

STAFF SERGEANT- TECHNICAL SERGEANT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GUIDE (PDG) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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. What was the objective of Operation Odyssey Dawn launched on 20 March 2011?**
 - A. To maintain peace negotiations in Libya
 - B. To protect Libyan citizens from Gadhafi's regime
 - C. To secure oil supplies in the region
 - D. To establish a no-fly zone over Tunisia

- 2. Which US President first authorized American intervention in Vietnam?**
 - A. President Lyndon B. Johnson
 - B. President Richard Nixon
 - C. President Harry S. Truman
 - D. President John F. Kennedy

- 3. What aircraft made its debut during Operation Just Cause in 1989?**
 - A. F-15 Eagle
 - B. F-117 Nighthawk
 - C. B-2 Spirit
 - D. F-14 Tomcat

- 4. What is the role of the Joint Staff?**
 - A. To perform administrative tasks for the Secretary of Defense
 - B. To assist members of the JCS with strategic direction and integration of forces
 - C. To conduct field operations and training exercises
 - D. To represent military interests in Congress

- 5. Who would become the first enlisted Airman to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Air Force Cross posthumously?**
 - A. SSgt William H. Pitsenbarger
 - B. SrA Jason D. Cunningham
 - C. Col Eileen M. Collins
 - D. CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger

- 6. What type of aircraft exemplifies highly maneuverable dogfighting capabilities armed with missiles and cannon?**
- A. F-14 Tomcat
 - B. F-15 Eagle
 - C. F-16 Fighting Falcon
 - D. F-22 Raptor
- 7. Colonel William "Billy" Mitchell advocated for what regarding the Air Force?**
- A. A. Its integration with the Army
 - B. B. Its independence from the Army
 - C. C. The elimination of air power
 - D. D. Increased funding for Navy aviation
- 8. What operation sought to target modified Soviet Scud missiles during the Gulf War but was deemed unsuccessful?**
- A. The Great Scud Hunt
 - B. Operation Desert Shield
 - C. Operation Provide Relief
 - D. Operation Restore Hope
- 9. Where did Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews die in an aircraft accident?**
- A. Germany
 - B. France
 - C. Japan
 - D. Iceland
- 10. Who was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross and became the first E-9 to receive the Medal of Honor?**
- A. Chief Master Sergeant Richard L. Etchberger
 - B. Sergeant First Class William H. Pitsenbarger
 - C. Colonel Jason D. Cunningham
 - D. Sergeant Major Eileen M. Collins

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What was the objective of Operation Odyssey Dawn launched on 20 March 2011?

- A. To maintain peace negotiations in Libya
- B. To protect Libyan citizens from Gadhafi's regime**
- C. To secure oil supplies in the region
- D. To establish a no-fly zone over Tunisia

The objective of Operation Odyssey Dawn, which began on 20 March 2011, was primarily to protect Libyan citizens from the oppressive actions of Muammar Gadhafi's regime. This operation was executed as part of a broader international response, initiated by concerns over the humanitarian crisis and violence resulting from Gadhafi's crackdown on protests during the Libyan Civil War. The decision to intervene was driven by the need to support the civilian population facing attack and repression from their own government. The operation aimed to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973, which called for the protection of civilians and the establishment of a no-fly zone over Libya to prevent Gadhafi's forces from attacking civilians from the air. While securing regional stability and oil supplies are often cited factors in geopolitical operations, they were not the direct objectives of this particular mission. Similarly, establishing a no-fly zone over Tunisia was not part of Operation Odyssey Dawn's goals, as the focus was solely on Libya and the humanitarian crisis unfolding there.

2. Which US President first authorized American intervention in Vietnam?

- A. President Lyndon B. Johnson
- B. President Richard Nixon
- C. President Harry S. Truman**
- D. President John F. Kennedy

The correct choice highlights President Harry S. Truman's role in the early stages of American involvement in Vietnam, which laid the groundwork for future interventions. Following World War II, Truman's administration provided support to the French colonial efforts in Indochina, which included Vietnam. This decision set a precedent for U.S. involvement in the region, as Truman believed in the necessity of containing communism and supporting allies against communist movements. His actions included the provision of financial and military aid to the French, framing the early commitment to Vietnam as part of a broader strategy to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. This historical context illustrates how Truman's stance was pivotal, considering it marked the United States' initial engagement in Vietnam, paving the way for subsequent escalations under later administrations.

