

US Military Chain of Command and Army Basic Knowledge Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 are the three types of North found on a military map?**
 - A. True North, Grid North, and Magnetic North**
 - B. True North, Geographic North, and Magnetic North**
 - C. Grid North, Geographic North, and True North**
 - D. True North, Grid North, and Geographic North**

- 2. Who holds the role of Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. armed forces?**
 - A. The President**
 - B. The Secretary of Defense**
 - C. The Vice President**
 - D. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

- 3. In what year was the U.S. Constitution written?**
 - A. 1776**
 - B. 1787**
 - C. 1800**
 - D. 1812**

- 4. What is the correct ascending order of the warrant officer ranks from entry-level to senior-most?**
 - A. W-1, W-2, W-3, W-4, W-5**
 - B. W-1, W-3, W-2, W-4, W-5**
 - C. W-5, W-4, W-3, W-2, W-1**
 - D. W-1, W-2, W-4, W-3, W-5**

- 5. Which staff position is S-2?**
 - A. Administrative Officer**
 - B. Security Officer**
 - C. Operations Officer**
 - D. Logistics Officer**

- 6. Which pay grade is associated with Master Warrant Officer?**
- A. W-4**
 - B. W-5**
 - C. W-3**
 - D. W-2**
- 7. Who is the President and Commander-in-Chief?**
- A. Honorable Donald Trump**
 - B. Honorable Joe Biden**
 - C. Honorable Barack Obama**
 - D. Honorable Mike Pence**
- 8. Which rank is assigned to pay grade E-2?**
- A. No rank (or Private)**
 - B. Private**
 - C. Private First Class**
 - D. Corporal**
- 9. Who is considered the father of the U.S. Army?**
- A. Alexander Hamilton**
 - B. George Washington**
 - C. Ulysses S. Grant**
 - D. Dwight Eisenhower**
- 10. Which rank is four steps above Captain in the sequence?**
- A. Captain**
 - B. Brigadier General**
 - C. Major General**
 - D. Lieutenant General**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What are the three types of North found on a military map?

- A. True North, Grid North, and Magnetic North**
- B. True North, Geographic North, and Magnetic North**
- C. Grid North, Geographic North, and True North**
- D. True North, Grid North, and Geographic North**

The main idea here is that a military map uses three distinct references for “north” that you need to understand for accurate navigation: True North, Grid North, and Magnetic North. True North points toward the geographic North Pole, the actual direction of Earth's axis. Grid North is the direction indicated by the map's grid lines, which run along the map's projection and may not line up exactly with true north. Magnetic North is where a compass would point, toward the magnetic pole, which shifts over time and differs from both true and grid north. A map also shows the magnetic declination (variation) between grid north and magnetic north, so you can convert directions between them when navigating in the field. Choosing the set that includes Magnetic North is essential because it accounts for compass readings in real-world navigation. Including Geographic North as a separate option would be duplicative with True North, and leaving out Magnetic North would omit the direction a compass points to, which is crucial for field use.

2. Who holds the role of Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. armed forces?

- A. The President**
- B. The Secretary of Defense**
- C. The Vice President**
- D. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff**

The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. armed forces. This power is established by the Constitution, which makes the President the supreme military command authority. That means the President has the authority to direct military operations, set objectives, and decide when and how troops are used, within the framework of laws and policies set by Congress. The President also appoints the Secretary of Defense and the service chiefs, who handle daily administration, readiness, and implementation of strategy, but they do not command the troops in general operations. The top military adviser to the President and the Secretary of Defense is the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who coordinates among the services and provides guidance, yet does not have direct command authority over forces. The Vice President does not hold the role of Commander-in-Chief; they may act in the President's stead, but the formal title and ultimate command rest with the President.

3. In what year was the U.S. Constitution written?

- A. 1776
- B. 1787**
- C. 1800
- D. 1812

The Constitution was written in 1787. The Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia that year drafted and signed the document that created the framework for the U.S. federal government. The year 1776 is associated with the Declaration of Independence, not the Constitution, while 1800 and 1812 occur later and are not the year the Constitution was written. The Constitution was later ratified by the states and the new government began in 1789, but the act of writing and signing happened in 1787.

4. What is the correct ascending order of the warrant officer ranks from entry-level to senior-most?

- A. W-1, W-2, W-3, W-4, W-5**
- B. W-1, W-3, W-2, W-4, W-5
- C. W-5, W-4, W-3, W-2, W-1
- D. W-1, W-2, W-4, W-3, W-5

Warrant officer ranks are stepped one level at a time, from entry to the most senior. The entry-level warrant officer is W-1, and as a warrant officer gains time in grade, experience, and technical proficiency, they advance to W-2, then W-3, then W-4, and finally the senior-most W-5. Each promotion reflects greater responsibility and leadership within the technical field. So the ascending sequence is W-1, W-2, W-3, W-4, W-5. The other sequences would alter the established order by skipping or reordering ranks, which isn't how warrant officer progression works.

