

# The Basic School (TBS) Phase 3 Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. What type of fire is characterized by attacking from the side of the target?**
  - A. Frontal Fire**
  - B. Flanking Fire**
  - C. Enfilade Fire**
  - D. Overhead Fire**
- 2. What aspect of TBS training fosters adaptability in officers?**
  - A. Standardized procedures**
  - B. Simulated combat scenarios**
  - C. Rigid command structures**
  - D. Pre-determined mission assignments**
- 3. What does the acronym PICMDEEP stand for in relation to the principles of machine gun employment?**
  - A. Positioning, Integrating, Coordinating, Maintaining, Deploying, Engagement, Effectiveness, Protection**
  - B. Pairs, Interlocking fires, Coordination of fires, Mutual support, Defilade, Enfilade, Economy of fires, Protection**
  - C. Planning, Integrating, Commanding, Maneuvering, Deploying, Engaging, Executing, Protecting**
  - D. Positions, Intelligence, Coordination, Maneuver, Directing, Engaging, Effectiveness, Priority**
- 4. What does Type 3 control allow in an air support scenario?**
  - A. Clearance for one attack only**
  - B. Multiple attacks within a single engagement**
  - C. Visual acquisition of targets**
  - D. Direct control of ground movements**
- 5. What is the function of a switch in an electrical circuit?**
  - A. To amplify electrical signals**
  - B. To regulate voltage levels**
  - C. To make, break, or change connections in the circuit**
  - D. To store electrical energy**

- 6. Which communication methods are taught at TBS for tactical coordination?**
- A. Social media and email.**
  - B. Radio communication, hand signals, and briefings.**
  - C. Only written communication.**
  - D. Telepathic communication techniques.**
- 7. What is the first step in creating a Range Card?**
- A. The team leader walks the FPL with a pace count**
  - B. The gunner lays beside the gun and sets sights**
  - C. The gunner marks the distance in defilade**
  - D. The gunner lays the gun on the aiming point**
- 8. What is a primary purpose of a security plan in military operations?**
- A. To confuse enemy scouting patrols**
  - B. To ensure the platoon is ready when the enemy attacks**
  - C. To secure food and supplies for the platoon**
  - D. To improve communication within the platoon**
- 9. What kind of decision-making process is emphasized in TBS training?**
- A. Long-term strategic planning only**
  - B. Quick and effective decisions made in combat scenarios**
  - C. Decisions made by consensus only**
  - D. Decisions focused on administrative efficiency**
- 10. Which of the following describes the term engagement area in military strategy?**
- A. A designated area for troop assembly**
  - B. A zone for administrative functions**
  - C. An area where fire support is concentrated**
  - D. A location for medical facilities**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What type of fire is characterized by attacking from the side of the target?**

- A. Frontal Fire**
- B. Flanking Fire**
- C. Enfilade Fire**
- D. Overhead Fire**

Flanking fire is a type of fire where the attacking element engages the target from the side rather than from directly in front. This method allows for greater effectiveness in combat as it can catch the target off-guard and may exploit weaknesses in their defensive posture. By engaging from the flank, the attacker can avoid direct confrontation and potentially minimize exposure to enemy fire. In contrast, frontal fire occurs when fire is directed straight at the enemy, making it a more straightforward engagement that can be highly dangerous for the attacking force. Enfilade fire involves targeting the enemy along the length of their position, typically from a high angle, maximizing the effect on personnel in trenches or other defensive layouts. Overhead fire involves shooting from above, which can also create confusion and panic among the target but does not specifically imply an attack from the side. Thus, flanking fire is defined by its side attack angle, offering strategic advantages in terms of surprise and tactical positioning during engagements.

**2. What aspect of TBS training fosters adaptability in officers?**

- A. Standardized procedures**
- B. Simulated combat scenarios**
- C. Rigid command structures**
- D. Pre-determined mission assignments**

The aspect of TBS training that fosters adaptability in officers is the use of simulated combat scenarios. These simulations create dynamic environments that require trainees to think on their feet and make quick decisions, mimicking the unpredictability of real combat situations. Within these scenarios, officers practice responding to rapidly changing circumstances, developing their ability to adapt to new information, unexpected developments, and the need for flexibility in their tactics. Simulated combat scenarios encourage critical thinking and creativity, instilling confidence in officers to handle whatever challenges arise during actual operations. This training allows officers to explore various strategies, learn from their mistakes, and adjust their approaches, all of which are vital skills for effective leadership in the field.

**3. What does the acronym PICMDEEP stand for in relation to the principles of machine gun employment?**

- A. Positioning, Integrating, Coordinating, Maintaining, Deploying, Engagement, Effectiveness, Protection**
- B. Pairs, Interlocking fires, Coordination of fires, Mutual support, Defilade, Enfilade, Economy of fires, Protection**
- C. Planning, Integrating, Commanding, Maneuvering, Deploying, Engaging, Executing, Protecting**
- D. Positions, Intelligence, Coordination, Maneuver, Directing, Engaging, Effectiveness, Priority**

The acronym PICMDEEP stands for Pairs, Interlocking fires, Coordination of fires, Mutual support, Defilade, Enfilade, Economy of fires, and Protection. This phrase encapsulates the essential principles of effective machine gun employment on the battlefield. In military tactics, employing machine guns effectively requires a thorough understanding of how different machine gun placements can support each other (mutual support) and create overlapping fields of fire (interlocking fires). This ensures that areas are adequately covered, providing maximum firepower to suppress the enemy. Concepts like defilade and enfilade relate to using terrain advantages and positioning to optimize firing positions, allowing forces to leverage their weapons efficiently while minimizing their own exposure to enemy fire. The principles of economy of fires and protection emphasize utilizing machine guns strategically to preserve ammunition and manpower while ensuring the safety and effectiveness of the squad or unit. All of these components combine to create a comprehensive framework for employing machine guns in various combat situations, which is why this answer correctly reflects the comprehensive nature of the PICMDEEP acronym in relation to machine gun employment principles.

**4. What does Type 3 control allow in an air support scenario?**

- A. Clearance for one attack only**
- B. Multiple attacks within a single engagement**
- C. Visual acquisition of targets**
- D. Direct control of ground movements**

Type 3 control in an air support scenario is specifically designed to facilitate multiple attacks within a single engagement. This type of control is used when ground forces require air support to engage a target while being able to continue to adjust the fight dynamically based on the tactical situation. In Type 3 control, the ground commander can request that aircraft engage targets based on the immediate needs of the battlefield, which allows for flexible and continuous support without needing to coordinate every single act of attack individually. This is particularly useful in fast-moving engagements where the situation may change rapidly, and multiple targets could be engaged consecutively or simultaneously as opportunities arise. The other options do not accurately reflect the capabilities provided by Type 3 control. For instance, it does not limit actions to only one attack or focus on previously visual-acquired targets exclusively. Instead, it supports a more fluid exchange of strikes that can adapt to the evolving scenario on the ground.

**5. What is the function of a switch in an electrical circuit?**

- A. To amplify electrical signals
- B. To regulate voltage levels
- C. To make, break, or change connections in the circuit**
- D. To store electrical energy

The function of a switch in an electrical circuit is to make, break, or change connections within the circuit. This means that a switch controls the flow of electricity by either allowing or interrupting the electrical current. When the switch is in the "on" position, it completes the circuit, enabling the current to flow. Conversely, when the switch is turned "off," it opens the circuit, resulting in the cessation of current flow. This fundamental property of switches is crucial for providing control over electrical devices, enabling users to turn them on or off as needed. Understanding this function is essential, as it underpins many practical applications in both everyday electronic devices and larger electrical systems. Switches can be mechanical, like those found in light switches, or electronic, like those used in circuit boards, but their primary role remains the same across different contexts.

**6. Which communication methods are taught at TBS for tactical coordination?**

- A. Social media and email.
- B. Radio communication, hand signals, and briefings.**
- C. Only written communication.
- D. Telepathic communication techniques.

The correct answer reflects the practical and effective communication methods emphasized at The Basic School (TBS) for tactical coordination. Radio communication, hand signals, and briefings are essential tools that enable clear and immediate exchanges of information in dynamic and often high-pressure environments, such as military operations. Radio communication allows for real-time dialogue over distances, ensuring that team members can quickly relay critical information and receive updates from command. Hand signals provide a non-verbal communication method that can be utilized when silence is necessary, such as in stealth operations. Briefings are structured sessions where information is disseminated to ensure that all personnel are on the same page regarding mission objectives, plans, and any changes in strategy. This combination of methods fosters quick and reliable coordination among team members, which is crucial for successful mission execution. In contrast, while social media and email can be effective for general communication, they may not be suitable for immediate tactical coordination, especially in scenarios requiring urgent responses. Written communication alone lacks the immediacy and interaction necessary for real-time operations, and telepathic communication techniques, while often a subject of sci-fi, do not have a place in practical military training or real-world application. Thus, the focus on radio communication, hand signals, and briefings

