

PLA Military Doctrine and Defense Strategies Practice Test (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

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- 1. How does PLA view protracted warfare versus rapid decisive warfare?**
 - A. Historically protracted; modern emphasis on rapid, high-intensity, multi-domain operations, though scenarios may vary.**
 - B. The doctrine emphasizes only rapid, no protracted element.**
 - C. The PLA considers warfare entirely protracted without rapid elements.**
 - D. The PLA has no defined stance.**

- 2. Which zone is behind the frontier zone and is the site of the decisive counterattack?**
 - A. Frontier Defense Zone**
 - B. Rear Defense Zone**
 - C. Depth Defense Zone**
 - D. Deep Area**

- 3. During the counterattack, what is the primary purpose of concentrating fire?**
 - A. To mass fire on the enemy armored spearhead.**
 - B. To seal off breakthroughs in the counterattack zone.**
 - C. To conduct a multi-domain assault.**
 - D. To hold key defense points.**

- 4. Which zone is described as the deepest area for logistics and rear CP?**
 - A. Depth Defense Zone**
 - B. Rear Defense Zone**
 - C. Deep Area**
 - D. Frontier Defense Zone**

- 5. What is a key deception tactic to mislead about a counterattack?**
 - A. Publicize all moves**
 - B. Rely strictly on static defense**
 - C. Immediate, predictable counterattacks**
 - D. Concealment of forces and deception about timing/place**

- 6. Urban Defense measures?**
- A. Only active measures**
 - B. Active and passive measures**
 - C. Only camouflage**
 - D. Economic measures**
- 7. Which deterrence concept does the PLA rely on to keep US air power out, encompassing layered air defense and jamming?**
- A. Deterrence-through-density approach**
 - B. Layered air defense**
 - C. Jamming of communications**
 - D. Deterrence-through-mobility**
- 8. What is the strategic value of a well-timed counterattack in modern defense?**
- A. Static defense is superior.**
 - B. Well-timed counterattack can disrupt/defeat/spoil enemy offense as effectively as a well-planned defense.**
 - C. Counterattacks are never effective against modern defense.**
 - D. Counterattacks waste resources.**
- 9. The Bravery principle includes two attack types. Which are they?**
- A. Attacking a Fortified Enemy and Attacking an Unprepared Enemy**
 - B. Naval assault and air assault**
 - C. Defend and retreat**
 - D. Surprise night attack and daytime assault**
- 10. In PLA doctrine, which concept emphasizes eliminating the enemy's fighting capacity rather than capturing territory, and stresses mobility, deception, and fighting isolated pockets?**
- A. System Warfare**
 - B. People's War**
 - C. Deception**
 - D. Three Warfares**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How does PLA view protracted warfare versus rapid decisive warfare?

- A. Historically protracted; modern emphasis on rapid, high-intensity, multi-domain operations, though scenarios may vary.**
- B. The doctrine emphasizes only rapid, no protracted element.**
- C. The PLA considers warfare entirely protracted without rapid elements.**
- D. The PLA has no defined stance.**

Warfare duration is viewed as variable and situational in PLA thinking. In earlier history, the PLA fought through protracted campaigns and attritional warfare, so longer campaigns were a familiar path. In contemporary practice, the emphasis has shifted toward rapid, high-intensity, joint operations across land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace to seize the initiative and achieve decisive effects quickly. This approach aims to shorten warfighting timelines, disrupt the enemy's command and logistics early, and deter or win before a larger international response can mobilize. Yet the PLA also acknowledges that not all scenarios will unfold the same way; some theaters or political contexts might still involve longer, protracted dynamics depending on objectives, opponent capabilities, and escalation conditions. So the view that combines a historical protracted reality with a modern, rapid, multi-domain emphasis, while allowing variation by scenario, best captures the PLA stance.

2. Which zone is behind the frontier zone and is the site of the decisive counterattack?

- A. Frontier Defense Zone**
- B. Rear Defense Zone**
- C. Depth Defense Zone**
- D. Deep Area**

Defensive planning in this framework relies on a layered approach that moves from stopping the enemy at the forward edge to striking back with a focused counterattack. The zone behind the frontier zone is where the defender concentrates reserves and the necessary firepower to launch the decisive counterstrike that aims to regain the initiative on the battlefield. This is the area designed to absorb the breakthrough, then convert defense into an offensive blow that disrupts the attacker's momentum and restores the defender's position. The other zones serve different roles. The rear defense zone primarily protects the hinterland and lines of communication, ensuring continuity of defense and supply. The depth defense zone sits further back to slow and attrite the attacker, buying time and preserving combat power for a later, broader counteroffensive. The deep area represents strategic depth for shaping campaigns over a longer horizon, rather than the immediate, decisive counterattack.

3. During the counterattack, what is the primary purpose of concentrating fire?

A. To mass fire on the enemy armored spearhead.

B. To seal off breakthroughs in the counterattack zone.

C. To conduct a multi-domain assault.

D. To hold key defense points.

Concentrating fire on the enemy armored spearhead is the most effective way to blunt a breakthrough during a counterattack. By focusing the main fire on the leading edge of the attacker, you maximize the chance of killing or suppressing their tanks and assault elements, which are the most immediate threat to your positions. This rapid destruction or suppression slows their advance, breaks their momentum, and reduces their ability to exploit the breach, creating an opening for your own counterattack to converge and regain the initiative. It also disrupts their command and cohesion at the point of contact, making it harder for them to coordinate follow-on action. Sealing off breakthroughs is more about preventing gains and stabilizing a breach, which is a defensive measure rather than the direct purpose of concentrating fire in a counterattack. Holding key defense points describes a defensive posture, not the fire-concentration objective during an offensive counterattack. A multi-domain assault enlarges the scope of operations beyond this local fight, whereas the immediate aim here is to blunt the spearhead to enable a successful counterstrike.

4. Which zone is described as the deepest area for logistics and rear CP?

A. Depth Defense Zone

B. Rear Defense Zone

C. Deep Area

D. Frontier Defense Zone

In defense planning, zones are arranged by depth from the front line, with responsibilities matched to how far back they are. The deepest zone is specifically set up to sustain the fight, protect essential support capabilities, and keep the backbone of command and logistics intact. That zone houses logistics hubs—supply depots, repair facilities, and the rear command post—so it can continue operations even under pressure near the front. So the Depth Defense Zone is the best fit because it is designed to secure these far-back logistics and command nodes, ensuring continuity of operations for the entire defense. The Rear Defense Zone is focused more generally on protecting the rear area rather than the deepest, logistics-centered functions. The Deep Area is a broader term and not a defined zone for logistics and rear CP in this context. The Frontier Defense Zone sits closest to the front, not the deepest, so it wouldn't be described as the deepest area for logistics and rear CP.

5. What is a key deception tactic to mislead about a counterattack?

- A. Publicize all moves
- B. Rely strictly on static defense
- C. Immediate, predictable counterattacks
- D. Concealment of forces and deception about timing/place**

The key idea here is using deception to create uncertainty for the enemy about when and where a counterattack will actually strike. By concealing forces and feeding false signals about timing and location, you disrupt the opponent's planning process. They can't predict the main blow, so they misallocate reserves, spread their dispositions thinner, or hesitate at critical moments. That uncertainty is what makes the counterattack more likely to surprise them and to break through their defenses. Think of deception as the backbone of a successful counterstrike: concealment keeps your true strength hidden, while deception about timing and place misleads the enemy about when and where to respond. When done credibly, it amplifies the impact of your action and reduces the risk of telegraphed moves that the enemy can counter. Publicizing all moves, sticking to static defense, or making counterattacks immediate and predictable all remove that ambiguity. They reveal intentions, invite preemption, and make it easier for the opponent to defend or counter, which undermines the element of surprise that deception aims to exploit.

6. Urban Defense measures?

- A. Only active measures
- B. Active and passive measures**
- C. Only camouflage
- D. Economic measures

Urban defense relies on combining actions that both detect and deter threats and those that reduce vulnerability. Active measures are about finding, preventing, and responding to threats in real time: intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, early warning, rapid reactions, patrols, and counter-threat operations that disrupt or defeat adversaries before they cause harm. In a dense urban setting, this proactive layer is essential because threats can exploit crowded streets and complex layouts. Passive measures reduce the impact even if a threat gets through the first line of defense: hardening critical facilities and routes, controlled access, redundancy and alternate pathways, camouflage and concealment, physical barriers, and measures to maintain operations under stress. Together, these layers create a more resilient defense that addresses both the likelihood and the consequence of attacks. Relying on only one type leaves gaps—purely active measures can miss hidden or rapid threats, while purely passive measures do not provide the dynamic response needed in a contested city environment.

7. Which deterrence concept does the PLA rely on to keep US air power out, encompassing layered air defense and jamming?

A. Deterrence-through-density approach

B. Layered air defense

C. Jamming of communications

D. Deterrence-through-mobility

The key idea being tested is how deterrence can be achieved by building a dense, integrated barrier that makes air power costly and risky to use. The best choice—deterrence-through-density approach—captures this logic: by layering air defenses and combining them with electronic warfare like jamming, the PLA creates a highly dense, interwoven system that complicates penetration, disrupts command and control, and raises the risk and cost for any US air operation. Layered air defense describes part of the setup—the multiple rings of defense—while jamming describes a tactic that disrupts communications and sensors. But together, they embody a deterrence strategy that aims to deter by posing a high probability of loss and difficulty, which is the essence of deterrence-through-density. Deterrence-through-mobility focuses on moving forces to avoid detection, which is a different approach, and thus doesn't fit as well.

8. What is the strategic value of a well-timed counterattack in modern defense?

A. Static defense is superior.

B. Well-timed counterattack can disrupt/defeat/spoil enemy offense as effectively as a well-planned defense.

C. Counterattacks are never effective against modern defense.

D. Counterattacks waste resources.

In modern defense, maintaining the initiative through a timely counterattack is a central strategic idea. A well-timed counterattack uses initiative at the moment an attacker is overextended or their breach is still fragile, turning their momentum against them. This not only disrupts or defeats their offensive thrust but can spoil their plans as effectively as holding a prepared defensive line. The value comes from restoring tempo to the defender, forcing the attacker to shift resources, delay ambitions, or risk exposure as they push deeper. By concentrating forces at a vulnerable point—where reconnaissance has shown a gap, a weakened flank, or overstretched supply lines—you can strike at the heart of their disruption, collapse the breakthrough, and push their gains back toward their starting positions. This kind of action leverages surprise, precision, and coordinated use of fire, maneuver, and logistics to maximize impact while often saving lives and reducing overall attrition. Of course, the advantage hinges on sound timing and solid preparation. A counterattack that comes too early or without adequate reserves can leave the defender exposed, so the decision to strike must align with intelligence, readiness, and the ability to sustain the effort. But when done right, a well-timed counterattack reshapes the battle by converting offensive pressure into a defensive victory, achieving effects comparable to a strong defensive posture.

9. The Bravery principle includes two attack types. Which are they?

- A. Attacking a Fortified Enemy and Attacking an Unprepared Enemy**
- B. Naval assault and air assault**
- C. Defend and retreat**
- D. Surprise night attack and daytime assault**

Bravery here is about bold, purposeful action under pressure, not reckless charges. The two forms that embody this principle are defending ground and retreating when staying to fight would jeopardize the force's future effectiveness. Defending means holding a position to deny the enemy and to buy time for reinforcements or a better opportunity, showing resolve and steadiness under threat. Retreating, when continued engagement would lead to decisive loss, is also a fearless choice—executed to preserve forces, regroup, and exploit a later chance to strike effectively. Other options describe offensive modes or different domains, not the two ways bravery translates into action in this framework. Attacking fortified or unprepared targets, or conducting naval/air assaults, or different timings of attacks are about how to attack, not the two brave forms of maintaining mission viability through defense or selective withdrawal.

10. In PLA doctrine, which concept emphasizes eliminating the enemy's fighting capacity rather than capturing territory, and stresses mobility, deception, and fighting isolated pockets?

- A. System Warfare**
- B. People's War**
- C. Deception**
- D. Three Warfares**

This item tests the PLA's approach of breaking the enemy by destroying their ability to fight rather than grabbing territory quickly, using mobility, deception, and dispersed, localized actions. In the People's War concept, success comes from mobilizing the population, employing guerrilla-style tactics, and striking where the enemy is weakest while avoiding large, decisive battles with a stronger foe. The aim is to wear down the opponent's combat capacity over time, create strategic surprise, and maneuver in a way that keeps the enemy off balance, often operating in isolated pockets and across difficult terrain to squander their strength. System Warfare centers on integrated, networked, system-of-systems operations and modern, joint capabilities rather than a mass-mued mobilization strategy. Deception is a tactic used within various doctrines, not the overarching framework described here. Three Warfares covers psychological, public opinion, and legal aspects of strategy, not the protracted, mass-based method of annihilating enemy fighting capacity through mobility and guerrilla-type actions.

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://plamilitarydoctrinedefensestrat.examzify.com>

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

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