

# Staff Sergeant-Technical Sergeant Professional Development Guide (PDG) Practice Exam (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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# 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**

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- 1. What domains does doctrine integrate to achieve desired warfighting effects?**
  - A. Air, land and sea**
  - B. Air, sea and cyberspace**
  - C. Air, space and cyberspace**
  - D. Land, sea and intelligence**
  
- 2. What radar system is used for ballistic missile early warning?**
  - A. Upgraded Early Warning Radar System**
  - B. The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System**
  - C. PAVE Phased Array Warning System**
  - D. Perimeter Acquisition Radar Attack Characterization System**
  
- 3. A 1994 humanitarian airlift carried 3,600 tons of relief supplies to refugees in which war-torn African country?**
  - A. Sierra Leone**
  - B. Rwanda**
  - C. Somalia**
  - D. The Democratic Republic of Congo**
  
- 4. Did the Desert Storm air campaign showcase the effectiveness of airpower on a conventional battlefield?**
  - A. True**
  - B. False**
  - C. It was inconclusive**
  - D. Only in specific regions**
  
- 5. What type of Air Force operations determine the level of degree of air control?**
  - A. Counterland operations**
  - B. Counterair operations**
  - C. Countersea operations**
  - D. Counterintelligence operations**

**6. Which operation involved limited air actions against North Vietnam but resulted in increasing US losses?**

- A. Operation Linebacker**
- B. Operation Farmgate**
- C. Operation Rolling Thunder**
- D. Operation Barrel Roll**

**7. Which auxiliary role was needed most among trained enlisted personnel prior to WWI?**

- A. Pilot**
- B. Mechanic**
- C. Supply Specialist**
- D. Reconnaissance Officer**

**8. What was a crucial component of the Allied strategy to overcome the Luftwaffe during WWII?**

- A. Detailed espionage missions**
- B. Control of supply lines**
- C. Effective integration of air defenses**
- D. Naval blockades**

**9. The first Tuskegee Airmen to fight in WWII were members of which squadron?**

- A. 99th Fighter Squadron**
- B. 101st Airborne Division**
- C. 447th Bomb Group**
- D. 332nd Fighter Group**

**10. Operation Vittles was a significant effort to support which organization?**

- A. North American Aerospace Defense Command**
- B. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**
- C. The United Nations**
- D. The Pacific Air Forces**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What domains does doctrine integrate to achieve desired warfighting effects?**

- A. Air, land and sea**
- B. Air, sea and cyberspace**
- C. Air, space and cyberspace**
- D. Land, sea and intelligence**

The correct answer reflects the essential domains that the Air Force considers critical for modern warfare and operational effectiveness. Air, space, and cyberspace are interconnected domains that enable comprehensive strategy and tactics in contemporary military operations. Air operations dominate the battlefield's vertical dimension and facilitate mobility and force projection. Space operations provide critical capabilities such as satellite communications, navigation, reconnaissance, and weather data, thereby enhancing situational awareness and operational planning. Cyberspace operations are vital for securing and leveraging information technology, communication networks, and digital intelligence, which are all crucial for modern warfare. Integrating these three domains allows military forces to create synergistic effects that enhance overall combat effectiveness and adaptability in a rapidly changing operational environment. By aligning operational doctrine with these domains, the military can ensure it effectively employs resources to achieve its strategic objectives.

**2. What radar system is used for ballistic missile early warning?**

- A. Upgraded Early Warning Radar System**
- B. The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System**
- C. PAVE Phased Array Warning System**
- D. Perimeter Acquisition Radar Attack Characterization System**

The Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS) is specifically designed for the detection and tracking of incoming ballistic missiles. This system serves as a vital component of a country's early warning capabilities, allowing for timely alerts and responses to potential threats. BMEWS operates by using a series of radar installations positioned strategically around potential threat vectors to detect missile launches and provide tracking data. This capability is critical for national defense, as it enables military and government leaders to make informed decisions in response to ballistic missile threats. While the other radar systems serve various purposes, such as providing situational awareness, tracking air traffic, or offering missile tracking capabilities with a different focus, the BMEWS is uniquely tailored for early warning concerning ballistic missile launches. Its dedicated design to detect, track, and provide warning of ballistic missile threats sets it apart as the correct choice for this question.

