

SEARCH AND RESCUE TECHNICIAN LEVEL I (SARTECH I) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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 component of the Operational Briefing outlines procedures and information flow during a mission?**
 - A. Mission
 - B. Execution
 - C. Communications and Command
 - D. Situation

- 2. On a USGS Topographic map, what do brown lines represent?**
 - A. Highways
 - B. Contour lines
 - C. State boundaries
 - D. Woodland areas

- 3. What type of knot is a figure 8 on a bite?**
 - A. A securing knot
 - B. A joining knot
 - C. A stopper knot
 - D. An anchor knot

- 4. What safety feature should carabiners used in rescue applications have?**
 - A. Wide opening
 - B. Lightweight design
 - C. Locking gate
 - D. Color-coded system

- 5. What is 'ranging' in K9 search and rescue terminology?**
 - A. Moving straight toward a scent
 - B. Moving side to side
 - C. Moving in wide sweeps
 - D. Working off lead

- 6. Why is it important to remain aware of surroundings while conducting a search during hunting season?**
- A. To identify natural hazards only
 - B. To ensure safety from hunters
 - C. To look for other searchers
 - D. To avoid wildlife encounters
- 7. What does 'Probability of Detection' refer to in search operations?**
- A. The chance that a climber returns safely
 - B. The probability of finding clues in a search area
 - C. The likelihood of encountering obstacles
 - D. The frequency of search team deployments
- 8. Which method can determine a back azimuth?**
- A. Adding 90 degrees to the azimuth
 - B. Turning the bezel 180 degrees from the present direction
 - C. Using the compass without moving it
 - D. Counting paces in the opposite direction
- 9. What should be allowed to encourage emotional support among team members during a search?**
- A. Discussion of frustrations
 - B. Minimizing team interactions
 - C. Keeping feelings private
 - D. Promoting hierarchy over teamwork
- 10. In the UTM coordinate system, positions are reported in what order?**
- A. Northerly position first
 - B. Easterly position first
 - C. Vertical distance followed by horizontal
 - D. Latitude followed by longitude

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which component of the Operational Briefing outlines procedures and information flow during a mission?

- A. Mission
- B. Execution
- C. Communications and Command**
- D. Situation

The component of the Operational Briefing that outlines procedures and information flow during a mission is the Communications and Command section. This part is critical as it defines how information will be shared among team members and outlines the hierarchy of command. It establishes the protocol for communication channels, signals, and reporting, ensuring that all team members understand who to contact and how to relay information efficiently throughout the operation. Proper communication is vital for coordinating efforts, sharing updates, and managing changes during a mission, all of which contribute to the mission's overall success. While the other components—Mission, Execution, and Situation—each serve important roles in informing the team about the mission's goals, specific tasks, and the current status of the environment, they do not primarily focus on the procedures and information flow. Therefore, the Communications and Command section is essential for ensuring that all team members are on the same page and can respond effectively as the situation evolves.

2. On a USGS Topographic map, what do brown lines represent?

- A. Highways
- B. Contour lines**
- C. State boundaries
- D. Woodland areas

Brown lines on a USGS Topographic map represent contour lines. These lines indicate elevation changes across the landscape and are essential for understanding the topography of an area. Each contour line connects points of equal elevation, allowing users to visualize the terrain's shape, such as hills, valleys, and slopes. Contour lines are crucial for navigators and planners because they provide significant information about the steepness of terrain, enabling individuals to assess the difficulty of a route or plan for land use and construction projects. Understanding contour lines enhances the ability to read a topographic map effectively and gather important information about elevation changes that could impact search and rescue operations.

3. What type of knot is a figure 8 on a bite?

- A. A securing knot**
- B. A joining knot
- C. A stopper knot
- D. An anchor knot

The figure 8 on a bite is classified as a securing knot. This type of knot is used to create a secure loop by doubling the rope back on itself and tying a figure 8 knot in the doubled section. It is particularly valued for its strength and the ease with which it can be untied, even after bearing weight. In rescue operations, the figure 8 on a bite is commonly utilized to secure harnesses, connect to anchors, or create a loop for rigging purposes. The knot's stability and reliability make it an essential choice in situations where safety is critical. While joining knots are used to connect two ropes together, a figure 8 on a bite does not have that function. A stopper knot, on the other hand, is designed to prevent the rope from slipping through a ring or another knot, which also does not represent the role of the figure 8 on a bite. An anchor knot is typically used to secure a line to an anchor point but does not specifically refer to the figure 8 on a bite's characteristics or applications.

4. What safety feature should carabiners used in rescue applications have?

- A. Wide opening
- B. Lightweight design
- C. Locking gate**
- D. Color-coded system

In rescue applications, carabiners must have a locking gate feature to ensure the highest level of safety during operations. A locking mechanism prevents accidental opening, which could lead to dangerous situations such as a fall or loss of equipment. This locking gate provides additional security when connecting the carabiner to harnesses, ropes, or other gear, ensuring that the connection remains secure under the various forces that may be experienced during a rescue scenario. While other features such as a wide opening, lightweight design, and a color-coded system can be beneficial in certain contexts, they do not provide the critical safety function of preventing unintentional disengagement that the locking gate does. Therefore, carabiners equipped with this feature are essential for maintaining safety and reliability in rescue operations.

