

# USMC Battle Skills Test (BST) Knowledge Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. Which type of drug testing is endorsed by the Department of Defense (DOD)?**
  - A. Voluntary testing**
  - B. Random testing**
  - C. Command directed testing**
  - D. Personal testing**
- 2. How does arterial bleeding typically present itself?**
  - A. Dark red and steady**
  - B. Bright red and spurts**
  - C. Brown and trickles**
  - D. Pink and oozes**
- 3. What treaty outlawed biological warfare?**
  - A. The Geneva Convention**
  - B. The Geneva Protocol of 1925**
  - C. The Treaty of Versailles**
  - D. The Hague Convention**
- 4. What does General Order 7 specifically restrict?**
  - A. Communication outside of duty**
  - B. Engagement with fellow guards**
  - C. Interaction with civilians**
  - D. Saluting other ranks**
- 5. What type of radiation occurs within the first 90 seconds of a blast?**
  - A. Residual radiation**
  - B. Electromagnetic radiation**
  - C. Initial radiation**
  - D. Thermal radiation**

- 6. What tactical movement is aimed at gaining or reestablishing contact with the enemy?**
- A. Movement to recover**
  - B. Movement to recon**
  - C. Movement to contact**
  - D. Movement to engagement**
- 7. When should commands be given in the military drill exercises?**
- A. When the unit is assembled**
  - B. Only when needed**
  - C. In rapid succession**
  - D. With clear enunciation**
- 8. Which command is used to march to the flank?**
- A. "BY THE RIGHT FLANK, MARCH"**
  - B. "RIGHT FLANK, MARCH"**
  - C. "FLANK RIGHT, MARCH"**
  - D. "TURN RIGHT, MARCH"**
- 9. What is the purpose of the command "DRESS RIGHT (LEFT), DRESS"?**
- A. To take a break**
  - B. To align the platoon**
  - C. To form a column**
  - D. To open ranks**
- 10. After completing a field exercise, what is the last step when securing the AN/PRC-77 radio?**
- A. Remove the battery**
  - B. Turn the operating controls to clear the last frequency used**
  - C. Wind the antenna carefully**
  - D. Store the radio in its protective case**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which type of drug testing is endorsed by the Department of Defense (DOD)?**

- A. Voluntary testing**
- B. Random testing**
- C. Command directed testing**
- D. Personal testing**

The Department of Defense (DOD) endorses command directed testing as a means to ensure military personnel maintain the highest standards of readiness and accountability. Command directed testing allows commanding officers to direct drug tests based on specific situations or observations, such as evidence of drug use within a unit, incidents of misconduct, or other credible reasons to suspect drug use. This type of testing helps to promote discipline and can be an effective deterrent against substance abuse within the ranks. While voluntary testing offers an opportunity for personnel to come forward without penalty, it does not provide the same level of oversight and accountability that command directed testing does. Random testing, though important for maintaining a drug-free environment, lacks the immediate responsiveness that command directed testing allows in addressing specific concerns. Personal testing, which generally refers to self-initiated tests, does not align with the structured protocols established by the DOD for maintaining effective drug abuse prevention and control programs. Through command directed testing, the armed forces uphold operational effectiveness and safeguard the welfare of service members and their missions.

**2. How does arterial bleeding typically present itself?**

- A. Dark red and steady**
- B. Bright red and spurts**
- C. Brown and trickles**
- D. Pink and oozes**

Arterial bleeding typically presents itself with bright red blood that spurts. This is due to the fact that arterial blood is oxygen-rich and is under high pressure as it is pumped directly from the heart. The bright red color indicates the presence of oxygen, and the spurt of blood occurs with the rhythm of the heartbeat, making the flow pulsatile. This characteristic makes arterial bleeding particularly dangerous and requires immediate medical attention to control the bleeding and prevent significant blood loss. Understanding the distinction between arterial bleeding and other types of bleeding, such as venous or capillary bleeding, is crucial for effective first aid and response in emergency situations.

### 3. What treaty outlawed biological warfare?

- A. The Geneva Convention
- B. The Geneva Protocol of 1925**
- C. The Treaty of Versailles
- D. The Hague Convention

The Geneva Protocol of 1925 specifically addresses the prohibition of "asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare." This treaty was pivotal in the efforts to restrict the use of chemical and biological weapons in conflicts, reflecting the global consensus against the horrors of such warfare, particularly following the experiences of World War I. The protocol built upon the principles established in earlier conventions, but it is significant for its explicit mention of biological warfare, making it a cornerstone document in the efforts to regulate and ultimately outlaw this form of combat. While the Geneva Convention focuses broadly on humanitarian treatment during wartime and the protection of individuals, it does not specifically single out biological warfare in the way the Geneva Protocol does. The Treaty of Versailles was primarily concerned with establishing peace after World War I and imposing reparations on Germany, without direct references to biological weapons. The Hague Conventions dealt with various aspects of the laws of war but did not specifically outlaw biological warfare either. Therefore, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 is the most relevant treaty when discussing the outlawing of biological warfare.

### 4. What does General Order 7 specifically restrict?

- A. Communication outside of duty**
- B. Engagement with fellow guards
- C. Interaction with civilians
- D. Saluting other ranks

General Order 7 specifically restricts communication outside of duty. This means that personnel are not allowed to engage in conversations or share information with individuals not associated with their official duties while they are on guard or in a position of responsibility. This order is in place to maintain security and the integrity of operations, ensuring that sensitive information does not leave the controlled environment. Communication outside of duty can present risks, such as the potential for unauthorized disclosure of operational plans or security measures, which could compromise the safety of personnel or the success of missions. By restricting such communications, the order helps to reinforce discipline and ensure that all personnel remain focused on their responsibilities while on duty. Options that involve engagement with fellow guards, interaction with civilians, or saluting other ranks do not accurately reflect the intent of General Order 7. While there may be specific protocols regarding those activities, they are not the primary focus of this particular order. General Order 7 is clearly centered on the necessity of limiting discussions and communications to maintain security and control within military operations.

