

USADSA Tactics Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the primary function of the M240B machine gun?**
 - A. Fire from a closed bolt position**
 - B. Serve as a sniper rifle**
 - C. Perform as an automatic machine gun**
 - D. Be a semi-automatic weapon**

- 2. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a Patrol Base?**
 - A. Provides tactical value to the enemy**
 - B. Away from natural lines of drift**
 - C. Provides cover and concealment**
 - D. Easily defensible**

- 3. Which of the following statements about the M249 is true?**
 - A. It is a single shot weapon.**
 - B. It fires from the open bolt position.**
 - C. It is a gas operated, air cooled, fully automatic machine gun.**
 - D. It is a 7.62mm caliber weapon.**

- 4. What acronym represents immediate action for the M240B machine gun?**
 - A. PUSH**
 - B. POPS**
 - C. FAST**
 - D. STOP**

- 5. In the context of the five W's, which two are deemed most crucial?**
 - A. What and how**
 - B. When and where**
 - C. What and why**
 - D. Who and why**

- 6. On a military map, what does the color black typically represent?**
- A. Wooded areas**
 - B. Manmade features**
 - C. Water bodies**
 - D. Highways**
- 7. In a MEDEVAC request, which option is categorized as a 'Civilian'?**
- A. US Military**
 - B. Non US Military**
 - C. Non US Civilian**
 - D. None of the above**
- 8. Why is it important for a Patrol Base to provide no tactical value to the enemy?**
- A. To ensure soldier comfort**
 - B. To confuse the enemy**
 - C. To minimize enemy advantages**
 - D. To increase visibility**
- 9. In a MEDEVAC request, what does "A" plus the number of patients signify?**
- A. Ambulatory patients**
 - B. Litter patients**
 - C. Urgent cases**
 - D. Patients with special needs**
- 10. What is a crucial aspect of successful Bounding Overwatch?**
- A. Speed of movement**
 - B. Size of the unit**
 - C. Cover and concealment**
 - D. Proximity to allies**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the primary function of the M240B machine gun?

- A. Fire from a closed bolt position**
- B. Serve as a sniper rifle**
- C. Perform as an automatic machine gun**
- D. Be a semi-automatic weapon**

The primary function of the M240B machine gun is to perform as an automatic machine gun. This weapon is designed for sustained fire, allowing it to provide continuous round delivery against targets, which is essential during combat situations. The M240B is capable of engaging enemy personnel and equipment effectively, making it a critical asset on the battlefield. Additionally, the M240B operates using a gas-operated, belt-fed mechanism that enables rapid firing. Its design facilitates sustained automatic fire, distinguishing it from rifles that are semi-automatic or have more limited firing capabilities. The emphasis on automatic fire allows for higher rates of fire compared to semi-automatic systems, thereby enhancing the weapon's effectiveness in various combat scenarios.

2. Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of a Patrol Base?

- A. Provides tactical value to the enemy**
- B. Away from natural lines of drift**
- C. Provides cover and concealment**
- D. Easily defensible**

A patrol base is a temporary location used by military units to rest, regroup, and conduct planning while remaining concealed from the enemy. The characteristics of a patrol base are strategically chosen to enhance the safety and operational readiness of the unit. The correct answer highlights that a patrol base does not provide tactical value to the enemy. In military operations, one of the primary objectives is to protect one's forces and minimize risks, which includes selecting locations that do not offer advantages to the adversary. Ideally, a patrol base is concealed, making it challenging for enemies to discover and attack. This characteristic ensures that the patrol base serves its intended purpose of safeguarding troops and maintaining operational security. In contrast to this, a location that provides tactical value to the enemy would undermine the defensive position and put the unit at risk. Therefore, this understanding clarifies why this option is not a trait associated with a patrol base. The other options indicate that a patrol base should be situated away from natural lines of drift to reduce visibility, provide cover and concealment to protect the unit from enemy observation, and be easily defensible to withstand potential attacks. Each of these characteristics contributes to the overall effectiveness and security of a patrol base.

3. Which of the following statements about the M249 is true?

- A. It is a single shot weapon.**
- B. It fires from the open bolt position.**
- C. It is a gas operated, air cooled, fully automatic machine gun.**
- D. It is a 7.62mm caliber weapon.**

The M249 is indeed a gas-operated, air-cooled, fully automatic machine gun, which makes this statement accurate. This firearm is specifically designed to provide sustained fire support and is capable of firing continuously as long as ammunition is available and the trigger is held down. The M249 uses a piston system that harnesses gas from fired cartridges to cycle the action, which distinguishes it from other weapon types. Being air-cooled is essential for machine guns as it allows them to manage heat during extended firing sessions. The fully automatic capability means that the weapon can fire multiple rounds with a single pull of the trigger, allowing for rapid suppression of enemy positions. Understanding the operating principles of the M249 helps highlight its functionality as a support weapon on the battlefield, tailored for infantry units needing an efficient means to deliver sustaining fire.

4. What acronym represents immediate action for the M240B machine gun?

- A. PUSH**
- B. POPS**
- C. FAST**
- D. STOP**

The acronym that represents immediate action for the M240B machine gun is indeed "POPS." This stands for "Pull the charging handle, Observe the ejection port, Push the trigger, and Shoot." It outlines the essential steps a soldier should take in the event of a malfunction or unresponsive weapon. Each element of the acronym is critical for troubleshooting and correcting issues quickly to ensure that the machine gun is operational again. For example, "Pull the charging handle" is the first action to clear the weapon and attempt to reset it. "Observe the ejection port" allows the operator to check for any jams or casing issues that could be causing the malfunction. "Push the trigger" is relevant once the operator believes the weapon is ready, and "Shoot" is the final step to re-engage with the target once the previous steps have been successfully completed. Understanding this acronym is crucial for soldiers who operate the M240B, as quick and effective immediate action can significantly impact mission success and safety in combat scenarios.