3. What aircraft made its debut during Operation Just Cause in 1989?

- A. F-15 Eagle
- B. F-117 Nighthawk**
- C. B-2 Spirit
- D. F-14 Tomcat

The F-117 Nighthawk debuted during Operation Just Cause in 1989, marking a significant milestone in military aviation as it was the first operational aircraft specifically designed for stealth. Its unique design and technology allowed it to evade radar detection, which was revolutionary at that time and set the stage for future stealth aircraft. The F-117's first combat use during Operation Just Cause demonstrated its capabilities effectively, allowing for precision strikes against high-value targets with minimal detection. This showcased the U.S. Air Force's advancement in stealth technology, enabling more strategic military operations. In contrast, the other aircraft listed, while important in their own right, were not introduced or used in combat during this operation. Hence, the F-117's unique attributes and its debut during such a pivotal military campaign validate its selection as the correct answer.

4. What is the role of the Joint Staff?

- A. To perform administrative tasks for the Secretary of Defense
- B. To assist members of the JCS with strategic direction and integration of forces**
- C. To conduct field operations and training exercises
- D. To represent military interests in Congress

The role of the Joint Staff is to assist members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) with strategic direction and the integration of forces. This is a critical responsibility as the Joint Staff provides the necessary analysis, planning, and execution processes required to support the strategic objectives of the armed forces. They ensure that military operations are coordinated across different branches and that strategies align with overall national security goals. By facilitating communication and cooperation among various military branches, the Joint Staff plays a pivotal role in effectuating a unified approach to defense and operations. Their expertise is vital in crafting policies, providing advisory support, and ensuring that all forces can work seamlessly together. This role is central to maintaining effectiveness and readiness in a joint operational environment.

5. Who would become the first enlisted Airman to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Air Force Cross posthumously?

- A. SSgt William H. Pitsenbarger**
- B. SrA Jason D. Cunningham
- C. Col Eileen M. Collins
- D. CMSgt Richard L. Etchberger

The first enlisted Airman to receive both the Medal of Honor and the Air Force Cross posthumously is SSgt William H. Pitsenbarger. His bravery and selflessness during the Vietnam War are well-documented, particularly during the battle of Sai Son Valley in 1966. While significantly injured, Pitsenbarger chose to remain in the fight to help save his comrades despite the risk to his own life. He provided critical air medical assistance and defended his position until he was killed. His actions exemplified the highest level of heroism and commitment to his fellow service members, which ultimately led to him being awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously in 2000, decades after his initial recognition with the Air Force Cross. This distinguished recognition makes him a notable figure in military history for those seeking to understand valor and sacrifice within the armed forces.

6. What type of aircraft exemplifies highly maneuverable dogfighting capabilities armed with missiles and cannon?

- A. F-14 Tomcat
- B. F-15 Eagle**
- C. F-16 Fighting Falcon
- D. F-22 Raptor

The F-15 Eagle is widely recognized for its exceptional dogfighting capabilities and is designed with both agility and firepower in mind. This aircraft is dual-role, meaning it is highly capable in both air-to-air combat and ground attack missions. It features advanced avionics and a thrust-to-weight ratio that enhances its maneuverability in dogfights, allowing pilots to engage effectively with enemy aircraft. Additionally, the F-15 Eagle is equipped with a range of advanced missiles and a 20mm cannon, giving it substantial offensive capabilities for close-range engagements and beyond. Its design emphasizes not only speed and agility but also the ability to maintain control in high-stress combat situations, making it a premier choice for air superiority. Other aircraft, while also competent in dogfighting, have different specialties or operational focuses. The F-14 Tomcat, for instance, was originally designed as a fleet defense fighter with variable-sweep wings, making it distinctive but not solely oriented towards dogfighting. The F-16 Fighting Falcon is a versatile multirole fighter that can perform various missions but is not as specifically optimized for air dominance as the F-15. Meanwhile, the F-22 Raptor represents a newer generation of stealth technology and advanced sensor capabilities

