

PORT STATE CONTROL EXAMINER PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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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. Grain carriage falls under which SOLAS Part?**
 - A. SOLAS chapter VI part A
 - B. SOLAS chapter VI part B
 - C. SOLAS chapter VI part C
 - D. SOLAS chapter VII part A
- 2. Which Part covers Ship requirements in radio communications?**
 - A. SOLAS Chapter IV Part A
 - B. SOLAS Chapter IV Part B
 - C. SOLAS Chapter IV Part C
 - D. SOLAS Chapter V Part A
- 3. The B-I through B-V parts are under which SOLAS Chapter?**
 - A. Chapter II
 - B. Chapter III
 - C. Chapter IV
 - D. Chapter V
- 4. Which SOLAS chapter covers Safety measures for high-speed craft?**
 - A. SOLAS X
 - B. SOLAS XI-1
 - C. SOLAS XI-2
 - D. SOLAS XII
- 5. Which code governs the security of ships at sea and in port under the ISPS umbrella?**
 - A. The SOLAS Security Appendix
 - B. The ISPS Code
 - C. The MARPOL Security Annex
 - D. The ISM Code
- 6. What type of equipment is regulated by MEPC.76(40)?**
 - A. Shipboard incinerators
 - B. Shipboard refrigeration units
 - C. Main engines
 - D. Radar systems

- 7. Which combination of documents is used to verify crew nationality and working rights, as required by flag state?**
- A. Crew List; Seafarers' Employment Agreements; plus passenger identifications as required by flag state
 - B. Passports and Visas
 - C. Medical Certificates
 - D. Crew List and Seafarers' Employment Agreements
- 8. Which item is NOT typically inspected on the bridge as part of navigation equipment?**
- A. Radar
 - B. AIS
 - C. ECDIS
 - D. Cargo handling gear
- 9. Which MARPOL Annex sets limits on air pollution from ships?**
- A. MARPOL Annex I
 - B. MARPOL Annex IV
 - C. MARPOL Annex V
 - D. MARPOL Annex VI
- 10. Which STCW chapter covers Alternative certification?**
- A. Engine department
 - B. Radio communication and radio operations
 - C. Watchkeeping
 - D. Alternative certification

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Grain carriage falls under which SOLAS Part?

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

Grain carriage is a solid bulk cargo, and SOLAS organizes cargo carriage rules by cargo type. Bulk cargoes require their own set of safety requirements because they can move or shift inside the hold and affect stability, so they are governed by the bulk cargoes section within SOLAS Chapter VI. Since grain fits that category, it falls under the bulk cargoes provisions rather than the sections that cover general or other types of cargo. This distinction helps ensure appropriate loading, stowage, and stability controls are applied for grain cargoes.

2. Which Part covers Ship requirements in radio communications?

- A. SOLAS Chapter IV Part A
- B. SOLAS Chapter IV Part B
- C. SOLAS Chapter IV Part C
- D. SOLAS Chapter V Part A

Understanding where SOLAS assigns the ship's radio equipment requirements helps you see why this Part is the one that matters. SOLAS Chapter IV governs radiocommunications, and its Part C focuses specifically on shipboard radio installations and equipment—the hardware the vessel must carry, the standards those installations must meet, and how they're maintained and certified. That focus on the ship's own radio gear is why this Part is the correct choice for ship requirements in radio communications. The other parts deal with broader provisions or with how radiocommunications are operated rather than the hardware on board, and Chapter V Part A sits outside this chapter and does not cover radio installations.

3. The B-I through B-V parts are under which SOLAS Chapter?

- A. Chapter II
- B. Chapter III
- C. Chapter IV
- D. Chapter V

The key idea is how SOLAS is organized by topic. The B sections, from B-I through B-V, belong to the chapter that covers life-saving appliances and arrangements. That chapter is Chapter III, which sets out the requirements for lifeboats, life rafts, launching devices, survival equipment, and related procedures. The other chapters deal with different areas like ship construction, fire safety, or navigation, so they don't contain these life-saving provisions. So, the B-I through B-V parts are in Chapter III.

4. Which SOLAS chapter covers Safety measures for high-speed craft?

- A. SOLAS X
- B. SOLAS XI-1
- C. SOLAS XI-2
- D. SOLAS XII

The main idea here is recognizing which SOLAS section is specifically devoted to the safety needs of fast vessels. There is a chapter titled "Safety measures for high-speed craft," and that is exactly what it addresses. It sets the requirements tailored to the unique characteristics of high-speed craft—things like how they are designed to prevent and survive incidents, the type and arrangement of life-saving gear suitable for quick evacuation, and the appropriate procedures and equipment to ensure safe operation at high speeds. The other options refer to different SOLAS chapters that cover topics unrelated to high-speed craft safety, so they do not fit the question.

