

RAAF Officer Selection Board (OSB) Practice Exam (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. Which base is listed for New South Wales?**
 - A. Butterworth (Malaysia)**
 - B. Edinburgh**
 - C. Amberley**
 - D. Williamtown**

- 2. Which is a LOG training content area?**
 - A. Inventory and account management**
 - B. Finance and procurement**
 - C. Warehousing and distribution**
 - D. Operational logistics**

- 3. What is critical thinking and how would you apply it in a hypothetical OSB scenario?**
 - A. Critical thinking is about memorizing facts.**
 - B. It is simply applying learned procedures without question.**
 - C. It is about quick, impulsive judgment.**
 - D. Critical thinking is evaluating information objectively, questioning assumptions, and analyzing alternatives.**

- 4. PCO extended training includes which item?**
 - A. Ministerial writing**
 - B. Public relations**
 - C. Data entry**
 - D. Budget forecasting**

- 5. In OSB decision making when guidance is limited, what is the role of command intent?**
 - A. It justifies compromise and guides actions consistent with mission goals.**
 - B. It imposes rigid orders regardless of situation.**
 - C. It is irrelevant to safety or mission success.**
 - D. It should be ignored if it slows progress.**

- 6. Which sequence correctly reflects the mission planning cycle in air operations?**
- A. Mission reception, execution, debrief, mission analysis**
 - B. Mission reception, mission analysis, course of action development, risk assessment, decision brief, directive to execute, execution, and debrief**
 - C. Mission analysis, mission reception, execution, debrief**
 - D. Mission reception, risk assessment, mission analysis, execution**
- 7. Which base is listed in the Northern Territory?**
- A. Darwin**
 - B. Williamtown**
 - C. Edinburgh**
 - D. Butterworth**
- 8. Which two elements are used to assess risk in OSB mission planning?**
- A. Likelihood and consequence**
 - B. Cost and schedule**
 - C. Weather and terrain**
 - D. Command hierarchy**
- 9. Which of the following is NOT part of current personal training?**
- A. Yoga class**
 - B. WID boot camp x2**
 - C. Gym x4**
 - D. Social basketball x1**
- 10. In OSB, how should ethics influence decisions balancing mission success and civilian harm?**
- A. Ethics require maximizing mission speed above civilian welfare.**
 - B. Ethics are irrelevant to operational planning.**
 - C. Ethics require only compliance with orders.**
 - D. Ethics require prioritizing safety, minimizing harm to civilians, proportional use of force, and accountability.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which base is listed for New South Wales?

- A. Butterworth (Malaysia)
- B. Edinburgh
- C. Amberley
- D. Williamtown**

Knowing where RAAF bases are located by state helps you map bases to their corresponding states. Williamtown is the Royal Australian Air Force Base near Newcastle in New South Wales, so it is the base listed for that state. Butterworth is a base in Malaysia, not Australia. Edinburgh in the RAAF context refers to the base in South Australia, and Amberley is located in Queensland. Therefore, Williamtown is the correct NSW base.

2. Which is a LOG training content area?

- A. Inventory and account management**
- B. Finance and procurement
- C. Warehousing and distribution
- D. Operational logistics

The key idea here is recognizing what the LOG training content areas focus on within the program's framework. In logistics training, a core content area is the management of stock and the records that track what is owned, where it is, and how it is valued and accounted for. This includes activities like keeping accurate inventories, conducting stock counts, reconciling records with physical stock, and handling the financial aspects of materials and assets—essentially, ensuring resources are available when needed and that their value and history are properly documented. This makes inventory and account management the best fit because it directly covers controlling stock levels, recording transactions, and maintaining accountability for materiel. It ties together the practical side of moving and using resources with the financial side of tracking costs and ensuring audits and compliance. While the other topics—finance and procurement, warehousing and distribution, and operational logistics—are related to logistics in various ways, they are not the specific LOG training content area highlighted in this context. They describe broader functions or components of logistics, whereas inventory and account management is the defined content area focused on stock control and the associated accounting.

3. What is critical thinking and how would you apply it in a hypothetical OSB scenario?

- A. Critical thinking is about memorizing facts.**
- B. It is simply applying learned procedures without question.**
- C. It is about quick, impulsive judgment.**
- D. Critical thinking is evaluating information objectively, questioning assumptions, and analyzing alternatives.**

Critical thinking means evaluating information objectively, questioning assumptions, and analyzing alternatives rather than simply memorizing facts, following procedures without challenge, or making quick, impulsive judgments. In an OSB scenario, you'd approach the task by clarifying the objective and gathering relevant data, then separating facts from interpretations. You'd examine underlying assumptions and the reliability of sources, look for gaps in information, and identify any biases that could color judgments. Next, you'd generate multiple viable options, compare them against criteria such as safety, feasibility, and mission impact, and weigh risks and uncertainties. The recommended course of action would be justified with clear reasoning and evidence, demonstrating how the choice best meets the objective given the constraints. Memorizing facts doesn't involve this kind of careful analysis. Simply applying learned procedures without question is just following rules, not thinking through the situation. Quick, impulsive judgment skips the necessary evaluation of evidence and consequences.

