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

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