

USACE CONTRACTING OFFICER REVIEW BOARD (CORB) 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. Who may delegate certification authority for requirements valued less than what amount?**
 - A. Less than \$100,000
 - B. More than \$1,000,000
 - C. Between \$100k and \$500k
 - D. No delegation allowed
- 2. How are GFP adjustments handled during contract administration?**
 - A. Through a separate procurement action.
 - B. By mutual agreement outside the contract.
 - C. GFP adjustments are not allowed.
 - D. By an equitable adjustment under the contract.
- 3. Threshold and approval for D&F for 'Other than full and open competitions for International Agreement competitive restriction'**
 - A. <\$0 CoCO
 - B. \$1M SCO
 - C. >\$0 CoCO
 - D. >\$0 CoCO (with specific authority)
- 4. Issuing a letter authorizing expenditures before funds are available would be anti-deficient.**
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. It would be allowed with managerial approval
 - D. It would be routine practice
- 5. Which regulations govern ratification of unauthorized commitments?**
 - A. FAR 1.602-3 and AFARS 5101.602-3
 - B. FAR 2.0 and DoDI 5000
 - C. DoD Instruction 5000
 - D. AFARS 5102-4 and FAR 1.603

- 6. Where in the contract can site visit information be found?**
- A. Section 01 21 30
 - B. Section 02 20 00
 - C. Section 03 40 00
 - D. Section 00 21 30
- 7. Which statement about UCA approvals is true?**
- A. Only UCAs above \$100k require SCO approval.
 - B. SCO approval is not required.
 - C. UCA approvals require customer approval only.
 - D. All UCAs require SCO approval, regardless of value.
- 8. In Design Bid Build, how are the owner's contracts arranged?**
- A. The owner contracts separately with the design firm and the builder
 - B. The owner contracts with a single general contractor for both design and construction
 - C. The owner uses a design-build entity
 - D. The owner contracts only with the subcontractors
- 9. Synopsis is required if the action threshold is exceeded by how much?**
- A. \$100,000
 - B. \$20,000
 - C. \$25,000
 - D. \$2,500
- 10. Which step follows 'Conduct initial proposal evaluations' in the Source Selection Procedures?**
- A. Establish Competitive Range
 - B. Request final proposals
 - C. Award
 - D. Conduct Communications

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Who may delegate certification authority for requirements valued less than what amount?

- A. Less than \$100,000**
- B. More than \$1,000,000
- C. Between \$100k and \$500k
- D. No delegation allowed

The concept being tested is how delegation of certification authority is used to streamline small purchases while keeping tighter control on larger ones. In this framework, the ability to certify that a requirement is properly reviewed and ready for award can be delegated to a suitable official, but this delegation is limited by dollar value. Specifically, for requirements valued less than 100,000 dollars, the contracting officer can delegate certification authority to a qualified designee. This means lower-dollar, lower-risk procurements can move more quickly through the process without burdening the contracting officer with every small decision. Why this threshold matters: when the value stays under 100k, the risk and potential impact are relatively lower, so delegating certifying duties helps keep procurement-moving efficiently. Once the value exceeds that threshold, the governance and accountability requirements tighten up, and the delegation to a lower-level official is not appropriate—the contracting officer or a higher-level official must handle certification responsibilities to maintain proper oversight.

2. How are GFP adjustments handled during contract administration?

- A. Through a separate procurement action.
- B. By mutual agreement outside the contract.
- C. GFP adjustments are not allowed.
- D. By an equitable adjustment under the contract.**

Adjustments involving Government Furnished Property during contract administration are handled as an equitable adjustment under the contract. When GFP availability or characteristics affect costs, performance, or schedule, the contractor requests a modification to the contract terms—typically a price adjustment, a schedule change, or both—through the contract's established adjustment mechanisms (often tied to the Changes clause and the Government Property provisions). This approach keeps the remedy within the contract framework, ensuring fair compensation for additional costs or time caused by GFP changes, rather than pursuing a separate procurement action or acting outside the contract.

3. Threshold and approval for D&F for 'Other than full and open competitions for International Agreement competitive restriction'

- A. <\$0 CoCO
- B. \$1M SCO
- C. >\$0 CoCO**
- D. >\$0 CoCO (with specific authority)

When you use a contract action that is "Other than full and open competition" because of an International Agreement competitive restriction, you must have a Determination and Findings (D&F) to justify the noncompetitive approach. The important point is that the need for a D&F here isn't about hitting a dollar threshold; it's about whether the action is noncompetitive due to an international constraint. In this scenario, any positive contract value requires the D&F to be approved by the appropriate authority (CoCO). Therefore, the threshold is simply greater than zero with CoCO approval. The other options imply specific dollar floors or additional authorities that aren't the standard for this situation.

4. Issuing a letter authorizing expenditures before funds are available would be anti-deficient.

- A. True**
- B. False
- C. It would be allowed with managerial approval
- D. It would be routine practice

The government cannot incur or authorize expenditures before funds are actually available. This is prohibited by the Anti-Deficiency Act, which requires obligations to be supported by appropriations or other available budget authority. A letter that commits the government to spend money when no funds exist would bind the government to incur a cost without budget authority, creating an improper, anti-deficient obligation. In practice, you must wait for funds to be appropriated or otherwise made available, or rely on a specific statutory authority that explicitly allows an advance or emergency action.

