

NCOTMB SOLDIER OF THE MONTH BOARD (SOTMB) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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 hair colors must Soldiers avoid using?**
 - A. Only natural colors are allowed
 - B. No restrictions on hair color
 - C. Purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright red, and fluorescent or neon colors
 - D. Only black is prohibited
- 2. What are the four types of commands in Drill?**
 - A. 2-part
 - B. Preparatory, Executed, Combined, Whisper
 - C. Stand, Fall, March, Halt
 - D. 2-part, Combined, Supplementary, Directive
- 3. What does TM stand for in equipment maintenance?**
 - A. Technical Memorandum
 - B. Training Manual
 - C. Technical Manual
 - D. Technical Series
- 4. Which DA PAM covers The Army Maintenance Management System?**
 - A. DA PAM 750-100
 - B. DA PAM 750-8
 - C. DA PAM 750-92
 - D. DA PAM 750-1
- 5. Which Army Value is associated with ethical conduct and truthfulness?**
 - A. Integrity
 - B. Honor
 - C. Loyalty
 - D. Selfless Service
- 6. The DA Form 2166-8 is used for what purpose?**
 - A. NCOER
 - B. Officer Evaluation Report
 - C. Soldier Counseling Form
 - D. Unit Readiness Report

7. Which Army Regulation covers Army Training and Leader Development?

- A. AR 350-2
- B. AR 350-3
- C. AR 350-4
- D. AR 350-1

8. Which of the following is true about the Compass-to-Cheek Technique?

- A. It is one of the two lensatic compass techniques
- B. It is used with a map rather than a compass
- C. It measures distances in yards
- D. It is the only technique used with the lensatic compass

9. Which Training Circular covers rifle marksmanship for the M4/M16 series?

- A. TC 3-22.2
- B. TC 3-22.7
- C. TC 3-22.9
- D. TC 3-22.8

10. Which item is NOT considered one of the four fundamentals of marksmanship?

- A. Steady Position
- B. Proper Breathing
- C. Trigger Squeeze
- D. Weapon Cleaning

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which hair colors must Soldiers avoid using?

- A. Only natural colors are allowed
- B. No restrictions on hair color
- C. Purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright red, and fluorescent or neon colors**
- D. Only black is prohibited

Hair color must be natural-looking and not distracting in uniform appearance. The colors listed as things to avoid—purple, blue, pink, green, orange, bright red, and fluorescent or neon shades—are considered too conspicuous for a soldier's head and break the professional, uniform look the Army requires. This is why that option is the best choice: it directly matches the standard by naming the kinds of colors that must be avoided. The other statements don't fit the policy. Saying there are no restrictions contradicts the need for a consistent, professional appearance. Claiming only black is prohibited ignores the wide range of bright or unnatural colors that are also not allowed. Saying only natural colors are allowed is not the exact framing used in the rule, which emphasizes avoiding vivid, unnatural colors rather than blanketly banning all non-natural hues.

2. What are the four types of commands in Drill?

- A. 2-part
- B. Preparatory, Executed, Combined, Whisper
- C. Stand, Fall, March, Halt
- D. 2-part, Combined, Supplementary, Directive**

Understanding drill commands relies on how the leader conveys both what to do and when to do it. The four recognized types cover different levels of control a commander uses over movement and timing. A two-part command provides a preparatory cue followed by an execution cue, with a brief pause so soldiers can ready themselves before moving. A combined command delivers the intent in a single beat, so there isn't a separate preparatory word and the movement begins promptly. A supplementary command modifies or clarifies a movement that has already been issued, allowing adjustments to pace, direction, or formation without starting a new baseline command. A directive command gives a timing or sequencing instruction that coordinates actions across the unit, ensuring movements happen in sync or at a specific moment. These four types together describe how drill leaders shape motion and timing in various situations.

3. What does TM stand for in equipment maintenance?

- A. Technical Memorandum
- B. Training Manual
- C. Technical Manual**
- D. Technical Series

In equipment maintenance, TM stands for Technical Manual. This is the official, detailed guide technicians use for performing repairs, maintenance, and troubleshooting, and it includes procedures, diagrams, torque specs, lubrication points, and safety notes. You'll often see a TM number assigned to a specific piece of equipment, like TM 9-xxx, which ensures everyone follows the exact, approved steps. The other terms describe different kinds of documents—Technical Memorandum is a technical note or memo, not the primary maintenance guide; Training Manual is meant for teaching how to operate or maintain but is not the hands-on reference for a specific piece of equipment; Technical Series isn't the standard designation used for equipment maintenance references.

