

Situational Unit (SU) and Operations Unit (OU) Watchstander Qualification 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

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- 1. Which of the following is a reportable Marine Casualty?**
 - A. Unintended grounding or allision with a bridge**
 - B. Loss of life**
 - C. Minor propeller damage**
 - D. Weather advisory**

- 2. Where would you reference the regulations for Limited Access Areas in SSD AOR?**
 - A. 33 CFR 140**
 - B. 33 CFR 165**
 - C. 46 CFR 30**
 - D. 40 CFR 120**

- 3. Which inland spill size is defined as Major?**
 - A. Over 10,000 gallons**
 - B. 1,000-10,000 gallons**
 - C. 100-1,000 gallons**
 - D. 50-100 gallons**

- 4. During a Marine Casualty, what is the time limit for drug testing?**
 - A. Within 12 hours**
 - B. Within 24 hours**
 - C. Within 32 hours**
 - D. Within 48 hours**

- 5. Where do mariners wishing to obtain mariner licensing and credentials go?**
 - A. Regional Exam Center (RCC) Long Beach**
 - B. Coast Guard Licensing Office New York**
 - C. Maritime Credentialing Center San Diego**
 - D. National Seafarer Office Seattle**

- 6. Which statement about the Right of Visit (ROV) is correct?**
- A. ROV allows boarding a vessel of unknown nationality in order to determine its nationality, or to board any vessel suspected of piracy, slave trade or unauthorized broadcasting.**
 - B. ROV permits only questioning while at a distance.**
 - C. ROV is the same as ROA.**
 - D. ROV applies only in territorial waters.**
- 7. What do you do if the TACLAN system goes down?**
- A. Call the TACLAN help desk**
 - B. Notify Joan**
 - C. Reboot TACLAN**
 - D. Send email to supervisor**
- 8. Which programs fall under the COTP's administration?**
- A. Port Safety, Marine Environmental Response and Waterways Management programs**
 - B. Transportation Security Administration programs**
 - C. Fisheries management**
 - D. Public works and port expansion**
- 9. What is the Contiguous Zone and its legal purpose?**
- A. Baseline to 12NM; enforce navigation rules.**
 - B. Baseline to 200 NM; exclusive economic protection.**
 - C. Baseline to 24NM, State may exercise the control necessary to prevent and punish infringements of its fiscal, immigration, sanitary, customs laws.**
 - D. 0 to 3 NM; all fishing rights.**
- 10. Under CG policy, at what amount does medical marijuana stop being personal use?**
- A. 10 grams**
 - B. 28.5 grams**
 - C. 100 grams**
 - D. 1 kilogram**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a reportable Marine Casualty?

- A. Unintended grounding or allision with a bridge
- B. Loss of life**
- C. Minor propeller damage
- D. Weather advisory

Understanding what counts as a reportable marine casualty centers on events that involve harm to people or significant damage that must be communicated to authorities. Loss of life is inherently a reportable marine casualty because it represents the most severe outcome and requires immediate notification and investigation by the appropriate regulator. The other scenarios don't automatically meet the threshold from the description alone: an unintended grounding or allision with a bridge could be reportable if it caused damage or injuries, but the statement doesn't confirm that; minor propeller damage by itself usually doesn't rise to a reportable casualty; and a weather advisory is not a casualty at all.

2. Where would you reference the regulations for Limited Access Areas in SSD AOR?

- A. 33 CFR 140
- B. 33 CFR 165**
- C. 46 CFR 30
- D. 40 CFR 120

Limited Access Areas are governed under the Coast Guard's Regulated Navigation Areas and Security Zones framework, which is codified in 33 CFR 165. This part specifically covers how areas can be restricted or controlled for safety, security, or security-related operations, including the establishment, boundaries, times, and enforcement of such zones. In the SSD AOR, any Limited Access Area would be referenced and implemented through 33 CFR 165, with notices to mariners and sector communications providing the exact details. The other regulations address different topics: 33 CFR 140 deals with other navigational or regulatory matters not tied to access restrictions in the AOR, 46 CFR 30 pertains to vessel and crew regulations outside the LAA context, and 40 CFR 120 concerns environmental regulatory requirements unrelated to navigable access restrictions.

3. Which inland spill size is defined as Major?

- A. Over 10,000 gallons**
- B. 1,000-10,000 gallons
- C. 100-1,000 gallons
- D. 50-100 gallons

Spill-size classifications determine how large a response must be and what level of coordination is needed. For inland spills, the Major category is reserved for releases that exceed a significant volume, triggering greater mobilization of resources and regulatory notification. In this framework, Major means more than 10,000 gallons. Therefore, a spill larger than 10,000 gallons is Major, while smaller ranges are categorized as less severe and would require correspondingly smaller-scale responses. For example, a 12,000-gallon inland spill would be classified as Major.

4. During a Marine Casualty, what is the time limit for drug testing?

- A. Within 12 hours**
- B. Within 24 hours**
- C. Within 32 hours**
- D. Within 48 hours**

The question tests the time frame allowed to initiate drug testing after a Marine casualty. The best answer is within 48 hours because casualty procedures set a 48-hour window to initiate and complete toxicology testing for personnel involved. This window helps ensure specimens are collected while still reliable, maintains proper chain of custody, and aligns with the time needed for notification, transport, and lab processing during an investigation. Shorter windows—such as within 12, 24, or 32 hours—could miss testing due to delays in reporting or collecting samples, whereas 48 hours accommodates those real-world factors.

5. Where do mariners wishing to obtain mariner licensing and credentials go?

- A. Regional Exam Center (RCC) Long Beach**
- B. Coast Guard Licensing Office New York**
- C. Maritime Credentialing Center San Diego**
- D. National Seafarer Office Seattle**

Regional Exam Centers are the places where merchant mariners take the required license exams and begin the credentialing process with the Coast Guard. When you're pursuing licensing, you apply through the National Maritime Center and then schedule and take your exams at an REC. After you pass, the National Maritime Center reviews your materials and issues the appropriate license or credential. Long Beach is one of these Regional Exam Center locations, which is why that option is the correct choice. The other offices listed aren't where you take the licensing exams or begin credentialing.

6. Which statement about the Right of Visit (ROV) is correct?

- A. ROV allows boarding a vessel of unknown nationality in order to determine its nationality, or to board any vessel suspected of piracy, slave trade or unauthorized broadcasting.**
- B. ROV permits only questioning while at a distance.**
- C. ROV is the same as ROA.**
- D. ROV applies only in territorial waters.**

Right of Visit is a maritime law tool that lets a warship of a coastal state visit a foreign vessel to verify its nationality and to take action if there are reasonable grounds to suspect illegal activity, such as piracy, the slave trade, or unauthorized broadcasting. This authority is exercised by boarding and inspecting the vessel when there are legitimate grounds, and it is not limited to simply questioning from afar. It applies on the high seas and in certain zones under UNCLOS, not only inside territorial waters. The statement captures the core purpose and scope: boarding a vessel of unknown nationality to determine nationality, or boarding a vessel suspected of piracy, slave trade, or unauthorized broadcasting.

7. What do you do if the TACLAN system goes down?

- A. Call the TACLAN help desk**
- B. Notify Joan**
- C. Reboot TACLAN**
- D. Send email to supervisor**

When a critical encryption device goes down, the first step is to engage the official support channel so the outage is documented, triaged, and resolved quickly. Call the TACLAN help desk to report the outage. They manage TACLAN incidents, can verify status, collect logs, run remote diagnostics, and coordinate any needed remediation with operations or vendors. Following their guidance ensures proper ticketing and compliance with change procedures. Notifying one person or emailing a supervisor doesn't initiate the formal incident response or trigger the right engineering/operations workflows. Rebooting without explicit instructions can disrupt investigations, cause data/log loss, or violate policy, and may not address the underlying issue.

8. Which programs fall under the COTP's administration?

- A. Port Safety, Marine Environmental Response and Waterways Management programs**
- B. Transportation Security Administration programs**
- C. Fisheries management**
- D. Public works and port expansion**

The Captain of the Port oversees programs that directly affect the safety, security, and environmental stewardship of a port and its waterways. This includes Port Safety, Marine Environmental Response, and Waterways Management, which cover preventing hazards, coordinating pollution response, and ensuring safe, navigable channels and traffic within the port. The other options aren't under the COTP's administration: Transportation Security Administration programs belong to a different agency focused on broader transportation security; Fisheries management is handled by fisheries-focused agencies; and Public works and port expansion fall outside the COTP's port-specific authority.

9. What is the Contiguous Zone and its legal purpose?

- A. Baseline to 12NM; enforce navigation rules.**
- B. Baseline to 200 NM; exclusive economic protection.**
- C. Baseline to 24NM, State may exercise the control necessary to prevent and punish infringements of its fiscal, immigration, sanitary, customs laws.**
- D. 0 to 3 NM; all fishing rights.**

The Contiguous Zone is a belt extending from the baseline to 24 nautical miles where a coastal state has authority to prevent and punish infringements of its fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws. From the baseline, this zone allows limited enforcement to stop violations of those specific statutes before they occur or as they occur, without granting broader sovereignty over the area. It sits beyond the territorial sea (which ends at 12 NM) but doesn't reach the full 200 NM of the exclusive economic zone. That's why the described distance and the focus on enforcing those four categories of laws match the Contiguous Zone definition best.

10. Under CG policy, at what amount does medical marijuana stop being personal use?

- A. 10 grams**
- B. 28.5 grams**
- C. 100 grams**
- D. 1 kilogram**

Under CG policy, a fixed amount defines the line between personal-use and non-personal-use possession. Medical marijuana is treated as personal use up to 28.5 grams, which is one ounce. This threshold gives a clear, commonly understood limit for individuals to stay within if their use is personal and legitimate, while anything above 28.5 grams is no longer considered personal use and may be treated as possession with intent to distribute or require additional authorization. The other amounts don't fit as the boundary because they fall either well below the limit (still personal use) or far above it (clearly not personal use and subject to different enforcement rules).

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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://suouwatchstanderqualification.examzify.com>

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

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