5. Which code governs the security of ships at sea and in port under the ISPS umbrella?

- A. The SOLAS Security Appendix
- B. The ISPS Code
- C. The MARPOL Security Annex
- D. The ISM Code

The framework that governs security of ships at sea and in port under the ISPS umbrella is the ISPS Code. This code, part of SOLAS, establishes the worldwide minimum security requirements for ships and port facilities, including the designation of Security Officers, the development and verification of Ship Security Plans and Port Facility Security Plans, and the conduct of security drills and assessments. It provides the structured approach for recognizing threats, applying security levels, and coordinating actions between ships and ports to prevent or respond to security incidents. MARPOL is the pollution prevention treaty, so a MARPOL Security Annex isn't a recognized security instrument. The ISM Code focuses on safety management systems for ship operations, not ship or port security per se. A SOLAS Security Appendix isn't the formal instrument for security requirements; the binding security framework is the ISPS Code embedded in SOLAS.

6. What type of equipment is regulated by MEPC.76(40)?

- A. Shipboard incinerators
- B. Shipboard refrigeration units
- C. Main engines
- D. Radar systems

MEPC.76(40) is about equipment used to incinerate garbage on ships. It sets the standards and procedures for approving shipboard incinerators, so that when waste is burned at sea it happens in a safe, efficient, and least-polluting way. The Administration (the flag state) or a recognized organization must approve the incinerator, issue a certificate of approval, and conduct periodic surveys to ensure ongoing compliance. This focus on the incinerator itself helps prevent pollution from garbage disposal at sea. Other shipboard equipment like main engines or radar is regulated by different rules and resolutions, so they aren't the subject of this MEPC number.

7. Which combination of documents is used to verify crew nationality and working rights, as required by flag state?

- A. Crew List; Seafarers' Employment Agreements; plus passenger identifications as required by flag state**
- B. Passports and Visas
- C. Medical Certificates
- D. Crew List and Seafarers' Employment Agreements

This item tests what documents a flag state uses to confirm who is aboard, their nationality, and their right to work on the vessel. The Crew List provides the official roster of each crew member and records their nationality, giving a clear picture of who is on board. The Seafarers' Employment Agreement shows there is a valid contract of employment for each seafarer, demonstrating that they are legally authorized to work under the ship's employment terms. In some flag states, there is also a requirement to present passenger identifications to distinguish crew from passengers and to verify identities as an additional safeguard. Taken together, these documents cover both who is onboard and the legal basis for their working rights, with passenger identifications filling any state-specific requirement. Personal passports and visas are useful for proving identity and authorization to travel, but they do not by themselves verify that the individual is officially listed to work on the vessel or that the ship has a current contract of employment for them. Medical certificates relate to fitness for duty and do not address nationality or working rights. If a flag state mandates passenger identifications, that extra document would be needed in addition to the crew list and SEAs to meet full compliance.

8. Which item is NOT typically inspected on the bridge as part of navigation equipment?

- A. Radar
- B. AIS
- C. ECDIS
- D. Cargo handling gear**

Bridge navigation readiness concentrates on gear that directly supports safe steering and passage. Radar provides real-time information about other ships and land obstacles, AIS broadcasts and receives vessel identities and movements to aid collision avoidance, and ECDIS offers electronic charts with position, safe routes, and proximity alerts. These tools are central to how the navigator determines position, plan the course, and monitor hazards, so they are routinely inspected on the bridge. Cargo handling gear, such as cranes and derricks, belongs to deck operations and cargo handling rather than navigation. It's used for loading and unloading cargo and is not part of the bridge's navigation equipment, so it's not typically inspected as navigation equipment.

9. Which MARPOL Annex sets limits on air pollution from ships?

- A. MARPOL Annex I
- B. MARPOL Annex IV
- C. MARPOL Annex V
- D. MARPOL Annex VI**

Air pollution from ships is regulated by MARPOL Annex VI. This annex specifically targets emissions from ship exhausts, setting limits on sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides, and it also covers requirements for fuel sulfur content, the use of exhaust gas cleaning systems, NOx control standards, and energy efficiency measures like the EEDI and SEEMP. The other MARPOL annexes address different pollution streams—oil pollution, sewage, and garbage—so they do not regulate air emissions. That's why the correct choice is the annex dedicated to air pollution: Annex VI.

10. Which STCW chapter covers Alternative certification?

- A. Engine department
- B. Radio communication and radio operations
- C. Watchkeeping
- D. Alternative certification**

Alternative certification is treated as a separate topic within the STCW framework, outlining how mariners can meet certification requirements through recognized alternatives rather than only through standard courses. It covers how to assess, verify, and grant credentials when equivalencies or bridging arrangements are appropriate, ensuring that safety and competence are still validated. This makes the choice that directly names the chapter on Alternative certification the best answer, because it indicates the specific section dedicated to this pathway. The other topics point to particular vessel functions or operations and do not address how certification can be obtained through alternative means.

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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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