

SDI Firearms Inspection and Troubleshooting Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. When does the unlocking step of a single action firearm occur?**
 - A. Before the trigger is pulled**
 - B. After the trigger has reset**
 - C. After the cartridge has been loaded**
 - D. Both A and B**
- 2. A _____ malfunction is caused by improper reloading.**
 - A. Light strike**
 - B. Squib Load**
 - C. Failure to feed**
 - D. Double feed**
- 3. In which type of operation is the action of the firearm operated by the force of the shooting cartridge?**
 - A. Gas-operated**
 - B. Recoil-operated**
 - C. Blowback-operated**
 - D. Direct impingement**
- 4. Which of the following malfunctions can take place if the cylinder gap is too large?**
 - A. Trigger malfunction**
 - B. Forcing cone can wear, hot gases can injure the operator, wear on the barrel can lead to headspace issues**
 - C. Overheating of the barrel**
 - D. Firing pin failure**
- 5. Which of the following is a cause of a failure to extract?**
 - A. Worn Extractor**
 - B. Dirty Barrel**
 - C. Weak Hammer Spring**
 - D. Over lube of parts**

- 6. Revolvers will lock when the hammer is in which position?**
- A. Resting position**
 - B. Cocked position**
 - C. Fired position**
 - D. Forward position**
- 7. What does the term "cylinder gap" refer to in firearms?**
- A. The space between the cylinder and barrel**
 - B. The distance between the firing pin and primer**
 - C. The distance between the hammer and cylinder**
 - D. The gap in the magazine**
- 8. True or False: An accidental discharge is the same exact thing as a negligent discharge.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only in specific circumstances**
 - D. Depends on the context**
- 9. What is the primary role of the magazine in a gas-operated firearm?**
- A. To stabilize the firearm**
 - B. To store cartridges**
 - C. To house the trigger mechanism**
 - D. To guide the bolt**
- 10. Which step is first in clearing a bolt override malfunction?**
- A. Clear any loose rounds in the receiver**
 - B. Move the selector lever to the "safe" position**
 - C. Shake the rifle to clear the obstruction**
 - D. Cycle the action to ensure clearance**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. When does the unlocking step of a single action firearm occur?

- A. Before the trigger is pulled**
- B. After the trigger has reset**
- C. After the cartridge has been loaded**
- D. Both A and B**

The unlocking step in the operation of a single action firearm is a critical phase that occurs specifically after the trigger has been pulled. In a single action firearm, pulling the trigger releases the hammer or firing mechanism, allowing it to strike the firing pin and ignite the cartridge. This firing process initiates the unlocking of the action, where the firearm's mechanism disengages to allow for the extraction and ejection of the spent cartridge case once the round has fired. While the firearm is being prepared for firing (before the trigger is pulled), it remains in a locked state. The resetting of the trigger, which occurs after the firing sequence, is a separate step that allows the firearm to be ready for the next shot. Therefore, it is the action of pulling the trigger that unlocks the firearm, which makes it clear that the unlocking occurs specifically after the trigger is pulled, aligning with the correct answer. Understanding this step is essential for proper functioning and safety during the operation of single action firearms.

2. A _____ malfunction is caused by improper reloading.

- A. Light strike**
- B. Squib Load**
- C. Failure to feed**
- D. Double feed**

A squib load malfunction occurs when a bullet is improperly loaded, leading to insufficient pressure to propel the bullet fully out of the barrel. This can result in a scenario where the bullet becomes lodged in the barrel, posing a significant safety risk for subsequent shots if the shooter continues to fire without realizing there is an obstruction. Proper reloading techniques ensure that each cartridge has the correct amount of powder and that all components fit together securely; when these guidelines are not followed, it can lead to squib loads. Understanding the mechanics of ammunition loading and recognizing the signs of a squib load is vital in firearms training and inspection to prevent accidents and maintain operational safety.