**3. A 1994 humanitarian airlift carried 3,600 tons of relief supplies to refugees in which war-torn African country?**

- A. Sierra Leone**
- B. Rwanda**
- C. Somalia**
- D. The Democratic Republic of Congo**

The correct answer is Rwanda. The 1994 humanitarian airlift specifically refers to the efforts made in response to the Rwandan Genocide, which resulted in a massive humanitarian crisis as millions of people were displaced, leading to urgent needs for food, medical aid, and shelter. During this time, various international organizations and countries mobilized to deliver aid, and significant relief efforts were organized to address the overwhelming needs of the refugees. While the other countries listed may have experienced conflicts or humanitarian issues, they are not associated with the large-scale airlift of 3,600 tons of supplies that took place specifically in 1994. Rwanda's situation was characterized by an immediate and dire need for assistance, which prompted the humanitarian response that is remembered for its scale and urgency.

**4. Did the Desert Storm air campaign showcase the effectiveness of airpower on a conventional battlefield?**

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. It was inconclusive**
- D. Only in specific regions**

The assertion that the Desert Storm air campaign showcased the effectiveness of airpower on a conventional battlefield is supported by a clear demonstration of how airpower can achieve strategic objectives, such as rapid dominance and force multiplication. During Operation Desert Storm, the coalition forces utilized a combination of precision bombing, air superiority, and comprehensive air support, which significantly disrupted the enemy's command and control, logistics, and infrastructure. The effectiveness of this air campaign was evident in its ability to incapacitate the Iraqi military capabilities before ground forces launched their offensive. This embrace of airpower not only enabled the coalition to conduct operations with unprecedented speed but also minimized friendly casualties and damage compared to previous conflicts, thus illustrating a successful model of air combat operations. In the context of understanding airpower's role in modern warfare, the outcome of Desert Storm has been frequently referenced to argue for the primacy of air forces in contemporary military operations. The successful utilization of airpower in this scenario stands as a clear example of its decisive impact on conventional warfare, making the answer true.

**5. What type of Air Force operations determine the level of degree of air control?**

- A. Counterland operations**
- B. Counterair operations**
- C. Countersea operations**
- D. Counterintelligence operations**

Counterair operations are specifically designed to gain control of the airspace during military operations. This type of operation is essential because it influences the degree of air control a force can achieve over a specific area. The main objectives of counterair operations include both offensive and defensive measures aimed at defeating or destroying enemy air capabilities and protecting friendly forces from enemy air attacks. By effectively conducting counterair operations, a military force can establish air superiority, which greatly enhances the effectiveness of other operations, such as ground and naval engagements. Achieving air control is critical because it allows for the safe movement of forces and resources, the execution of precision strikes on enemy targets, and the support of friendly ground operations. In contrast, the other options pertain to different operational focuses that do not primarily dictate air control. Counterland operations focus on land warfare strategies, countersea operations deal with naval engagements, and counterintelligence operations revolve around activities that protect intelligence from adversaries. Therefore, they do not directly affect the determination of air control levels.

**6. Which operation involved limited air actions against North Vietnam but resulted in increasing US losses?**

- A. Operation Linebacker**
- B. Operation Farmgate**
- C. Operation Rolling Thunder**
- D. Operation Barrel Roll**

Operation Rolling Thunder was a sustained bombing campaign that took place from March 1965 to November 1968. It aimed to weaken the North Vietnamese government's resolve and enhance the morale of the South Vietnamese forces. However, this operation involved an extensive bombing strategy that included limited air actions over North Vietnam, which ultimately led to significant U.S. losses, both in aircraft and personnel. The campaign faced various challenges, including the resilience of North Vietnamese air defenses and the tactical complexity of the mission. Over time, tactics were adjusted in response to the increasing losses, but the initial strategy did not yield the anticipated outcomes. Civilians in North Vietnam also suffered heavily, creating a contentious environment and international criticism of U.S. actions. In contrast, other operations like Operation Linebacker focused more on specific objectives and were conducted later in the Vietnam War with different strategies, while Operation Farmgate primarily provided support through training and advising South Vietnamese forces. Operation Barrel Roll, on the other hand, was directed more towards operations in Laos and had different goals than those pursued in Vietnam.

