OCFA Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

1. Which device is designed to help locate a wearer in distress by emitting an audible alarm?

A. Personal Alert Safety System (PASS)

B. Regulator

C. Purge valve

D. Facepiece

2. What does a single chirp every 2 seconds indicate on the PASS unit's low battery indicators?

A. Some Charge

B. Full Charge

C. No Charge

D. Battery Fault

3. Which statement about the High Pressure Coupling is true?

A. The first connection into the system will flow the same pressure as the cylinder.

B. The nipple O-Ring Seal does not require inspection before use.

C. The coupling should be tightened with a wrench for a secure seal.

D. The UAC stem is not attached to the High Pressure Coupling.

4. Breathing time for hard labor is which of the following?

A. 30 min

B. 15 min

C. 45 min

D. 60 min

5. What is the general operating pressure range for the Low Pressure Line?

A. 75-100 psi

B. 60-120 psi

C. 100-150 psi

D. 85-165 psi

6. Which statement best describes the scope of the morning daily SCBA checkout?

A. It includes confirming full cylinder, functional valves, regulator operation, gauge consistency within 10%, facepiece cleanliness, and battery checks for facepiece and PASS.

B. It only checks the cylinder gauge.

C. It is performed after entering the contaminated area.

D. It is optional.

7. Which component includes the band that secures the cylinder to the wearer?

A. Cylinder valve and band

B. Facepiece

C. Low-pressure hose

D. Gauges/alerts

8. Which component on the Mask Mounted Regulator (MMR) is used to purge air from the system?

A. Spray Bar

B. Manual Purge Valve

C. Air Saver Switch

D. Regulator Gasket

9. Which cylinder type is used in this SCBA?

A. Luxfer Cylinder

B. Nelson Cylinder

C. Airgas Cylinder

D. Omega Cylinder

10. If air supply is partially or completely cut off during use, what is the first action?

A. Fully open purge valve

B. Check that cylinder is fully opened

C. Leave contaminated area immediately

D. Return to work

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which device is designed to help locate a wearer in distress by emitting an audible alarm?

A. Personal Alert Safety System (PASS)

B. Regulator

C. Purge valve

D. Facepiece

The device that is designed to help locate a wearer in distress by emitting an audible alarm is the Personal Alert Safety System. Worn on the SCBA, it automatically sounds a loud alert if the wearer stops moving for a preset period or if the wearer manually activates it. This audible signal helps teammates quickly locate and reach the distressed firefighter in smoky or low-visibility conditions. The regulator, purge valve, and facepiece, by contrast, are part of the breathing air system and do not provide a distress alarm.

2. What does a single chirp every 2 seconds indicate on the PASS unit's low battery indicators?

A. Some Charge

B. Full Charge

C. No Charge

D. Battery Fault

Understanding how PASS low-battery indicators communicate battery life is key. A single chirp every two seconds shows there is still some charge left in the battery. The pattern is meant to warn that the battery isn't fresh but isn't depleted yet, signaling usable power is present and you should plan to recharge soon. If the battery were full, you wouldn't see this low-battery chirp pattern (there would be no such warning or a different indicator for a full state). A no-charge condition would trigger a more urgent or different alert pattern, indicating the battery is effectively depleted. A battery fault would produce a distinct fault pattern or code rather than a simple low-charge cue. So, the described chirp pattern aligns with having some charge remaining.

3. Which statement about the High Pressure Coupling is true?

A. The first connection into the system will flow the same pressure as the cylinder.

B. The nipple O-Ring Seal does not require inspection before use.

C. The coupling should be tightened with a wrench for a secure seal.

D. The UAC stem is not attached to the High Pressure Coupling.

When you think about the High Pressure Coupling, the important idea is that it is the interface that brings cylinder air into the SCBA system at the cylinder's own pressure. The air in the cylinder is stored at a very high pressure, and the regulator that actually reduces pressure sits downstream of this coupling. So, at the moment of first connection, the air flowing into the system is still at cylinder pressure, because nothing in that upstream path lowers the pressure yet. That's why the statement about the first connection flowing at the same pressure as the cylinder is the correct one. The seal on the coupling—the nipple O-ring—needs inspection before use because a damaged or worn O-ring can leak under high pressure, compromising safety. Saying it doesn't need inspection is not accurate. Tightening the coupling with a wrench isn't how these are normally secured; they're designed to be hand-tightened. Using a wrench can over-tighten or damage the seal and seating surfaces. The UAC stem is part of the High Pressure Coupling assembly, so it is attached to the HPC. Saying it isn't attached would be inaccurate. So the correct point is that the initial flow into the system from the High Pressure Coupling will be at cylinder pressure, before the regulator reduces it.

