

SOTACC Day 1 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. The MK-83 is associated with which REDS designation?**
 - A. REDS-285 (375)**
 - B. REDS-390 (415)**
 - C. REDS-405 (410)**
 - D. REDS-260 (350)**

- 2. Which term denotes maneuver in a specific direction relative to the target?**
 - A. Offset (direction)**
 - B. Jink**
 - C. Joker**
 - D. Pop**

- 3. Which term describes the sighting of a target that is independent of friendlies and focuses on the target itself?**
 - A. Tally**
 - B. Visual**
 - C. Contact**
 - D. Break**

- 4. Which term indicates the time an aircraft can remain on station?**
 - A. Playtime**
 - B. Joker**
 - C. Lowdown**
 - D. Pop**

- 5. In danger close engagements, which statement is true?**
 - A. Friendlies are inside 0.1 percent PI distance**
 - B. Should be employed parallel to friendlies**
 - C. Requires GFC initials**
 - D. All of the above**

- 6. Which bomb is a 2000-pound JDAM?**
- A. GBU-31**
 - B. GBU-32**
 - C. GBU-38**
 - D. GBU-54**
- 7. The GBU-16 is which weight and guidance?**
- A. 1000 pound, laser guided**
 - B. 500 pound, GPS guided**
 - C. 2000 pound, laser guided**
 - D. 1000 pound, GPS guided**
- 8. Which weapon is described as 500-pound low collateral?**
- A. BLU-126**
 - B. GBU-54**
 - C. GBU-12**
 - D. GBU-31**
- 9. Which sensors/targeting pods are listed for the FA-18 Hornet?**
- A. Litening and ATFLIR**
 - B. Litening and Sniper**
 - C. Litening II and Sniper**
 - D. ATFLIR only**
- 10. Which term stands for a Request for tactical ground picture of NAI?**
- A. Lowdown**
 - B. Playmate**
 - C. Offset (direction)**
 - D. A-10 (caps/lins)**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The MK-83 is associated with which REDS designation?

- A. REDS-285 (375)
- B. REDS-390 (415)**
- C. REDS-405 (410)
- D. REDS-260 (350)

Understanding how REDS designations map to specific ordnance helps you quickly identify the correct pairing. In this context, the MK-83, a 1000-pound general-purpose bomb, is associated with the standard REDS entry REDS-390 with the numeric modifier 415. This mapping is the one used in the official materials for this item, so it's the correct match. Other designations correspond to different weapons or configurations and do not match the MK-83.

2. Which term denotes maneuver in a specific direction relative to the target?

- A. Offset (direction)**
- B. Jink
- C. Joker
- D. Pop

Offset (direction) is about steering along a chosen lateral path relative to the target, creating a controlled offset from the target's direct line. This lets you maintain a specific bearing or distance while you maneuver, keep the target in the desired field of view, or position yourself for the next phase of an engagement. It's a planned, directional move rather than a quick, unpredictable dodge. A jink is a rapid, erratic dodge to avoid a threat, not a sustained relative-direction path. The other terms refer to different actions that don't capture the idea of maintaining a deliberate offset to the target.

3. Which term describes the sighting of a target that is independent of friendlies and focuses on the target itself?

- A. Tally**
- B. Visual
- C. Contact
- D. Break

The concept being tested is how you express a direct, verified sighting of a target that is not dependent on others' reports. The term used for that independent, personally confirmed sighting is tally. When you call tally, you're stating that you have seen the target with your own eyes, can positively identify it, and can track its location for purposes like targeting or safety, without needing corroboration from friendlies. This distinguishes it from a general sighting term or from terms that describe other kinds of contact. Visual is a broad cue that you can see something, but it doesn't inherently convey positive identification or independence from others' input. Contact signals that a target exists or is in your area, but again doesn't specify that you've independently confirmed it. Break has no relation to sighting or identification. So tally best communicates a direct, independent sighting of the target itself.

4. Which term indicates the time an aircraft can remain on station?

- A. Playtime**
- B. Joker**
- C. Lowdown**
- D. Pop**

The time an aircraft can remain on station is its on-station endurance, commonly called playtime. This is the window you have to loiter over the area of operations while still keeping enough fuel to accomplish the mission plan and safely return. It's figured from your total fuel on board, the burn rate for your chosen sortie profile (speed, altitude, payload), required reserves, weather, and any contingencies. When you're told your playtime, you know how long you can stay on station before you must break off or head home to ensure you're never fuel-short. Other terms refer to different flight fuel states or planning triggers rather than duration on station, so they don't describe how long you can maintain presence over the area.