5. In the context of the five W's, which two are deemed most crucial?

A. What and how

B. When and where

C. What and why

D. Who and why

The combination of "what" and "why" is significant in the context of the five W's because these elements form the backbone of understanding a situation, event, or problem. "What" identifies the subject or the primary issue at hand, allowing a person to grasp the specifics of the topic being explored. This helps to clarify the nature of the situation or problem being addressed. In conjunction, "why" gets to the heart of motivation and reasoning behind events or actions. Understanding "why" provides deeper insight into the causes or purposes driving the situation. This can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of not just the facts but also the implications and consequences of those facts. By focusing on "what" and "why," one can develop a complete narrative that encompasses both the details and the underlying reasons, which are essential for strategic planning, analysis, and effective decision-making. This is particularly relevant in various fields such as journalism, research, and problem-solving, where a complete understanding of an issue requires clarity on both the content and its implications.

6. On a military map, what does the color black typically represent?

A. Wooded areas

B. Manmade features

C. Water bodies

D. Highways

On a military map, the color black is used to represent manmade features. This includes elements such as buildings, roads, and other constructed structures that are important for navigation and tactical planning. Manmade features are crucial for soldiers and strategists to understand the terrain and the operational environment, as they can indicate potential obstacles or routes for movement, as well as locations of interest such as supply depots or command centers. The use of black for features like roads, railways, and urban areas allows for clear differentiation from natural elements, which are represented using different colors, enhancing situational awareness and the planning of military operations. Understanding these color conventions is vital for interpreting maps effectively during missions.

7. In a MEDEVAC request, which option is categorized as a 'Civilian'?

- A. US Military**
- B. Non US Military**
- C. Non US Civilian**
- D. None of the above**

In a MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuation) request, the category referred to as 'Civilian' specifically applies to individuals who are not affiliated with the military, whether they are American or foreign. The correct choice identifies this clear distinction, aligning with the definition of 'Civilian' within the context of military operations. Civilian personnel typically include individuals engaged in non-combat roles, those affected by conflict, or partners in humanitarian efforts. For instance, they may be local nationals or foreign nationals who are not part of any armed forces. In this scenario, the mention of 'Non US Civilian' captures the essence of civilians who are neither part of the United States military nor any military force. Hence, it is acknowledged as the appropriate classification within the MEDEVAC framework, emphasizing the need to ensure accessible medical support for all individuals regardless of their military status. The other options do not accurately reflect the definition of a civilian within a MEDEVAC context: 'US Military' and 'Non US Military' categorize those involved in military operations, while 'None of the above' does not apply, as there is a valid choice that accurately describes the civilian category.

8. Why is it important for a Patrol Base to provide no tactical value to the enemy?

- A. To ensure soldier comfort**
- B. To confuse the enemy**
- C. To minimize enemy advantages**
- D. To increase visibility**

The importance of a Patrol Base providing no tactical value to the enemy lies in minimizing enemy advantages. When a Patrol Base is established in a location that offers no tactical benefits to the adversary, it limits the enemy's ability to conduct effective reconnaissance, plan attacks, or disrupt operations. This lack of value prevents the enemy from gaining critical information about the patrol unit's operations and intentions, ensuring that the patrol can operate more freely and securely without the risk of being targeted based on the location of their base. By choosing sites with no tactical value, patrols can maintain the element of surprise and protect themselves from ambush or counterattacks, bolstering their overall mission effectiveness.

9. In a MEDEVAC request, what does "A" plus the number of patients signify?

- A. Ambulatory patients**
- B. Litter patients**
- C. Urgent cases**
- D. Patients with special needs**

In a MEDEVAC request, "A" plus the number of patients indicates the presence of ambulatory patients. This designation is crucial for medical evacuation operations as it helps to categorize the patients based on their ability to move without assistance. Ambulatory patients are those who can walk and do not require a stretcher for transport, which allows for more efficient use of resources during an evacuation. Knowing the number of ambulatory patients in the request helps the medical evacuation team prepare appropriately, including considerations for the type of aircraft, the seating arrangements, and the overall logistics of moving patients. The ability to distinguish between ambulatory and non-ambulatory patients—such as litter patients—has important implications for the speed and safety of the evacuation mission. Understanding how to categorize patients effectively is essential in the context of military operations and ensures that care can be provided in the most effective manner possible.

10. What is a crucial aspect of successful Bounding Overwatch?

- A. Speed of movement**
- B. Size of the unit**
- C. Cover and concealment**
- D. Proximity to allies**

A crucial aspect of successful Bounding Overwatch is the use of cover and concealment. This tactic involves one unit moving while another remains stationary to provide security and support. Effective use of cover allows the moving unit to advance while minimizing exposure to enemy fire, thus enhancing their safety and operational effectiveness. Concealment is equally important as it helps the overwatching unit remain undetected by the enemy, enabling them to provide comprehensive observation and fire coverage. Together, cover and concealment ensure that the advancing unit can continue its movement towards the objective while receiving effective support from their stationary counterpart. In contrast, while speed of movement is important, it must be balanced with safety and effectiveness; rushing can lead to mistakes in tactical situations. The size of the unit may influence the capability and firepower available, but it is not as pivotal as the strategic use of cover and concealment in ensuring the success of Bounding Overwatch. Proximity to allies can support coordination and response but does not inherently guarantee the effectiveness of the movement strategy.

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://usadsatactics.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE