

US MILITARY CHAIN OF COMMAND AND ARMY BASIC KNOWLEDGE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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. Which president was a five-star general before becoming president?

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B. George Washington
- C. Ulysses S. Grant
- D. Douglas MacArthur

2. Where was JROTC established?

- A. Norwich, Vermont
- B. Boston, Massachusetts
- C. Albany, New York
- D. Manchester, New Hampshire

3. Which E-9 rank is the top enlisted member of the Army?

- A. Sergeant Major
- B. Command Sergeant Major
- C. Sergeant Major of the Army
- D. Master Warrant Officer

4. What is the Third General Order?

- A. I will report violations of my special orders, emergencies, and anything not covered in my instructions to my commander of the relief.
- B. I will guard everything within the limits of my post and quit my post only when properly relieved.
- C. I will obey my special orders and perform all of my duties in a military manner.
- D. I will stand fast and maintain discipline at all times.

5. Who is the Army Chief of Staff?

- A. General Randy Alan George
- B. Lieutenant General Johnny K. Davis
- C. Command Sergeant Major Shade Munday
- D. Brigadier General Maurice Barnett

6. Which rank is directly above Lieutenant General?

- A. Major General
- B. Lieutenant General
- C. General
- D. General of the Army

7. Who is the Secretary of State?

- A. The Honorable Marco Rubio
- B. The Honorable Mike Johnson
- C. The Honorable John G. Roberts Jr
- D. Brigadier General Maurice Barnett

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

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

9. Which role is the top enlisted member of the Air Force?

- A. Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force
- B. Sergeant Major of the Army
- C. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
- D. Senior Enlisted Adviser

10. Which president was a five-star general before his presidency?

- A. Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B. George Washington
- C. Ulysses S. Grant
- D. Douglas MacArthur

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which president was a five-star general before becoming president?

A. Dwight D. Eisenhower

B. George Washington

C. Ulysses S. Grant

D. Douglas MacArthur

The five-star General of the Army rank was a special wartime title created during World War II for the highest-level Army leaders. Dwight D. Eisenhower is the one who held that rank and then entered civilian leadership as president, making him the correct answer. Eisenhower served as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, was promoted to five-star general in the later stages of the war, and later became the 34th President. George Washington led American forces before such a rank existed, so he didn't hold a five-star designation. Ulysses S. Grant was a pivotal Civil War general and later became president, but the five-star rank did not exist in his time. Douglas MacArthur did achieve five-star status, but he did not become president.

2. Where was JROTC established?

A. Norwich, Vermont

B. Boston, Massachusetts

C. Albany, New York

D. Manchester, New Hampshire

JROTC's roots trace back to the ROTC concept created in the United States by Captain Alden Partridge at Norwich University in Vermont. That institution is widely identified as the birthplace of structured military training in a college setting, which over time evolved into the ROTC programs and, later, into the high school Junior ROTC program. Because the question points to the origin of JROTC, the place most closely associated with its establishment in American military-education history is Norwich, Vermont. The other cities listed do not have that historical connection to the birth of ROTC/JROTC.

3. Which E-9 rank is the top enlisted member of the Army?

A. Sergeant Major

B. Command Sergeant Major

C. Sergeant Major of the Army

D. Master Warrant Officer

In the Army, the highest enlisted pay grade is E-9, and the top enlisted member is the Sergeant Major of the Army. This is a unique, single billet appointed by the Secretary of the Army to serve as the senior enlisted advisor to the Army Chief of Staff and to represent all enlisted soldiers across the Army. Other E-9 roles, like Command Sergeant Major, serve as senior enlisted leaders within divisions, corps, or commands, but they do not hold the national-level position. The option involving a Master Warrant Officer isn't correct because Warrant Officers are in the W-1 to W-5 series, not E-9.

4. What is the Third General Order?

- A. I will report violations of my special orders, emergencies, and anything not covered in my instructions to my commander of the relief.
- B. I will guard everything within the limits of my post and quit my post only when properly relieved.
- C. I will obey my special orders and perform all of my duties in a military manner.
- D. I will stand fast and maintain discipline at all times.

