Space and National Security Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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. FOBS stands for what?

A. Fractional Orbital Bombardment System

B. Foreign Orbital Ballistic System

C. Fractional Orbital Bombardment Scheme

D. Fractional Orbital Ballistic System

2. Which of the following best describes the concept of "strategy" as used in this course?

A. Strategy is a means by which advocates of space weaponization hope to achieve their political goals.

B. Strategy is the logical organization of ends, ways, and means in support of policy.

C. Strategy is not relevant in terms of national security space operations because we do not have weapons in space.

D. Strategy is the secret plan that every nation develops to help it win wars.

3. Which of the following is NOT an approach to deny potential adversaries the benefits of attacking satellites?

A. Striking a potential adversary's terrestrial-based space weapons before they can be employed.

B. Developing defenses to the extent feasible and affordable.

C. Dispersing space capabilities across a larger number of platforms.

D. Developing terrestrial backups to space support wherever possible.

4. Why did the Reagan administration take a more aggressive stance regarding military space programs than had previous administrations?

A. The Soviets were taking steps to weaponize and dominate orbital space

B. Given growing space support to conventional military operations, U.S. leaders doubted whether the Soviets would respect any tacit sanctuary in space

C. The administration believed the United States needed to take steps to protect its astronauts from increasingly aggressive behavior by Soviet Cosmonauts

D. During Reagan's tenure, the U.S. Air Force felt it necessary to seize the "high ground" of space

5. The 1985 ASAT test was launched from which aircraft?

A. F-16

B. B-52

C. F-14

D. F-15 fighter

6. What does GPALS stand for?

A. Global Program Against Limited Strikes

B. Ground-based Protection Against Limited Strikes

C. Global Protection Against Limited Strikes

D. Global Protection And Limited Strikes

7. Which action by the United States led to the creation of ballistic missile defense (BMD)?

A. The United States withdrew from the ABM Treaty and eliminated the distinction between NMD and TMD.

B. The United States established a space-based laser intercept system.

C. The United States canceled all missile defense programs.

D. The United States joined a new ABM treaty with Russia.

8. Ocean surveillance satellites are typically placed in which type of orbit?

A. MEO

B. Molniya

C. Low-inclination LEO

D. Highly-inclined LEO

9. Which 1963 treaty prohibited nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater?

A. The Partial Nuclear Test Treaty

B. The Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

C. The Outer Space Arms Treaty

D. The Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty

10. Which statement is not recommended for a space code of conduct proposed by Krepon, Hitchens, and Katz?

A. Admonition against the deliberate creation of persistent space debris.

B. Establishing "special caution areas" and "zoning restrictions" around each state's spacecraft.

C. Notifications and consultations regarding satellite maneuvers.

D. Requirements to clear all launch manifests through the United Nations to ensure they do not include space weapons.

Answers

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

Explanations

1. FOBS stands for what?

A. Fractional Orbital Bombardment System

B. Foreign Orbital Ballistic System

C. Fractional Orbital Bombardment Scheme

D. Fractional Orbital Ballistic System

FOBS describes using a partial Earth orbit to deliver a weapon, spending only part of a mission in orbit before deorbiting to strike. The standard term for this concept is Fractional Orbital Bombardment System, which conveys an integrated capability to place a warhead in orbit and then bring it down onto a target. The other phrasings alter the meaning: schemes imply only a plan, not an operational system; ballistic instead suggests a non-orbital path; and adding "Foreign" is unnecessary and changes the wording from the established acronym.

2. Which of the following best describes the concept of "strategy" as used in this course?

A. Strategy is a means by which advocates of space weaponization hope to achieve their political goals.

B. Strategy is the logical organization of ends, ways, and means in support of policy.

C. Strategy is not relevant in terms of national security space operations because we do not have weapons in space.

D. Strategy is the secret plan that every nation develops to help it win wars.

Strategy is about aligning what we want to achieve with how we plan to achieve it and what we have to do it. In space and national security terms, that means identifying a policy goal—like protecting space assets or preserving access to space—and then choosing the mix of actions (diplomacy, defense, partnerships, technology development, operations) that will deliver that goal, while making sure the necessary resources and risks are manageable. Ends are the desired outcomes, ways are the approaches and actions you take, and means are the resources—money, people, technology, and partnerships—that make those actions possible. The point is to keep these elements coherent: the chosen actions and resources should be capable of achieving the objective within constraints and norms. The other choices describe strategy in ways that don't fit this broader, policy-driven view—focusing on weaponization, claiming irrelevance, or imagining secrecy—whereas the correct concept centers on connecting goals to concrete actions and resources.

