

THE BASIC SCHOOL (TBS) PHASE 3 PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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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 effect does the 'fix' tactical obstacle produce?**
 - A. Slows the enemy within a specific area
 - B. Breaks enemy formations
 - C. Prevents enemy supply from reaching front lines
 - D. Forces enemy units to regroup
- 2. What is the minimum security percentage a platoon should maintain at all times?**
 - A. 50%
 - B. 75%
 - C. 25%
 - D. 10%
- 3. Which of the following is NOT a principle of machine gun employment?**
 - A. Defilade
 - B. Isolation
 - C. Economy of fires
 - D. Protection
- 4. What is the aim of concentrating combat power at a decisive place and time?**
 - A. To intimidate the enemy before engaging
 - B. To maximize the impact of forces in battle
 - C. To minimize troop movements
 - D. To coordinate supply transfers
- 5. What is the maximum rate of fire for the M224A1 60MM LWCMS Mortar?**
 - A. 20 rounds per minute
 - B. 30 rounds per minute
 - C. 40 rounds per minute
 - D. 25 rounds per minute

- 6. What can effective use of terrain contribute to during defensive operations?**
- A. Confusion among allies
 - B. A stronger defense and surprise elements
 - C. Increased risk for the troops
 - D. Casualties from friendly fire
- 7. What is the grazing fire range of the M2A1 .50 Caliber Machine Gun?**
- A. 700 m
 - B. 600 m
 - C. 800 m
 - D. 900 m
- 8. What is the primary mission of The Basic School (TBS) during Phase 3?**
- A. To develop physical training regimes
 - B. To prepare Marine Corps officers for leadership roles
 - C. To provide administrative support for officer assignments
 - D. To conduct historical military research
- 9. What is a significant result expected from TBS Phase 3 training?**
- A. Increased physical strength among participants
 - B. Enhanced ability to make strategic decisions in unpredictable environments
 - C. Improved administrative skills within personnel deployments
 - D. Stronger compliance to traditional hierarchies
- 10. In a defensive strategy, what is the purpose of protective obstacles in relation to the final enemy assault?**
- A. To create barriers for friendly forces
 - B. To ensure safety from close combat
 - C. To prevent airborne attacks
 - D. To deal with long-range artillery strikes

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What effect does the 'fix' tactical obstacle produce?

- A. Slows the enemy within a specific area
- B. Breaks enemy formations
- C. Prevents enemy supply from reaching front lines
- D. Forces enemy units to regroup

The 'fix' tactical obstacle is designed to slow the enemy within a specific area. This type of obstacle impedes the movement of enemy forces, making it more difficult for them to advance or maneuver effectively in that particular environment. By slowing the enemy, the defending forces can gain a critical advantage, allowing them to better prepare for engagements or to manage their resources effectively. In contrast, breaking enemy formations typically involves disrupting their organization and cohesion, which is not the primary purpose of a 'fix' obstacle. While a 'fix' obstacle may cause some disruption, its main objective is to slow down enemy progress rather than fundamentally alter their tactical structure. Preventing supply from reaching front lines refers to a different approach, usually targeting logistical routes rather than directly impeding movement in a specific combat area. Forcing enemy units to regroup may happen as a secondary effect of slowing them down but is not the main goal of implementing a 'fix' tactical obstacle. Thus, the focus remains on the specific intention to slow the enemy's advance.

2. What is the minimum security percentage a platoon should maintain at all times?

- A. 50%
- B. 75%
- C. 25%
- D. 10%

A platoon should maintain a minimum security percentage to ensure it can effectively respond to potential threats while still carrying out its missions. The correct answer reflects the standard that is considered safe for operational effectiveness in various scenarios. By keeping at least a 25% security presence, the platoon can maintain operational readiness. This level allows for a balanced approach, enabling enough personnel to handle security duties while still allowing for flexibility in task assignments, maneuvering, and operational tasks. Maintaining a lower percentage than this could jeopardize the platoon's ability to operate securely and effectively, increasing vulnerability to threats. The higher percentages do reflect stronger security measures but are not deemed necessary as an absolute minimum for effective operation.

3. Which of the following is NOT a principle of machine gun employment?

- A. Defilade
- B. Isolation**
- C. Economy of fires
- D. Protection

Isolation is not considered a principle of machine gun employment. In the context of machine gun tactics, the principles revolve around maximizing the effectiveness and survivability of the weapon system while delivering effective fire support. Defilade refers to using terrain features to protect the machine gun from enemy fire, allowing the weapon to engage targets without being directly exposed. This is crucial for ensuring the crew's safety and maintaining operational effectiveness. Economy of fires emphasizes the efficient use of firepower, allowing for maximum impact with minimal expenditure of ammunition and personnel resources. By concentrating fire where it is most needed, forces can achieve significant effects while preserving their capabilities. Protection involves measures to safeguard both the machine gun and its crew from enemy actions, including the use of cover, concealment, and tactical positioning. In contrast, isolation does not align with these principles. While it may refer to keeping a machine gun crew or position separate from other units for operational reasons, it is not a tactical principle focused on enhancing the utility or survivability of machine gun fire.

4. What is the aim of concentrating combat power at a decisive place and time?

- A. To intimidate the enemy before engaging
- B. To maximize the impact of forces in battle**
- C. To minimize troop movements
- D. To coordinate supply transfers

The aim of concentrating combat power at a decisive place and time is to maximize the impact of forces in battle. This strategy is essential for achieving a significant advantage over the enemy by overwhelming them in key areas. When combat power is concentrated, it allows for more effective use of resources, creates a synergy among units, and enhances the ability to execute coordinated operations. By bringing together superior force at a critical juncture, a commander can exploit vulnerabilities in the enemy's defenses, leading to greater chances of success on the battlefield. The other options, while they may contain elements relevant to military operations, do not capture the primary objective of concentrating combat power as effectively as maximizing the impact during engagements does. For example, intimidation could be a tactical consideration but does not represent the strategy's essence. Similarly, minimizing troop movements and coordinating supply transfers are tactical logistics that might support concentration but are not the fundamental aim of this operational principle.

5. What is the maximum rate of fire for the M224A1 60MM LWCMS Mortar?

- A. 20 rounds per minute
- B. 30 rounds per minute**
- C. 40 rounds per minute
- D. 25 rounds per minute

The M224A1 60MM Lightweight Company Mortar System (LWCMS) has a maximum rate of fire of 30 rounds per minute. This rate is based on the technical specifications of the mortar, which allow for effective targeting and support in combat scenarios. Understanding the rate of fire is crucial for military operations as it directly impacts the unit's ability to deliver accurate and timely indirect fire support to ground troops. A higher rate of fire can provide a rapid response to enemy movements or support maneuvers in combat. The design and operational capabilities of the M224A1 enable it to achieve this maximum rate efficiently while maintaining reliability in various conditions.

6. What can effective use of terrain contribute to during defensive operations?

- A. Confusion among allies
- B. A stronger defense and surprise elements**
- C. Increased risk for the troops
- D. Casualties from friendly fire

Effective use of terrain during defensive operations can significantly enhance a military unit's capabilities. By leveraging the natural landscape, forces can create a stronger defensive position, making it difficult for the enemy to attack successfully. This can involve positioning troops on high ground or utilizing obstacles like rivers and forests to slow or disrupt enemy movements. Additionally, understanding and utilizing the terrain can introduce elements of surprise. By hiding forces or ambush points in advantageous locations, defenders can catch attackers off-guard, leading to more effective counterattacks and increased chances of repelling an assault. Terrain can also provide cover and concealment, reducing exposure to enemy fire, thereby improving survivability and overall mission success. This understanding of terrain is a fundamental aspect of military strategy, especially in defensive operations.

7. What is the grazing fire range of the M2A1 .50 Caliber Machine Gun?

- A. 700 m**
- B. 600 m
- C. 800 m
- D. 900 m

The grazing fire range of the M2A1 .50 Caliber Machine Gun is 700 meters. This distance is critical in combat scenarios as it defines the effective range where the weapon can deliver suppressive and direct fire while minimizing the chance of the projectile climbing above the target's area. Grazing fire is characterized by the projectile traveling parallel to the ground, ensuring that the rounds can strike enemy personnel or equipment effectively. Knowing this range is essential for tactical planning, allowing operators to position themselves advantageously to maximize their weapon's effectiveness while adhering to principles of fire control and target engagement. Understanding the limitations and capabilities of the M2A1 contributes greatly to the overall effectiveness of tactics employed in the field.

8. What is the primary mission of The Basic School (TBS) during Phase 3?

- A. To develop physical training regimes
- B. To prepare Marine Corps officers for leadership roles**
- C. To provide administrative support for officer assignments
- D. To conduct historical military research

The primary mission of The Basic School (TBS) during Phase 3 is to prepare Marine Corps officers for leadership roles. This phase focuses heavily on developing the essential leadership skills, decision-making ability, and ethical foundation necessary for officers as they progress in their military careers. The training emphasizes the importance of leadership in various contexts, including tactical, operational, and administrative situations, equipping future leaders with the skills they will need to lead Marines effectively. While the other options touch on various aspects of military training and functions—such as physical training, administrative support, and historical research—they do not capture the central goal of TBS in this phase. The core focus is on shaping competent and confident leaders who can guide their units and fulfill their responsibilities as officers in the Marine Corps.

9. What is a significant result expected from TBS Phase 3 training?

- A. Increased physical strength among participants
- B. Enhanced ability to make strategic decisions in unpredictable environments**
- C. Improved administrative skills within personnel deployments
- D. Stronger compliance to traditional hierarchies

The significant result expected from TBS Phase 3 training is the enhanced ability to make strategic decisions in unpredictable environments. This training phase emphasizes leadership and the need to adapt to rapidly changing situations, which are common in military operations or various high-stakes environments. Participants are taught to analyze complex information, anticipate potential outcomes, and make informed decisions quickly, even when circumstances are uncertain. This focus on developing strategic decision-making skills is crucial for leaders who must navigate the dynamic nature of modern operations. An individual trained in TBS Phase 3 will be better equipped to assess risks, evaluate alternative courses of action, and implement effective strategies under pressure, ultimately leading to improved performance and mission success. While increased physical strength, improved administrative skills, and compliance with traditional hierarchies may be relevant aspects of military training, they do not capture the primary objective of TBS Phase 3, which is geared toward cultivating adaptable and strategic leaders.

10. In a defensive strategy, what is the purpose of protective obstacles in relation to the final enemy assault?

- A. To create barriers for friendly forces
- B. To ensure safety from close combat**
- C. To prevent airborne attacks
- D. To deal with long-range artillery strikes

The purpose of protective obstacles in a defensive strategy is primarily to ensure safety from close combat. These obstacles, such as barbed wire, anti-tank ditches, or minefields, are strategically placed to disrupt and slow down the enemy's advance, making it more difficult for them to reach friendly forces. By creating physical barriers, these obstacles help to create a buffer zone, allowing friendly troops to maintain control and coordination during the final stages of an enemy assault. This is crucial in defensive scenarios, as it helps defenders buy time to respond effectively, reinforce their positions, and prepare for potential counterattacks. In essence, protective obstacles are vital for enhancing the survivability of troops and fortifying defensive lines against enemy assaults.

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://tbsphase3.examzify.com>

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

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