

SITUATIONAL UNIT (SU) AND OPERATIONS UNIT (OU) WATCHSTANDER QUALIFICATION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://suouwatchstanderqualification.examzify.com>



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. In Step 2 of vessel on vessel Use of Force, which action is described?**
 - A. Step 1 Command Presence
 - B. Step 4 Disable
 - C. Step 3 Disrupt
 - D. Warn - Warning Shots/LA-51

- 2. Which BAC pair correctly distinguishes commercial vessels and pleasure crafts?**
 - A. Commercial .04; Pleasure .08
 - B. Commercial .08; Pleasure .04
 - C. Commercial .04; Pleasure .04
 - D. Commercial .04; Pleasure .10

- 3. To which office should the form be submitted?**
 - A. Investigations
 - B. Operations
 - C. Compliance
 - D. Public Affairs

- 4. Kraken is the designation for which training area?**
 - A. Camp Pendleton Range Control
 - B. SCORE (Southern California Offshore Range) - San Clemente Island
 - C. Special Warfare Training Area (SWAT 1) - SCI
 - D. Western Air Defense (WADS) - Washington

- 5. Which statement best describes the purpose of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (ReCoM)?**
 - A. Coordinate medical response
 - B. Regional Coordinating Mechanism to facilitate information sharing among agencies
 - C. Emergency power plan
 - D. Maritime law enforcement training

6. How many steps are there in the Coast Guard's force continuum?

- A. 6
- B. 5
- C. 4
- D. 7

7. Which groups are encompassed by NAMSI's scope?

- A. The European Union naval forces
- B. Private maritime security firms
- C. SEMAR, NORTHCOM, Government of Canada, and the Coast Guard
- D. The United Nations fleet only

8. Which of the following is a Security Zone in the AOR?

- A. Naval Aircraft Carrier Basin
- B. Golden Gate Bridge
- C. Times Square
- D. Disneyland

9. Which option is NOT listed as a Security Zone in the AOR?

- A. Golden Gate Bridge
- B. Point Loma Sub Base
- C. Bravo Pier
- D. Enterprise Pier

10. What does Basic Initial Safety Sweep (BISS) involve?

- A. A quick and limited inspection of a vessel for boarding teams' safety
- B. A full comprehensive safety inspection of the vessel
- C. A visual check only of crew licenses
- D. An inspection limited to life jackets only

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. In Step 2 of vessel on vessel Use of Force, which action is described?

- A. Step 1 Command Presence
- B. Step 4 Disable
- C. Step 3 Disrupt
- D. Warn - Warning Shots/LA-51

Disrupt is the action described in this step because early in a vessel-on-vessel encounter the aim is to interrupt the aggressor's ability to maneuver or threaten, creating space and shifting the dynamics without escalating to higher-force options. Disruption focuses on breaking the opponent's pattern, trajectory, or plan so you can safely de-escalate or disengage. Why this fits Step 2: it sets the stage for safety by interrupting the threat and reducing immediacy, rather than relying on a show of presence, attempting to disable the other vessel, or firing warning shots. Command presence is about establishing authority and deterrence; that's typically an earlier or separate emphasis. Disabling would be a more forceful option reserved for later goals if disruption fails or the threat persists. Warning shots/LA-51 are explicit escalation tactics and not the immediate Step 2 action.

2. Which BAC pair correctly distinguishes commercial vessels and pleasure crafts?

- A. Commercial .04; Pleasure .08
- B. Commercial .08; Pleasure .04
- C. Commercial .04; Pleasure .04
- D. Commercial .04; Pleasure .10

Operators of commercial vessels are held to a stricter blood alcohol limit because they have a duty to the safety of the crew, passengers, and cargo, and must be able to respond quickly to emergencies. That stricter limit is 0.04 BAC. Pleasure-craft operators, by contrast, are typically governed by a higher limit, commonly 0.08 BAC, which aligns with many automotive and recreational standards. Therefore, the correct pairing is commercial at 0.04 and pleasure at 0.08. The other options either swap the limits, set them equal, or assign a higher limit to the pleasure category that doesn't match standard practice.

3. To which office should the form be submitted?

- A. Investigations
- B. Operations
- C. Compliance
- D. Public Affairs

When a form is connected to fact-finding, a report of an allegation, or an incident that requires investigation, the Investigations office is the appropriate home. This unit specializes in intake, structured inquiries, evidence handling, interviews, and determining appropriate follow-up actions. Keeping investigations centralized in one office helps ensure consistency, documentation integrity, and proper escalation. The other offices focus on different functions: Operations handles day-to-day tasks and mission execution; Compliance ensures adherence to policies and controls but does not conduct the investigative process; Public Affairs manages communications and external messaging. Because the form's purpose is to initiate or document an investigation, Investigations is the best fit.