5. In danger close engagements, which statement is true?

- A. Friendlies are inside 0.1 percent PI distance**
- B. Should be employed parallel to friendlies**
- C. Requires GFC initials**
- D. All of the above**

Danger close means friendly forces are so close to the target that the potential effects of fire could affect them, so every bit of control and approval is pushed to the limit. The distance to the point of impact being described as extremely small reflects that you're operating in the zone where collateral damage to friendly troops is most likely, so you must take extraordinary care with every fire mission. Fire should be oriented and delivered in a way that minimizes risk to those nearby, which often means shaping the fire so its effects travel parallel to the line of march or position of the friendlies rather than cutting across them. This helps keep blast, fragmentation, and backblast from sweeping through their unit. Because the risk is so high, formal authorization and coordination are required. The initials of the GFC indicate that the appropriate ground-force leadership has reviewed the plan, accepted the risk, and approved proceeding under the strict constraints and mitigations associated with danger close. When you consider these points together, they all describe essential elements of danger close procedures, so selecting all of the above is the best answer.

6. Which bomb is a 2000-pound JDAM?

- A. GBU-31**
- B. GBU-32**
- C. GBU-38**
- D. GBU-54**

JDAM designations encode the weight class of the bomb. The 2000-pound version in the JDAM family is the GBU-31, which uses a Mk-84 2000-lb bomb body with a GPS/INS guidance tail kit. The other designations correspond to smaller weights or different guidance: GBU-32 is the 1000-pound JDAM, while GBU-38 and GBU-54 are 500-pound variants (with GBU-54 being a laser-guided/LJDAM version). So for a 2000-pound JDAM, the correct match is the GBU-31.

7. The GBU-16 is which weight and guidance?

- A. 1000 pound, laser guided**
- B. 500 pound, GPS guided**
- C. 2000 pound, laser guided**
- D. 1000 pound, GPS guided**

The GBU-16 is a 1,000-pound laser-guided bomb. It belongs to the Paveway II line and uses semi-active laser guidance, meaning it homes in on a laser spot designated on the target by a laser designator. This weight and guidance pairing is distinct from lighter 500-pound laser-guided bombs or heavier 2,000-pound versions, and from GPS-guided bombs (which are the JDAM family). So the best match is a 1,000-pound bomb guided by laser.

8. Which weapon is described as 500-pound low collateral?

- A. BLU-126**
- B. GBU-54**
- C. GBU-12**
- D. GBU-31**

The main idea here is understanding what “low collateral” means in munitions: a weapon designed to minimize damage outside the target area, often by using a size and guidance approach that keeps blast, debris, and effects confined. The BLU-126 is described as a 500-pound bomb configured for low collateral effects, which is why it’s the best match for this description. The other weapons listed are known in their own right for precision and guidance, but they aren’t described with the same low-collateral label in the materials you’re studying. For example, the GBU-31 is a larger 2000-pound JDAM, while the GBU-12 and GBU-54 are 500-pound guided bombs (laser-guided and laser JDAM, respectively) whose emphasis is on precision rather than the specific low-collateral designation.

9. Which sensors/targeting pods are listed for the FA-18 Hornet?

- A. Litening and ATFLIR**
- B. Litening and Sniper**
- C. Litening II and Sniper**
- D. ATFLIR only**

Targeting pods give a fighter the ability to acquire, designate, and lase targets for precision weapons. For the F/A-18 Hornet, the two pods most commonly listed are Litening and ATFLIR. The Litening pod provides forward-looking infrared imagery and laser designation, helping identify and mark targets for guided munitions. ATFLIR offers advanced infrared imaging plus laser designation and data linkage with the aircraft’s weapons system, enhancing target discrimination and compatibility with a range of guided bombs and missiles. Together, they represent the standard pairing described for the Hornet in typical references. Litening II is a newer evolution of the Litening family, and the Sniper pod is a different targeting pod used on other platforms, so they aren’t the standard pairing shown for the Hornet in this context.

10. Which term stands for a Request for tactical ground picture of NAI?

A. Lowdown

B. Playmate

C. Offset (direction)

D. A-10 (caps/lims)

When you're requesting a tactical picture of a Named Area of Interest, you're asking for the latest on-the-ground information that gives you a clear, current view of what's happening there. The word that best captures that request is lowdown. It's a concise, common term used to signal "give me the current situation, the ground truth, and the important details you're seeing in that area." It implies a ready-to-use briefing or image of what's actually on the ground—locations, movements, threats, landmarks, and other factors that affect planning. The other terms don't fit because they refer to different ideas. Playmate isn't a standard ISR term for asking for ground information. Offset (direction) is a navigation concept used to shift a point or line of sight, not a request for a ground picture. A-10 (caps/lims) points to an asset or its operational limits, not to a request for situational imagery.

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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://sotaccd11.examzify.com>

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

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