5. Which regulations govern ratification of unauthorized commitments?

- A. FAR 1.602-3 and AFARS 5101.602-3**
- B. FAR 2.0 and DoDI 5000
- C. DoD Instruction 5000
- D. AFARS 5102-4 and FAR 1.603

The key idea is that ratification of unauthorized commitments is governed by the general contracting rules in the FAR, with Army-specific procedures provided by the Army Supplement. Specifically, the rules for ratifying an unauthorized commitment are found in FAR 1.602-3, which lays out the conditions, approvals, and process a contracting officer must follow to ratify such commitments. The Army-specific implementation of those rules is in AFARS 5101.602-3, which adapts the FAR requirements to Army contracting, including who can approve ratifications and the Army's particular documentation and funding steps. That combination is why this option is correct: FAR 1.602-3 provides the baseline standards for ratification, and AFARS 5101.602-3 provides the Army-specific procedures to carry them out. The other choices don't fit because DoD Instruction 5000 and DoDI 5000 cover broad DoD acquisition policies rather than the specific process for ratifying unauthorized commitments. AFARS 5102-4 and FAR 1.603 don't address the ratification process in the same targeted way as 1.602-3 and 5101.602-3.

6. Where in the contract can site visit information be found?

- A. Section 01 21 30
- B. Section 02 20 00
- C. Section 03 40 00
- D. Section 00 21 30**

The site visit details are placed with the procurement and contracting requirements in the contract. In this format, the section dedicated to site visits, pre-bid logistics, and related bidder instructions is Section 00 21 30. It covers how to arrange or attend the site visit, who must attend, dates and locations, RSVP or sign-in procedures, and how addenda related to the visit are issued. Other sections focus on technical standards and construction requirements, not on bid administration or site access, so they don't contain site visit information. That's why Section 00 21 30 is the correct place for site visit details.

7. Which statement about UCA approvals is true?

- A. Only UCAs above \$100k require SCO approval.
- B. SCO approval is not required.
- C. UCA approvals require customer approval only.
- D. All UCAs require SCO approval, regardless of value.**

Unpriced Change Authorizations must be reviewed by the Senior Contracting Official because they can alter what the contractor will deliver, when, and at what cost. Since the change hasn't been priced yet, it has the potential to affect the contract baseline, funding, and overall risk. The SCO has the authority to judge whether the change is justified, properly funded, and within the contract's approved scope, ensuring consistent governance across all modifications. That's why every UCA requires SCO approval, no matter the dollar amount. If you see a rule that only requires SCO approval above a certain threshold, that would miss the safeguard against unpriced changes gradually eroding the contract baseline. Saying SCO approval isn't required overlooks the SCO's role in maintaining control over scope and risk. And suggesting customer approval alone is sufficient ignores the contract's internal governance structure; customer input may be relevant, but the SCO holds the formal approval authority for UCAs.

8. In Design Bid Build, how are the owner's contracts arranged?

- A. The owner contracts separately with the design firm and the builder**
- B. The owner contracts with a single general contractor for both design and construction
- C. The owner uses a design-build entity
- D. The owner contracts only with the subcontractors

In Design-Bid-Build, the project is split into design and construction phases with separate contracts. The owner first hires a design professional (architect/engineer) to develop complete design documents, then, after design is finished, hires a builder (general contractor) to construct the project based on those designs. The builder is selected through bidding, and contracts with the owner for construction while the design firm and builder maintain independent contractual relationships with the owner. This contrasts with design-build, where a single entity handles both design and construction, and with scenarios where the owner contracts directly with subcontractors (the general contractor typically hires subs in DBB).

9. Synopsis is required if the action threshold is exceeded by how much?

- A. \$100,000
- B. \$20,000
- C. \$25,000**
- D. \$2,500

Public notices for contracting actions are triggered when the proposed action goes beyond the set synopsis threshold. The amount that determines when a synopsis must be published is the excess over that threshold. In this context, the required excess is twenty-five thousand dollars. So, if the action value exceeds the threshold by 25,000, a synopsis must be issued. The other dollar figures don't match the defined excess that triggers the synopsis requirement, which is why they aren't the correct trigger.

10. Which step follows 'Conduct initial proposal evaluations' in the Source Selection Procedures?

- A. Establish Competitive Range
- B. Request final proposals
- C. Award

D. Conduct Communications

After you complete the initial evaluation of proposals, the next move is to conduct communications with offerors. This step provides a formal mechanism to obtain clarifications, resolve ambiguities, and discuss any weaknesses or issues identified during the initial review. By engaging in these communications, you ensure offerors understand the evaluation concerns and have an opportunity to address them before moving forward. These discussions help shape the competitive range and the content of any final proposals. Only after these communications do you proceed with narrowing to a competitive range and then requesting final proposals (and ultimately awarding).

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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://usacecorb.examzify.com>

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

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