

# Squadron Officer School (SOS) Class 26A Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

**This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,**

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**SAMPLE**

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.**

## **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.**

## **7. Use Other Tools**

**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!**

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## Questions

- 1. What role does the National Military Strategy (NMS) play in relation to the NDS?**
  - A. It provides a general overview of global military threats**
  - B. It offers specific guidance on achieving NDS objectives**
  - C. It outlines the budget for military operations**
  - D. It discusses international partnerships**
- 2. What is the main focus of the Protection joint function?**
  - A. Resource allocation for operations**
  - B. Preservation of personnel and equipment**
  - C. Command and control effectiveness**
  - D. Gathering intelligence on adversaries**
- 3. What type of operations does JADO signify?**
  - A. Operations focusing solely on land**
  - B. Exclusive air operations**
  - C. Integrated operations across all domains**
  - D. Naval-focused operations**
- 4. What role does understanding interests play in negotiation?**
  - A. It complicates the negotiation process**
  - B. It diminishes the ability to reach a deal**
  - C. It aids in finding mutually beneficial solutions**
  - D. It creates barriers to effective communication**
- 5. What is a key enabler of the ACE concept?**
  - A. Mission Planning**
  - B. Logistics Support**
  - C. Mission Command**
  - D. Intelligence Gathering**

- 6. Which role is responsible for designating the leader of a joint task force?**
- A. Deputy Commander**
  - B. Combatant Commander**
  - C. Chief of Operations**
  - D. Joint Chief of Staff**
- 7. Why is mentorship important in the Air Force?**
- A. It delays career progression**
  - B. It fosters professional growth and skill development**
  - C. It promotes favoritism**
  - D. It encourages self-reliance only**
- 8. What term describes the local control of movements and maneuvers within an operational area?**
- A. OPCON**
  - B. TACON**
  - C. ADCON**
  - D. FPCON**
- 9. Which barrier to effective communication involves differences in language?**
- A. Cultural misunderstandings**
  - B. Emotional biases**
  - C. Language differences**
  - D. Environmental distractions**
- 10. What is one of the four phases of the AFFORGEN cycle?**
- A. Prepare**
  - B. Deploy**
  - C. Execute**
  - D. Reset**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

**1. What role does the National Military Strategy (NMS) play in relation to the NDS?**

- A. It provides a general overview of global military threats**
- B. It offers specific guidance on achieving NDS objectives**
- C. It outlines the budget for military operations**
- D. It discusses international partnerships**

The National Military Strategy (NMS) plays a crucial role in providing specific guidance on how to achieve the objectives laid out in the National Defense Strategy (NDS). The NDS outlines the overarching defense priorities and strategic vision for the military, while the NMS translates these priorities into concrete military actions and plans. Essentially, the NMS provides the framework within which military forces will be organized, trained, and mobilized to meet the goals set forth in the NDS, ensuring that military operations align with national security objectives. This alignment is vital for effective planning and execution, which facilitates a focused and cohesive approach to addressing the threats and challenges identified in the NDS.

**2. What is the main focus of the Protection joint function?**

- A. Resource allocation for operations**
- B. Preservation of personnel and equipment**
- C. Command and control effectiveness**
- D. Gathering intelligence on adversaries**

The main focus of the Protection joint function is the preservation of personnel and equipment. This function is critical in military operations, as it encompasses the various measures taken to safeguard forces and resources against threats. This includes defensive actions, risk management strategies, and planning that ensures the safety and security of both personnel and equipment throughout the operational environment. By prioritizing preservation, military units can maintain their effectiveness in executing missions, thereby maximizing their operational capabilities. Effective protection measures involve coordination across various levels of command and ensure that all units are prepared to respond to threats, enhancing overall mission success. Understanding this function is essential for officers, as it underpins the broader strategic goal of maintaining combat readiness and operational sustainability.

### 3. What type of operations does JADO signify?

- A. Operations focusing solely on land
- B. Exclusive air operations
- C. Integrated operations across all domains**
- D. Naval-focused operations

JADO, or Joint All-Domain Operations, represents a modern military approach that emphasizes integrated operations across all domains of warfare, including land, air, maritime, space, and cyber. The philosophy behind JADO is to leverage the strengths and capabilities of different military branches and operational domains to create a more effective and coordinated response to a variety of threats and challenges. This approach allows for a more holistic view of military engagements, enabling forces to operate seamlessly across all areas rather than in isolation. It involves joint planning and execution that considers the interconnectivity of various platforms and systems, thereby enhancing overall mission effectiveness. In contrast, focusing solely on land, exclusive air operations, or naval-focused operations would limit the scope of military capabilities and responsiveness. Each of those other choices represents a narrower view that does not capture the essence of joint and integrated operations that encompasses the entire operational environment.

### 4. What role does understanding interests play in negotiation?

- A. It complicates the negotiation process
- B. It diminishes the ability to reach a deal
- C. It aids in finding mutually beneficial solutions**
- D. It creates barriers to effective communication

Understanding interests in negotiation is crucial as it lays the groundwork for identifying and achieving mutually beneficial solutions. When negotiators grasp the underlying interests or needs of both parties, they can navigate past positional demands and focus on collaborative outcomes. This perspective enables them to explore options that might not be apparent when solely considering stated positions. For instance, if one party prioritizes cost savings while the other values quality, understanding these interests allows both parties to explore alternatives that meet their respective goals—such as finding a high-quality solution that fits within budget constraints. This creates opportunities for innovation and compromise, leading to more effective and satisfactory agreements. Moreover, focusing on interests fosters an environment of trust and collaboration, as parties are more likely to feel heard and understood. This communicative approach not only enhances relationships but also increases the likelihood of reaching a sustainable, long-term agreement that addresses the key concerns of all involved.

