# OTS Pre-Course Assessment Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide

# **Questions**

1. Who is eligible for the Blended Retirement System?
   A. Members who entered service before 1 Jan 2018
   B. Members who entered service on or after 1 Jan 2020
   C. Those who entered the service on or after 1 Jan 2018
   D. Members with more than 12 years of service

2. What should commanders actively encourage in their Airmen according to the text?
   A. Routine tasks and compliance
   B. To develop, grow, and improve
   C. Independence from supervision
   D. Minimal communication

3. What does the performance appraisal not influence?
   A. Recognition of quality performance
   B. Improvement in productivity
   C. Personnel actions
   D. Employee hiring procedures

4. Which aviator was known as the "Ace of Aces" before World War II?
   A. Charles Lindbergh
   B. Edward V. Rickenbacker
   C. George A. Custer
   D. Jimmy Doolittle

5. When was the Code of Conduct revised by President Ronald Reagan?
   A. 1975
   B. 1988
   C. 2000
   D. 1995

6. **Which rank operates at the entry-level and is expected to begin conforming to military customs?**

   A. Staff Sergeant

   B. Senior Airman

   C. Master Sergeant

   D. Airman Basic

7. **What aspect of readiness does the ADAPT program focus on?**

   A. Financial security

   B. Social networking

   C. Prevention and treatment of substance misuse

   D. Physical fitness

8. **What does Transmission Security aim to protect?**

   A. Physical hardware from damage

   B. Transmissions from interception

   C. Users from phishing attacks

   D. Data backups from loss

9. **What does a deployment or redeployment order authorize?**

   A. The execution of the approved COA

   B. The transfer of forces between combatant commands

   C. The start of military operations

   D. The cancellation of a military action

10. **Who issues the prepare to deploy order?**

   A. The Secretary of Defense

   B. The U.S. President

   C. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

   D. The combatant commander

# **Answers**

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

# **Explanations**

## 1. Who is eligible for the Blended Retirement System?

   **A. Members who entered service before 1 Jan 2018**

   **B. Members who entered service on or after 1 Jan 2020**

   **C. Those who entered the service on or after 1 Jan 2018**

   **D. Members with more than 12 years of service**

The Blended Retirement System (BRS) is designed to provide a mix of benefits for military service members, combining traditional retirement pensions with a defined contribution plan through the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The eligibility criteria for the BRS specifically state that it applies to members who entered service on or after January 1, 2018, or to those who opted into the system during the transition period if they were already in service from before that date. Members who joined the military after January 1, 2018, automatically fall under the new system and benefit from the blended retirement features designed to support service members both during and after their time in the military. The system aims to provide greater financial security and flexibility, particularly as individuals transition into civilian life. The other options refer to specific dates or conditions that either include individuals who are not eligible for the BRS or do not address the automatic inclusion criterion established for those entering service on or after January 1, 2018.


## 2. What should commanders actively encourage in their Airmen according to the text?

   **A. Routine tasks and compliance**

   **B. To develop, grow, and improve**

   **C. Independence from supervision**

   **D. Minimal communication**

Commanders should actively encourage their Airmen to develop, grow, and improve as this approach fosters a dynamic and proficient workforce. Encouraging personal and professional development is essential for enhancing the skill sets and capabilities of Airmen. This not only benefits the individual in terms of career progression and satisfaction, but also strengthens the overall effectiveness of the unit and the mission. By emphasizing growth and improvement, commanders can instill a culture of learning and adaptation. This mindset can lead to higher levels of engagement and motivation among Airmen, creating an environment where they feel supported in pursuing new skills, taking on challenging tasks, and seeking out opportunities for advancement. Ultimately, this focus on development contributes to a more capable and resilient force, ready to meet the varied demands of their operational roles.

## 3. What does the performance appraisal not influence?

**A. Recognition of quality performance**

**B. Improvement in productivity**

**C. Personnel actions**

**D. Employee hiring procedures**

The performance appraisal primarily assesses an employee's work performance, providing a framework for evaluating aspects such as recognition of quality performance, improvement in productivity, and personnel actions such as promotions or demotions. These appraisals play a significant role in how organizations identify high-performing employees and where improvements are needed.  However, employee hiring procedures are typically established before an employee is reviewed through performance appraisals. Hiring decisions are made based on the qualifications, skills, and experience of candidates prior to their employment, rather than an evaluation of their performance, which happens later. Thus, performance appraisals do not influence the hiring process, as they assess existing employees rather than informing recruitment decisions for new hires.

## 4. Which aviator was known as the "Ace of Aces" before World War II?

**A. Charles Lindbergh**

**B. Edward V. Rickenbacker**

**C. George A. Custer**

**D. Jimmy Doolittle**

Edward V. Rickenbacker is recognized as the "Ace of Aces" before World War II due to his remarkable achievements as a fighter pilot during World War I. He was credited with 26 confirmed aerial victories, making him the highest-scoring American ace of that conflict. This title reflects not only his superior skills in aerial combat but also his strategic contributions to dogfighting tactics at that time. Rickenbacker's legacy as a leading figure in aviation and military history solidified his status, leading to his recognition well before the outbreak of World War II.   In contrast, the other individuals listed do not have similar associations with aerial combat or the specific title of "Ace of Aces." Lindbergh is famous for his transatlantic flight, Custer was a military officer known for his role in the Indian Wars, and Doolittle is known for his famous raid on Tokyo during World War II but did not achieve the same level of notoriety in World War I as Rickenbacker.

