

# SDI HAMMER-FIRED PISTOLS (FTH 223) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



*Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence*



**Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.**

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

# 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 |

SAMPLE

# 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

SAMPLE

- 1. Define Failure to Eject (FTE) and how would you address it?**
  - A. Cycle the slide, inspect for obstruction, and reattempt.
  - B. Ignore and keep firing.
  - C. Remove the magazine and add a new one.
  - D. Disassemble the pistol without clearing the obstruction.
  
- 2. What is the purpose of range commands like "cease fire" and "range is cold"?**
  - A. To ensure safety and coordination at the range; to stop all shooting and make the area safe.
  - B. To encourage faster shooting.
  - C. To designate who should shoot first.
  - D. To announce prize draws.
  
- 3. How do you verify the extractor and ejector are functioning during maintenance?**
  - A. Visually inspect the extractor for wear and test cycling; ensure proper clearance and ejector action.
  - B. Clean the magazine only.
  - C. Dry-fire without a muzzle down range.
  - D. Replace the extractor.
  
- 4. Which statement correctly differentiates sight alignment from sight picture?**
  - A. The front sight centered in the rear sight notch and aligned with the target.
  - B. The front sight on the target and rear sight off.
  - C. Sight alignment is with the target; sight picture is unrelated.
  - D. Sight alignment is the relationship with the target; sight picture relates to the rear sight.
  
- 5. What steps comprise the classic 'tap-rack-bang' procedure?**
  - A. Tap the muzzle, rack the slide, then eject the magazine.
  - B. Tap the magazine to ensure seating, rack the slide to chamber a round, and fire or confirm round.
  - C. Tap the trigger, rack the hammer, fire.
  - D. Inspect the barrel, rack the slide, replace the magazine.

**6. How can you minimize malfunctions during practice?**

- A. Use quality ammo, clean and lubricate the pistol, and inspect magazines and feeds.
- B. Use dirtier ammo, skip cleaning, and ignore magazines.
- C. Use larger calibers only and avoid lubricants.
- D. Practice only with magazines removed.

**7. What is the typical stance used for pistol shooting?**

- A. A balanced, stable stance with feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, weight forward, and elbows slightly bent
- B. Standing upright with feet together
- C. A high-heel crouch stance
- D. A kneeling-only stance

**8. What is the purpose of adding mass and stronger springs in blowback operable firearms?**

- A. To hold the chamber closed until pressures reach a safe level.
- B. To increase recoil energy.
- C. To improve extraction.
- D. To reduce weight.

**9. For dry-fire practice with hammer-fired pistols, which precaution is commonly recommended?**

- A. Use snap caps if required and follow manufacturer guidance
- B. Never dry-fire any firearm
- C. Only practice dry-fire with live ammunition nearby
- D. Disable the firing pin so it cannot strike

**10. Which statement best defines timing in firearms?**

- A. A set of tolerances that dictate whether a firearm will function or not
- B. A movement of cogs and wheels within a machine
- C. A finely choreographed sequence of movements within the firearm to bring about a determined end
- D. When the right thing happens at the right time



## **Answers**

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

## **Explanations**

SAMPLE

## 1. Define Failure to Eject (FTE) and how would you address it?

- A. Cycle the slide, inspect for obstruction, and reattempt.
- B. Ignore and keep firing.
- C. Remove the magazine and add a new one.
- D. Disassemble the pistol without clearing the obstruction.

*Failure to Eject means the spent cartridge does not get expelled from the chamber when the slide cycles, leaving a round in the chamber and potentially causing a jam. In training scenarios, the quickest and most reliable way to address this is to remove the magazine and replace it with a fresh one, then rack the slide to eject the stuck case and continue shooting with a known-good magazine. This helps rule out magazine-related feeding problems and resets the chamber for the next round. If the problem persists after swapping magazines, you'd inspect the ejection port for obstructions and clear the firearm as needed.*

## 2. What is the purpose of range commands like "cease fire" and "range is cold"?

- A. To ensure safety and coordination at the range; to stop all shooting and make the area safe.
- B. To encourage faster shooting.
- C. To designate who should shoot first.
- D. To announce prize draws.

