

# TACLET South Boarding Officer Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What is the definition of a functional equivalent of a border (FEB)?**
  - A. A place where customs officers are stationed**
  - B. A location that functions like a border for enforcement purposes**
  - C. A designated checkpoint for inspections**
  - D. An international area devoid of jurisdiction**
- 2. What must Coast Guard Operational Commanders do when exercising customs authority?**
  - A. Coordinate activities with local Immigration and Customs Enforcement supervisors**
  - B. Act independently without supervision**
  - C. Only follow orders from the Secretary of the DHS**
  - D. Implement their own customs regulations**
- 3. What does an order to 'heave to' imply in maritime operations?**
  - A. The vessel is to dock at a nearby port**
  - B. The vessel must comply or face potential force**
  - C. The vessel can choose to ignore the order**
  - D. The vessel is under no obligation to respond**
- 4. Who has the authority to suspend innocent passage in U.S. territorial seas for security reasons?**
  - A. Local law enforcement agencies**
  - B. The President of the United States**
  - C. Coast Guard Commanders**
  - D. The Secretary of Defense**
- 5. What does 21 USC 844 specifically prohibit?**
  - A. Possession of controlled substances beyond 12 NM**
  - B. Possession of controlled substances aboard vessels within 3 NM**
  - C. Transporting controlled substances into a foreign country**
  - D. Distribution of controlled substances within U.S. waters**

- 6. What encompasses evidence in a legal context?**
- A. Only physical objects presented during a trial**
  - B. Only witness testimonies and statements**
  - C. Anything that tends to prove or disprove a fact in issue**
  - D. Documentation of arrest procedures**
- 7. Which type of evidence must be documented with a CG-5117 tag?**
- A. Presumptive evidence**
  - B. Seized property**
  - C. Witness statements**
  - D. Seized evidence**
- 8. What is a Field Intelligence Report (FIR) used for?**
- A. Reading maritime laws**
  - B. Documenting the transfer of contraband**
  - C. Reporting information from various sources**
  - D. Claiming damages to vessels**
- 9. Which of the following forms is specifically for non-compliant vessels?**
- A. LE0-2 form**
  - B. LE0-3 form**
  - C. LE0-3A form**
  - D. Use of Force reports**
- 10. In which scenario is officer presence most effective?**
- A. In situations that require physical confrontation**
  - B. When creating an atmosphere of compliance**
  - C. During an active pursuit of a suspect**
  - D. In vessel on vessel engagements**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What is the definition of a functional equivalent of a border (FEB)?**

- A. A place where customs officers are stationed**
- B. A location that functions like a border for enforcement purposes**
- C. A designated checkpoint for inspections**
- D. An international area devoid of jurisdiction**

The definition of a functional equivalent of a border (FEB) refers to a location that operates similarly to a traditional border in terms of enforcement and regulatory activities. This concept is particularly relevant in contexts where physical borders are not clearly delineated due to various factors, such as international agreements or unique geographical situations. Essentially, an FEB allows for the implementation of similar customs, immigration, and security checks as those conducted at actual borders, ensuring that similar standards of enforcement and compliance are maintained. By recognizing certain locations as functional equivalents, agencies can effectively monitor and control the movement of goods and individuals in a coherent manner, preserving the necessary regulations even when a physical border is absent. The other options do not accurately capture this broader operational context. For example, a location where customs officers are stationed may not necessarily apply the same enforcement principles as an FEB, and a designated checkpoint for inspections, while it may serve a regulatory purpose, does not encompass the full scope of functions characteristic of a border. An international area devoid of jurisdiction does not align with the enforcement purpose of an FEB, which incorporates jurisdictional authority rather than lacking it.

**2. What must Coast Guard Operational Commanders do when exercising customs authority?**

- A. Coordinate activities with local Immigration and Customs Enforcement supervisors**
- B. Act independently without supervision**
- C. Only follow orders from the Secretary of the DHS**
- D. Implement their own customs regulations**

When Coast Guard Operational Commanders exercise customs authority, it is essential that they coordinate activities with local Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) supervisors. This coordination ensures that enforcement actions are consistent with existing federal laws and regulations and promotes effective collaboration among different agencies involved in customs enforcement. Engaging with ICE supervisors allows for the sharing of critical information and resources, optimizing the response and operational efficiencies in customs operations. Additionally, this collaboration helps maintain a unified approach to law enforcement that respects the roles and jurisdictions of both the Coast Guard and ICE, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of their enforcement efforts. By working together, they can address potential issues more comprehensively and provide better service to the public. The other options suggest a lack of necessary collaboration or adherence to established protocols and hierarchy, which would not reflect best practices in law enforcement and customs operations. The emphasis on coordination illustrates the importance of collaboration in executing authority responsibly and effectively.

**3. What does an order to 'heave to' imply in maritime operations?**

- A. The vessel is to dock at a nearby port**
- B. The vessel must comply or face potential force**
- C. The vessel can choose to ignore the order**
- D. The vessel is under no obligation to respond**

The phrase 'heave to' in maritime operations refers to an order for a vessel to come to a stop and maintain that position, essentially meaning to furl sails or engage in a process that stabilizes the ship. This command is crucial for ensuring safety and compliance, particularly during inspections or in response to regulatory requirements. When a vessel is instructed to 'heave to,' it is expected to comply with the order. Failure to do so can lead to consequences, which may include enforcement actions by maritime authorities. This reflects the obligation of vessels to adhere to commands from designated authorities to maintain navigational safety and legal compliance. Compliance is not optional, as ignoring such orders can result in serious ramifications, highlighting the importance of authority in maritime operations.

**4. Who has the authority to suspend innocent passage in U.S. territorial seas for security reasons?**

- A. Local law enforcement agencies**
- B. The President of the United States**
- C. Coast Guard Commanders**
- D. The Secretary of Defense**

The authority to suspend innocent passage in U.S. territorial seas for security reasons is vested in the President of the United States. This power stems from the President's role as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the chief diplomat, which includes overseeing national security matters and responding to threats. The President can take necessary actions to safeguard national interests, which may involve restricting maritime navigation to ensure security within U.S. waters. While local law enforcement agencies, Coast Guard commanders, and the Secretary of Defense play significant roles in maritime safety and security, they do so under the authority granted by the President and applicable laws. Local law enforcement typically handles civil issues and minor threats, while Coast Guard commanders operate within a framework established by federal law but do not have the overarching authority to suspend innocent passage as a national security measure. The Secretary of Defense focuses on military operations and defense policy, but again, actions must ultimately align with the directives from the President.

**5. What does 21 USC 844 specifically prohibit?**

- A. Possession of controlled substances beyond 12 NM**
- B. Possession of controlled substances aboard vessels within 3 NM**
- C. Transporting controlled substances into a foreign country**
- D. Distribution of controlled substances within U.S. waters**

The prohibition outlined in 21 USC 844 addresses the possession of controlled substances. Specifically, it prohibits individuals from knowingly or intentionally possessing a controlled substance. In the context of the choices presented, the correct answer is focused on the possession of these substances aboard vessels within 3 nautical miles (NM) from the shore, which is a jurisdictional limit for U.S. law enforcement in maritime contexts. This regulation is crucial because it empowers law enforcement to address drug-related offenses in close proximity to U.S. waters, supporting public safety and legal norms regarding the control of substances recognized as illegal or regulated. Thus, option B accurately reflects the legal framework established under this section of the U.S. Code by emphasizing the specific maritime jurisdiction where possession of controlled substances is prohibited. In contrast, while the other options pertain to related topics of controlled substances, they do not capture the specific focus of 21 USC 844 concerning possession within the defined maritime boundaries.

**6. What encompasses evidence in a legal context?**

- A. Only physical objects presented during a trial**
- B. Only witness testimonies and statements**
- C. Anything that tends to prove or disprove a fact in issue**
- D. Documentation of arrest procedures**

In a legal context, evidence is defined as anything that tends to prove or disprove a fact in issue within a case. This broad definition includes not only physical objects and documents but also witness testimonies, electronic records, and any other information that can influence the determination of the facts by a judge or jury. The strength of this definition lies in its inclusivity, reflecting the complexity of legal proceedings where various forms of evidence contribute to establishing the truth of a matter. For example, physical objects might provide tangible proof, while witness testimonies can offer insights into events, perceptions, or experiences related to the case. Digital communications or recordings also count as evidence if they bear relevance to the facts at hand. This understanding is fundamental for legal professionals, as it highlights the importance of collecting and presenting diverse forms of evidence to support a particular argument or defense in court. The other choices are limitations that fail to capture the full spectrum of what constitutes evidence in legal proceedings.

**7. Which type of evidence must be documented with a CG-5117 tag?**

- A. Presumptive evidence**
- B. Seized property**
- C. Witness statements**
- D. Seized evidence**

The necessity of documenting seized evidence with a CG-5117 tag is rooted in the importance of maintaining a clear, organized chain of custody within law enforcement and maritime operations. The CG-5117 tag serves as an essential piece of documentation that allows for the proper tracking and management of evidence that has been confiscated. When evidence is seized, it is crucial to ensure that its origin, state, and handling processes can be verified at any point in time. The CG-5117 tag contributes to this by providing detailed information such as the location of seizure, the date, the handling officer's details, and other relevant notes, all of which play a pivotal role in legal proceedings and ensuring that evidence remains untampered with. In contrast, other types of evidence, such as witness statements or presumptive evidence, do not require the same level of formal physical tagging and documentation as seized items, which need more rigid tracking due to their potential impact on legal outcomes and investigations. Therefore, the process associated with seized evidence, including the use of a CG-5117 tag, is designed specifically to uphold the integrity of the evidence throughout its lifecycle.

**8. What is a Field Intelligence Report (FIR) used for?**

- A. Reading maritime laws**
- B. Documenting the transfer of contraband**
- C. Reporting information from various sources**
- D. Claiming damages to vessels**

A Field Intelligence Report (FIR) is a critical tool used to report information gathered from various sources, particularly in maritime operations and law enforcement activities. Its primary purpose is to compile and relay intelligence that may be relevant to ongoing investigations or operations. This includes information about suspicious activity, potential threats, and insights from multiple eyewitness accounts or surveillance data. The effectiveness of an FIR lies in its ability to synthesize diverse pieces of information into a coherent report that can be utilized by decision-makers or field operatives. This helps in prioritizing risks, directing resources, and formulating strategies in response to identified issues or emerging situations. The other options do not capture the essence of the FIR's purpose. Reading maritime laws is more about legal knowledge than intelligence reporting; documenting the transfer of contraband falls under specific operational documentation rather than a broader intelligence perspective; and claiming damages to vessels does not relate to the foundational purpose of gathering and reporting intelligence based on field observations and other relevant data.

**9. Which of the following forms is specifically for non-compliant vessels?**

- A. LE0-2 form
- B. LE0-3 form**
- C. LE0-3A form
- D. Use of Force reports

The LE0-3 form is specifically designed for non-compliant vessels. This form is used by boarding officers to document situations where a vessel is not adhering to lawful orders or requests, thereby indicating a level of non-compliance that necessitates official recording. The purpose of this form includes capturing details of the engagement, the crew's actions, and any steps taken by the boarding officers in response to the non-compliance. This specificity allows law enforcement to maintain accurate records of encounters with non-compliant vessels, which can be vital for subsequent investigations or legal proceedings. The structure and content of the LE0-3 form are tailored to address the unique circumstances associated with these types of interactions, making it an essential tool for officers in enforcing maritime law.

**10. In which scenario is officer presence most effective?**

- A. In situations that require physical confrontation
- B. When creating an atmosphere of compliance**
- C. During an active pursuit of a suspect
- D. In vessel on vessel engagements

Officer presence is most effective when it creates an atmosphere of compliance. This means that simply being present as an authority figure can influence the behavior of individuals in a situation, encouraging them to adhere to laws and regulations without the need for escalation to physical confrontation or further enforcement actions. In many cases, the visibility of an officer can deter unlawful behavior and help to maintain order. When individuals recognize law enforcement's presence, they are often more likely to comply with requests or commands, facilitating a smoother interaction. This preemptive strategy is a critical aspect of community policing, where building trust and cooperation between officers and the community can lead to safer environments. In contrast, physical confrontation typically requires more immediate, reactive measures that may not benefit as much from just the presence of an officer. Similarly, active pursuits and vessel-on-vessel engagements often demand direct action or tactical responses rather than relying solely on the influence of visibility. Therefore, the scenario that emphasizes an officer's ability to foster compliance through their presence is the most effective use of that presence.