3. Which of the following is NOT an approach to deny potential adversaries the benefits of attacking satellites?

A. Striking a potential adversary's terrestrial-based space weapons before they can be employed.

B. Developing defenses to the extent feasible and affordable.

C. Dispersing space capabilities across a larger number of platforms.

D. Developing terrestrial backups to space support wherever possible.

The main idea is reducing how attractive attacking satellites is by making space assets harder to disrupt and easier to recover. Striking an adversary's terrestrial-based space weapons before they can be used is an offensive action aimed at nullifying the attacker's capability, not at denying them the benefits of attacking satellites through protection, redundancy, or continuity. It shifts the dynamic through preemption rather than strengthening the defenses and resilience that keep space operations going even if an attack occurs. By contrast, developing defenses to the extent feasible and affordable directly raises the cost and difficulty of an attack; dispersing space capabilities across more platforms reduces the risk of a single successful hit; and developing terrestrial backups ensures missions can continue even if space assets are degraded.

4. Why did the Reagan administration take a more aggressive stance regarding military space programs than had previous administrations?

A. The Soviets were taking steps to weaponize and dominate orbital space

B. Given growing space support to conventional military operations, U.S. leaders doubted whether the Soviets would respect any tacit sanctuary in space

C. The administration believed the United States needed to take steps to protect its astronauts from increasingly aggressive behavior by Soviet Cosmonauts

D. During Reagan's tenure, the U.S. Air Force felt it necessary to seize the "high ground" of space

Space assets had become a direct support line for military operations, shaping how war is waged through communications, navigation, reconnaissance, and early warning. Reagan's team saw the Soviets as advancing in space and no longer treating space as a neutral realm, so they doubted any tacit sanctuary in space would be respected. That belief made a more aggressive stance logical: invest to protect and leverage space-based capabilities, deter space threats, and push for stronger space defenses as part of a broader effort to ensure U.S. military superiority. While concerns about Soviet space activity and the idea of "seizing the high ground" reflect the atmosphere, the strongest explanation is the view that space was increasingly intertwined with conventional warfare and could not be left undefended or unconstrained.

5. The 1985 ASAT test was launched from which aircraft?

A. F-16

B. B-52

C. F-14

D. F-15 fighter

The test demonstrates an air-launched anti-satellite capability, where a fighter aircraft carries a missile designed to intercept a satellite in orbit. The F-15A Eagle was the platform chosen because it could carry and launch the ASM-135 ASAT missile and provide the needed avionics and flight performance for this specialized mission. This combination—the airframe plus the anti-satellite missile—enabled the first demonstration of an aircraft launch aimed at reaching and engaging a target in space. Other aircraft listed don't fit this particular mission because they weren't configured or used to launch the ASM-135 ASAT. The F-16, F-14, and B-52 were not employed as the launch platform for this 1985 ASAT test.

6. What does GPALS stand for?

A. Global Program Against Limited Strikes

B. Ground-based Protection Against Limited Strikes

C. Global Protection Against Limited Strikes

D. Global Protection And Limited Strikes

GPALS is a global protective concept aimed at defending against limited nuclear strikes. The phrase "Global Protection" signals worldwide coverage, while "Against Limited Strikes" specifies the threat type being addressed—smaller-scale attacks rather than a full-scale nuclear exchange. This balance reflects a policy idea to deter and defend against limited nuclear use on a global scale, rather than focusing on a regional or purely programmatic approach. The other options misstate either the scope or the mechanism—adding "Program," narrowing to "Ground-based," or inserting incorrect phrasing—whereas the correct expansion captures the intended meaning: Global Protection Against Limited Strikes.

7. Which action by the United States led to the creation of ballistic missile defense (BMD)?

A. The United States withdrew from the ABM Treaty and eliminated the distinction between NMD and TMD.

B. The United States established a space-based laser intercept system.

C. The United States canceled all missile defense programs.

D. The United States joined a new ABM treaty with Russia.

The central idea is how international treaties influence defense capabilities. The ABM Treaty of 1972 capped anti-ballistic missile defenses and kept a clear line between national and theater defenses to maintain strategic stability. When the United States withdrew from the ABM Treaty, those legal and strategic limits were removed. That change allowed building a broader ballistic missile defense that could protect the United States as a whole and integrate national and theater defense efforts, effectively eliminating the old distinction between NMD and TMD. The other options would not have driven the creation of BMD: canceling programs would halt it; joining a new ABM treaty would reimpose constraints; a space-based laser system describes a technology path, not the policy move that enabled BMD.

8. Ocean surveillance satellites are typically placed in which type of orbit?

A. MEO

B. Molniya

C. Low-inclination LEO

D. Highly-inclined LEO

Coverage patterns from a satellite depend on how steeply its orbit tilts relative to the equator. For ocean surveillance you want passes that reach across most of the planet, including mid and high latitudes where vast ocean areas lie. A low-inclination orbit hugs near the equator, so it would miss large swaths of ocean regions at higher latitudes most of the time, requiring many satellites to blanket the globe. A highly elliptical orbit like Molniya favors long dwell times over high latitudes, which is great for communications with those regions but isn't ideal for frequent, global ocean imaging or monitoring. A medium or higher altitude orbit (MEO) spreads ground coverage over a larger area but sacrifices resolution and increases revisit times for a given imaging capability. In contrast, a highly inclined low-Earth orbit gives frequent passes over much of the globe, including the oceans, while staying close enough to Earth to maintain high-resolution, timely observations. This combination makes it the best fit for continuous, global ocean surveillance.

9. Which 1963 treaty prohibited nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater?

A. The Partial Nuclear Test Treaty

B. The Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

C. The Outer Space Arms Treaty

D. The Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty

The idea being tested is how nuclear testing was limited to reduce environmental fallout and de-escalate the arms race. In 1963, the major nuclear powers agreed to ban nuclear explosions in three environments—the atmosphere, outer space, and underwater—while allowing underground tests to continue. This treaty directly targets the scenarios listed in the question, making it the right choice because it sets those exact restrictions on where explosions can occur, helping cut down radioactive fallout and ease international tensions. Other options don't fit the scenario: one treaty focuses on weapons in space rather than testing locations, and another deals with missile defenses rather than test explosions. The remaining name refers to the same 1963 agreement, though different sources may use different labels for it.

10. Which statement is not recommended for a space code of conduct proposed by Krepon, Hitchens, and Katz?

A. Admonition against the deliberate creation of persistent space debris.

B. Establishing "special caution areas" and "zoning restrictions" around each state's spacecraft.

C. Notifications and consultations regarding satellite maneuvers.

D. Requirements to clear all launch manifests through the United Nations to ensure they do not include space weapons.

The main idea here is reducing risk in space operations through practical, cooperative norms that nations can actually adopt. The recommended statements focus on minimizing hazards and improving transparency in a way that respects national interests: avoiding debris creation to keep space usable for everyone, designating cautious areas or zones around spacecraft to reduce the chance of accidents, and sharing notices about planned satellite maneuvers to prevent surprises and misinterpretations. The option that would require clearing all launch manifests through the United Nations to ensure they do not include space weapons is not aligned with how a space code of conduct is typically envisioned. Mandating UN clearance for every launch would be a heavy, centralized verification regime that raises sovereignty concerns, is difficult to verify given dual-use technologies, and is likely impractical to implement universally. It could also hinder legitimate civilian, commercial, and defense activities without guaranteeing an absolute ban on weapons in space. In contrast, the other measures promote safety and coordination in a feasible, voluntary framework, which is why they are favored.

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://spaceandnatsecurity.examzify.com

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