4. PCO extended training includes which item?

- A. Ministerial writing**
- B. Public relations**
- C. Data entry**
- D. Budget forecasting**

The skill being tested is producing written material at the level that informs ministry decisions. Ministerial writing builds the ability to create briefing notes, submissions, and ministerial replies that are concise, accurate, and focused on policy implications. It trains you to present clear options, risks, and recommendations in a way that a minister can quickly understand and act on, which is essential when liaising with government decision-makers and meeting tight timelines. By contrast, data entry is a routine administrative task, not about shaping and communicating policy to ministers. Public relations centers on external messaging and image management, which is a different arena from the formal ministerial documents this training emphasizes. Budget forecasting deals with financial projections and planning, which supports budgeting processes rather than the craft of succinct ministerial communication.

5. In OSB decision making when guidance is limited, what is the role of command intent?

A. It justifies compromise and guides actions consistent with mission goals.

B. It imposes rigid orders regardless of situation.

C. It is irrelevant to safety or mission success.

D. It should be ignored if it slows progress.

In OSB decision making with limited guidance, command intent provides a clear purpose and end state that remains valid as conditions change. It gives subordinates the freedom to adapt their actions to the situation while staying aligned with the mission goals and safety constraints. This means you can justify reasonable compromises when exact instructions aren't available and still steer decisions toward the intended outcome. Rigid orders would block necessary adaptation; treating command intent as irrelevant to safety or success misreads its purpose; and ignoring it to speed progress would undermine coordinated action toward the mission, especially under time pressure.

6. Which sequence correctly reflects the mission planning cycle in air operations?

A. Mission reception, execution, debrief, mission analysis

B. Mission reception, mission analysis, course of action development, risk assessment, decision brief, directive to execute, execution, and debrief

C. Mission analysis, mission reception, execution, debrief

D. Mission reception, risk assessment, mission analysis, execution

The sequence starts with receiving the mission and then moves through understanding, planning, risk, decision, orders, action, and review. After the mission is received, you first analyze what's being asked, constraints, and the operating environment. That analysis feeds the development of possible courses of action to achieve the mission. Each option is then evaluated through a risk assessment to identify hazards and mitigation measures. A decision brief presents the recommended course of action to leadership, who then issue a directive to execute. The team carries out the plan (execution) and, after the operation, a debrief captures what went well and what can be improved. This order is essential because analysis informs options, risk is assessed in the context of those options, and a formal decision precedes any directive and execution. If you jump to execution without fully analyzing the mission or without evaluating risks and obtaining a decision, the plan is less likely to succeed and more prone to unforeseen issues. Conversely, skipping debrief or the formal risk assessment step leaves valuable lessons unrecorded and hazards inadequately mitigated. The other sequences either omit critical steps or place them in an inappropriate order—for example, executing before completing mission analysis or planning, or assessing risk before understanding the mission in full.

7. Which base is listed in the Northern Territory?

- A. Darwin**
- B. Williamtown**
- C. Edinburgh**
- D. Butterworth**

When identifying a base located in the Northern Territory, you look at where each base is geographically. Darwin is the base in the Northern Territory because Darwin is the NT's capital and hosts RAAF Base Darwin. The other names correspond to bases outside the NT: Williamtown is in New South Wales, Edinburgh is in South Australia, and Butterworth is in Malaysia. So Darwin is the correct choice because it is the base situated in the Northern Territory.

8. Which two elements are used to assess risk in OSB mission planning?

- A. Likelihood and consequence**
- B. Cost and schedule**
- C. Weather and terrain**
- D. Command hierarchy**

Assessing risk in mission planning relies on two factors: how likely something is to occur and how severe the outcome would be. This likelihood-consequence approach forms the basis of a risk rating, guiding decisions on whether to accept, mitigate, or avoid a risk. Weather or terrain can influence those factors but are not the pair used to define risk itself, and cost, schedule, or command hierarchy relate to other aspects of planning rather than the risk measurement framework. So, the two elements used to assess risk are likelihood and consequence.

9. Which of the following is NOT part of current personal training?

- A. Yoga class**
- B. WID boot camp x2**
- C. Gym x4**
- D. Social basketball x1**

The idea being tested is what activities count as current personal training in this program. The plan includes structured, logged training sessions such as two WID boot camp sessions, four gym sessions, and one social basketball session. These are all active workouts that contribute to the conditioning targets of the current personal training. A Yoga class, while valuable for flexibility and recovery, isn't counted as part of the current personal training in this context because it's a different type of activity and not typically logged as a core conditioning session within the program. Therefore, Yoga class is not part of current personal training.

10. In OSB, how should ethics influence decisions balancing mission success and civilian harm?

- A. Ethics require maximizing mission speed above civilian welfare.**
- B. Ethics are irrelevant to operational planning.**
- C. Ethics require only compliance with orders.**
- D. Ethics require prioritizing safety, minimizing harm to civilians, proportional use of force, and accountability.**

In ethical military decision-making, you balance achieving the mission with protecting civilians by upholding safety, minimizing harm to noncombatants, using force proportionally to the objective and threat, and being accountable for actions. The best choice reflects this approach by stating that ethics require prioritizing safety, reducing civilian harm, applying force only as needed and proportionally, and ensuring accountability through oversight and after-action review. This aligns with how leaders must think about Rules of Engagement and international law: seek to accomplish the mission while safeguarding civilian lives and being answerable for the consequences. The other options overlook these ethical safeguards—pursuing speed at civilian expense, treating ethics as irrelevant, or focusing only on obedience without judgment—so they do not capture the responsible, principled way to make tough decisions in the field.

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://raafosb.examzify.com>

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

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