

Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) Board Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. Which of the following best describes collective training?**
 - A. Training focused on individual skills**
 - B. Training that combines team and unit skills for joint effectiveness**
 - C. Training solely for administrative tasks**
 - D. Training conducted in isolation**
- 2. What is the purpose of historical records in military equipment management?**
 - A. To provide detailed financial reports**
 - B. To document equipment operation and maintenance**
 - C. To track personnel assignments**
 - D. To archive training exercises**
- 3. During professional growth counseling, the leader and subordinate may focus on developing what?**
 - A. A short list of tasks**
 - B. A pathway to success with clear goals**
 - C. Only immediate objectives**
 - D. General last-minute goals**
- 4. Which event would prompt a leader to conduct event counseling?**
 - A. Organizing team building activities**
 - B. Preparing for deployment**
 - C. Conducting performance reviews**
 - D. Scheduling routine maintenance**
- 5. What is the muzzle velocity of the M17 handgun?**
 - A. 300 m/s**
 - B. 360 m/s**
 - C. 400 m/s**
 - D. 450 m/s**

- 6. What does the acronym TAMMS stand for in military logistics?**
- A. Technical Army Maintenance Management System**
 - B. The Army Maintenance Management System**
 - C. Tactical Army Maintenance Management System**
 - D. Team Army Maintenance Management Strategy**
- 7. What is a Commander's Intent?**
- A. A detailed plan of action for all subordinates**
 - B. A clear and concise expression of the purpose of the operation and desired military end state**
 - C. A demonstration of authority and control**
 - D. An informal guideline for operations**
- 8. What is an azimuth?**
- A. A method of measuring distance**
 - B. A horizontal angle measured clockwise from a north baseline**
 - C. A type of military strategy**
 - D. A unit of map scale**
- 9. Which feature is NOT characteristic of the M4 rifle?**
- A. Gas operated**
 - B. Air-cooled**
 - C. Single-shot capability**
 - D. Shoulder-fired weapon**
- 10. Where should a tourniquet be placed on an injured extremity?**
- A. Directly on the wound**
 - B. 1 inch below the wound**
 - C. 2 to 3 inches above the wound**
 - D. At the base of the limb**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following best describes collective training?

- A. Training focused on individual skills
- B. Training that combines team and unit skills for joint effectiveness**
- C. Training solely for administrative tasks
- D. Training conducted in isolation

The option that describes collective training most accurately emphasizes the importance of combining team and unit skills for achieving joint effectiveness. Collective training is designed to enhance the operational capabilities of a group by ensuring that all members work together seamlessly. This type of training involves realistic scenarios that mimic operational environments, allowing participants to practice and refine their collaborative skills, improve communication, and develop a cohesive approach to tasks and missions. By focusing on the integration of individual roles within a larger team context, collective training prepares units for real-world operations where teamwork and coordination are crucial for success. In contrast to individual-focused training, collective training recognizes that the performance of a unit relies not just on the proficiency of its individual members but also on how well they function together. This collective approach ensures that all participants are aligned in terms of objectives, methods, and expectations, ultimately contributing to improved mission outcomes.

2. What is the purpose of historical records in military equipment management?

- A. To provide detailed financial reports
- B. To document equipment operation and maintenance**
- C. To track personnel assignments
- D. To archive training exercises

The purpose of historical records in military equipment management is primarily to document equipment operation and maintenance. This documentation serves several crucial functions within military operations. It creates a comprehensive history of each piece of equipment, detailing how it has been used, any maintenance performed, and issues encountered over time. By maintaining detailed records, military organizations can better assess the reliability and readiness of their equipment. This allows for informed decisions regarding repairs, upgrades, or replacements, ultimately enhancing operational effectiveness. Furthermore, these records provide valuable insights for training and procedures related to equipment use, ensuring that personnel can operate the equipment safely and efficiently. In contrast, while financial reports, personnel assignments, and training archives are important aspects of military management, they do not specifically relate to the operational history and maintenance records of equipment in the same way that documented maintenance does.

3. During professional growth counseling, the leader and subordinate may focus on developing what?

- A. A short list of tasks**
- B. A pathway to success with clear goals**
- C. Only immediate objectives**
- D. General last-minute goals**

In the context of professional growth counseling, focusing on a pathway to success with clear goals is essential for the development of both the individual and the organization. This approach allows the leader and subordinate to establish a structured plan that outlines specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives. Clear goals provide direction and motivation, enabling the subordinate to understand what is expected, what skills or competencies need to be developed, and the steps necessary to achieve career advancement. By developing a pathway with well-defined goals, both the leader and subordinate can effectively track progress and make adjustments as needed. This type of targeted development ensures that the subordinate gains the skills and experiences required to meet career aspirations while aligning with the needs of the organization. The other options fall short of this comprehensive approach to counseling. A short list of tasks lacks the depth and forward-thinking required for growth. Focusing only on immediate objectives can limit long-term development, and general last-minute goals do not provide the strategic framework necessary for meaningful advancement. Overall, a pathway to success with clear goals encapsulates the essence of effective professional growth counseling.

4. Which event would prompt a leader to conduct event counseling?

- A. Organizing team building activities**
- B. Preparing for deployment**
- C. Conducting performance reviews**
- D. Scheduling routine maintenance**

Conducting event counseling is particularly relevant in specific situations where the outcome of an event significantly impacts the performance or well-being of the personnel involved. In the case of preparing for deployment, this is a high-stakes, transformational event that requires leaders to assess readiness, clarify expectations, and address any concerns the team may have. During the deployment preparation process, soldiers face various challenges including emotional and psychological adjustments, logistical preparations, and team cohesion. Event counseling provides an opportunity for leaders to communicate openly about these challenges, outline roles and responsibilities, set performance goals, and ensure that personnel feel supported as they transition into this demanding phase. While organizing team-building activities, conducting performance reviews, and scheduling routine maintenance are important leadership tasks, they do not typically necessitate the same level of focused dialogue and strategic planning that accompanies a deployment. These other events may involve some level of feedback and discussion, but they lack the urgency and critical nature of preparing for deployment, which demands thorough counseling to effectively prepare soldiers for the complexities ahead.

5. What is the muzzle velocity of the M17 handgun?

- A. 300 m/s
- B. 360 m/s**
- C. 400 m/s
- D. 450 m/s

The muzzle velocity of the M17 handgun is approximately 360 meters per second. This velocity is crucial for understanding the performance characteristics of the firearm, as it directly affects the bullet's trajectory, penetration, and overall effectiveness in various shooting scenarios. Muzzle velocity is determined by several factors including the type of ammunition used, the length of the barrel, and the design of the handgun itself. In the case of the M17, which is configured to fire a 9mm cartridge, the 360 m/s figure reflects a balance between achieving sufficient stopping power and maintaining manageable recoil for the shooter. Understanding this aspect is essential for NCOs and military personnel, as it impacts training, tactics, and operational effectiveness in the field.

6. What does the acronym TAMMS stand for in military logistics?

- A. Technical Army Maintenance Management System
- B. The Army Maintenance Management System**
- C. Tactical Army Maintenance Management System
- D. Team Army Maintenance Management Strategy

The acronym TAMMS stands for The Army Maintenance Management System. This system is critical in the Army for managing maintenance policies and procedures. It provides a structured approach to ensuring that equipment is maintained effectively, thereby ensuring operational readiness. The focus of TAMMS is to enhance accountability and improve the efficiency of maintenance operations, which is vital for sustaining Army readiness. It involves a comprehensive framework that includes work order processes, maintenance schedules, and a tracking system for maintenance activity. Understanding the proper terminology is essential in military logistics, as it facilitates clear communication among personnel and ensures that everyone is aligned with the established procedures. The other acronyms provided do not represent the established term recognized in military logistics, emphasizing the importance of familiarity with official terminology in maintaining operational effectiveness.