**5. What type of radiation occurs within the first 90 seconds of a blast?**

- A. Residual radiation**
- B. Electromagnetic radiation**
- C. Initial radiation**
- D. Thermal radiation**

The type of radiation that occurs within the first 90 seconds of a blast is classified as initial radiation. This radiation is a result of the immediate energy released during a nuclear explosion, which includes a combination of gamma rays and neutron radiation. Initial radiation has a significant impact on the environment and has the potential to cause acute radiation sickness in individuals exposed without adequate protection. Understanding this concept is crucial for military personnel and first responders, as it highlights the immediate dangers following a nuclear detonation. Initial radiation is distinct from other types of radiation that may emerge later, such as residual radiation, which persists in the environment and can have long-term health effects, or thermal radiation, which causes intense heat and can lead to burns and fires. By recognizing the specific characteristics and timing of initial radiation, individuals can make informed decisions about protective measures and evacuations in the event of a nuclear explosion.

**6. What tactical movement is aimed at gaining or reestablishing contact with the enemy?**

- A. Movement to recover**
- B. Movement to recon**
- C. Movement to contact**
- D. Movement to engagement**

The concept of movement to contact is specifically designed for the purpose of gaining or reestablishing contact with the enemy. This tactical movement involves maneuvering forces to seek out the enemy, which can occur when their exact location and strength are not fully known. The intent is to find and engage the enemy, allowing your forces to assess the situation and react appropriately, whether that's attacking, defending, or gathering intelligence. In contrast, movement to recover would typically refer to situations requiring retrieval or regrouping, whereas movement to recon focuses on intelligence gathering without necessarily contacting the enemy directly. Movement to engagement implies readiness to confront an enemy already identified, rather than actively seeking contact. Therefore, movement to contact clearly aligns with the objective of making contact with the enemy forces.

**7. When should commands be given in the military drill exercises?**

- A. When the unit is assembled**
- B. Only when needed**
- C. In rapid succession**
- D. With clear enunciation**

Commands during military drill exercises should be given with clear enunciation to ensure that all personnel clearly understand the directive being issued. This clarity is vital for maintaining order and discipline during drills. Clear enunciation helps to prevent confusion, which can lead to miscommunication and potential mistakes in executing maneuvers. Additionally, the use of a strong, deliberate voice reinforces authority and ensures that commands are audible to all members of the unit, even in potentially noisy environments. This aspect of drill commands emphasizes the importance of communication in the military, where precision and coordination are critical for successful operations.

**8. Which command is used to march to the flank?**

- A. "BY THE RIGHT FLANK, MARCH"**
- B. "RIGHT FLANK, MARCH"**
- C. "FLANK RIGHT, MARCH"**
- D. "TURN RIGHT, MARCH"**

The command "BY THE RIGHT FLANK, MARCH" is the correct choice for marching to the flank because it specifically instructs the unit to execute a movement to the right side while maintaining formation. This command indicates that the unit will pivot on the right foot before moving laterally to the right, ensuring a smooth transition into the flank movement. In military drill commands, the structure of the command is crucial for clarity and proper execution. By using "BY THE RIGHT FLANK," the commander communicates that the soldiers should not only change direction but do so with the understanding that they are shifting their entire formation to the right rather than merely turning or stepping sideways. This highlights the importance of maintaining formation integrity during the movement. Other commands may imply different actions or directional movements that do not convey the same level of precision required for a flank march. For example, commands that lack the "BY THE" phrasing typically indicate a more immediate or direct action rather than a structured maneuver to a position.

**9. What is the purpose of the command "DRESS RIGHT (LEFT), DRESS"?**

- A. To take a break**
- B. To align the platoon**
- C. To form a column**
- D. To open ranks**

The command "DRESS RIGHT (LEFT), DRESS" is utilized primarily to align a formation. The purpose of this command is to ensure that all personnel within a formation are properly positioned in relation to each other, which is crucial for maintaining discipline and order within military formations. When the command is given, individuals adjust their positions by aligning themselves with the person to their right or left while looking straight ahead. This alignment is important for visual inspection, ceremonial purposes, and ensuring that the formation appears uniform and disciplined. Proper alignment fosters cohesion and teamwork, essential traits within military operations. The other options do not accurately reflect the purpose of this command; taking a break or forming a column are unrelated to the action of aligning troops, and opening ranks pertains to spacing between individuals rather than aligning them.

**10. After completing a field exercise, what is the last step when securing the AN/PRC-77 radio?**

- A. Remove the battery**
- B. Turn the operating controls to clear the last frequency used**
- C. Wind the antenna carefully**
- D. Store the radio in its protective case**

The final step in securing the AN/PRC-77 radio after completing a field exercise is to turn the operating controls to clear the last frequency used. This procedure is vital as it ensures that the radio is not left on any operational frequency that could inadvertently lead to communication on an inappropriate or unsecured channel. By clearing the last frequency, it helps maintain operational security and prevents unauthorized access to sensitive communications. Additionally, this step prepares the radio for future use by resetting it to a neutral state, reducing the chance of accidental transmission and conserving battery life. While securing the radio in its protective case and winding the antenna are important steps in the overall process, they follow the critical action of ensuring the radio is not operational before it is stowed.