

# USCG Gunners Mate (GM) Service Wide Exam (SWE) Practice Sample Study Guide



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## **Questions**

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- 1. What type of message indicates the amount of ammunition needed on board?**
  - A. Supply Message**
  - B. Inventory Message**
  - C. Ship Fill Message**
  - D. Procurement Message**
- 2. How many CG units report directly to headquarters?**
  - A. 25**
  - B. 30**
  - C. 35**
  - D. 40**
- 3. What type of document typically provides guidance and is subject to cancellation when obsolete?**
  - A. Standards**
  - B. Manuals**
  - C. Memorandums**
  - D. Directives**
- 4. What is the significance of the National Firearms Act (NFA)?**
  - A. It prohibits all firearms**
  - B. It regulates only handguns**
  - C. It regulates possession of certain firearms and ammunition**
  - D. It provides guidelines for firearm training**
- 5. Which sinking led to the establishment of the international ice patrol?**
  - A. Andrea Doria**
  - B. Empress of Ireland**
  - C. Titanic**
  - D. Lusitania**

- 6. What documentation is reviewed annually and cancelled when no longer applicable?**
- A. Guidelines**
  - B. Policies**
  - C. Manuals**
  - D. Checklists**
- 7. Ammunition for a 76mm Gun should be disposed of overboard if the ammo has what condition?**
- A. It is defective**
  - B. It is removed from the chamber due to a misfire**
  - C. It has been stored improperly**
  - D. It is expired**
- 8. In the context of firearms, what does "magazine" refer to?**
- A. A container that holds ammunition and feeds it into a firearm**
  - B. A device that enhances the firing rate of a weapon**
  - C. A safety mechanism that prevents accidental discharge**
  - D. A type of ammunition used in rifles**
- 9. Which roles are authorized to grant search authorization in military law?**
- A. Sergeants and Officers**
  - B. Lieutenants and Captains**
  - C. Commanding Officers and Judges**
  - D. Privates and Corporals**
- 10. What does the EER counseling process aim to ensure?**
- A. Timely performance reviews**
  - B. Comprehensive training**
  - C. Uniform disciplinary measures**
  - D. Compliance with federal regulations**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What type of message indicates the amount of ammunition needed on board?**

- A. Supply Message**
- B. Inventory Message**
- C. Ship Fill Message**
- D. Procurement Message**

The Ship Fill Message is specifically designed to indicate the amount of ammunition required on board a vessel. This message is crucial for ensuring that the ship has the necessary munitions for its operational needs and to maintain combat readiness. It typically provides a detailed account of the types and quantities of ammunition that should be loaded onto the vessel, accounting for factors such as mission requirements and current stock levels. This type of message is critical for logistical planning and coordination within naval operations, ensuring that munitions supply aligns with operational demands. Thus, it plays a vital role in the effective management of ammunition onboard a ship, facilitating timely procurement and delivery of munitions.

**2. How many CG units report directly to headquarters?**

- A. 25**
- B. 30**
- C. 35**
- D. 40**

The information regarding how many Coast Guard (CG) units report directly to headquarters is important for understanding the organizational structure and command hierarchy within the Coast Guard. The correct answer, which indicates that 35 units report directly to headquarters, reflects the arrangement of various specialized and operational units that function at a high level across the service. These direct-reporting units can include specialized task forces, training centers, and operationally focused units that align their activities closely with the directives and strategic goals established by Coast Guard headquarters. This structure is designed to enhance communication and operational effectiveness, ensuring that these units are aligned with the overall mission and priorities of the Coast Guard. Understanding the number of units reporting directly to headquarters provides insight into the scale of command and operational oversight, which is essential for personnel involved in management, training, and operations within the Coast Guard.

**3. What type of document typically provides guidance and is subject to cancellation when obsolete?**

- A. Standards**
- B. Manuals**
- C. Memorandums**
- D. Directives**

The correct answer is indeed manuals. Manuals are comprehensive documents that provide detailed procedures, protocols, and instructions on specific topics relevant to operational, technical, or safety practices. These documents are integral to ensuring consistency and adherence to established best practices within an organization. When a manual becomes outdated or no longer applicable due to changes in technology, procedures, or regulations, it is subject to cancellation. This ensures that personnel are not relying on obsolete information, thus maintaining safety and operational effectiveness. Other documents, such as standards, may provide specifications but are often more focused on requirements rather than detailed operational guidance. Memorandums typically serve as short communications often regarding a particular issue or announcement and may not involve comprehensive procedural guidelines. Directives are formal orders that can guide actions but are more authoritative in nature and may remain in effect until explicitly changed, rather than being phased out due to obsolescence.

**4. What is the significance of the National Firearms Act (NFA)?**

- A. It prohibits all firearms**
- B. It regulates only handguns**
- C. It regulates possession of certain firearms and ammunition**
- D. It provides guidelines for firearm training**

The National Firearms Act (NFA) is significant because it was enacted to regulate the possession, transfer, and manufacture of specific categories of firearms and ammunition that are considered particularly dangerous or suitable for criminal use. This includes items like machine guns, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, and suppressors, among others. By imposing strict regulations on these firearms, the NFA aims to enhance public safety and control the availability of such weapons. The NFA also requires individuals or entities wishing to own or transfer these regulated items to undergo a comprehensive registration process, including the payment of a tax. This structure establishes a legal framework for monitoring these firearms and helps law enforcement address issues related to their illegal use or trafficking. The option addressing regulations on only handguns does not fully capture the scope of the Act, which encompasses a broader range of firearms. The notion that the NFA prohibits all firearms is inaccurate, as it does not impose a blanket ban but rather creates control measures for specific types. Lastly, while training and education regarding firearms are important, the NFA itself does not provide guidelines for firearm training, making that option unrelated to the Act's primary focus.

