

USACE Contracting Officer Review Board (CORB) 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. Under multiple-awards contracts, an order must exceed what amount to require fair opportunity, unless exceptions apply?**
 - A. \$1,000**
 - B. \$2,000**
 - C. \$3,000**
 - D. \$5,000**

- 2. In a post-award debriefing, which item is typically disclosed?**
 - A. The overall ranking of all offerors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during the source selection.**
 - B. The identity of other offerors.**
 - C. The content of other offerors' proposals.**
 - D. The price of the debriefed offeror.**

- 3. The SSEB documents its decision in which document?**
 - A. Contract Award Memorandum**
 - B. Evaluation Board Report**
 - C. Source Selection Plan**
 - D. Source Selection Decision Document (SSDD)**

- 4. Severable services may be funded in what manner?**
 - A. They are funded entirely at award**
 - B. They may extend beyond one year**
 - C. They require no Bona Fide Needs rule**
 - D. They can be funded incrementally**

- 5. Who signs the designation letter for each contract the ACO is involved with?**
 - A. The SCO**
 - B. The COR**
 - C. The PCO**
 - D. The ACO**

- 6. In Phase Two, what may be included with technical proposals?**
- A. A purely qualitative narrative**
 - B. A comprehensive risk assessment**
 - C. A performance schedule and milestones**
 - D. The technical proposals may include preliminary design and a price proposal**
- 7. Which statement reflects a key to effective competition?**
- A. Gathering information from only internal sources.**
 - B. Proceeding without any market research.**
 - C. Gathering information from relevant sources to support minimum mission needs and expanding insight into the commercial marketplace.**
 - D. Relying on a single supplier's capabilities.**
- 8. Which statement correctly describes non-severable versus severable service contracts in terms of funding and period of performance?**
- A. Non-severable services may be funded in full at award with the execution potentially crossing fiscal years; severable services may be funded for up to 12 months under a DoD exception.**
 - B. Non-severable services may cross fiscal years only if funded in separate actions; severable services require funding entirely in the first year.**
 - C. Both non-severable and severable services must be funded within a single fiscal year.**
 - D. Non-severable services require annual funding actions; severable services cannot cross fiscal years.**
- 9. Which statement best reflects the six percent limitation for AE design costs and what is included?**
- A. 6% of the estimated construction cost and includes all related costs.**
 - B. 6% and includes investigative co-pays and admin costs.**
 - C. 6% and includes only design costs.**
 - D. 6% and includes design costs aside from investigative co-paying/admin cost.**

10. What happens to proposals not included in the competitive range?

- A. They are automatically awarded a contract**
- B. They receive further consideration**
- C. They are not given further consideration and are notified**
- D. They are revised and resubmitted**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Under multiple-awards contracts, an order must exceed what amount to require fair opportunity, unless exceptions apply?

- A. \$1,000**
- B. \$2,000**
- C. \$3,000**
- D. \$5,000**

When using multiple-award contracts, the ordering activity must give fair opportunity to compete among the awardees for orders that exceed a certain dollar value. In this context, that threshold is 3,000 dollars. So, if an order on a multiple-award contract is expected to exceed 3,000 dollars, you must provide fair opportunity for all eligible contractors under the contract to compete for that order, unless an authorized exception applies (such as urgent need, only one responsible source, or another valid justification that allows a non-competitive award). This threshold helps ensure competition while allowing faster decisions for smaller purchases.

2. In a post-award debriefing, which item is typically disclosed?

- A. The overall ranking of all offerors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during the source selection.**
- B. The identity of other offerors.**
- C. The content of other offerors' proposals.**
- D. The price of the debriefed offeror.**

After award, debriefings are meant to provide transparency about the decision while protecting competitive information. The item typically disclosed is the overall ranking of all offerors, if such ranking was developed during the source selection. This lets the debriefed offeror see how they compared to others and understand the basis for the award without exposing sensitive details. Disclosing the identities of other offerors, the contents of their proposals, or the price of the debriefed offeror would undermine competition and reveal confidential information, so those are not routinely shared.

3. The SSEB documents its decision in which document?

- A. Contract Award Memorandum**
- B. Evaluation Board Report**
- C. Source Selection Plan**
- D. Source Selection Decision Document (SSDD)**

The formal decision and its rationale are documented in the Source Selection Decision Document. After the SSEB completes the evaluation and makes its recommendation, the Source Selection Decision Document captures the final decision, the justification, and the basis for award. This makes the award decision traceable and transparent. The other papers play different roles: the Evaluation Board Report records the SSEB's evaluation results, the Source Selection Plan lays out the process, and the Contract Award Memorandum typically records the award itself and key terms after the decision has been made.

4. Severable services may be funded in what manner?

- A. They are funded entirely at award
- B. They may extend beyond one year
- C. They require no Bona Fide Needs rule
- D. They can be funded incrementally**

Severable services are divisible into independent portions that deliver complete value within each fiscal year, so funding can be provided in chunks that align with ongoing needs. Because each segment stands on its own, you can obligate funds for the work in the current year and then incrementally fund future years as the contract continues and more appropriations become available. This approach also supports the Bona Fide Needs rule, ensuring money is used to meet the legitimate need in the period for which it is appropriated. While a contract could be funded for multiple years, the defining method for severable services is the ability to fund in increments, not necessarily funding everything upfront or solely based on the contract's duration.