*On the range, safety and clear coordination are the top priorities. Commands like cease fire and range is cold are practical tools to enforce that safety and keep everyone on the same page. Cease fire is issued when activity must stop immediately. It requires all shooters to stop firing, keep weapons under control, and follow the range officer's directions. This momentary halt gives instructors a chance to address a problem, fix a malfunction, or give new instructions without the risk of stray shots or miscommunication. Range is cold declares that the firing area is safe and no live ammunition is present. It signals that firearms are unloaded, actions open, magazines removed, and the line is clear of danger so that people can move, reload, or adjust targets with confidence that no round can be discharged. These commands aren't about increasing speed, deciding who shoots first, or announcing draws. They're about ensuring the environment remains safe and orderly so training can proceed smoothly.*

**3. How do you verify the extractor and ejector are functioning during maintenance?**

- A. Visually inspect the extractor for wear and test cycling; ensure proper clearance and ejector action.**
- B. Clean the magazine only.
- C. Dry-fire without a muzzle down range.
- D. Replace the extractor.

*Verifying the extractor and ejector during maintenance centers on confirming both parts are in good condition and actually performing their jobs: the extractor must reliably grab the rim of a cartridge and pull it from the chamber, while the ejector must strike the case so it clears the firearm through the ejection port. The best approach combines a careful visual check with a functional test. Visually inspect the extractor for wear, cracks, chips, burrs, or any loss of tension, and examine the ejector and its spring for wear or looseness. Then perform a cycling test—rack the slide with a live or spent cartridge or a suitable dummy round to confirm the extractor grips the rim, pulls the case from the chamber, and that the ejector reliably hurls the case clear of the firearm. Ensure there is proper clearance and that there's no binding in the action so the parts can operate freely. This combined check directly demonstrates that both components will work under real use. Cleaning the magazine alone won't verify extractor/ejector function, dry-firing isn't a targeted test for these parts, and replacing the extractor is a maintenance action, not a verification step.*

**4. Which statement correctly differentiates sight alignment from sight picture?**

- A. The front sight centered in the rear sight notch and aligned with the target.**
- B. The front sight on the target and rear sight off.
- C. Sight alignment is with the target; sight picture is unrelated.
- D. Sight alignment is the relationship with the target; sight picture relates to the rear sight.

*The key idea is that sight alignment refers to how the front and rear sights relate to each other, while sight picture adds the target into that relation. Proper sight alignment means the front sight sits centered in the rear sight notch and is level with the top of the rear sight. Proper sight picture means that aligned sight image is placed on the target so you're aiming where you intend the bullet to go. The statement describes both parts: the front sight centered in the rear sight notch embodies sight alignment, and being aligned with the target reflects sight picture. The other options misstate either the sight–sight relationship or how the sights relate to the target.*

## 5. What steps comprise the classic 'tap-rack-bang' procedure?

- A. Tap the muzzle, rack the slide, then eject the magazine.
- B. Tap the magazine to ensure seating, rack the slide to chamber a round, and fire or confirm round.**
- C. Tap the trigger, rack the hammer, fire.
- D. Inspect the barrel, rack the slide, replace the magazine.

*The idea being tested is how to quickly recover from a potential failure to fire by using the tap-rack-bang sequence to restore a ready-to-fire condition. Tap the magazine to ensure it's fully seated and feeding properly. If the magazine isn't seated, the gun may fail to feed or chamber a round, so a quick check helps ensure proper ammunition delivery. Rack the slide to eject any dud or misfed round and chamber a fresh round. This cycling action cocks the hammer or striker (on a hammer-fired pistol like this) and places a round in the chamber, making the firearm ready to fire. Bang means fire the chambered round or verify that a round is actually chambered and the gun is ready to discharge. It completes the cycle and confirms the firearm has been restored to firing status. This approach directly targets the common malfunction scenario and restores operation with minimal delay and safe handling. Other actions described in the other options don't address the immediate need to secure the magazine, chamber a round, and then fire, so they aren't the standard drill.*

## 6. How can you minimize malfunctions during practice?

- A. Use quality ammo, clean and lubricate the pistol, and inspect magazines and feeds.**
- B. Use dirtier ammo, skip cleaning, and ignore magazines.
- C. Use larger calibers only and avoid lubricants.
- D. Practice only with magazines removed.