## 5. When was the Code of Conduct revised by President Ronald Reagan?

A. 1975

**B. 1988**

C. 2000

D. 1995

The Code of Conduct was revised by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. This revision was significant as it aimed to adapt the guidelines to reflect the evolving nature of military service and to ensure that service members understood their responsibilities and obligations. The updated code reinforced the ethical standards expected of military personnel, including the importance of loyalty, respect for civilian authority, and accountability for actions. This change came at a time when discussions around military ethics and conduct were becoming increasingly prominent, as the U.S. was engaging in various military operations around the globe. The 1988 revision is distinct because it addressed challenges and scenarios that were not fully encompassed in the previous versions, demonstrating a proactive approach to maintaining integrity within the armed forces.

## 6. Which rank operates at the entry-level and is expected to begin conforming to military customs?

A. Staff Sergeant

B. Senior Airman

C. Master Sergeant

**D. Airman Basic**

The entry-level rank within the military is Airman Basic, which serves as the starting point for individuals entering the Air Force. Those at this rank are expected to begin learning and conforming to military customs and courtesies. This includes understanding the basic principles of military life, including discipline, respect, and adherence to the structured environment of service.   Airman Basic usually undergoes initial training, where they are taught the fundamental aspects of military service, including the importance of customs and courtesies. This foundational learning is critical as they prepare to take on more responsibilities and advance in rank. In contrast, ranks like Staff Sergeant, Senior Airman, and Master Sergeant are representative of individuals who have progressed beyond the entry-level and typically have more experience and responsibilities within the military hierarchy. They are expected to mentor and lead junior members, which is not the focus at the Airman Basic level.

## 7. What aspect of readiness does the ADAPT program focus on?

**A. Financial security**

**B. Social networking**

**C. Prevention and treatment of substance misuse**

**D. Physical fitness**

The aspect of readiness that the ADAPT program focuses on is the prevention and treatment of substance misuse. This program is designed to equip individuals with the tools and knowledge necessary to effectively address and manage issues related to substance abuse. By emphasizing prevention, the ADAPT program aims to help participants understand the risks associated with substance misuse, develop coping strategies, and foster resilience. Treatment components provide support for those who may already be struggling with substance-related issues, helping them to regain control and pursue healthier lifestyles. This focus is critical as substance misuse can significantly impact an individual's overall readiness in various life domains, including personal relationships, employment, and physical health. Therefore, addressing these concerns is essential for fostering long-term wellbeing and effective functioning in the community.

## 8. What does Transmission Security aim to protect?

**A. Physical hardware from damage**

**B. Transmissions from interception**

**C. Users from phishing attacks**

**D. Data backups from loss**

Transmission Security is focused on safeguarding the data being communicated across networks from interception or unauthorized access while it is in transit. This is crucial in ensuring that sensitive information is not exposed to potential eavesdroppers or attackers who might try to capture the data as it moves from one point to another. By implementing techniques such as encryption and secure protocols, Transmission Security ensures the confidentiality and integrity of the transmitted data. The other options, while related to security, do not define the specific aim of Transmission Security. Protecting physical hardware pertains to physical security, safeguarding users from phishing attacks involves user education and cybersecurity measures, and data backups focus on data recovery and loss prevention rather than the security of data in transit.

## 9. What does a deployment or redeployment order authorize?

A. The execution of the approved COA

B. The transfer of forces between combatant commands

C. The start of military operations

D. The cancellation of a military action

A deployment or redeployment order specifically authorizes the transfer of forces between combatant commands. This is an important process in military operations as it involves repositioning units to ensure operational readiness and strategic advantage. Such orders are critical for managing troop levels and capabilities, and they facilitate the effective distribution of forces based on current operational needs and command priorities. The context surrounding deployment orders highlights the necessity for flexibility in military strategy. As missions evolve and situations on the ground change, these orders enable leaders to adapt force assignments and support requirements efficiently. In contrast, options dealing with the execution of a Course of Action (COA), the start of military operations, or the cancellation of military actions refer to broader operational commands or decisions that occur under different circumstances. While these elements are essential in military planning and execution, they do not reflect the specific authorization provided by a deployment or redeployment order.

## 10. Who issues the prepare to deploy order?

A. The Secretary of Defense

B. The U.S. President

C. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

D. The combatant commander

The correct choice reflects the role of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the military command structure. The prepare to deploy order is typically issued by the Chairman in close coordination with other senior military and civilian leaders, as it is a critical step in deploying forces. This order serves as a directive that signifies the need to potentially mobilize troops and equipment in response to emerging threats, geopolitical situations, or missions that may require immediate attention. The Chairman has a comprehensive view of the U.S. military's operational capabilities and thus is positioned to make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense and the President regarding military readiness and deployment strategies. While the Secretary of Defense and the President are key figures in the decision-making process for deployment orders, it is ultimately the Chairman who provides military advice and coordinates among the various branches of the armed forces. This role is essential in ensuring that preparations are made efficiently and effectively, given the complexities of military readiness and operations.