The key idea here is how a sentry handles issues on the post. The Third General Order tells a guard to report any violations of special orders, emergencies, or anything not covered by instructions to the commander of the relief. This ensures that problems or unexpected situations are escalated to the person in charge of the relief so appropriate action can be taken and the post remains properly supervised. The other statements describe different responsibilities: guarding the post and quitting only when properly relieved relates to the duty to remain at the post; obeying special orders and performing duties in a military manner covers following directives; standing fast and maintaining discipline is about conduct but not the specific reporting requirement.

5. Who is the Army Chief of Staff?

- A. General Randy Alan George
- B. Lieutenant General Johnny K. Davis
- C. Command Sergeant Major Shade Munday
- D. Brigadier General Maurice Barnett

The position of Army Chief of Staff is the highest-ranking officer in the U.S. Army and serves as the principal military adviser to the Secretary of the Army and the President on Army matters. This role is held by a four-star general who oversees overall readiness, modernization, and policy for the Army, and is appointed by the President with Senate confirmation. General Randy Alan George is the person who holds that post, having been chosen for the job and confirmed to serve as the Army's top uniformed leader. The other options do not fit because they refer to different roles or ranks: a Command Sergeant Major is the senior noncommissioned officer, not the Chief of Staff; a Brigadier General is a one-star general; a Lieutenant General is a three-star general. Only the four-star general fits the Chief of Staff position.

6. Which rank is directly above Lieutenant General?

- A. Major General
- B. Lieutenant General
- C. General
- D. General of the Army

In the U.S. Army rank structure, each rank rises in order by stars. Lieutenant General is a three-star general officer, so the next higher rank is General, which is a four-star general officer. The General of the Army is a five-star rank used only in special wartime or historical contexts, so it's not the direct next step in normal progression. Major General is below Lieutenant General, so it wouldn't be the correct choice.

7. Who is the Secretary of State?

- A. The Honorable Marco Rubio
- B. The Honorable Mike Johnson
- C. The Honorable John G. Roberts Jr
- D. Brigadier General Maurice Barnett

The Secretary of State is the President's top diplomat and the head of the State Department, serving as the principal foreign policy adviser to the President and the representative of the United States abroad. This is a civilian Cabinet-level position confirmed by the Senate and focused on managing diplomacy, international relations, and consular affairs. Among the options, one is a United States Senator, another is the Speaker of the House, another is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the last is a Brigadier General. Those roles belong to different branches or military leadership, not the State Department. The Secretary of State is a distinct civilian position, not a member of the Senate, the judiciary, or the military. In reality, the office is currently held by a senior diplomat, Antony Blinken. So the concept to focus on is that the Secretary of State is the nation's top diplomat and chief foreign affairs official, a role separate from the other offices listed.

8. 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.

9. Which role is the top enlisted member of the Air Force?

- A. Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force
- B. Sergeant Major of the Army
- C. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy
- D. Senior Enlisted Adviser

In the Air Force, the top enlisted member is the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, the single highest-ranking enlisted leader who represents enlisted airmen to the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force. This role serves as the voice for enlisted personnel on issues like readiness, training, quality of life, and career development, helping shape policies that affect all airmen. The other titles refer to leaders in other services or to a joint-level advisor, not the Air Force's own top enlisted leader: the Sergeant Major of the Army leads Army enlisted matters, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy leads Navy enlisted matters, and the Senior Enlisted Adviser is a joint position advising the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, not specific to the Air Force. Therefore, the correct answer is Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force.

10. Which president was a five-star general before his presidency?

A. Dwight D. Eisenhower

B. George Washington

C. Ulysses S. Grant

D. Douglas MacArthur

The highest U.S. Army rank, a five-star General of the Army, was created during World War II to recognize top wartime leaders. Dwight D. Eisenhower earned this rank while serving as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, and he held it before entering the presidency in 1953. That combination—holding a five-star rank prior to becoming president—fits him uniquely among the names listed. George Washington led troops before there was any five-star rank, so he never held it. Ulysses S. Grant was a pivotal Civil War general and later president, but the five-star designation did not exist in his era. Douglas MacArthur did achieve five-star status, but he did not become president.

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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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