*Minimizing malfunctions comes from keeping the pistol reliable through proper maintenance and a healthy feeding system. Using quality ammo reduces the chance of unpredictable pressure or feed failures, while cleaning removes carbon buildup and debris that can hinder cycling. Lubricating as recommended lowers friction between moving parts, helping the slide, bolt/lever, and extractor operate smoothly. Inspecting magazines and feeds ensures the magazine lips, follower, and feed ramp are in good shape so rounds chamber reliably and sit properly for the next shot. The other options introduce avoidable problems—dirty ammo and skipped maintenance increase fouling and jams, skipping lubrication raises friction and wear, and practicing with magazines removed eliminates the normal feeding method, guaranteeing malfunctions.*

## 7. What is the typical stance used for pistol shooting?

- A. A balanced, stable stance with feet shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent, weight forward, and elbows slightly bent**
- B. Standing upright with feet together
- C. A high-heel crouch stance
- D. A kneeling-only stance

*A balanced, stable stance provides the solid foundation needed to control recoil and keep the sights on target. Placing the feet about shoulder-width apart creates a wider base of support, the knees slightly bent helps absorb impact and lowers the center of gravity, and a small forward weight shift keeps the pistol steady and the sights aligned. Keeping the elbows slightly bent allows the arms to act as cushions against the recoil, so the muzzle stays on target and you can reacquire your sight picture quickly for follow-up shots. This setup is the standard starting point because it maximizes stability, control, and repeatability across different situations. Standing with feet together reduces stability, a high-heel crouch is awkward and unsafe for most ranges, and kneeling-only limits mobility and balance, making those stances less practical for typical pistol shooting.*

**8. What is the purpose of adding mass and stronger springs in blowback operable firearms?**

- A. To hold the chamber closed until pressures reach a safe level.**
- B. To increase recoil energy.
- C. To improve extraction.
- D. To reduce weight.

*In blowback pistols, the slide's mass and the recoil spring are used to keep the breech closed while the cartridge fires and generates peak pressure. The added weight and stiffer spring create inertia and resistance that prevent the slide from moving rearward too soon. This delay ensures the chamber remains sealed until the pressure has dropped to a safe level, protecting the firearm from being opened while gases and high forces are still present. Once pressures are safe, the spring can drive the slide back to eject the spent case and chamber a new round. While heavier slides can also affect recoil feel, the essential purpose here is to control the timing of unlocking to maintain safe, reliable operation.*

**9. For dry-fire practice with hammer-fired pistols, which precaution is commonly recommended?**

- A. Use snap caps if required and follow manufacturer guidance**
- B. Never dry-fire any firearm
- C. Only practice dry-fire with live ammunition nearby
- D. Disable the firing pin so it cannot strike

*In dry-fire practice with hammer-fired pistols, protecting the firing mechanism is the key precaution. Using snap caps or other inert training rounds to cushion the hammer or firing pin during dry-fire helps prevent unnecessary wear or damage to the firing pin, breech face, and chamber. Snap caps simulate a real cartridge enough to absorb the impact of the hammer fall, letting you work on trigger control and follow-through safely. It's also important to follow the specific pistol's manufacturer guidance, since some models are rated for dry-fire (with or without snap caps) and others have recommendations or limits. Checking the manual ensures you know what's safe for your exact firearm and how many dry-fire cycles are acceptable. The other options aren't the standard approach: dry-fire is not inherently forbidden for all firearms, but it should be done with the proper precautions; keeping live ammunition nearby during dry-fire is unsafe; and attempting to disable the firing pin is not a safe or reliable practice.*

**10. Which statement best defines timing in firearms?**

- A. A set of tolerances that dictate whether a firearm will function or not
- B. A movement of cogs and wheels within a machine
- C. A finely choreographed sequence of movements within the firearm to bring about a determined end**
- D. When the right thing happens at the right time

*Timing is about the precise coordination of all the internal actions inside a firearm so that each step happens in the correct order to produce firing and proper cycling. In a hammer-fired pistol, this means the trigger pull should lead to the hammer releasing from the sear at exactly the right moment, the cartridge igniting, and the slide and other parts cycling in sync. The statement describing a finely choreographed sequence of movements within the firearm to bring about a determined end captures that exact coordination and purpose. The other ideas miss the mechanical focus: tolerances are about fit and function thresholds, not the actual sequence; gears or cogs aren't required for all firearms; and "the right thing at the right time" is too vague without describing the specific coordinated actions involved.*

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://sdifh223.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE