Search and Rescue Technician Level II (SARTECH II) Practice Test (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

1. What do the contour lines on a map ultimately represent?

A. The contour of the land's surface

B. The location of resources

C. The distance across a body of water

D. The routes taken by animals

2. What is Cospas-Sarsat known for?

A. An international emergency medical service

B. A system for detecting emergency beacons using satellites

C. A network of on-ground responders

D. A logistical support agency for SAR operations

3. If instructed to "guide right," in which direction will the crew look to maintain their travel direction?

A. Left

B. Right

C. Forward

D. Backward

4. What is a recommended technique when crossing a stream during a search and rescue mission?

A. Traveling downstream with the flow

B. Traveling parallel to the flow

C. Traveling upstream against the flow

D. Traveling perpendicular to the flow

5. Who is primarily responsible for issuing an Amber Alert?

A. Local media

B. Social media platforms

C. Law enforcement agencies

D. Community organizations

6. What phase in search management is crucial for collecting statistical data and maps?

A. Initial search phase

B. Planning phase

C. Response phase

D. Recovery phase

7. What is the primary function of a crew mission briefing?

A. To discuss the potential hazards of the area

B. To summarize the past and present circumstances of the incident

C. To assign specific tasks to each crew member

D. To establish communication protocols

8. When should the instructions for handling evidence or clues be provided to the team?

A. Before the mission begins

B. During the debriefing

C. Before the briefing

D. During the briefing

9. Which of the following should be communicated to searchers during a briefing?

A. The location of the nearest medical facility

B. Information about the subject

C. The weather forecast for the day

D. The budget for the operation

10. How do you find the back azimuth of a given azimuth?

A. Add 90 degrees

B. Subtract 90 degrees

C. Add 180 degrees

D. Subtract 180 degrees

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What do the contour lines on a map ultimately represent?

A. The contour of the land's surface

B. The location of resources

C. The distance across a body of water

D. The routes taken by animals

Contour lines on a map represent the shape and elevation of the land's surface. Each line denotes a specific elevation above sea level, and the spacing between the lines indicates the steepness of the terrain. When contour lines are close together, it implies a steep slope, while wider spacing suggests a gentler incline. This feature is crucial for understanding the topography of an area, assisting in navigation, planning, and search and rescue operations by providing essential information about the landscape that could affect movement and access. Understanding these lines is fundamental for SAR technicians when assessing potential rescue sites or planning operations in varied terrains.

2. What is Cospas-Sarsat known for?

A. An international emergency medical service

B. A system for detecting emergency beacons using satellites

C. A network of on-ground responders

D. A logistical support agency for SAR operations

Cospas-Sarsat is well-known for its role as a satellite-based system designed specifically for detecting emergency beacons. It provides a critical service in search and rescue operations by using satellites to receive distress signals from emergency beacons activated by individuals in peril, such as those lost at sea or in remote areas. Once a signal is detected, the system relays the information to the relevant authorities to facilitate a swift and efficient rescue response. This capability is significant because it enhances the overall effectiveness of search and rescue efforts by enabling rapid localization of individuals in distress, regardless of geographic location. The system's design ensures international cooperation, as it operates globally and is utilized by various countries to improve the safety of individuals in emergencies.

3. If instructed to "guide right," in which direction will the crew look to maintain their travel direction?

A. Left

B. Right

C. Forward

D. Backward

When instructed to "guide right," the crew will look to the right in order to maintain their intended travel direction. This directive means that all members need to focus their attention and awareness on the right side of their path. By doing so, they can ensure they stay within their designated route, avoid obstacles, and maintain spatial awareness relative to that side. This is especially important in search and rescue operations where the terrain may be challenging and visibility restricted. Looking to the right as they move allows the crew to effectively navigate and carry out their tasks while keeping safety in mind.

4. What is a recommended technique when crossing a stream during a search and rescue mission?

A. Traveling downstream with the flow

B. Traveling parallel to the flow

C. Traveling upstream against the flow

D. Traveling perpendicular to the flow

When crossing a stream during a search and rescue mission, traveling upstream against the flow is often recommended. This technique is beneficial because it allows the individual to have better control over their movement and foot placement, enabling them to assess the bottom of the stream for stable footing and avoid potential obstacles or hazards. Going upstream can also reduce the risk of being swept away by stronger currents, as it indicates a resistance against the force of water. Additionally, moving upstream can help rescue personnel to maintain awareness of their surroundings, as they can keep an eye on the downstream area they have already crossed. This is important for ensuring that the situation remains safe and that the team can effectively communicate their location and actions to others involved in the search and rescue operations.

5. Who is primarily responsible for issuing an Amber Alert?

A. Local media

B. Social media platforms

C. Law enforcement agencies

D. Community organizations

The primary responsibility for issuing an Amber Alert falls to law enforcement agencies. This alert system is designed to quickly disseminate information about a child abduction to solicit assistance from the public in locating the missing child and apprehending the suspect. Law enforcement is equipped to make this determination based on specific criteria, such as the belief that a child has been abducted and is in imminent danger. While local media, social media platforms, and community organizations play important roles in helping to spread the information once the Amber Alert is issued, it is law enforcement that initiates the alert based on the urgency and specific circumstances of the case. This procedure ensures that alerts are consistent and that potential false alarms are minimized, thus maintaining public trust in the system.

6. What phase in search management is crucial for collecting statistical data and maps?

A. Initial search phase

B. Planning phase

C. Response phase

D. Recovery phase

The planning phase is critical for collecting statistical data and maps because it is during this stage that the search and rescue operation is structured and organized. Effective planning involves gathering and analyzing relevant information, which includes understanding the geography of the search area, identifying potential hazards, and compiling previous incident reports that may provide insights into the situation. Collecting statistical data allows the team to make informed decisions about resource allocation, personnel deployment, and strategy formulation. Additionally, producing maps helps visualize the search area and assists in coordinating the efforts of all responders involved. This comprehensive approach ensures the mission is executed efficiently and effectively, maximizing the chances of a successful outcome.

7. What is the primary function of a crew mission briefing?

A. To discuss the potential hazards of the area

B. To summarize the past and present circumstances of the incident

C. To assign specific tasks to each crew member

D. To establish communication protocols

The primary function of a crew mission briefing is to summarize the past and present circumstances of the incident. This aspect is crucial because it sets the stage for the mission, providing all crew members with a clear understanding of the event that led to the current operation. By outlining relevant background information and the dynamics of the situation, the briefing ensures that everyone is on the same page, which is essential for effective coordination and decision-making during the mission. While discussing potential hazards, assigning tasks, and establishing communication protocols are also important components of a mission briefing, they serve as supporting elements that emerge from a comprehensive understanding of the incident's context. Summarizing the circumstances allows the team to assess risks, allocate roles appropriately, and communicate effectively, all tailored to the specific situation at hand. Thus, the context of the incident remains the foundation upon which all subsequent actions are based.

8. When should the instructions for handling evidence or clues be provided to the team?

A. Before the mission begins

B. During the debriefing

C. Before the briefing

D. During the briefing

Providing instructions for handling evidence or clues during the briefing is crucial for several reasons. The briefing is the designated time when all team members gather to receive essential information about the mission, including objectives, safety protocols, and specific operational procedures. It is at this point that clarity and understanding are established among the team members. By communicating the handling instructions during the briefing, the team ensures that everyone is on the same page before they start the mission. This timing allows for immediate questions and discussions, which can address any uncertainties that team members may have regarding evidence handling. It helps to reinforce the importance of preserving evidence and maintaining the chain of custody, which is critical in search and rescue operations, especially when it may relate to legal investigations. In contrast, providing instructions before the mission begins would not allow for the team to engage in open dialogue about the procedures, and discussing it during debriefing would be too late, as the mission would already be completed. Addressing it before the briefing may also fail to encompass the dynamic nature of the mission environment where context becomes particularly relevant. Thus, the correct timing of delivering these instructions is during the briefing to ensure effective communication and team readiness.

9. Which of the following should be communicated to searchers during a briefing?

A. The location of the nearest medical facility

B. Information about the subject

C. The weather forecast for the day

D. The budget for the operation

Communicating information about the subject to searchers during a briefing is crucial because it directly impacts the effectiveness of the search and rescue operation. Understanding various details such as the subject's last known location, description, potential actions, and any known health conditions can inform searchers on what to look for and help tailor their search strategies. This targeted approach increases the likelihood of a successful mission by allowing searchers to focus their efforts efficiently, especially in vast search areas where time is of the essence. While information about the nearest medical facility, the weather forecast, and operational budgets may be relevant in certain contexts, they do not play as critical a role in the immediate search efforts. Therefore, providing information about the subject takes precedence to ensure that searchers can act effectively based on the circumstances and characteristics of the individual they are looking for.

10. How do you find the back azimuth of a given azimuth?

A. Add 90 degrees

B. Subtract 90 degrees

C. Add 180 degrees

D. Subtract 180 degrees

To find the back azimuth of a given azimuth, you add 180 degrees to the azimuth if it is less than 180 degrees, or subtract 180 degrees if it is greater than 180 degrees. This process effectively points you in the opposite direction on a compass. For example, if you have an azimuth of 30 degrees, adding 180 degrees gives you 210 degrees, which is the back azimuth. Conversely, if your azimuth were 200 degrees, subtracting 180 degrees would yield 20 degrees as the back azimuth. This method ensures that you correctly determine the direction that is opposite to the original bearing, which can be crucial in various navigation and search scenarios in search and rescue operations. Understanding this concept is fundamental for SAR operations, where knowledge of directionality can significantly impact search patterns and coordination between teams.

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://sartech2.examzify.com

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