

US National Security Key Concepts, Agencies, and Strategies Practice Exam (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. Future warfare is expected to feature blurred domains and what challenge?**
 - A. Clear domain boundaries and no human oversight.**
 - B. Isolation from technology.**
 - C. Blurred domains and human-in-the-loop challenges.**
 - D. Instant victory with no cost.**

- 2. The National Security Act of 1947 created several key structures. Which of the following was created?**
 - A. Central Intelligence Agency**
 - B. Federal Bureau of Investigation**
 - C. Department of Homeland Security**
 - D. National Security Agency**

- 3. What is the primary objective of Anti-Access/Area Denial in practice?**
 - A. Provide mobility for adversaries within contested areas**
 - B. Increase adversary's air superiority**
 - C. Deny or limit an adversary's ability to enter a contested operational area**
 - D. Conduct long-range strikes**

- 4. Which is NOT on the list of nations known to possess nuclear weapons?**
 - A. United States**
 - B. India**
 - C. Germany**
 - D. Israel**

- 5. What is the lead US counterterrorism agency?**
 - A. FBI**
 - B. National Counterterrorism Center**
 - C. CIA**
 - D. DHS**

- 6. The Director of the National Security Agency is also Commander of which command?**
- A. US Strategic Command**
 - B. US Transportation Command**
 - C. US Cyber Command**
 - D. US European Command**
- 7. Which of the following is a recognized nuclear-armed state?**
- A. Brazil**
 - B. United States**
 - C. Sweden**
 - D. Spain**
- 8. Which of the following is listed as a US Combatant Command?**
- A. Space Command**
 - B. FBI**
 - C. DHS**
 - D. EPA**
- 9. According to China, they are an Arctic Nation through what means?**
- A. Direct border with the Arctic Ocean.**
 - B. Extended continental shelf claims, research stations, and Northern Sea Route interests.**
 - C. Troop deployments to Arctic.**
 - D. Exclusive economic zone expansion.**
- 10. Which of the following is a responsibility of Congress?**
- A. Declare war**
 - B. Appropriate funds for military/foreign affairs**
 - C. Advise and consent on treaties/appointments (Senate)**
 - D. Regulate armed forces**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Future warfare is expected to feature blurred domains and what challenge?

- A. Clear domain boundaries and no human oversight.**
- B. Isolation from technology.**
- C. Blurred domains and human-in-the-loop challenges.**
- D. Instant victory with no cost.**

Future warfare will blend air, land, sea, cyberspace, space, and information so tightly that the lines between domains become fuzzy. In this environment, advanced systems—sensors, networks, autonomous assets—operate across multiple spheres at once, which creates ambiguity about who is making the call and when. That’s where the human-in-the-loop challenge comes in: despite automation and AI, critical decisions, ethical considerations, legal responsibilities, and the need for timely, context-aware judgment still require human oversight. Keeping a human involved helps ensure control, accountability, and the ability to intervene if automation misreads a situation or fails in a rapidly changing environment. The other options don’t fit because rigid domain boundaries with no human oversight contradict how intertwined modern operations are becoming; isolating from technology ignores the pervasive role of advanced systems; and imagining instant victory with no cost is not consistent with the risks, costs, and complexities of multi-domain warfare.

2. The National Security Act of 1947 created several key structures. Which of the following was created?

- A. Central Intelligence Agency**
- B. Federal Bureau of Investigation**
- C. Department of Homeland Security**
- D. National Security Agency**

The act created a civilian foreign intelligence agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, to coordinate foreign intelligence gathering and analysis and to advise the President and the National Security Council. This established a centralized, civilian-led intelligence capability distinct from domestic law enforcement or military command, aligning postwar needs with civilian control of intelligence. The FBI predates this act and handles domestic federal law enforcement and security investigations; the Department of Homeland Security was created in 2002 to unify border, immigration, and emergency response functions; the National Security Agency was established in 1952 for signals intelligence, evolving from earlier military programs, and not created by the 1947 act.

3. What is the primary objective of Anti-Access/Area Denial in practice?

- A. Provide mobility for adversaries within contested areas**
- B. Increase adversary's air superiority**
- C. Deny or limit an adversary's ability to enter a contested operational area**
- D. Conduct long-range strikes**

The main idea behind Anti-Access/Area Denial is to deny or significantly limit an adversary's ability to enter or operate inside a designated contested area. It uses layered defenses and denial measures—such as long-range fires, integrated air and maritime defenses, surveillance and reconnaissance, and disruption of logistics and command and control—to raise the adversary's risk, time, and cost of entry, effectively keeping them out of the area or pushing them to operate farther away. This isn't about helping the enemy move or about increasing their air superiority; it's about preventing entry and constraining their maneuver. Long-range strikes can be a tool within A2/AD, but they're means to the end of denying access, not the primary objective itself.

4. Which is NOT on the list of nations known to possess nuclear weapons?

- A. United States**
- B. India**
- C. Germany**
- D. Israel**

Understanding which nations are publicly known to possess nuclear weapons hinges on the distinction between having an independent arsenal and merely hosting weapons or having the capability to threaten with them. A country that truly possesses nuclear weapons maintains its own declared stockpile and full control over those weapons. The United States is widely acknowledged to have a declared nuclear arsenal. India has developed and tested its own weapons and maintains a stockpile. Israel is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, though it does not publicly confirm them. Germany, however, does not own or operate a national nuclear arsenal. It participates in NATO's nuclear sharing arrangement, but the weapons—if present in German territory—are controlled by the United States and not owned by Germany. That containment and lack of an independent national arsenal is why it is not considered a nation known to possess nuclear weapons.