7. Colonel William "Billy" Mitchell advocated for what regarding the Air Force?

- A. A. Its integration with the Army
- B. B. Its independence from the Army**
- C. C. The elimination of air power
- D. D. Increased funding for Navy aviation

Colonel William "Billy" Mitchell was a pioneering advocate for air power and is best known for his strong belief in the necessity of an independent Air Force. He argued that an autonomous Air Force could operate more effectively and efficiently than if it were integrated with the Army, which at the time included aviation units. Mitchell foresaw the strategic importance of air power in modern warfare and consistently pushed for recognition of its role, believing that a dedicated and independent service would be better positioned to meet the challenges of aerial combat and provide national defense. His advocacy included vocal criticism of military leadership and policies that downgraded the significance of air power in military strategy, which ultimately led to his court-martial in 1925 for insubordination. Nevertheless, his vision helped lay the foundation for the eventual establishment of the United States Air Force as a separate branch of the military in 1947, solidifying the notion that air power was essential to national security and should be independent of ground forces.

8. What operation sought to target modified Soviet Scud missiles during the Gulf War but was deemed unsuccessful?

- A. The Great Scud Hunt**
- B. Operation Desert Shield
- C. Operation Provide Relief
- D. Operation Restore Hope

The operation that aimed to locate and destroy modified Soviet Scud missiles during the Gulf War is known as The Great Scud Hunt. This initiative was specifically focused on finding and neutralizing these missile launchers, which posed a significant threat to coalition forces and targets in the region during the conflict. Despite extensive efforts, this operation was largely viewed as unsuccessful, as many Scud launches occurred without being intercepted, and the units responsible for targeting were often unable to locate the launchers in time. In contrast, Operation Desert Shield primarily involved the buildup of coalition forces in defense of Saudi Arabia, and it laid the groundwork for the subsequent combat operations of Operation Desert Storm. Operations Provide Relief and Restore Hope are related to humanitarian missions in Somalia, which occurred after the Gulf War and do not directly pertain to the targeting of Scud missiles. Thus, The Great Scud Hunt stands out as the specific operation aimed at addressing the threat posed by these missiles during the Gulf War.

9. Where did Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews die in an aircraft accident?

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Japan
- D. Iceland**

Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews died in an aircraft accident in Iceland. His leadership and contributions during World War II were significant, and he was the first U.S. Army Air Forces four-star general. The crash occurred on May 3, 1943, when the aircraft he was in crashed near Reykjavik due to poor weather conditions, which included low visibility from fog. This tragic event marked the loss of a key military figure in the development of the U.S. Air Force, particularly during a critical time in the war. Andrews' legacy continues to be recognized in military history, especially concerning air warfare strategy.

10. Who was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross and became the first E-9 to receive the Medal of Honor?

- A. Chief Master Sergeant Richard L. Etchberger**
- B. Sergeant First Class William H. Pitsenbarger
- C. Colonel Jason D. Cunningham
- D. Sergeant Major Eileen M. Collins

The individual who was posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross and became the first E-9 to receive the Medal of Honor is Chief Master Sergeant Richard L. Etchberger. His actions during the Vietnam War exemplified extraordinary heroism. On March 11, 1968, Etchberger displayed exceptional bravery while serving as a weapons system operator in a covert operation in Laos. When his base came under heavy attack, he risked his life to rescue wounded comrades and provide cover for their evacuation, showcasing remarkable leadership and courage under fire. His posthumous recognition honors his ultimate sacrifice and service, solidifying his legacy within the Air Force and the larger military community. This distinction not only highlights the valor of an E-9 rank holder but also serves as an inspiration for future service members. Focusing on the other choices, although they also represent individuals with significant military accomplishments, they do not share the same specific recognition as Chief Master Sergeant Richard L. Etchberger in terms of the Air Force Cross or being the first E-9 to receive the Medal of Honor.

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://ssgttsgtpdg.examzify.com>

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

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