3. In which type of operation is the action of the firearm operated by the force of the shooting cartridge?

- A. Gas-operated**
- B. Recoil-operated**
- C. Blowback-operated**
- D. Direct impingement**

In firearms operation, the term used to describe the mechanism where the action of the firearm is operated by the force generated from the shooting cartridge specifically refers to recoil-operated systems. In a recoil-operated firearm, the energy generated by the explosion of the cartridge forces the bolt backward. This movement not only ejects the spent cartridge case but also compresses the spring, allowing the mechanism to cycle and chamber a new round. The recoil operation primarily relies on the momentum of the recoiling parts to perform their functions, which includes locking, extracting, and chambering. This method is commonly utilized in larger caliber firearms, where the recoil force is substantial enough to operate the action effectively. In contrast, other operational types, such as gas-operated systems, utilize the gas produced from the burning powder to cycle the action, while blowback systems rely on the simple rearward motion of the entire slide or bolt without the use of a gas system. Direct impingement refers specifically to the manner in which gases are directed into the action to cycle the firearm, mainly seen in some modern rifles. Each mechanism has its applications and operational mechanics, but recoil operation distinctly utilizes the direct force of the cartridge's discharge for its action.

4. Which of the following malfunctions can take place if the cylinder gap is too large?

- A. Trigger malfunction**
- B. Forcing cone can wear, hot gases can injure the operator, wear on the barrel can lead to headspace issues**
- C. Overheating of the barrel**
- D. Firing pin failure**

The correct choice highlights the significant consequences of an excessively large cylinder gap in a revolver. When the cylinder gap is too large, it can lead to a number of issues related to the proper function of the firearm. One primary concern is that a larger cylinder gap allows hot gases to escape during firing. This can not only lead to decreased muzzle velocity and projectile accuracy but can also pose a safety hazard to the operator, as the escaping gases can cause burns or other injuries. Additionally, the increased space between the cylinder and barrel can contribute to accelerated wear on the forcing cone. This part of the barrel is particularly vulnerable to erosion and wear due to the high-pressure gases and debris that can escape through the gap. Over time, this wear can lead to headspace issues, which may further compromise the revolver's reliability and safety. Proper headspace is critical for ensuring that the cartridge is seated correctly within the chamber, and deviations can result in failures to fire or other operational issues. While other options mention issues like trigger malfunctions or firing pin failure, these do not directly relate to the specific impact of an oversized cylinder gap and its associated risks. The focus on the wear of the forcing cone, the potential injury from hot gases, and the risk of head

5. Which of the following is a cause of a failure to extract?

- A. Worn Extractor**
- B. Dirty Barrel**
- C. Weak Hammer Spring**
- D. Over lube of parts**

A worn extractor can lead to a failure to extract because the extractor is responsible for gripping the cartridge case as the slide moves rearward. When the extractor is worn or damaged, it may not properly engage the rim of the cartridge, making it ineffective at pulling the spent casing out of the chamber. This can result in malfunctions during the cycling of the firearm, where the casing remains lodged in the chamber instead of being ejected. While other factors such as a dirty barrel, a weak hammer spring, and over-lubing parts can cause various issues in firearm operation, they do not specifically target the extracting mechanism as directly as a worn extractor does. For instance, a dirty barrel can affect accuracy and the reliability of firing, but it does not directly hinder the extraction process. Similarly, a weak hammer spring may lead to failure to ignite the primer rather than impacting the extraction. Over-lubing parts might create issues with functionality but wouldn't specifically obstruct the extractor's capability to pull a shell from the chamber. Thus, the focus on the extractor being worn directly correlates with the failure to extract, making it the correct choice in this scenario.

6. Revolvers will lock when the hammer is in which position?

- A. Resting position**
- B. Cocked position**
- C. Fired position**
- D. Forward position**

A revolver will lock when the hammer is in the cocked position because this is when the revolver is ready to fire. In the cocked position, the hammer is pulled back, which engages the firing mechanism and holds it in place, allowing the trigger to release it when pulled. In this state, the revolver's cylinder is also aligned with the barrel, ensuring that when the hammer falls, it strikes the firing pin (or directly hits the cartridge primer, depending on the design), igniting the round and propelling the bullet out of the barrel. This precise alignment and engagement of parts is crucial for the safe and functional operation of the firearm. Achieving the cocked position is a fundamental aspect of operating a revolver, as it not only prepares the weapon to fire but also ensures that all safety mechanisms are properly aligned and engaged. In contrast, other positions such as resting, fired, or forward do not provide the necessary engagement for firing or would leave the firearm in a state that is not ready to fire safely.