5. Which staff position is S-2?

- A. Administrative Officer
- B. Security Officer**
- C. Operations Officer
- D. Logistics Officer

In this part of the Army staff structure, the S-2 designation refers to the Intelligence and Security Officer. This role is the unit's point person for all security and intelligence matters, providing threat assessments, security oversight, and intelligence support to planning and operations. The S-2 coordinates information security, OPSEC, and counterintelligence efforts, helps determine vulnerabilities, and works with intelligence personnel to turn enemy information and dispositions into actionable insights for the commander. This is why the Security Officer is the best fit. The other roles focus on different areas: an Administrative Officer handles personnel and administrative tasks, an Operations Officer leads planning and execution of missions, and a Logistics Officer manages supply, maintenance, and transportation.

6. Which pay grade is associated with Master Warrant Officer?

- A. W-4
- B. W-5**
- C. W-3
- D. W-2

Master Warrant Officer sits at the top of the Warrant Officer pay scale. Warrant Officers are a separate path from commissioned officers, focused on advanced technical expertise, and their pay grades run from W-1 through W-5. The title Master Warrant Officer is used for the highest level of that path, which corresponds to the pay grade W-5 (the Chief Warrant Officer 5 level). In terms of pay scale, W-5 is the senior warrant grade and is roughly equivalent in pay to an O-6 in the officer ranks, reflecting the level of experience and leadership this position holds. So the pay grade associated with Master Warrant Officer is the top warrant grade, W-5. Lower warrant grades (W-4, W-3, W-2) are not the master level.

7. Who is the President and Commander-in-Chief?

- A. Honorable Donald Trump**
- B. Honorable Joe Biden
- C. Honorable Barack Obama
- D. Honorable Mike Pence

The main idea is that the President is the Commander-in-Chief, the civilian leader who directs the U.S. Armed Forces. This role, defined by the Constitution, means the President oversees military operations, makes national-security decisions, and works with Congress on funding and war powers. The current President and Commander-in-Chief is Joe Biden. The other names are individuals who have held the office in the past or served in higher offices, but they are not the sitting President now. Keep in mind that the person in this role can change with elections, so the answer depends on the current date.

8. Which rank is assigned to pay grade E-2?

- A. No rank (or Private)
- B. Private**
- C. Private First Class
- D. Corporal

Understanding how pay grades map to enlisted ranks helps you read Army charts quickly. Enlisted soldiers advance through pay grades from E-1 up to E-9, and each grade is tied to a rank label. At the entry level, E-1 is Private (no insignia). The next level, E-2, is commonly referred to as Private in many study materials, even though the formal title is Private Second Class. The following grade, E-3, is Private First Class; E-4 can be Specialist or Corporal, and so on. So, in the context of this question, the label that matches pay grade E-2 is Private, with the formal title being Private Second Class. This distinguishes it from the other options: E-1 corresponds to No rank (Private with no insignia), E-3 to Private First Class, and E-4 to Corporal or Specialist.

9. Who is considered the father of the U.S. Army?

- A. Alexander Hamilton**
- B. George Washington**
- C. Ulysses S. Grant**
- D. Dwight Eisenhower**

George Washington is seen as the father of the U.S. Army because he commanded the Continental Army in the American Revolution and forged the early military force that became the basis for the United States Army. His leadership unified diverse colonial militias into a coherent fighting force, guided crucial campaigns to victory, and helped establish the organizational approach and traditions that future U.S. armies would follow. While other leaders—like Alexander Hamilton for postwar military organization, or Grant and Eisenhower for later wars—played essential roles in their eras, Washington’s central, foundational influence on the Army’s origins is why this title is attributed to him.

10. Which rank is four steps above Captain in the sequence?

- A. Captain**
- B. Brigadier General**
- C. Major General**
- D. Lieutenant General**

In this case, the idea is understanding how officer ranks step up in the Army. Captain is pay grade O-3. The next four steps are Major (O-4), Lieutenant Colonel (O-5), Colonel (O-6), and Brigadier General (O-7). Four steps above Captain lands you at Brigadier General, which is the first general officer rank. The higher options correspond to additional steps beyond Brigadier General (Major General is five steps above Captain, Lieutenant General six, General seven), so Brigadier General is the correct choice.

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://usmilitarychainofcommand.examzify.com>

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

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