4. Which DA PAM covers The Army Maintenance Management System?

- A. DA PAM 750-100
- B. DA PAM 750-8**
- C. DA PAM 750-92
- D. DA PAM 750-1

The Army Maintenance Management System is the standardized framework used to plan, execute, and record maintenance across Army equipment and facilities. The document that provides the TAMMS guidance is DA PAM 750-8. This pamphlet details what TAMMS includes, who is responsible, how data should be handled, and the processes for work orders, scheduling preventive maintenance, and applying condition-based maintenance. It shows how maintenance activities tie into readiness metrics, supply planning, and maintenance reporting, so units can keep equipment available and track maintenance history effectively. Other DA PAMs in the 750-series cover broader maintenance policy or different topics, and they don't specify TAMMS procedures, so they aren't the reference for the Army Maintenance Management System.

5. Which Army Value is associated with ethical conduct and truthfulness?

- A. Integrity**
- B. Honor
- C. Loyalty
- D. Selfless Service

Integrity is the Army Value that embodies ethical conduct and truthfulness. It means acting according to a consistent set of moral principles, doing the right thing even when it's difficult, and being honest and accountable in both words and actions. In the military, integrity is the foundation for trust within a team, adherence to laws and regulations, and owning mistakes rather than concealing them. While the other values describe important attitudes—honor as upholding standards, loyalty as allegiance to the mission and teammates, and selfless service as putting others first—they don't capture the explicit commitment to truthfulness and moral uprightness in every situation the way integrity does.

6. The DA Form 2166-8 is used for what purpose?

- A. NCOER**
- B. Officer Evaluation Report
- C. Soldier Counseling Form
- D. Unit Readiness Report

This form is used to document an NCO's performance and potential during a rating period. The DA Form 2166-8, the Non-Commissioned Officer Evaluation Report, captures how an NCO performed in their duties, demonstrates leadership, and shows overall readiness, with a rater and typically a senior rater providing assessments that inform promotions, assignments, and development. It's specifically for NCOs, not for officers or counseling sessions, and it isn't a tool for reporting unit readiness.

7. Which Army Regulation covers Army Training and Leader Development?

- A. AR 350-2
- B. AR 350-3
- C. AR 350-4
- D. AR 350-1**

Training and leader development in the Army is governed by the overarching policy that defines how soldiers are trained and how leaders are developed across the force. The Army Regulation that specifically codifies this whole approach is Army Regulation 350-1. It lays out the full framework, responsibilities, and procedures for planning, executing, and assessing both training and leader development programs, ensuring consistency and alignment across units and components. The other 350-series regulations address related aspects of training and education but do not establish the complete policy for training and leader development across the entire Army, making AR 350-1 the authoritative source for this topic.

8. Which of the following is true about the Compass-to-Cheek Technique?

- A. It is one of the two lensatic compass techniques**
- B. It is used with a map rather than a compass
- C. It measures distances in yards
- D. It is the only technique used with the lensatic compass

The idea being tested is that the Compass-to-Cheek Technique is a standard way to use a lensatic compass to obtain a bearing. With this method you bring the compass up to your cheek and sight through the sighting lens toward your target, letting you align the index marks and read the bearing from the dial. It's a technique used directly with the compass to determine direction, not something you do with a map or to measure distance. The other statements don't fit because this technique is indeed used with the lensatic compass itself, not with a map. A compass doesn't measure distance in yards; it provides direction. And there isn't just one technique for lensatic compass use—the Compass-to-Cheek Method is one of two standard methods, so it isn't the only technique.

9. Which Training Circular covers rifle marksmanship for the M4/M16 series?

- A. TC 3-22.2
- B. TC 3-22.7
- C. TC 3-22.9**
- D. TC 3-22.8

Rifle marksmanship for the M4/M16 is documented in Training Circular 3-22.9. The question asks for the official reference that covers this topic, and 3-22.9 is the circular specifically dedicated to rifle marksmanship for the M4 Carbine/M16 rifle. It lays out the fundamentals (stance, grip, breath control, sight alignment, trigger squeeze, and follow-through), zeroing procedures, engagement strategies, and qualification standards used in training. The other circulars in the options address different weapons or aspects of training, so they aren't the correct source for M4/M16 rifle marksmanship.

10. Which item is NOT considered one of the four fundamentals of marksmanship?

- A. Steady Position
- B. Proper Breathing
- C. Trigger Squeeze
- D. Weapon Cleaning**

Four fundamentals of marksmanship focus on how you control the rifle during the shot: a steady position helps minimize movement, proper breathing reduces the effect of body motion on the aim, and trigger squeeze is about applying smooth, consistent pressure so the shot breaks without jerking the rifle off target. Weapon cleaning, while essential for safety and reliability, is maintenance performed before or after shooting and does not directly influence the shot outcome. Since it's about the rifle's upkeep rather than the technique of delivering an accurate shot, it isn't considered one of the shooting fundamentals.

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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.

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

<https://ncotmbsotmb.examzify.com>

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

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