## 5. What is a key enabler of the ACE concept?

- A. Mission Planning
- B. Logistics Support
- C. Mission Command**
- D. Intelligence Gathering

The key enabler of the Agile Combat Employment (ACE) concept is mission command. This approach emphasizes decentralized execution and the ability for commanders at various levels to make decisions based on the immediate tactical situation rather than relying solely on higher-level directives. It aligns well with the principles of ACE, which seeks agility, flexibility, and rapid decision-making in complex and dynamic environments. Mission command enables forces to operate more autonomously and responsively, facilitating rapid adjustments to plans and the effective use of resources as situations evolve. In the context of ACE, leveraging mission command helps to optimize the deployment and maneuver of air forces across dispersed locations, thus enhancing operational effectiveness. This emphasis on decentralized decision-making is crucial when considering the high-tempo nature of modern warfare, where the ability to adapt quickly can significantly impact mission success. The synergy between mission command and the ACE concept allows for more effective operations in contested environments.

## 6. Which role is responsible for designating the leader of a joint task force?

- A. Deputy Commander
- B. Combatant Commander**
- C. Chief of Operations
- D. Joint Chief of Staff

The designation of the leader for a joint task force falls under the responsibility of the Combatant Commander. The Combatant Commander has authority over assigned forces and is tasked with developing the operational plan and coordination for joint operations. This role is critical because the Combatant Commander is involved in establishing objectives, allocating resources, and ensuring that the joint task force is structured to effectively address specific missions. Given the complexities of joint operations, effective leadership is essential, and the Combatant Commander is well-positioned to make the selection based on their understanding of the strategic and tactical requirements of the mission, as well as the skills of potential leaders. This ensures that the joint task force is led by someone who has the requisite experience and insight necessary for successful outcomes. The other roles, while significant within their own contexts, do not possess the overarching authority to designate the leader in this way.

## 7. Why is mentorship important in the Air Force?

- A. It delays career progression
- B. It fosters professional growth and skill development**
- C. It promotes favoritism
- D. It encourages self-reliance only

Mentorship plays a crucial role in the Air Force as it fosters professional growth and skill development. Through effective mentoring, experienced personnel share their knowledge, experiences, and insights with less experienced members. This relationship not only helps mentees acquire new skills and enhance their competencies but also aids in understanding organizational culture and navigating career paths effectively. Mentorship helps to build confidence and motivation, allowing individuals to take on new challenges and responsibilities. In the context of the Air Force, having mentors can be particularly beneficial in preparing members for leadership roles, as they can impart lessons learned and best practices that contribute to better decision-making and overall mission success. Moreover, mentorship aligns with the Air Force's commitment to fostering a supportive environment that promotes professional relationships and continuous learning, ultimately benefiting the entire organization.

## 8. What term describes the local control of movements and maneuvers within an operational area?

- A. OPCODE
- B. TACON**
- C. ADCON
- D. FPCON

The term that describes the local control of movements and maneuvers within an operational area is Tactical Control, often abbreviated as TACON. TACON is a command authority that provides the capability to direct forces for specific operations or tasks within a defined area. This means that while the overall strategic direction might be determined by higher command levels, TACON allows for detailed management of resources and assignments at the local level, enabling flexibility and responsiveness during operations. This is crucial in military operations where commanders need to adapt to dynamic situations on the ground, making it essential for effective execution of missions within a designated area. The local control facilitates coordination among different units and can often lead to more efficient and precise execution of tactical plans. The other choices pertain to different levels of command authority and operational control, which do not specifically address local movement and maneuver. For instance, Operational Control (OPCON) involves broader command authority allowing for assigning forces to accomplish missions, but not as granular as TACON. Additionally, Administrative Control (ADCON) relates to the administrative oversight and support of forces rather than direct control of their movements. Force Protection Condition (FPCON) refers to a system for categorizing the threat level and corresponding protective measures, which isn't about command control and

**9. Which barrier to effective communication involves differences in language?**

- A. Cultural misunderstandings**
- B. Emotional biases**
- C. Language differences**
- D. Environmental distractions**

Language differences represent a significant barrier to effective communication because they can create misunderstandings and inhibit the clear exchange of ideas and information. When individuals speak different languages or have varying levels of proficiency in a common language, it can lead to misinterpretations of messages, confusion about meanings, and an overall breakdown in communication. This barrier becomes particularly significant in diverse environments, such as multicultural workplaces or international collaborations, where participants may not share a common language. Effective communication hinges on a mutual understanding of the language being used, including nuances like idioms, jargon, and context-specific expressions. When language is a barrier, it limits the ability to convey thoughts, ask questions, and engage in meaningful dialogue, ultimately affecting cooperation and productivity.

**10. What is one of the four phases of the AFFORGEN cycle?**

- A. Prepare**
- B. Deploy**
- C. Execute**
- D. Reset**

The AFFORGEN (Air Force Force Generation) cycle is designed to ensure that Air Force units can effectively prepare for and execute missions while maintaining operational readiness across a continuum of operations. One of the key phases of this cycle is the Prepare phase. During the Prepare phase, units focus on enhancing their capabilities through training, readiness assessments, and equipping personnel with the necessary skills and resources to perform their missions. This phase is critical because it sets the foundation for subsequent phases, ensuring that the force is ready to deploy and execute missions effectively. The emphasis on preparation allows units to address deficiencies, develop strategies, and strengthen team cohesion, which are essential for successful operations. Understanding this phase provides insight into the overall framework of the AFFORGEN cycle and highlights the importance of readiness in operational planning and execution.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://sosclass26a.examzify.com>**

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