**5. Which sinking led to the establishment of the international ice patrol?**

- A. Andrea Doria**
- B. Empress of Ireland**
- C. Titanic**
- D. Lusitania**

The establishment of the International Ice Patrol was directly influenced by the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. The Titanic struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage, resulting in a catastrophic loss of life. This tragedy highlighted the risks posed by icebergs in transatlantic shipping lanes, leading to increased awareness of the need for precautionary measures. In response to the Titanic disaster, the International Ice Patrol was formed in 1914 to monitor iceberg dangers in the North Atlantic and provide timely warnings to vessels in the region. The Patrol's primary goal is to enhance maritime safety by tracking ice movement and issuing advisories to help avoid similar accidents in the future. This initiative marked a significant advancement in international cooperation for the safety of maritime navigation.

**6. What documentation is reviewed annually and cancelled when no longer applicable?**

- A. Guidelines**
- B. Policies**
- C. Manuals**
- D. Checklists**

The correct answer is manuals. Manuals are structured documents that provide essential operational instructions, technical guidance, and standard procedures for personnel. They are subject to regular review to ensure that the information remains accurate and relevant to current practices and technologies. Due to the nature of the information contained in manuals, they must reflect the most up-to-date methods and standards. When a manual is found to no longer be applicable—due to changes in procedures, technology, or organizational restructuring—it is cancelled to prevent confusion and ensure that personnel are not relying on outdated information. This process of annual review and cancellation of outdated manuals helps maintain operational efficiency and safety, ensuring that all personnel are trained on the latest protocols. Other options such as guidelines, policies, and checklists may have different review processes or may not require regular cancellation upon becoming outdated, making manuals the most suitable choice for this context.

**7. Ammunition for a 76mm Gun should be disposed of overboard if the ammo has what condition?**

- A. It is defective**
- B. It is removed from the chamber due to a misfire**
- C. It has been stored improperly**
- D. It is expired**

In the context of ammunition handling, the proper procedure for dealing with a misfired cartridge involves specific safety protocols. A misfire indicates that the ammunition has not fired when the trigger was pulled, which could be due to various factors including primer failure or mechanical issues within the gun system. The safest approach after a misfire is to remove the ammunition from the chamber and ensure that it is handled appropriately to prevent any potential risks of unintentional discharge. While the other conditions may also warrant disposal, they do not specifically align with the immediate and pressing safety concerns associated with a misfire. For example, defective ammunition might be marked for disposal but wouldn't necessarily require immediate action in the same way that a misfired round does. Furthermore, improperly stored ammunition and expired ammunition typically involve different considerations for inspection and testing before disposal. Neither situation is as acute as addressing a misfire, which necessitates prompt action to ensure the safety of personnel and equipment. Therefore, handling misfires correctly is crucial to maintaining operational safety standards and preventing accidents.

**8. In the context of firearms, what does "magazine" refer to?**

- A. A container that holds ammunition and feeds it into a firearm**
- B. A device that enhances the firing rate of a weapon**
- C. A safety mechanism that prevents accidental discharge**
- D. A type of ammunition used in rifles**

In the context of firearms, the term "magazine" specifically refers to a container that holds ammunition and feeds it into a firearm. Magazines are integral components of many firearms, as they store rounds in a way that allows for quick reloading and efficient operation of the weapon. This capability is essential for semi-automatic and automatic firearms, where the magazine automatically supplies ammunition to the chamber as the weapon is fired. Understanding the role of a magazine is important because it directly affects the functionality and performance of a firearm. The design and capacity of a magazine can influence aspects such as how many rounds can be fired before needing to be reloaded, the firearm's overall weight, and even the speed of engagement in shooting situations. Recognizing this fundamental concept is crucial for anyone involved in handling or maintaining firearms, especially in a gunners mate capacity.

**9. Which roles are authorized to grant search authorization in military law?**

- A. Sergeants and Officers**
- B. Lieutenants and Captains**
- C. Commanding Officers and Judges**
- D. Privates and Corporals**

The roles authorized to grant search authorization in military law are primarily held by Commanding Officers and Judges. Commanding Officers are responsible for ensuring discipline and order within their unit, and they have the authority to authorize searches based on their command jurisdiction and the need to maintain security and operational integrity. Judges, on the other hand, provide a legal framework for searches, ensuring that they comply with military law and regulations, and uphold the rights of service members. This balance of authority between Commanding Officers and Judges ensures that any search conducted is both operationally necessary and legally justifiable. Commanding Officers can act quickly in certain situations to maintain order, while Judges ensure that due process is respected when the situation permits. Thus, this dual oversight is essential in maintaining both discipline and legality within the military. Other roles, such as Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, Privates, and Corporals, do not typically possess the authority to authorize searches, as this responsibility is reserved for higher-ranking personnel who have the necessary oversight and experience in handling such sensitive matters.

**10. What does the EER counseling process aim to ensure?**

- A. Timely performance reviews**
- B. Comprehensive training**
- C. Uniform disciplinary measures**
- D. Compliance with federal regulations**

The EER (Enlisted Evaluation Report) counseling process is crucial for maintaining the quality and effectiveness of performance reviews within the Coast Guard. Its primary objective is to ensure that timely performance reviews are conducted, which is essential for identifying the strengths and areas for improvement of enlisted personnel. By providing regular and systematic feedback, the EER counseling process fosters professional development, enhances accountability, and helps members align their efforts with the mission and goals of the Coast Guard. This practice not only supports individual growth but also contributes to team efficiency and operational effectiveness. Timeliness in performance reviews ensures that evaluations are relevant and reflective of current abilities and accomplishments, thereby supporting sound decision-making for promotions, assignments, and overall career progression.