

Port State Control Examiner 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. SOLAS II-1 Part E contains what?**
 - A. Additional Requirements for Periodically Unattended Machinery Spaces**
 - B. Monitoring Weather Conditions**
 - C. Emergency Signaling Equipment**
 - D. Life-Saving Appliances**

- 2. Which SOLAS chapter and part addresses General provisions for carriage of cargoes and oil fuels?**
 - A. SOLAS chapter VI part A**
 - B. SOLAS chapter VI part B**
 - C. SOLAS chapter VI part C**
 - D. SOLAS chapter VII part A**

- 3. What is the main purpose of the ISM Code?**
 - A. To mandate crew training content only.**
 - B. To require all ships to be privately audited by flag state.**
 - C. To standardize vessel design criteria.**
 - D. To ensure safe operation of ships by requiring an approved Safety Management System.**

- 4. Which statement about emergency power supply is accurate?**
 - A. An emergency generator must power only the navigation equipment.**
 - B. An emergency power supply is optional if the main power remains available.**
 - C. It must provide power to essential services when main power fails, and be tested.**
 - D. It should be replaced by a battery bank within 24 hours.**

- 5. Which STCW chapter addresses Special training requirements for personnel on certain types of ships?**
 - A. Engine department**
 - B. Radio communication and radio operations**
 - C. Special training requirements for personnel on certain types of ships**
 - D. Watchkeeping**

- 6. What is the primary purpose of the Ship's Logbook in PSC?**
- A. To document voyage incidents and deviations**
 - B. To track crew rest periods**
 - C. To record engine hours**
 - D. To certify ballast water management**
- 7. What documents must a ship carry to show ISPS compliance?**
- A. Cargo Manifest and Port Clearance.**
 - B. Ship Security Plan (SSP) and designation of CSO/SSO responsibilities (and relevant security certificates).**
 - C. Ship's Registry and Passenger List.**
 - D. Safety Management Certificate and ISM Code.**
- 8. What is the purpose of the Cargo Securing Manual (CSM) in PSC checks?**
- A. To ensure cargo is properly stowed and secured to prevent hazards and movement during transit**
 - B. To record cargo loading times**
 - C. To calculate fuel consumption**
 - D. To plan repairs**
- 9. What is the purpose of a Declaration of Security?**
- A. To ensure agreement is reached between the ship and the port facility or with other ships with which it interfaces as to the respective security measures each will undertake.**
 - B. To authorize port access only to the vessel's crew**
 - C. To certify cargo security at the port**
 - D. To document the ship's ballast water management compliance**
- 10. Ballast Water Management requires which combination?**
- A. Ballast Water Management Certificate only.**
 - B. Ballast Water Management Plan and record-keeping.**
 - C. Ballast Water Management Certificate and record-keeping.**
 - D. Ballast Water Management Certificate and ballast water testing log.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. SOLAS II-1 Part E contains what?

- A. Additional Requirements for Periodically Unattended Machinery Spaces**
- B. Monitoring Weather Conditions**
- C. Emergency Signaling Equipment**
- D. Life-Saving Appliances**

SOLAS II-1 Part E is the section that covers Additional Requirements for Periodically Unattended Machinery Spaces. It focuses on safety provisions for ships where machinery spaces are not continuously manned, outlining the extra measures needed when spaces can be unattended, such as appropriate arrangements, alarms, and systems to maintain safety during those periods. This makes it the correct choice because it is specifically the part that deals with unattended machinery spaces. Other topics like Emergency Signaling Equipment and Life-Saving Appliances belong to different parts or chapters of SOLAS, not II-1 Part E, and monitoring weather conditions is not the focus of this section.

2. Which SOLAS chapter and part addresses General provisions for carriage of cargoes and oil fuels?

- A. SOLAS chapter VI part A**
- B. SOLAS chapter VI part B**
- C. SOLAS chapter VI part C**
- D. SOLAS chapter VII part A**

Chapter VI in SOLAS is the section that covers the carriage of cargoes and oil fuels. The General Provisions are found in Part A, which establishes the overarching scope, definitions, and how the rest of the chapter applies. Because the question asks for the broad framework governing the carriage of cargoes and oil fuels, Part A is the most appropriate reference. Parts B and C deal with more specific aspects beyond the general framework, so they do not address the general provisions directly.

3. What is the main purpose of the ISM Code?

- A. To mandate crew training content only.**
- B. To require all ships to be privately audited by flag state.**
- C. To standardize vessel design criteria.**
- D. To ensure safe operation of ships by requiring an approved Safety Management System.**

The central idea of the ISM Code is to ensure safe operation of ships by requiring an approved Safety Management System. This means a company must establish, implement, and continually improve a formal system that covers safety and pollution prevention, including clear management responsibilities, procedures for operation and maintenance, emergency response, and crew training. The SMS helps identify hazards, assess risks, and put preventive measures in place, with documentation and records to show ongoing compliance. Management reviews and internal audits, along with external verification by the flag state or a recognized organization, lead to certification (the company's Document of Compliance and the ship's Safety Management Certificate). It's about a structured, proactive approach to safety, not just training content, not vessel design standards, and not private audits by the flag state.

4. Which statement about emergency power supply is accurate?
- A. An emergency generator must power only the navigation equipment.
 - B. An emergency power supply is optional if the main power remains available.
 - C. It must provide power to essential services when main power fails, and be tested.**
 - D. It should be replaced by a battery bank within 24 hours.

The key idea is that the emergency power supply is there to keep essential services operating if the main electrical system fails, and it must be checked regularly to ensure it works when needed. This backup should automatically step in to power critical systems—like navigation, communications, safety equipment, and emergency lighting—so the ship can operate safely during a power loss. It's not limited to just navigation gear, and it's not optional just because the main power is currently available. It also isn't something that should be replaced by a battery bank within a fixed short timeframe; the emphasis is on providing reliable power to essential services for a defined period and on regular testing to verify reliability.