5. What is the lead US counterterrorism agency?

- A. FBI
- B. National Counterterrorism Center**
- C. CIA
- D. DHS

The idea being tested is who coordinates the full spectrum of counterterrorism efforts at the national level. The National Counterterrorism Center is the best fit because it is the central hub within the U.S. intelligence community designed to integrate counterterrorism intelligence from all agencies, coordinate national CT planning, and oversee threat assessment and information sharing across the FBI, CIA, DHS, NSA, and military partners. It sits under the Director of National Intelligence to ensure a unified, cross-agency view and response to terrorism threats, rather than focusing on a single agency's operations. FBI handles domestic counterterrorism investigations and law enforcement actions, CIA conducts foreign intelligence gathering and covert operations, and DHS leads domestic security and resilience programs. None of these alone covers the nationwide, intelligence-driven coordination role that NCTC specializes in, which is why it is considered the lead entity for coordinating U.S. counterterrorism efforts.

6. The Director of the National Security Agency is also Commander of which command?

- A. US Strategic Command
- B. US Transportation Command
- C. US Cyber Command**
- D. US European Command

The question hinges on how cyberspace leadership is structured across intelligence and military commands. The Director of the National Security Agency is also the Commander of United States Cyber Command, a dual-hatted arrangement that tightly integrates cyber defense, cyber operations, and intelligence. This overlap allows the person in charge to align signals intelligence and cybersecurity expertise with the planning and execution of cyber missions, ensuring coordinated action and rapid use of intelligence in cyberspace operations. US Cyber Command is the unified combatant command responsible for directing cyber operations and defending cyberspace, which is why this role fits with the NSA director. The other commands have different primary missions—strategic deterrence and global strike, global mobility, and theater-focused operations in Europe, respectively—so they do not correspond to the NSA director's combined leadership role.

7. Which of the following is a recognized nuclear-armed state?

- A. Brazil
- B. United States**
- C. Sweden
- D. Spain

A nation's status as a nuclear-armed state is tied to international recognition under frameworks like the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which identifies five countries as nuclear-weapon states. The United States is one of these recognized states, with a long-standing and active nuclear arsenal that has existed since the 1940s. Brazil, Sweden, and Spain do not possess nuclear weapons today, so they are not considered nuclear-armed states.

8. Which of the following is listed as a US Combatant Command?

- A. Space Command**
- B. FBI
- C. DHS
- D. EPA

Combatant Commands are the Defense Department's unified commands created to conduct military operations in specific domains or regions. U.S. Space Command fits this role as a unified command dedicated to space operations, integrating and directing forces to safeguard national security in the space domain. The other options aren't Combatant Commands: the FBI is a federal law enforcement agency under the Department of Justice, DHS is a civilian department coordinating homeland security activities, and the EPA is a civilian environmental regulatory agency. So Space Command is the one that belongs to the DoD's combatant-command structure.

9. According to China, they are an Arctic Nation through what means?

- A. Direct border with the Arctic Ocean.
- B. Extended continental shelf claims, research stations, and Northern Sea Route interests.**
- C. Troop deployments to Arctic.
- D. Exclusive economic zone expansion.

The idea being tested is that a country can position itself as an Arctic stakeholder through legal claims, sustained scientific presence, and economic strategy, even if it isn't geographically on the Arctic coast. China frames itself as an Arctic nation by pursuing extended continental shelf claims in the Arctic Ocean to expand its rights to seabed resources under UNCLOS, by establishing long-term Arctic research stations to demonstrate sustained scientific presence and expertise, and by pursuing access and influence along the Northern Sea Route to support shipping and economic interests in the region. These moves collectively show legal legitimacy, practical presence, and economic stake in the Arctic. The other possibilities don't capture that mix: a direct border with the Arctic Ocean isn't applicable to China, troop deployments aren't how nations establish Arctic status, and merely expanding an EEZ doesn't by itself establish Arctic nation status.

10. Which of the following is a responsibility of Congress?

A. Declare war

B. Appropriate funds for military/foreign affairs

C. Advise and consent on treaties/appointments (Senate)

D. Regulate armed forces

Congress exercises national security authority primarily through the power of the purse—the ability to appropriate funds for the military and foreign affairs. Money is the practical engine that makes policy possible: it pays for troops, equipment, missions, diplomacy, and international programs. By deciding how much to fund and under what conditions, Congress directly shapes what actions can be undertaken, how they're carried out, and how sustainable they are over time. This budgeting power gives Congress ongoing oversight and influence over national security policy, making funding for military and foreign affairs the most direct and fundamental responsibility. Other actions exist in theory—declaring war, advising and consenting on treaties and appointments, and regulating the armed forces—but these operate in different ways or are more specific in scope. The funding decision, by contrast, directly enables or limits all national security activities and is the clearest lever Congress uses to influence policy.

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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://usnationalsecagenciesstrats.examzify.com>

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

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