4. Breathing time for hard labor is which of the following?

A. 30 min

B. 15 min

C. 45 min

D. 60 min

Hard work makes you breathe faster and deeper, so air is used up more quickly on an SCBA. The cylinder's rated duration (about 30 minutes) assumes a moderate or lighter effort, but during strenuous tasks the breathing rate increases and the available air decreases accordingly. A practical and commonly used expectation for hard labor is around fifteen minutes of breathing time from a 30-minute cylinder. While actual time varies with individual breathing rate, fit, temperature, and how hard you're working, fifteen minutes is the standard estimate for heavy work. If a job might exceed that, plan with larger cylinders or staged entries and always use a buddy system to monitor air and safety.

5. What is the general operating pressure range for the Low Pressure Line?

A. 75-100 psi

B. 60-120 psi

C. 100-150 psi

D. 85-165 psi

Think about how air is delivered in an SCBA. After the cylinder air is reduced to a usable intermediate pressure, that pressure feeds the rest of the system through the low-pressure line to the second stage and the facepiece. The system must work whether the cylinder is full or nearly empty, so the line's pressure isn't fixed; it varies with cylinder fill and regulator design. That intermediate-pressure range is typically about 85 to 165 psi, which allows the regulator to deliver a steady breathing flow to the mask across different conditions. So the general operating range for the low-pressure line is 85-165 psi.

6. Which statement best describes the scope of the morning daily SCBA checkout?

A. It includes confirming full cylinder, functional valves, regulator operation, gauge consistency within 10%, facepiece cleanliness, and battery checks for facepiece and PASS.

B. It only checks the cylinder gauge.

C. It is performed after entering the contaminated area.

D. It is optional.

A morning daily SCBA checkout is a comprehensive pre-use verification to ensure the air supply, the control components, and the PPE are all ready for duty. The statement captures the full scope: confirming the cylinder is full so you have enough air, ensuring the valves function so you can isolate or open the system as needed, testing regulator operation to confirm smooth air flow and stable pressure, and checking gauge consistency within 10% so the pressure readings you rely on are accurate. It also includes facepiece cleanliness to ensure a proper seal and no contamination, and battery checks for both the facepiece and the PASS device so alarms and displays will work when needed. This combination is essential because any lapse—air loss, valve failure, regulator trouble, inaccurate gauges, a compromised facepiece seal, or a dead alarm—could create dangerous conditions in a hazardous environment. The other options are not suitable: restricting the check to just the cylinder gauge, performing the check after entering a contaminated area, or making the check optional would leave critical safety components unchecked and present a significant risk.

7. Which component includes the band that secures the cylinder to the wearer?

A. Cylinder valve and band

B. Facepiece

C. Low-pressure hose

D. Gauges/alerts

Securing the cylinder to the wearer is handled by the mounting band that wraps around the cylinder and connects to the valve assembly on the top of the cylinder. This cylinder valve and band combination is the part that actually holds the cylinder in place against the wearer's back. The facepiece is the breathing mask, the low-pressure hose carries air from the regulator to the mask, and gauges/alerts provide status information. So the component that includes the band is the cylinder valve and band.

8. Which component on the Mask Mounted Regulator (MMR) is used to purge air from the system?

A. Spray Bar

B. Manual Purge Valve

C. Air Saver Switch

D. Regulator Gasket

Purging air from the MMR is done with the manual purge valve. This valve is opened to vent air from the regulator path to the outside, clearing the line of moisture, debris, or stale air so the system is clean and ready for breathing when you begin use. The other parts aren't used to vent the system: the spray bar is not the vent path, the air saver switch is there to conserve air by modifying flow, and the regulator gasket is just a seal.

9. Which cylinder type is used in this SCBA?

A. Luxfer Cylinder

B. Nelson Cylinder

C. Airgas Cylinder

D. Omega Cylinder

The important idea here is recognizing that SCBA cylinders are identified by their brand and the specific valve/interface they use, which must match the regulator and mounting on the SCBA. In the unit shown, the cylinder is a Luxfer, which is a widely used and compatible type for many fire-service SCBAs. The Luxfer cylinder branding and standard high-pressure cylinder construction align with the SCBA's valve, neck, and overwrap design, making it the correct match for the pictured setup. Other brands—Nelson, Omega, or Airgas—also produce cylinders, but they're not the ones depicted or specified for this particular SCBA model, as their valve interfaces, dimensions, or fittings may differ and wouldn't be shown as the appropriate choice for this unit.

10. If air supply is partially or completely cut off during use, what is the first action?

A. Fully open purge valve

B. Check that cylinder is fully opened

C. Leave contaminated area immediately

D. Return to work

When air supply is compromised, the immediate goal is to restore a safe breathing path from the cylinder and clear any stale or contaminated air in the regulator/line. Fully opening the purge valve accomplishes this quickly by flushing the regulator and line, which helps confirm whether fresh air from the cylinder can reach the facepiece. It's the fastest way to clear the path and verify airflow before diagnosing other causes. If air still isn't flowing after purging, you would then check the cylinder valve and system connections, but purging comes first because it directly tests and clears the immediate breathing path. Leaving the contaminated area or returning to work aren't appropriate first actions when the air supply is cut off, though leaving the area is a separate safety step if breathing cannot be restored.

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://ocfascba.examzify.com

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