7. What does the term "cylinder gap" refer to in firearms?

- A. The space between the cylinder and barrel**
- B. The distance between the firing pin and primer**
- C. The distance between the hammer and cylinder**
- D. The gap in the magazine**

The term "cylinder gap" refers specifically to the space between the cylinder and the barrel in a revolver. This gap is crucial in the functioning of the firearm as it allows for the gas to escape when the gun is fired, preventing excessive pressure from building up in the cylinder. This escape of gases can help in the management of recoil and overall performance of the revolver. Additionally, the size of the cylinder gap can affect accuracy and velocity, with larger gaps potentially leading to a loss of velocity and decreased accuracy due to gas escaping before it can propel the bullet down the barrel. Understanding the importance of the cylinder gap is vital for those involved in firearm maintenance and troubleshooting, as proper alignment and spacing are essential for safe and effective operation of the firearm.

8. True or False: An accidental discharge is the same exact thing as a negligent discharge.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only in specific circumstances**
- D. Depends on the context**

An accidental discharge and a negligent discharge are indeed distinct concepts in firearms handling. An accidental discharge refers to an unintentional firing of a firearm due to a mechanical failure, a misfire, or an unforeseen event that occurs despite proper handling and precautions. It is not attributed to any human negligence. On the other hand, a negligent discharge occurs when a firearm is unintentionally fired due to a failure in the safe handling and operation by the user, often as a result of inattention, lack of safety measures, or improper training. This type of discharge indicates a lapse in responsibility on the part of the handler. Understanding the difference emphasizes the importance of safe firearm practices and the responsibility of the operator in preventing negligent discharges through proper training and adherence to safety protocols. Both terms highlight the significant implications for safety in firearms handling, but they arise from different circumstances and responsibilities.

9. What is the primary role of the magazine in a gas-operated firearm?

- A. To stabilize the firearm**
- B. To store cartridges**
- C. To house the trigger mechanism**
- D. To guide the bolt**

The primary role of the magazine in a gas-operated firearm is to store cartridges. The magazine serves as a receptacle for ammunition, holding multiple rounds that are fed into the chamber for firing. This allows for subsequent shots to be fired quickly without the need to manually reload after each shot, facilitating a higher rate of fire. In gas-operated firearms, where the operation depends on gas pressure from fired cartridges, the magazine plays an essential part in ensuring the availability of cartridges for semi-automatic or automatic firing. Other functions related to the firearm's operation involve components such as the trigger mechanism and the bolt, but those do not pertain to the magazine's primary function.

10. Which step is first in clearing a bolt override malfunction?

- A. Clear any loose rounds in the receiver**
- B. Move the selector lever to the "safe" position**
- C. Shake the rifle to clear the obstruction**
- D. Cycle the action to ensure clearance**

In addressing a bolt override malfunction, the most critical first step is to move the selector lever to the "safe" position. This action ensures that the firearm cannot inadvertently discharge while performing further troubleshooting or clearing steps. Safety is always the foremost consideration when handling firearms, particularly in a malfunction situation where the operator may be handling the firearm in ways that could lead to an accidental discharge. By placing the rifle on "safe," the user establishes a controlled environment to assess and clear the malfunction. Subsequently, other steps can be performed with reduced risk. The other options, while important in different contexts, do not prioritize safety in the immediate first action of addressing the malfunction. Clearing the receiver of loose rounds, shaking the rifle, or cycling the action are all actions that should be taken after ensuring that the firearm is in a safe condition. This sequence of operations is essential for maintaining proper firearm handling protocols.

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://sdifirearmsinsptshooting.examzify.com>

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