

Second Class Midshipman (2/C) Professional Competency Assessment (PCA) MQS 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 Joint Directorate focuses on Intelligence?**
 - A. J1**
 - B. J2**
 - C. J3**
 - D. J4**

- 2. What does "values-based leadership" focus on in military training?**
 - A. Leading through personal ambition and goals**
 - B. Leading by controlling followers and resources**
 - C. Leading by principles that align with the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment**
 - D. Leading through popularity and charisma**

- 3. During World War I, how many reserve officers were there in the Naval Reserve?**
 - A. 50,000**
 - B. 150,000**
 - C. 300,000**
 - D. 500,000**

- 4. What is NOT a duty of Service Support USNS ships?**
 - A. Submarine support**
 - B. Conducting oceanographic research**
 - C. Towing and rescue operations**
 - D. Cable laying activities**

- 5. What role does the Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant fulfill in Undersea Warfare?**
 - A. Division officer for the mechanics onboard**
 - B. Division officer for auxiliary assistants**
 - C. Division officer for the engineering laboratory technicians**
 - D. Division officer for navigation electronics technicians**

- 6. What does N2 in the Navy N Code stand for?**
- A. Logistics**
 - B. Intelligence**
 - C. Plans**
 - D. Communications**
- 7. What is the definition of "Combat Systems" in naval terms?**
- A. The individual weaponry used by naval ships**
 - B. Integrated weapons, sensors, and data processing systems**
 - C. Communication systems onboard naval vessels**
 - D. Personnel training programs for naval operations**
- 8. In an Aviation Squadron, what does the Maintenance department focus on?**
- A. Creating scheduling for flights**
 - B. Performing administrative tasks**
 - C. Keeping aircraft in flight-ready shape**
 - D. Facilitating training for personnel**
- 9. In deterrence theory, what is meant by "willingness"?**
- A. A readiness to negotiate**
 - B. A commitment to invest in military technology**
 - C. A resolve to retaliate if provoked**
 - D. A preference for conflict resolution through dialogue**
- 10. What is one benefit of the Total Force concept for Naval Reserve members?**
- A. Increased deployment opportunities**
 - B. Access to advanced educational programs**
 - C. Enhanced training with modern equipment**
 - D. Promotion into higher ranks**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which Joint Directorate focuses on Intelligence?

- A. J1
- B. J2**
- C. J3
- D. J4

The Joint Directorate that focuses on Intelligence is the J2. This directorate is specifically tasked with overseeing all intelligence-related activities and serves as the primary authority for providing actionable intelligence to support military operations and strategic decision-making. The J2 is integral in analyzing threats, gathering intelligence from various sources, and ensuring that this information is disseminated effectively to support command objectives. It plays a crucial role in national security by enabling the joint force to anticipate adversary actions and make informed operational decisions. In this context, the other directorates have distinct functions: J1 typically handles personnel and manpower, J3 focuses on operations and plans, while J4 is concerned with logistics and sustainment. Each of these directorates plays a vital role in military operations, but J2 is specifically dedicated to the intelligence domain, making it the correct answer for this question.

2. What does "values-based leadership" focus on in military training?

- A. Leading through personal ambition and goals
- B. Leading by controlling followers and resources
- C. Leading by principles that align with the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment**
- D. Leading through popularity and charisma

Values-based leadership in military training emphasizes the importance of guiding behavior and decision-making through principles that are closely aligned with the core values of honor, courage, and commitment. This approach is essential in fostering a culture of integrity and accountability within the military organization. By adhering to these core values, leaders can create an environment where ethical behavior is prioritized, and team members feel motivated and empowered to uphold these standards. This type of leadership not only strengthens the cohesion and trust among service members but also ensures that actions and decisions consistently reflect the fundamental ideals of the Navy. Such alignment helps in building a strong organizational identity and trust within teams, which is critical in high-pressure environments typical in military settings. Values-based leadership serves as a guiding compass, helping leaders navigate challenges while maintaining the integrity of the institution.

3. During World War I, how many reserve officers were there in the Naval Reserve?

- A. 50,000**
- B. 150,000**
- C. 300,000**
- D. 500,000**

The number of reserve officers in the Naval Reserve during World War I reached approximately 300,000. This figure reflects the significant expansion of naval forces required to meet the demands of the war, resulting in a substantial increase in the number of individuals enlisted as reserve officers. The Naval Reserve was vital in supplementing the regular Navy and enabling the rapid mobilization of trained personnel. This surge illustrated the importance of reservists in wartime efforts, contributing skills and experience that enhanced naval operations on a large scale. The selection of 300,000 accurately captures the scale of the Naval Reserve at that time, marked by the government's recruitment initiatives and the national response to the war's exigencies.

4. What is NOT a duty of Service Support USNS ships?

- A. Submarine support**
- B. Conducting oceanographic research**
- C. Towing and rescue operations**
- D. Cable laying activities**

The choice indicating that conducting oceanographic research is not a duty of Service Support USNS ships is correct because Service Support ships primarily focus on logistical and operational support missions, rather than scientific research initiatives. These vessels are primarily designed to provide fleet support, including transportation of personnel and equipment, fueling operations, and other forms of logistical support. While oceanographic research is essential within the Navy and may be conducted by other specialized vessels, it falls outside the typical responsibilities of Service Support vessels, which are more focused on ensuring that operational fleets are supplied and supported during missions. Towing and rescue operations, submarine support, and cable laying activities are all within the mission profile of service support ships, as they contribute directly to enhancing the operational capabilities of naval forces.

5. What role does the Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant fulfill in Undersea Warfare?

- A. Division officer for the mechanics onboard**
- B. Division officer for auxiliary assistants**
- C. Division officer for the engineering laboratory technicians**
- D. Division officer for navigation electronics technicians**

The Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant plays a crucial role in Undersea Warfare by serving as the division officer for the engineering laboratory technicians. This position is essential because these technicians are responsible for monitoring and managing the chemical systems and radiological safety equipment aboard submarines and other vessels engaged in undersea operations. Their work ensures that the environment remains safe for the crew and the operational capabilities of the vessel are maintained. Proper management of chemical and radiological elements is critical in undersea warfare, especially considering the unique challenges posed by underwater operations, which often involve complex systems and potential hazards. This role involves overseeing the performance of tests and calibrations of various monitoring systems, ensuring compliance with safety regulations, and maintaining the readiness of equipment used for radiological analysis, which directly supports mission success and crew safety. Therefore, identifying the Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant as the division officer for engineering laboratory technicians is accurate, as it highlights their specialized knowledge and responsibilities in a pivotal area of undersea warfare operations.

6. What does N2 in the Navy N Code stand for?

- A. Logistics**
- B. Intelligence**
- C. Plans**
- D. Communications**

In the context of Navy N Codes, N2 specifically refers to Intelligence. This designation is part of the Navy's organizational structure that categorizes various functions and responsibilities within the fleet. Intelligence is crucial for informed decision-making and operational effectiveness, with N2 being responsible for gathering and analyzing information related to potential threats, enemy capabilities, and other factors affecting naval operations. This function supports strategic planning and operational readiness, helping commanders and decision-makers stay a step ahead. While the other functions listed—logistics, plans, and communications—are also critical components of naval operations, they are represented by different N Codes. Logistics falls under N4, Plans corresponds to N5, and Communications is covered by N6. Understanding these designations is essential for anyone involved in naval operations and strategy, as they outline the structure and flow of information and resources essential to mission success.