5. Who signs the designation letter for each contract the ACO is involved with?

- A. The SCO
- B. The COR
- C. The PCO**
- D. The ACO

Designation letters are the formal instruments that grant authority to individuals to act for the government on a specific contract. The person who signs these letters is the Procuring Contracting Officer because they hold the authority to award contracts and delegate duties to others, such as designating the Contracting Officer's Representative or outlining the Administrative Contracting Officer's role for that contract. The Administrative Contracting Officer administers the contract under that delegated authority, but does not sign the designation letter itself. The COR receives the designation and operates under the PCO's authority, while the SCO is not typically the signer for these designations.

6. In Phase Two, what may be included with technical proposals?

- A. A purely qualitative narrative
- B. A comprehensive risk assessment
- C. A performance schedule and milestones
- D. The technical proposals may include preliminary design and a price proposal**

Phase Two is about showing how the technical approach will meet the requirements while also providing cost information for a best-value decision. That's why technical proposals may include a preliminary design to illustrate how the work will be accomplished and to reveal the proposed design approach, risks, and feasibility. At the same time, a price proposal is included so evaluators can assess cost against technical merit. A purely qualitative narrative wouldn't give enough evidence of how the design will work or what it will cost. While risk management, schedules, or milestones can be part of the proposal, the defining inclusion at this stage is the combination of preliminary design with a price proposal, enabling a comprehensive technical and cost evaluation.

7. Which statement reflects a key to effective competition?

- A. Gathering information from only internal sources.
- B. Proceeding without any market research.
- C. Gathering information from relevant sources to support minimum mission needs and expanding insight into the commercial marketplace.**
- D. Relying on a single supplier's capabilities.

Effective competition hinges on thorough market research that looks beyond internal data to understand what the market can supply and at what cost. Gathering information from relevant sources to define the minimum mission needs and to broaden knowledge of the commercial marketplace lets you shape requirements that are realistic, verifiable, and open to multiple bidders. This approach helps identify capable competitors, set appropriate performance and delivery expectations, and avoid constraints that only a single supplier could meet. It also supports better pricing, fresh ideas, and fair evaluation among bidders. Relying only on internal information, skipping market research, or leaning on a single supplier's capabilities narrows the field, risks missing viable alternatives, and often leads to higher costs or less favorable terms.

8. Which statement correctly describes non-severable versus severable service contracts in terms of funding and period of performance?

- A. Non-severable services may be funded in full at award with the execution potentially crossing fiscal years; severable services may be funded for up to 12 months under a DoD exception.**
- B. Non-severable services may cross fiscal years only if funded in separate actions; severable services require funding entirely in the first year.
- C. Both non-severable and severable services must be funded within a single fiscal year.
- D. Non-severable services require annual funding actions; severable services cannot cross fiscal years.

The key idea is that non-severable versus severable work drives how you fund and how long the contract can run. Non-severable work is a single, complete effort—its value isn't divisible into independently contractible parts. Because of that, you fund the entire period of performance up front, and the work may extend into future fiscal years without needing a new funding action for each year. Severable work, on the other hand, can be broken into separable tasks or increments of deliverable work. Since each year's progress can stand on its own, funding is typically done year by year. There is an exception in DoD practice that allows funding for up to 12 months in advance to bridge year-to-year funding gaps, hence the reference to a DoD exception. So the statement that non-severable services may be funded in full at award with the possibility of crossing fiscal years, while severable services may be funded for up to 12 months under a DoD exception, accurately reflects these funding and period-of-performance rules. The other options impose stricter or inaccurate constraints—such as requiring separate actions for cross-year funding, insisting severable work must be funded entirely in the first year, or claiming both types must be funded within a single fiscal year and that severable cannot cross years.

9. Which statement best reflects the six percent limitation for AE design costs and what is included?

- A. 6% of the estimated construction cost and includes all related costs.**
- B. 6% and includes investigative co-pays and admin costs.**
- C. 6% and includes only design costs.**
- D. 6% and includes design costs aside from investigative co-paying/admin cost.**

The six percent limit applies to the compensation for architect-engineer design services—the costs tied to the actual design work for the project. It is calculated as a percentage of the estimated construction cost and is meant to cap the design fees, not every preconstruction expense. Costs for site investigations (geotechnical work, surveys, etc.) and administrative charges are not part of the design services themselves, so they are excluded from this six percent cap and billed separately. In other words, the limit covers design costs only and does not include investigative co-pays or admin costs.

10. What happens to proposals not included in the competitive range?

- A. They are automatically awarded a contract**
- B. They receive further consideration**
- C. They are not given further consideration and are notified**
- D. They are revised and resubmitted**

When a procurement uses a competitive process, after the initial evaluation the agency identifies a set of proposals that will continue toward award—the competitive range. Proposals outside that range are no longer considered for award; they are notified that they will not receive further consideration in this competition. This keeps the focus on the most capable proposals and prevents unnecessary further evaluation of weaker offers. The excluded offerors can still request a debriefing to understand the basis for exclusion and may pursue protest if they believe the process was flawed, but within the current competition they are not evaluated further or revised for award.

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://usacecorb.examzify.com>

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

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