4. Kraken is the designation for which training area?

- A. Camp Pendleton Range Control
- B. SCORE (Southern California Offshore Range) - San Clemente Island
- C. Special Warfare Training Area (SWAT 1) - SCI**
- D. Western Air Defense (WADS) - Washington

Kraken designates a specific training area used for special warfare exercises. It corresponds to the Special Warfare Training Area (SWAT 1) located on San Clemente Island (SCI). This is the designated range name for that portion of SCI where intense SOF-style training occurs. The other options point to different facilities or areas: Camp Pendleton Range Control is for ranges at Camp Pendleton; SCORE is the Southern California Offshore Range near SCI but not the SWAT 1 designation; Western Air Defense refers to a facility in Washington. So Kraken is the designation for SWAT 1 on SCI.

5. Which statement best describes the purpose of the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (ReCoM)?

- A. Coordinate medical response
- B. Regional Coordinating Mechanism to facilitate information sharing among agencies**
- C. Emergency power plan
- D. Maritime law enforcement training

The purpose is to create a structured, regional forum that lets partners share information openly so they can act in a coordinated way. ReCoM provides channels and processes—like updates on the situation, needs, and available resources—so agencies, NGOs, and governments in a region can align priorities, avoid duplicating efforts, and deploy support where it's most needed. This broad focus on information sharing and coordination across multiple actors is what makes it the best description. The other options describe activities that are narrower in scope (medical response, emergency power planning, or specific training), whereas ReCoM centers on the shared situational picture and coordinated action across agencies.

6. How many steps are there in the Coast Guard's force continuum?

- A. 6**
- B. 5
- C. 4
- D. 7

The force continuum is a progression of response options from least to most intrusive, guiding how to escalate only as needed. In Coast Guard training, there are six levels, starting with deterrence and presence to establish authority and deter escalation. Next are verbal commands to gain compliance. If those don't work, soft empty-hand control techniques are used to restrain with minimal risk. If resistance continues, hard empty-hand control options are employed to subdue. When necessary, less-lethal tools or munitions may be used to stop a threat without using deadly force. Finally, deadly force is reserved as the last resort when there is an imminent threat to life. Because this framework defines six distinct levels, the number of steps in the continuum is six. The structure emphasizes proportionality and justification for each step, matching the response to the threat level.

7. Which groups are encompassed by NAMSI's scope?

- A. The European Union naval forces
- B. Private maritime security firms
- C. SEMAR, NORTHCOM, Government of Canada, and the Coast Guard**
- D. The United Nations fleet only

NAMSI focuses on North American maritime security cooperation among government and military partners responsible for safeguarding coastal and border areas in the region. The groups that fit this scope are the ones representing national-level maritime security authorities from the three countries: SEMAR, the Mexican Navy, which brings Mexico's naval capability into the collaboration; NORTHCOM, the U.S. command responsible for homeland defense and civil support in the maritime domain; the Government of Canada, representing Canada's national authorities; and the Coast Guard, a primary U.S. maritime security and law enforcement service. This combination embodies the interagency, trilateral approach NAMSI is built around. Private maritime security firms operate in the private sector and aren't part of the government-to-government framework NAMSI uses. A United Nations fleet doesn't exist as a standing national fleet in this context, and EU naval forces are outside North America's scope.

8. Which of the following is a Security Zone in the AOR?

- A. Naval Aircraft Carrier Basin**
- B. Golden Gate Bridge
- C. Times Square
- D. Disneyland

Security Zones in the Area of Responsibility are restricted maritime areas set up around high value naval assets or critical Navy facilities to prevent unauthorized entry and enable rapid security response. A basin that houses an aircraft carrier is exactly the kind of sensitive maritime asset that would have a Security Zone around it, since keeping the surrounding waters clear helps protect the ship and crew and allows security forces to act quickly if needed. The other locations listed are land-based public spaces, not maritime security zones within the AOR, so they wouldn't be designated as Security Zones for naval watch and enforcement purposes. Understanding where these zones exist helps you know where entry requires authorization and how to monitor and enforce restrictions.

9. Which option is NOT listed as a Security Zone in the AOR?

- A. Golden Gate Bridge**
- B. Point Loma Sub Base
- C. Bravo Pier
- D. Enterprise Pier

Security zones are official, defined areas within the Area of Responsibility where access and security measures are specifically enforced to protect critical infrastructure and assets. In this AOR, the zones include locations tied to military facilities and pier operations, such as Point Loma Sub Base, Bravo Pier, and Enterprise Pier. The Golden Gate Bridge, while a major civilian landmark, is not designated as a Security Zone in the AOR's listed zones, so it isn't included in that security-zone list. That's why it is the option not listed as a Security Zone.

10. What does Basic Initial Safety Sweep (BISS) involve?

- A. A quick and limited inspection of a vessel for boarding teams' safety
- B. A full comprehensive safety inspection of the vessel
- C. A visual check only of crew licenses
- D. An inspection limited to life jackets only

BISS is a rapid, scoped safety check performed before boarding to ensure the boarding team's safety and identify any immediate hazards on the vessel. It's designed to be quick and focused, assessing essential safety factors needed for access and early operations rather than conducting a full safety audit. This means inspecting for immediate risks, the presence of basic safety gear, safe access points, and obvious hazards, so the team can proceed with confidence. It is not a full comprehensive safety inspection, which is why checking licenses or only life jackets would not fit the purpose.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE