SMA Gun Block 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. Which component is an electromagnet that converts electrical impulses into the mechanical force necessary to fire a weapon?

A. Firing Pin

B. Breech Assembly

C. Yoke

D. Solenoid

2. Which is a type of explosive train that leads to detonation of a propellant charge?

A. Propellant Explosive Train

B. Projectile Explosive Train

C. Both

D. None

3. What are the three electrically adjustable fuzing settings for both the AGM-176 (Griffin Missile) and The GBU-39 (Small Diameter Bomb - SDB)?

A. Height of Burst - HOB; Point Detonate - PD

B. Height of Burst - HOB; Delay

C. Point Detonate - PD; Delay

D. Height of Burst - HOB; Point Detonate - PD; Delay

4. Name three common firearm malfunctions.

A. Failure to feed, failure to fire, failure to eject (stovepipe or jam).

B. Failure to aim, failure to hold, failure to pull.

C. Overheating, rusting, bending.

D. Double feed, double eject, double shot.

5. Which bomb is an air-launched, winged glide bomb deployed from a wing-mounted rack, with 63 inch wingspan, weighing 250 pounds and 71 inches long?

A. GBU-39 (Small Diameter Bomb - SDB)

B. AGM-176 (Griffin Missile)

C. Drive Ratchet

D. Common Screwdriver

6. If the M240 is set to setting 2, what is the rounds per minute?

A. 750 rounds per minute

B. 850 rounds per minute

C. 950 rounds per minute

D. 700 rounds per minute

7. Explain the difference between a magazine and a clip.

A. Magazine stores cartridges and feeds them; a clip simply holds cartridges together for loading into a magazine.

B. Magazine holds cartridges during firing; clip releases spent casings.

C. Magazine is part of the handgun grip; clip is a tool for cleaning.

D. Magazine is a group of fired casings; clip ejects them.

8. What device is described as being constructed of wire mesh and lightweight steel or titanium tubing to hold a survivor immobile in a face-up supine position?

A. Restraint Litter

B. Medical Stretcher

C. Stokes Litter

D. Survival Carrier

9. What should you do if you suspect a barrel obstruction?

A. Continue firing to clear the obstruction quickly.

B. Do not fire; maintain muzzle discipline and have the range officer inspect the firearm.

C. Disassemble the firearm on the firing line.

D. Place the firearm down immediately and leave the range.

10. Which ammunition type uses a tungsten core to pierce light armor?

A. Incendiary

B. Armor Piercing

C. Ball

D. Dummy

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which component is an electromagnet that converts electrical impulses into the mechanical force necessary to fire a weapon?

A. Firing Pin

B. Breech Assembly

C. Yoke

D. Solenoid

The key idea is how electricity can be turned into controlled mechanical motion. A solenoid is a coil of wire that becomes an electromagnet when current flows through it. The magnetic field pulls on a metal plunger or armature, producing a linear movement. That motion can drive the firing mechanism in a weapon, converting electrical impulses directly into the mechanical action needed to fire. The other parts have different roles: a firing pin is the piece that actually strikes the primer, but it doesn't generate motion from electricity by itself; a breech assembly houses and aligns the cartridge; a yoke helps shape the magnetic circuit or provides support, but it isn't the device that converts electrical energy into motion. So the component that fits this description is the solenoid.

2. Which is a type of explosive train that leads to detonation of a propellant charge?

A. Propellant Explosive Train

B. Projectile Explosive Train

C. Both

D. None

An explosive train is a sequence that passes the initiation energy along to the main charge. The type that is designed to produce detonation in the propellant charge is the propellant explosive train. Its role is to ensure the initiating signal reaches the propellant so the propellant charge reacts in the intended energetic way, driving the projectile or performing the round's function. The alternative type is concerned with the projectile's own explosive filling, not the propellant, so it doesn't accomplish detonation of the propellant.

3. What are the three electrically adjustable fuzing settings for both the AGM-176 (Griffin Missile) and The GBU-39 (Small Diameter Bomb - SDB)?

A. Height of Burst - HOB; Point Detonate - PD

B. Height of Burst - HOB; Delay

C. Point Detonate - PD; Delay

D. Height of Burst - HOB; Point Detonate - PD; Delay

Programmable fuze settings on these air-delivered weapons are designed to tailor how and when the warhead explodes to fit the target and mission. The three options you can set are Height of Burst, which triggers the explosion at a chosen altitude above the ground to create an airburst over a wide area; Point Detonate, which causes the warhead to explode on contact with the target for direct energy delivery; and Delay, which detonates after a short programmed pause following impact, allowing penetration or a delayed blast to affect targets inside or behind cover. Because all three modes are available on both the Griffin and the GBU-39, the complete programmable set is those three together. Missing any one of them would remove a degree of control—airburst distribution, direct impact, or delayed penetration—limiting effectiveness depending on the target.

4. Name three common firearm malfunctions.

A. Failure to feed, failure to fire, failure to eject (stovepipe or jam).

B. Failure to aim, failure to hold, failure to pull.

C. Overheating, rusting, bending.

D. Double feed, double eject, double shot.

In firearm operation, most jams are described by the stage of the cycle where the problem occurs: feeding, firing, or ejection. The three most common malfunctions you'll encounter are failure to feed, where a new round doesn't enter the chamber; failure to fire, where the round in the chamber does not ignite when the trigger is pulled; and failure to eject, where the spent case does not leave the chamber and can create a stovepipe or jam in the ejection port. Understanding these helps you quickly diagnose and clear stoppages: if nothing enters the chamber, you address feeding; if there's a misfire, you inspect ignition; if the spent casing won't eject, you clear the jam and try again. Other options describe things that aren't typical mechanical stoppages in the basic cycle: human factors like aiming or grip, or broader wear or damage like overheating, rusting, or bending, which aren't the standard triad of common malfunctions. The pairing of double feed, double eject, and double shot isn't the conventional trio either, so it doesn't match the common, classroom-taught failure modes.

5. Which bomb is an air-launched, winged glide bomb deployed from a wing-mounted rack, with 63 inch wingspan, weighing 250 pounds and 71 inches long?

A. GBU-39 (Small Diameter Bomb - SDB)

B. AGM-176 (Griffin Missile)

C. Drive Ratchet

D. Common Screwdriver

This item tests the ability to recognize the 250-pound, winged glide bomb based on its size, shape, and deployment method. The description—air-launched with a 63-inch wingspan, about 71 inches long, and weighing 250 pounds, deployed from a wing-mounted rack—matches the Small Diameter Bomb. The GBU-39 is a 250-lb class glide munition carried on aircraft pylons and released to glide to its target, using precise guidance to hit targets from stand-off ranges while minimizing collateral damage. The other options have different roles and dimensions; one is a smaller, differently equipped missile, and the remaining two aren't glide bombs released from wing racks. So, the best answer is the Small Diameter Bomb.

6. If the M240 is set to setting 2, what is the rounds per minute?

A. 750 rounds per minute

B. 850 rounds per minute

C. 950 rounds per minute

D. 700 rounds per minute

The idea being tested is how the M240's rate of fire is controlled by its regulator settings. The M240 has three regulator positions that change the cyclic rate. The middle setting is the standard rate, which runs at about 850 rounds per minute. This gives a practical balance between firepower and ammo use, while keeping heat and wear manageable during sustained fire. The lower setting decreases the rate for conserving ammunition and reducing wear, while the higher setting increases the rate for more firepower in short bursts, at the cost of greater ammo consumption and faster wear.

7. Explain the difference between a magazine and a clip.

A. Magazine stores cartridges and feeds them; a clip simply holds cartridges together for loading into a magazine.

B. Magazine holds cartridges during firing; clip releases spent casings.

C. Magazine is part of the handgun grip; clip is a tool for cleaning.

D. Magazine is a group of fired casings; clip ejects them.

The key idea is how they function during use. A magazine is the part that stores ammunition and feeds rounds into the chamber as the gun cycles. A clip, on the other hand, is a device that holds a group of cartridges together so they can be loaded into a magazine (or directly into the chamber) more quickly. It isn't responsible for feeding rounds during firing; that job belongs to the magazine and the gun's cycling action. Spent casings are ejected by the firearm's extractor and ejector, not by any clip. So, remember: magazines store and feed; clips are loading aids that group rounds together for quicker loading.

8. What device is described as being constructed of wire mesh and lightweight steel or titanium tubing to hold a survivor immobile in a face-up supine position?

A. Restraint Litter

B. Medical Stretcher

C. Stokes Litter

D. Survival Carrier

Immobilizing a survivor in a fixed, face-up position is a key requirement for certain rescue litters. The Stokes Litter is designed for rugged extraction and uses a wire-mesh basket supported by a lightweight steel or titanium tubing frame. This rigid construction locks the body in a supine orientation, minimizing movement during hoisting and transport over difficult terrain or through water. The wire mesh provides a stable, breathable base, while the tubular frame keeps the device strong yet portable for safe handling with ropes, lines, or winches. Other devices don't fit this description as well. A restraint litter is geared toward securing a person for transport rather than providing a rigid, mesh-based immobilization. A medical stretcher is typically a cushioned hospital or ambulance device, not a wire-m mesh basket with a tubular frame. A survival carrier is intended for general carrying in survival scenarios and doesn't emphasize the specific rigid immobilization of a survivor in a supine position.

9. What should you do if you suspect a barrel obstruction?

A. Continue firing to clear the obstruction quickly.

B. Do not fire; maintain muzzle discipline and have the range officer inspect the firearm.

C. Disassemble the firearm on the firing line.

D. Place the firearm down immediately and leave the range.

When you suspect a barrel obstruction, safety comes first: stop firing immediately, keep the firearm pointed downrange in a safe direction, and don't touch the trigger. The correct move is to have the range officer inspect the firearm. A obstruction can trap a projectile and dramatically increase pressure, potentially causing a catastrophic firearm failure that can injure you or others. By waiting for the range officer, you ensure the obstruction is checked and removed using the proper procedures and tools. Disassembling on the firing line or leaving the range with the firearm can create additional hazards and violate range rules. Once it's declared safe, you can resume only under the officer's guidance.

10. Which ammunition type uses a tungsten core to pierce light armor?

A. Incendiary

B. Armor Piercing

C. Ball

D. Dummy

Armor-piercing rounds are designed to penetrate armor by using a very hard, dense core that stays intact on impact. A tungsten core fits this purpose well because tungsten is extremely hard and dense, so when the round strikes armor it concentrates force at the tip and resists deformation. This helps the projectile punch through light armor without mushrooming or deforming, allowing it to reach the target behind the armor. Incendiary rounds are meant to ignite on impact, not to penetrate armor. Ball rounds are standard lead-core projectiles used for general-purpose shooting and do not specialize in armor penetration. Dummy rounds are inert and used for training, with no real projectile. So the tungsten-core, armor-penetrating design is what makes armor-piercing ammunition the best choice for piercing light armor.

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://smagunblock.examzify.com

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