7. What is the definition of "Combat Systems" in naval terms?

- A. The individual weaponry used by naval ships**
- B. Integrated weapons, sensors, and data processing systems**
- C. Communication systems onboard naval vessels**
- D. Personnel training programs for naval operations**

The definition of "Combat Systems" in naval terms refers to the integrated weapons, sensors, and data processing systems that work together to detect, track, and engage targets effectively. This integration is crucial for ensuring that a naval vessel can operate efficiently in combat scenarios by utilizing real-time data and operational coordination among various elements of the system. The correct answer embodies the holistic approach to combat capabilities, incorporating the interconnectivity of weapons systems, sensor technologies, and the processing abilities required for modern naval warfare. This integration allows for improved situational awareness and enhanced combat effectiveness, making it essential for naval operations. Understanding this concept is vital for those involved in naval operations, as it emphasizes the complexity and the necessity of integration in combat situations, rather than focusing solely on individual components or unrelated aspects of naval warfare, such as communication systems or personnel training programs.

8. In an Aviation Squadron, what does the Maintenance department focus on?

- A. Creating scheduling for flights**
- B. Performing administrative tasks**
- C. Keeping aircraft in flight-ready shape**
- D. Facilitating training for personnel**

The focus of the Maintenance department in an Aviation Squadron is to ensure that aircraft are kept in a flight-ready condition. This involves conducting routine inspections, performing repairs, and executing regular maintenance checks to uphold safety standards and operational readiness. By maintaining aircraft functionality, the Maintenance department plays a critical role in enabling flight operations, ensuring that aircraft are safe and capable of performing their intended missions without interference. The other options, while important in the broader context of an aviation squadron's operations, do not represent the primary focus of the Maintenance department. For instance, scheduling flights, handling administrative tasks, and providing training for personnel are essential functions but are typically managed by different departments within the squadron. Thus, the commitment of the Maintenance department to the operational readiness and safety of aircraft is paramount.

9. In deterrence theory, what is meant by "willingness"?

- A. A readiness to negotiate**
- B. A commitment to invest in military technology**
- C. A resolve to retaliate if provoked**
- D. A preference for conflict resolution through dialogue**

In the context of deterrence theory, "willingness" refers to a state's resolve to retaliate if provoked. This concept is central to deterrence strategies, where the aim is to prevent adversaries from taking aggressive actions by ensuring they understand the consequences of such actions. A key component of effective deterrence is the perception that a state has the capability and determination to respond robustly to threats or attacks. Therefore, willingness encompasses not just the capability to retaliate but also the psychological aspect of demonstrating to potential aggressors that a state will indeed take action if its interests are challenged. This resolve plays a critical role in shaping the strategic calculus of both the deterrent state and its adversaries, thereby influencing stability and security dynamics. The other options address different aspects of conflict management and military strategy but do not specifically capture the essence of "willingness" within deterrence theory. For example, readiness to negotiate or a preference for dialogue suggests an inclination towards conflict resolution rather than the assertive stand implied by willingness to retaliate. Similarly, commitment to invest in military technology focuses on preparedness without directly indicating the resolve to take action when challenged.

10. What is one benefit of the Total Force concept for Naval Reserve members?

- A. Increased deployment opportunities**
- B. Access to advanced educational programs**
- C. Enhanced training with modern equipment**
- D. Promotion into higher ranks**

The Total Force concept enhances training with modern equipment for Naval Reserve members by integrating them more closely with the active duty force. This approach allows reservists to experience the same training environments, operations, and equipment as their active duty counterparts. As a result, they can gain hands-on experience with the latest technologies and equipment used in the Navy, ensuring that they maintain a high level of readiness and proficiency. This training alignment is crucial because it allows reservists to seamlessly transition into active duty roles when necessary, ensuring that they are not only well-prepared but also familiar with the current operational standards and technologies. Additionally, it fosters a more cohesive and effective naval force, which is essential for mission success. The other choices, while they may have merit in different contexts, do not specifically highlight the significant advantage of enhanced training that aligns with the Total Force concept.

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://2cpcamqs.examzify.com>

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

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