**7. Which auxiliary role was needed most among trained enlisted personnel prior to WWI?**

- A. Pilot**
- B. Mechanic**
- C. Supply Specialist**
- D. Reconnaissance Officer**

The correct answer is mechanic. Prior to World War I, the rapid expansion and modernization of military aviation created a significant demand for skilled mechanics who could maintain and repair aircraft. As aviation technology evolved, the need for support personnel who understood the intricacies of aircraft systems and could ensure they were operational became critical. This role was essential because, without properly functioning aircraft, the effectiveness of air operations would have been severely compromised. The focus on mechanics also highlights the broader trend during this period of increasing reliance on machinery and technology in warfare, marking a transition in military operations that would continue to develop throughout the 20th century. While pilots were crucial for flying the planes, the infrastructure to support those aviation operations depended heavily on a solid ground crew of mechanics. Supply specialists and reconnaissance officers also played important roles, but the immediate requirements of fleet maintenance in the nascent stages of military aviation placed a higher emphasis on the availability of trained mechanics.

**8. What was a crucial component of the Allied strategy to overcome the Luftwaffe during WWII?**

- A. Detailed espionage missions**
- B. Control of supply lines**
- C. Effective integration of air defenses**
- D. Naval blockades**

The effective integration of air defenses was a crucial component of the Allied strategy to overcome the Luftwaffe during World War II. This approach was essential because it enabled the Allies to coordinate and maximize their defensive capabilities against the air assaults carried out by the German air force. During the war, the Luftwaffe aimed to achieve air superiority, which was critical for supporting ground and naval operations. The Allies recognized that without a robust air defense system, they would struggle to protect their forces and infrastructure. By effectively integrating different elements of air defense—including radar systems, anti-aircraft artillery, and fighter aircraft—the Allies were able to detect incoming attacks sooner, engage enemy aircraft more effectively, and reduce the impact of bombing campaigns. This holistic air defense strategy was demonstrated in key battles, such as the Battle of Britain, where the integration of various forces and technologies allowed the Royal Air Force to challenge and ultimately thwart the Luftwaffe's plans for domination over Britain. The ability to protect vital resources and maintain operational capabilities through air defense became fundamental to the Allied strategy moving forward in the conflict.

**9. The first Tuskegee Airmen to fight in WWII were members of which squadron?**

- A. 99th Fighter Squadron**
- B. 101st Airborne Division**
- C. 447th Bomb Group**
- D. 332nd Fighter Group**

The first Tuskegee Airmen to engage in combat during World War II were indeed members of the 99th Fighter Squadron. This squadron played a pivotal role in testing the capabilities of African-American pilots, proving their skills and effectiveness in aerial combat. The 99th Fighter Squadron is historically significant as it was the first African-American military aviation unit to serve the United States during WWII and helped to challenge the prevailing racial discrimination of the era. The Tuskegee Airmen were part of a broader initiative to train African-American pilots during a time when the military was segregated. The success of the 99th Fighter Squadron not only contributed to the war effort but also laid the groundwork for desegregation in the U.S. military in later years. Their contributions were crucial in breaking barriers and changing perceptions about African-American service members, marking a significant milestone in American military history.

**10. Operation Vittles was a significant effort to support which organization?**

- A. North American Aerospace Defense Command**
- B. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**
- C. The United Nations**
- D. The Pacific Air Forces**

Operation Vittles was a crucial effort related to the Berlin Airlift, which took place from 1948 to 1949. This operation was primarily aimed at supplying West Berlin with food and other essential goods after the Soviet Union blockaded all ground routes into the city. The underlying context of this operation directly involved the larger framework of the Cold War, where the Western nations, including the United States and its allies, were working to contain Soviet influence in Europe. The significance of Operation Vittles lies in its direct support for the ideals and objectives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which was established shortly after the Berlin Blockade as a collective defense alliance against potential Soviet aggression. The successful delivery of supplies to West Berlin not only demonstrated the commitment of NATO members to one another but also strengthened the cohesion among Western allies in the face of communism. Thus, Operation Vittles stands as a testament to NATO's formation and its objectives during a critical period in Cold War history, making the North Atlantic Treaty Organization the correct association for this operation.

# 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://ssgttsgtpdg.examzify.com>**

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

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