

STCW Personal Survival Techniques 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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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. How many life jackets should there be on a commercial vessel?**
 - A. One for every person on board**
 - B. One for every two persons**
 - C. Only one for the captain**
 - D. Half the number of people on board**
- 2. What could be a consequence of improper usage of survival gear?**
 - A. Increased chance of injuries or fatalities**
 - B. Enhanced cooperation among survivors**
 - C. Improved chances of rescue**
 - D. Lower stress levels**
- 3. What is the first action you should take before abandoning ship?**
 - A. Gather all crew members**
 - B. Assess the situation**
 - C. Jump into the water**
 - D. Start a distress signal**
- 4. When should an inflatable floor be inflated?**
 - A. When warm**
 - B. Only at night**
 - C. When cold**
 - D. During rough seas**
- 5. What equipment is crucial to carry when on a small boat?**
 - A. Extra fuel and snacks**
 - B. Life jackets, flares, first aid kit, and communication devices**
 - C. Fishing gear and sports equipment**
 - D. A spare motor and advanced tools**

- 6. Why is it important to practice survival scenarios on land?**
- A. To develop advanced technology skills**
 - B. To build muscle memory and familiarity with protocols**
 - C. To increase social interaction skills**
 - D. To prepare for long voyages**
- 7. Why is it important for life jackets on a commercial vessel to be stenciled with the vessel's name?**
- A. For identification purposes**
 - B. To enhance visibility**
 - C. To comply with safety regulations**
 - D. For aesthetic reasons**
- 8. What is the function of an EPIRB?**
- A. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon**
 - B. Emergency Personal Indicating Rescue Beacon**
 - C. Emergency Protection Interference Radio Beep**
 - D. Emergency Position Intensity Radio Blinker**
- 9. Why is it important to stay with your life raft?**
- A. It allows you to navigate back to shore**
 - B. It increases visibility to rescuers and provides shelter**
 - C. It provides a means of fishing**
 - D. It helps keep you hydrated**
- 10. What purpose does the rubber ball in the boat drain serve?**
- A. Prevents debris from entering**
 - B. Acts as a check valve**
 - C. Enhances buoyancy**
 - D. Measures water levels**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How many life jackets should there be on a commercial vessel?

A. One for every person on board

B. One for every two persons

C. Only one for the captain

D. Half the number of people on board

The correct answer is that there should be one life jacket for every person on board a commercial vessel. This requirement is in line with safety regulations to ensure that all individuals on the vessel have access to a properly fitting and properly maintained life jacket in case of an emergency. This is crucial because in the event of an emergency situation, such as abandoning the ship or a capsizing, each person must have immediate access to a life jacket to enhance their chances of survival in water. Providing a life jacket for every person ensures that everyone, including crew members, passengers, and any other individuals on board, can quickly don a life jacket without delay. It supports the principle of maximizing safety and preparedness in maritime operations, as personal flotation devices are a vital component of survival at sea. Regulations and industry best practices emphasize the need for this level of preparedness, making it an essential aspect of maritime safety compliance.

2. What could be a consequence of improper usage of survival gear?

A. Increased chance of injuries or fatalities

B. Enhanced cooperation among survivors

C. Improved chances of rescue

D. Lower stress levels

Improper usage of survival gear can significantly increase the chance of injuries or fatalities. Survival gear is designed to provide assistance and protection in emergencies, such as life vests, flares, and emergency rations. If individuals do not know how to use this equipment correctly, it may lead to dangerous situations. For instance, wearing a life vest improperly could result in drowning rather than saving a life, while misuse of signaling devices like flares might not attract the attention needed for rescue. Understanding and correctly using survival gear is crucial to enhancing the chances of survival in emergency situations, as even small errors can have severe consequences.

3. What is the first action you should take before abandoning ship?

- A. Gather all crew members**
- B. Assess the situation**
- C. Jump into the water**
- D. Start a distress signal**

Assessing the situation before abandoning ship is crucial because it enables a thorough understanding of the circumstances at hand. This involves determining the nature of the emergency, the stability of the vessel, and the conditions of the surrounding environment, such as weather and sea state. By carefully evaluating these factors, crew members can make an informed decision about the best course of action, including whether it is safe to abandon ship and the most appropriate timing for doing so.

Understanding the situation also allows for better planning of the abandonment process, such as identifying safe exits, preparing survival equipment, and ensuring that all crew members are accounted for. This comprehensive approach not only enhances the chances of survival but also contributes to a more organized and efficient evacuation. In contrast, rushing to gather all crew members, jumping into the water, or starting a distress signal without first assessing the situation could lead to confusion and further risks. Each of these actions assumes a clarity that may not yet exist and can hinder the effectiveness of the abandonment process.

4. When should an inflatable floor be inflated?

- A. When warm**
- B. Only at night**
- C. When cold**
- D. During rough seas**

An inflatable floor should be inflated when it is cold because cold temperatures help maintain the structural integrity of the material and allow for better inflation. When the material is cold, it tends to be more rigid, which means that once inflated, it can retain its shape and provide optimal support for buoyancy. Inflating in colder conditions helps prevent potential issues like leaks or structural failures that could occur if the floor is inflated in warm temperatures, where the material might be more flexible or expand excessively. Therefore, preparing the inflatable floor in cold conditions enhances safety and effectiveness in emergency situations. Inflating it when warm could lead to problems such as overstretching the material or compromising its durability. Conducting this process only at night is not relevant to the function and safety of the inflatable floor. Additionally, the necessity of inflating during rough seas is impractical since stabilizing and ensuring proper inflation would be challenging under such conditions.

5. What equipment is crucial to carry when on a small boat?

- A. Extra fuel and snacks**
- B. Life jackets, flares, first aid kit, and communication devices**
- C. Fishing gear and sports equipment**
- D. A spare motor and advanced tools**

Carrying life jackets, flares, a first aid kit, and communication devices is essential for safety and emergency preparedness on a small boat. Life jackets are critical for personal safety, ensuring that all passengers can stay afloat in case of an accident. Flares serve as a means of signaling for help in distress situations, especially when visibility is low or when you're far from shore. A first aid kit is vital for addressing any medical emergencies that may arise, allowing for immediate care if someone gets injured. Communication devices, such as radios or emergency beacons, enable you to alert others or receive help if needed. Together, these items significantly enhance the safety and survival prospects of everyone on board, making them crucial to carry on any small boating excursion. While the other options may include useful items, they do not prioritize safety in the same way. Extra fuel and snacks can be helpful for longer trips but do not address immediate survival needs. Fishing gear and sports equipment can enhance recreational activities but do not contribute to safety. A spare motor and advanced tools may be beneficial for mechanical issues, but they do not directly assist with personal safety or survival in emergencies.

6. Why is it important to practice survival scenarios on land?

- A. To develop advanced technology skills**
- B. To build muscle memory and familiarity with protocols**
- C. To increase social interaction skills**
- D. To prepare for long voyages**

Practicing survival scenarios on land is essential for building muscle memory and familiarity with protocols. Engaging in realistic drills and exercises allows individuals to physically and mentally rehearse necessary skills, such as using survival equipment, executing safety procedures, and responding to emergency situations. This hands-on practice helps create a strong connection between the action and the procedure, ensuring that in a real emergency, the response is quick and instinctive. The more individuals practice these scenarios, the more confident and capable they become in utilizing their training effectively, which can be crucial when facing the unpredictability of real-life survival situations at sea. While advanced technology skills, social interaction, and preparation for long voyages are valuable in their own right, they do not directly address the necessity of immediate and efficient responses during an emergency, which is the primary focus of survival technique training.

7. Why is it important for life jackets on a commercial vessel to be stenciled with the vessel's name?

- A. For identification purposes**
- B. To enhance visibility**
- C. To comply with safety regulations**
- D. For aesthetic reasons**

It is essential for life jackets on a commercial vessel to be stenciled with the vessel's name primarily for identification purposes. This practice aids in ensuring that life jackets can be easily traced back to their respective vessels, especially in emergency situations where multiple vessels might be working in proximity or if a life jacket is found away from the ship. This identification helps in maintaining accountability and allows for easier management of safety equipment during inspections or audits. While visibility, regulatory compliance, and aesthetic considerations may play a role in life jacket design and usage, the critical function of labeling life jackets with the vessel's name primarily relates to ensuring that safety equipment remains associated with the specific vessel to which it belongs. This helps prevent confusion, misplacement, and misuse, thereby enhancing the overall safety protocol on board.

8. What is the function of an EPIRB?

- A. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon**
- B. Emergency Personal Indicating Rescue Beacon**
- C. Emergency Protection Interference Radio Beep**
- D. Emergency Position Intensity Radio Blinker**

The function of an EPIRB, which stands for Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, is to transmit distress signals to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency at sea. When activated, an EPIRB sends out a signal that includes the beacon's location, allowing rescue teams to quickly determine where to search for a vessel in distress. This device is crucial for enhancing the safety of mariners, as it provides a reliable means of communication in situations where other forms may not be available. The design and operational concept behind an EPIRB are specifically tailored to ensure that, in the event of an accident, the right assistance can be mobilized as efficiently as possible. By providing critical location data, EPIRBs have significantly improved survival rates for those lost or stranded at sea.

9. Why is it important to stay with your life raft?

- A. It allows you to navigate back to shore
- B. It increases visibility to rescuers and provides shelter**
- C. It provides a means of fishing
- D. It helps keep you hydrated

Staying with your life raft is crucial primarily because it increases visibility to rescuers and provides essential shelter. In emergency situations at sea, the life raft serves as a floating platform that can be seen from a distance. Its bright colors and unique structure make it much more visible than a person in the water, significantly improving the chances of being spotted by rescue vessels or aircraft. Moreover, the life raft provides shelter from the elements, such as sun, rain, or wind, which can be critical in ensuring the survival of individuals stranded at sea. Exposure to harsh weather can lead to various health issues, but the life raft offers a refuge, improving comfort and contributing to overall survival in adverse conditions. The other options, while they may address aspects of survival, do not capture the primary reasons for remaining with the life raft. Navigating back to shore is often not feasible from a life raft due to a lack of tools or knowledge of currents. Fishing might be possible under certain conditions, but it's not a primary survival strategy when compared to shelter. Additionally, obtaining fresh water and staying hydrated is important, yet the life raft primarily serves to enhance survival chances by increasing visibility and providing protection against the elements.

10. What purpose does the rubber ball in the boat drain serve?

- A. Prevents debris from entering
- B. Acts as a check valve**
- C. Enhances buoyancy
- D. Measures water levels

The rubber ball in the boat drain primarily functions as a check valve. This mechanism allows water to drain out of the boat while preventing any backflow of water from the outside into the vessel. When the boat is in the water, the ball resides in a position that permits water to exit but seals off the drain when the boat is out of the water or experiences a change in pressure, thereby maintaining the boat's buoyancy and integrity. The ability to manage water effectively is crucial for safety and keeping the boat buoyant, especially in emergency situations. In a survival context, ensuring that the boat remains free of excess water can be vital for maintaining stability and minimizing the risk of capsizing.

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://stcwpersonalsurvival.examzify.com>

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