5. What is 'ranging' in K9 search and rescue terminology?

- A. Moving straight toward a scent
- B. Moving side to side
- C. Moving in wide sweeps**
- D. Working off lead

Ranging in K9 search and rescue terminology refers to the practice of the search dog moving in wide sweeps to cover a large area effectively. This technique allows the dog to maximize its scent detection capabilities by traversing a broader section of the search environment, increasing the likelihood of encountering a scent trail left by a person in need of rescue. By performing wide sweeps, the dog can gather essential information about the presence of a subject and their whereabouts. This method is particularly beneficial in expansive terrains or when searching in wooded areas, fields, or other locations where the scent might dissipate or be difficult to track. The dog's ability to range enables them to integrate information over a larger area, thus providing more effective search results before focusing on a specific trail or scent.

6. Why is it important to remain aware of surroundings while conducting a search during hunting season?

- A. To identify natural hazards only
- B. To ensure safety from hunters**
- C. To look for other searchers
- D. To avoid wildlife encounters

Remaining aware of your surroundings while conducting a search during hunting season is crucial for ensuring safety from hunters. During this time, various individuals may be present in the field carrying firearms and engaging in hunting activities. Being vigilant helps searchers detect and avoid areas where hunting is taking place, reducing the risk of accidental injuries. Additionally, awareness can facilitate communication with hunters, making them aware of the search operation and enhancing overall safety for both searchers and hunters. While identifying natural hazards, looking for other searchers, and avoiding wildlife encounters are important considerations, the immediate risk to searchers comes from the presence of hunters. This makes maintaining awareness of one's surroundings particularly vital in preventing dangerous situations related to hunting activities.

7. What does 'Probability of Detection' refer to in search operations?

- A. The chance that a climber returns safely
- B. The probability of finding clues in a search area**
- C. The likelihood of encountering obstacles
- D. The frequency of search team deployments

Probability of Detection in search operations specifically refers to the likelihood of finding clues in a designated search area. This concept is crucial as it helps in assessing the effectiveness of the search strategy and resources deployed. Understanding this probability allows search teams to evaluate which areas may have a higher likelihood of revealing evidence or locating a missing person. In search operations, the analysis of the probability of detection informs decisions on how to allocate resources and where to focus efforts. It takes into account factors like terrain, environmental conditions, and historical data regarding prior searches, all of which influence the chances of uncovering pertinent clues. While the other options touch on different aspects of search operations, they do not encapsulate the core definition of Probability of Detection as it applies directly to finding clues. The safety of a climber, the possibility of facing obstacles, or the frequency of team deployments are related to various operational considerations but do not define the probability of detecting critical evidence in a search area.

8. Which method can determine a back azimuth?

- A. Adding 90 degrees to the azimuth
- B. Turning the bezel 180 degrees from the present direction**
- C. Using the compass without moving it
- D. Counting paces in the opposite direction

To determine a back azimuth, one effective method involves turning the bezel of a compass 180 degrees from the current direction. This approach works because an azimuth is a horizontal angle measured clockwise from a north base line. By finding the opposite direction, or back azimuth, you essentially find the bearing that leads back to your original location. This technique is widely taught in navigation courses and is a fundamental skill for SAR technicians, as it allows rescuers to retrace their steps if necessary. In contrast, simply adding 90 degrees to the azimuth changes the direction to a perpendicular angle rather than finding the opposite. Using the compass without moving it would not yield relevant information regarding opposite directions, and counting paces in the opposite direction does not provide an accurate azimuth reading, as it lacks a clear method for determining directional bearings. Thus, turning the bezel 180 degrees is the most accurate and reliable technique for determining a back azimuth.

9. What should be allowed to encourage emotional support among team members during a search?

- A. Discussion of frustrations**
- B. Minimizing team interactions
- C. Keeping feelings private
- D. Promoting hierarchy over teamwork

Encouraging discussion of frustrations among team members during a search is essential for fostering emotional support. When team members are given the opportunity to express their feelings and concerns, it creates a safe environment where they can share their experiences and challenges. This open dialogue not only helps in alleviating stress but also strengthens team cohesion and morale. By discussing frustrations, team members can gain perspectives from one another, feel less isolated in their challenges, and build camaraderie. This collective emotional processing can enhance overall performance and mental resilience, which is crucial during high-pressure search and rescue operations. In contrast, minimizing team interactions or keeping feelings private can lead to misunderstandings, increased tension, and emotional isolation. Promoting hierarchy over teamwork can also stifle communication and discourage team members from voicing their concerns, undermining the collaborative spirit that is vital for effective search and rescue efforts.

10. In the UTM coordinate system, positions are reported in what order?

- A. Northerly position first
- B. Easterly position first**
- C. Vertical distance followed by horizontal
- D. Latitude followed by longitude

In the UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) coordinate system, positions are indeed reported with the easterly position first, followed by the northerly position. This means that coordinates are expressed in the format of eastings and northings, where eastings indicate the distance east of a defined meridian (the central meridian for the UTM zone), and northings indicate the distance north from the equator. The choice of reporting easterly position first aids in pinpointing exact locations on a map, as the east-west (x-axis) position is essential for determining which specific UTM zone the location falls within before considering the north-south (y-axis) position. This format is streamlined for navigation and mapping, allowing for practical applications in various fields, including search and rescue operations, where accurate and quick location referencing is crucial. The other options, which mention latitude and longitude, vertical followed by horizontal distance, or only northerly position first, do not align with the UTM convention and therefore are not applicable in this context.

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://sartech1.examzify.com>

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

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