5. Which STCW chapter addresses Special training requirements for personnel on certain types of ships?
- A. Engine department
 - B. Radio communication and radio operations
 - C. Special training requirements for personnel on certain types of ships**
 - D. Watchkeeping

Special training requirements for personnel on certain types of ships is the chapter that specifically lays out additional, ship-type specific training beyond the general STCW requirements. Its purpose is to identify which crew members need extra qualifications for particular vessel types (such as tankers, chemical carriers, LNG/LPG ships, etc.), what those trainings cover, and the minimum standards or durations. Because the question is asking which chapter addresses those ship-type specific training requirements, this chapter is the direct match to that topic. The other chapters cover different areas: engine department deals with engine-room training and qualifications, radio communications and radio operations cover GMDSS and radio-related standards, and watchkeeping focuses on duties, procedures, and rest requirements for keeping watches. These are distinct topics and do not address the specialized, ship-type training referenced in the question.

6. What is the primary purpose of the Ship's Logbook in PSC?

- A. To document voyage incidents and deviations**
- B. To track crew rest periods**
- C. To record engine hours**
- D. To certify ballast water management**

The main point is that the Ship's Logbook is the official, chronological record of the voyage, capturing how the ship was navigated and what happened along the way. In Port State Control, inspectors rely on this log to see if the voyage proceeded according to plan, note any incidents or deviations, and understand decisions made during the voyage. It provides a traceable narrative of positions, times, courses, speeds, weather, and events, which can be used to assess compliance with regulations and to investigate any incidents. It's not primarily about crew rest, engine hours, or ballast water management. Records of rest periods belong in separate crew timekeeping documents, engine hours go into the engine-room/maintenance records, and ballast water management has its own dedicated records and certificates. The logbook's strength is its role as the official voyage record that PSC will review for evidence of safe operation and regulatory compliance.

7. What documents must a ship carry to show ISPS compliance?

- A. Cargo Manifest and Port Clearance.**
- B. Ship Security Plan (SSP) and designation of CSO/SSO responsibilities (and relevant security certificates).**
- C. Ship's Registry and Passenger List.**
- D. Safety Management Certificate and ISM Code.**

ISPS compliance is shown by having a Ship Security Plan on board and clearly assigned responsibilities for the Company Security Officer (CSO) and Ship Security Officer (SSO), together with the relevant security certificates. The Ship Security Plan provides the security framework that explains how access control, screening, surveillance, drills, and communication are to be managed on the vessel. Designating the CSO and SSO ensures there is accountable leadership at both company and ship levels to implement and maintain that plan. Carrying the International Ship Security Certificate (ISSC) or equivalent confirms the ship has been surveyed and meets ISPS Code requirements. Other documents listed do not prove ISPS compliance: cargo manifests and port clearances relate to cargo operations and port formalities; a ship's registry and passenger list pertain to registration and passenger information; a Safety Management Certificate and the ISM Code address safety management systems, not the ISPS-specific security framework.

8. What is the purpose of the Cargo Securing Manual (CSM) in PSC checks?

- A. To ensure cargo is properly stowed and secured to prevent hazards and movement during transit**
- B. To record cargo loading times**
- C. To calculate fuel consumption**
- D. To plan repairs**

The main idea is that the Cargo Securing Manual provides the approved methods, lashings, and securing arrangements needed to keep cargo in place and prevent movement or hazards during the voyage. It is the crew's reference for how cargo should be stowed and secured, including the type and number of lashings, dunnage, securing points, and procedures tailored to different cargoes. In port state control checks, inspectors look for a current, ship-specific CSM and for evidence that its instructions are followed during loading and stowage, ensuring that the cargo cannot shift, slide, or otherwise compromise stability and safety. This is why the purpose is tied to securement and safe transit, not to recording loading times, calculating fuel consumption, or planning repairs.

9. What is the purpose of a Declaration of Security?

- A. To ensure agreement is reached between the ship and the port facility or with other ships with which it interfaces as to the respective security measures each will undertake.**
- B. To authorize port access only to the vessel's crew**
- C. To certify cargo security at the port**
- D. To document the ship's ballast water management compliance**

At the heart of this concept is coordinating security responsibilities across an interface. A Declaration of Security is a formal agreement between the ship and the port facility (or with other ships involved in the operation) that sets out the security measures each party will undertake and who is responsible for them. It clarifies what procedures will be followed, who will implement them, and how they will be communicated, so both sides know exactly what is expected during the port call or when ships are interfacing during operations. This coordination helps ensure that security risks are managed consistently and that there is a clear point of contact for security matters. It is not about restricting access only to the crew, certifying cargo security, or documenting ballast water compliance.

10. Ballast Water Management requires which combination?

- A. Ballast Water Management Certificate only.**
- B. Ballast Water Management Plan and record-keeping.**
- C. Ballast Water Management Certificate and record-keeping.**
- D. Ballast Water Management Certificate and ballast water testing log.**

The requirement tested here is evidence of formal compliance with ballast water management: you must have a valid Ballast Water Management Certificate and you must keep a Ballast Water Management Record Book on board. The certificate shows the vessel has been surveyed and found to meet the ballast water management standards set by the applicable rules. The record book is about documenting ballast water operations, treatments, and related actions, so inspectors can verify that proper procedures were followed during uptake and discharge. While having a Ballast Water Management Plan on board is indeed essential for guiding how ballast water is managed, the question focuses on what combination is required to demonstrate compliance in practice, which is the certificate plus the record-keeping. A separate ballast water testing log isn't a standard mandated item beyond what the official record book covers, and the plan alone does not substitute for the certificate and records.

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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!

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