Port State Control Examiner Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

BY EXAMZIFY

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. **46 CFR 147 primarily concerns which of the following on ships?**
   A. Firefighting Equipment
   B. Navigation Systems
   C. Hazardous Ships Stores
   D. Accessibility for Crew

2. **SOLAS II-1 Part D covers what?**
   A. Electrical Installations
   B. Stability
   C. Construction
   D. Fire Safety

3. **Which SOLAS Part is titled 'General'?**
   A. Part A
   B. Part B
   C. Part C
   D. Part D

4. **How long is an IOPP valid for?**
   A. 3 Years
   B. 5 Years
   C. 7 Years
   D. 10 Years

5. **SOLAS II-1 Part A-1 addresses which aspect?**
   A. Structure of Ships
   B. Stability Calculations
   C. Electrical Systems
   D. Fire Safety

6. **How long is an Oil Record Book Part 1 preserved for?**
   A. 1 year
   B. 2 years
   C. 3 years
   D. 5 years

7. Under ISM Code 13.7, what type of verification is required for an SMC when between the 2nd and 3rd anniversary date?

   A. Initial

   B. Intermediate

   C. Final

   D. Annual

8. MARPOL VI/9(1) is associated with which policy letter?

   A. CG-CVC Policy Ltr 12-04

   B. NVIC 01-09

   C. MEPC.1/CIRC.736/REV.2

   D. 33 CFR 151.19(a)

9. Which ships require an IAPP?

   A. Any ship 400+ gross tons that voyage to ports or offshore terminals under the jurisdiction of other parties

   B. Any ship 250+ gross tons

   C. Only ships with 15 passengers or more

   D. All ships regardless of size

10. Which part deals with stability?

   A. Part B-1

   B. Part C

   C. Part E

   D. Part D

Answers

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

Explanations

1. 46 CFR 147 primarily concerns which of the following on ships?

A. Firefighting Equipment

B. Navigation Systems

C. Hazardous Ships Stores

D. Accessibility for Crew

Hazardous ships stores are items brought on board that can pose safety risks if not stored properly. 46 CFR 147 is dedicated to how those hazardous materials or stores are identified, labeled, stored, segregated, and handled to minimize ignition sources, spills, fumes, or chemical exposure aboard the vessel. It sets criteria for what counts as hazardous ships stores, requirements for packaging and containment, ventilation where needed, separation from incompatible items, limits on quantities, and procedures for proper use and disposal. This focus on safe storage and management of dangerous supplies is why it's the best fit for this regulation. Other topics like firefighting equipment, navigation systems, or crew accessibility are governed by different parts of the regulations.

2. SOLAS II-1 Part D covers what?

A. Electrical Installations

B. Stability

C. Construction

D. Fire Safety

You're being asked to identify which section of SOLAS II-1 governs electrical systems on a ship. Part D is the portion that covers electrical installations. It sets out how electrical power is generated, distributed, and protected on board, including main and emergency power systems, wiring practices, distribution boards, insulation and earthing requirements, and safety measures to prevent electric shocks and electrical fires. This area is distinct from stability or construction, which are addressed in other parts, and from fire safety, which has its own provisions. So the best answer is electrical installations because that is the scope of Part D.

3. Which SOLAS Part is titled 'General'?

A. Part A

B. Part B

C. Part C

D. Part D

The question tests knowing how SOLAS is organized, where the first portion is reserved for broad, overarching provisions. The part labeled General is the opening section that lays out scope, applicability, and foundational definitions for the whole convention. Because it sets the baseline for all other requirements, the General part is the one that carries that title, while the remaining parts focus on specific topics or areas of safety and ship operations. So the correct choice is the one that identifies the part designated for General provisions, i.e., the initial general section.

4. How long is an IOPP valid for?

A. 3 Years

B. 5 Years

C. 7 Years

D. 10 Years

The IOPP certificate is valid for five years. This five-year span ensures regular re-evaluation of the ship's oil pollution prevention measures. During that period the ship undergoes annual verifications to confirm equipment and systems are functioning and in compliance. Before the five years expire, a renewal survey is required to obtain a new certificate if the ship still meets all requirements. The other durations listed do not match MARPOL's standard validity for the International Oil Pollution Prevention certificate.

5. SOLAS II-1 Part A-1 addresses which aspect?

A. Structure of Ships

B. Stability Calculations

C. Electrical Systems

D. Fire Safety

The main concept here is how SOLAS II-1 Part A-1 is organized and what it covers. This part focuses on the structure of ships — the hull, framing, materials, and overall strength and watertight integrity that ensure the vessel's physical safety and survivability. It sets the general provisions and structural requirements for construction, so the ship is built to withstand loads and damage. Stability calculations, electrical systems, and fire safety are addressed in other parts or sections, not in Part A-1. Stability and subdivision are treated separately because they deal with how a ship behaves after damage, electrical installations fall under machinery and electrical requirements, and fire safety has its own dedicated provisions. So, this part is about the ship's structural construction rather than its stability analysis, electrical systems, or fire protection.

6. How long is an Oil Record Book Part 1 preserved for?

A. 1 year

B. 2 years

C. 3 years

D. 5 years

Oil Record Book Part I logs all oil cargo and ballast operations, along with any discharge of oily mixtures to the sea and related handling of oil-containing waste. This record must be kept on board and preserved for three years after the date of the last entry. The three-year retention provides inspectors with a complete and accessible history of how oil was handled during operations, making it possible to verify compliance with MARPOL procedures and to detect any improper discharges or mishandling of oil. Keeping the record for this period helps ensure accountability over a realistic window in which inspection, investigation, or pattern analysis could occur. Shorter retention could obscure important evidence, while a longer period isn't required by the regulations for this part.

7. Under ISM Code 13.7, what type of verification is required for an SMC when between the 2nd and 3rd anniversary date?

A. Initial

B. Intermediate

C. Final

D. Annual

The mid-term check is called an intermediate verification. Under the ISM Code, an SMC's five-year cycle is supported by several verifications: initial verification before the SMC is issued, annual verifications around each anniversary, and an intermediate verification that occurs specifically between the second and third anniversaries. This intermediate step is designed to ensure the ship's Safety Management System remains effective and up-to-date mid-way through the certificate's validity, before renewal considerations begin. Final renewal verification comes later, at the end of the five-year period.

8. MARPOL VI/9(1) is associated with which policy letter?

A. CG-CVC Policy Ltr 12-04

B. NVIC 01-09

C. MEPC.1/CIRC.736/REV.2

D. 33 CFR 151.19(a)

In MARPOL enforcement, the Coast Guard relies on policy letters to spell out how specific MARPOL provisions are interpreted and applied during inspections. MARPOL Annex VI Regulation 9(1) is one provision that the Coast Guard has addressed through an official policy letter, connecting the regulation to their practices and expectations in the field. The document that directly pairs with MARPOL VI/9(1) for this guidance is CG-CVC Policy Letter 12-04. This letter clarifies how the regulation is to be understood, what inspectors should look for, and how compliance is assessed. The other items listed are different forms of guidance or regulatory text that do not provide the same direct policy mapping for this particular MARPOL provision, which is why CG-CVC Policy Letter 12-04 is the best answer.

9. Which ships require an IAPP?

A. Any ship 400+ gross tons that voyage to ports or offshore terminals under the jurisdiction of other parties

B. Any ship 250+ gross tons

C. Only ships with 15 passengers or more

D. All ships regardless of size

IAPP requirements come from MARPOL Annex VI and refer to the International Air Pollution Prevention certificate. This certificate is needed for ships of 400 gross tons and above that operate on international voyages—meaning they call at ports or offshore terminals under the jurisdiction of other countries. The 400 GT threshold is the key limit, not the ship's passenger count, and not every vessel must have it—only those on international voyages with non-domestic port calls. So the correct idea is that ships 400+ gross tons that travel to foreign ports or offshore terminals require an IAPP. Smaller ships or those staying entirely within one country's waters don't fall under this requirement.

10. Which part deals with stability?

A. Part B-1

B. Part C

C. Part E

D. Part D

Stability is about how weight distribution and buoyancy interact to keep the ship upright and to return it to upright after it heels. The part that covers stability focuses on intact and damage stability, how to assess it with parameters like GM, KG, and KM, and how to use the stability booklet and load lines to judge whether the vessel meets safety limits. Because this section is specifically dedicated to stability topics, it is the best choice for a question asking which part deals with stability. Other parts address different subjects, so they wouldn't be the correct focus for stability questions.

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://portstatecontrolexaminer.examzify.com

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