7. What is a Commander's Intent?

- A. A detailed plan of action for all subordinates
- B. A clear and concise expression of the purpose of the operation and desired military end state**
- C. A demonstration of authority and control
- D. An informal guideline for operations

The concept of Commander's Intent is foundational in military operations and is best defined as a clear and concise expression of the purpose of the operation and the desired military end state. This statement guides subordinates in their decision-making and actions during unforeseen circumstances. It ensures that all members of the unit understand not just what they need to do, but why they are doing it and what they aim to achieve. By articulating the end state, Commander's Intent allows for adaptability and flexibility on the battlefield. Subordinates can make informed decisions that align with the overall objectives, even when specific plans cannot be followed due to changing conditions. This clarity reduces ambiguity and fosters initiative among troops, empowering them to act decisively in alignment with the broader mission. The other choices present limitations in how they define Commander's Intent. A detailed plan of action is often necessary, but it can be too rigid and not reflective of the intent to provide broader guidance under dynamic conditions. Demonstrating authority and control focuses more on leadership style rather than the clarity of purpose and objectives that Commander's Intent encapsulates. Informal guidelines could lack the necessary clarity and urgency that a well-defined Commander's Intent provides, thus failing to guide the operation effectively.

8. What is an azimuth?

- A. A method of measuring distance
- B. A horizontal angle measured clockwise from a north baseline**
- C. A type of military strategy
- D. A unit of map scale

An azimuth is defined as a horizontal angle measured clockwise from a north baseline. In navigation and land surveying, this measurement is crucial for determining direction. The azimuth is typically expressed in degrees, ranging from 0° to 360°. For example, an azimuth of 0° indicates true north, while an azimuth of 90° points east, 180° points south, and 270° points west. This concept is fundamental for NCOs and soldiers when orienting themselves on maps or while conducting operations, as it helps in communication and coordination of movements. Understanding azimuths is vital in various military applications, including navigation, target location, and artillery adjustments, ensuring that personnel can effectively and accurately direct movement and fire. Thus, recognizing the function and importance of an azimuth is essential for anyone involved in military operations.

9. Which feature is NOT characteristic of the M4 rifle?

- A. Gas operated**
- B. Air-cooled**
- C. Single-shot capability**
- D. Shoulder-fired weapon**

The feature characterized as not typical of the M4 rifle is its single-shot capability. The M4 is a select-fire weapon, meaning it can operate in multiple firing modes, including semi-automatic and fully-automatic (or burst, depending on the variant). This capability allows the rifle to fire multiple rounds with a single pull of the trigger, which distinguishes it from a single-shot weapon that requires the shooter to manually reload for each shot. In contrast, the M4's gas-operated mechanism allows for efficient cycling of the action by utilizing the gas from ignited gunpowder to eject cartridges and chamber new rounds, enhancing its rate of fire and reliability. Being air-cooled means the M4 relies on ambient air to cool itself during operation, which is standard for most modern rifles. Additionally, the M4 is classified as a shoulder-fired weapon, designed for operation shouldered against the user's body, which promotes stability and accuracy while firing. Thus, the M4's functionalities as a select-fire, gas-operated, air-cooled, and shoulder-fired weapon clearly establish it as a versatile firearm, making the characteristic of single-shot capability inconsistent with its design and operational features.

10. Where should a tourniquet be placed on an injured extremity?

- A. Directly on the wound**
- B. 1 inch below the wound**
- C. 2 to 3 inches above the wound**
- D. At the base of the limb**

The preferred placement of a tourniquet is 2 to 3 inches above the wound. This is crucial because placing the tourniquet too close to the injury could potentially restrict blood flow to the wound area but may not effectively stop the bleeding, especially if the injury involves significant blood vessels. By positioning it above the wound, the tourniquet can compress the major arteries supplying the limb, which aids in controlling severe hemorrhage. This method allows for better efficacy in bleeding control while reducing the risk of tissue damage that could occur if the tourniquet is applied directly on the wound or too close to it. In emergency situations, proper application technique is vital to ensure a balance between stopping the bleeding and minimizing further damage to the tissue. This understanding is rooted in first aid training and military medical guidelines designed to manage traumatic injuries effectively.