**7. What is the first step in creating a Range Card?**

- A. The team leader walks the FPL with a pace count**
- B. The gunner lays beside the gun and sets sights**
- C. The gunner marks the distance in defilade**
- D. The gunner lays the gun on the aiming point**

The first step in creating a Range Card involves the gunner laying beside the gun and setting sights. This action is crucial because establishing a proper aiming reference ensures that the gunner has a clear and accurate point from which to measure and record details on the Range Card. By setting the sights correctly, the gunner can determine the range to various target points accurately, which is essential for effective range estimation and coordination during operations. The other actions, while important in their own contexts, do not directly initiate the creation of a Range Card. For instance, walking a pace count is typically associated with estimating distances during navigation rather than the specifics of preparing a Range Card. Marking a distance in defilade is necessary but comes after the initial steps of establishing the aiming point. Laying the gun on the aiming point is also a vital component but typically follows the establishment of the sight settings. These subsequent actions depend on the foundation established by the gunner's initial setup.

**8. What is a primary purpose of a security plan in military operations?**

- A. To confuse enemy scouting patrols**
- B. To ensure the platoon is ready when the enemy attacks**
- C. To secure food and supplies for the platoon**
- D. To improve communication within the platoon**

A primary purpose of a security plan in military operations is to ensure that the platoon is prepared for any potential enemy engagement. This involves establishing measures to detect and deter threats, maintain situational awareness, and enhance the unit's overall readiness. A well-structured security plan allows for effective response to enemy attacks by outlining procedures for defense, positioning, and contingency measures, ensuring that troops can act swiftly and decisively when faced with an attack. While elements like communication improvements and securing supplies may be important aspects of military operations, they do not encapsulate the focus of a security plan, which is primarily centered around preparing for and responding to aggressions from the enemy. Therefore, ensuring readiness against potential attacks is the most fitting interpretation of a security plan's purpose in this context.

**9. What kind of decision-making process is emphasized in TBS training?**

- A. Long-term strategic planning only**
- B. Quick and effective decisions made in combat scenarios**
- C. Decisions made by consensus only**
- D. Decisions focused on administrative efficiency**

The decision-making process emphasized in TBS training focuses on making quick and effective decisions in combat scenarios. This approach is critical for military operations, where situations can rapidly change and require immediate responses. TBS prepares candidates to assess information swiftly, weigh options, and act decisively in high-pressure environments, reflecting the realities of combat leadership. In such scenarios, the ability to make informed yet rapid decisions can have significant implications for mission success and the safety of personnel. The training cultivates skills that enhance situational awareness, critical thinking, and adaptability, ensuring that leaders can respond appropriately to unforeseen challenges in the field. This emphasis on effective decision-making under pressure aligns with the military's core objectives of maintaining operational effectiveness and achieving mission goals. Other options, while they may contain elements of decision-making, do not capture the urgent and dynamic nature of combat-related decisions as effectively. Long-term strategic planning is essential but is not the primary focus in TBS training. Consensus-based decisions can be valuable, but they may not always be practical in time-sensitive situations found in combat. Likewise, prioritizing administrative efficiency is important in many contexts but does not encompass the immediate tactical decisions required in dynamic combat scenarios.

**10. Which of the following describes the term engagement area in military strategy?**

- A. A designated area for troop assembly**
- B. A zone for administrative functions**
- C. An area where fire support is concentrated**
- D. A location for medical facilities**

The term engagement area in military strategy refers specifically to the area where fire support is concentrated to achieve a tactical advantage during combat operations. This area is selected by commanders to maximize the effectiveness of their units by concentrating fires on enemy forces as they enter the designated zone. The focus on creating optimal conditions for engaging the enemy distinguishes it from other areas in military operations, such as assembly areas or administrative zones, where different purposes and activities occur. In an engagement area, the emphasis is placed on operational tactics, ensuring that all resources, including artillery and air support, are coordinated to disrupt and defeat adversaries effectively. This strategic use of terrain and resources is vital to successful combat outcomes.