

USMC BATTLE SKILLS TEST (BST) KNOWLEDGE 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. What options does a commanding officer have when administering NJP?**
 - A. Only impose authorized punishment
 - B. Dismiss charges, impose punishment, refer to superior NJP, or court-martial
 - C. Refer all cases directly to the legal system
 - D. Transfer the case to another unit's authority
- 2. What is the second step in the chest pressure arm lift method?**
 - A. Lift
 - B. Press
 - C. Stretch
 - D. Replace
- 3. What does the depressant after effect of too much alcohol indicate?**
 - A. Alcohol poisoning
 - B. Withdrawal symptoms
 - C. Hangover
 - D. Alcoholic fatigue
- 4. What is the last step you should take after throwing a grenade?**
 - A. Aim for the target
 - B. Take cover
 - C. Wait for it to explode
 - D. Retrieve the grenade launcher
- 5. What is the initial step in performing Mouth-to-Mouth Resuscitation?**
 - A. Check for breathing
 - B. Clear the airway
 - C. Perform chest compressions
 - D. Call for emergency assistance
- 6. Which of the following is NOT a type of grenade?**
 - A. Fragmentation
 - B. Incendiary offensive
 - C. Explosive breaching
 - D. Chemical smoke

- 7. Which of the following is considered a facing movement?**
- A. Left Face
 - B. Front March
 - C. Backward Step
 - D. All of the Above
- 8. Which Commandant installed the office of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps?**
- A. General James McHenry
 - B. General Pate
 - C. Archibald Henderson
 - D. General John H. Glenn
- 9. Who has the authority to command the guard?**
- A. Cpl of the Guard
 - B. Officer of the Day
 - C. Commanding Officer
 - D. Sergeant of the Guard
- 10. Which type of grenade is shaped like an egg?**
- A. Fragmentation grenade
 - B. Concussion grenade
 - C. Illumination grenade
 - D. Smoke grenade

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What options does a commanding officer have when administering NJP?

- A. Only impose authorized punishment
- B. Dismiss charges, impose punishment, refer to superior NJP, or court-martial**
- C. Refer all cases directly to the legal system
- D. Transfer the case to another unit's authority

The choice of dismissing charges, imposing punishment, referring a case to a superior for Non-Judicial Punishment (NJP), or court-martial accurately reflects the range of options available to a commanding officer. Commanding officers hold the responsibility to maintain discipline and can evaluate the severity of the offense and the behavior of the service member involved. This flexibility allows them to opt for dismissal of charges in minor infractions, impose appropriate punishment for lesser offenses, refer more serious cases to a higher authority—which could include commanding officers at a higher level for NJP, or choose to court-martial if the situation warrants a more formal judicial approach. This comprehensive set of choices empowers commanders to administer justice effectively while considering the specific circumstances of each case, ensuring that the response is proportional to the misconduct. The other options do not encompass the full scope of choices available to a commanding officer, limiting their ability to address disciplinary issues in a manner consistent with military justice practices.

2. What is the second step in the chest pressure arm lift method?

- A. Lift
- B. Press
- C. Stretch**
- D. Replace

The second step in the chest pressure arm lift method is to stretch. This step involves positioning the arms properly to facilitate the next actions that contribute to effective chest compressions. When you stretch the arms, it prepares the body in a way that enhances the alignment and moves tension away from the shoulder joint, ensuring that the arms can execute the lifting and pressing efficiently. This is crucial for maintaining proper technique and ensuring that the energy is directed correctly during the subsequent pressing actions. Additionally, the other steps in the process build upon one another, with stretching setting the stage for lifting, which is important for maximizing the effectiveness of the chest compressions during resuscitation efforts. Understanding the sequence and proper execution of each step is vital for anyone performing these techniques, ensuring they can respond effectively in emergencies where such skills may be required.

3. What does the depressant after effect of too much alcohol indicate?

- A. Alcohol poisoning
- B. Withdrawal symptoms
- C. Hangover**
- D. Alcoholic fatigue

The depressant after effect of consuming too much alcohol is indicative of a hangover. A hangover is a collection of symptoms that occur after the effects of alcohol have worn off, characterized by feelings of dehydration, fatigue, headache, nausea, and sometimes sensitivity to light and sound. This results from the toxic effects of alcohol on the body, which include dehydration and the body's electrolyte imbalances, as well as the withdrawal of depressant effects. In contrast, alcohol poisoning is a severe and potentially life-threatening condition resulting from excessive consumption in a short time, leading to a range of serious symptoms that require immediate medical attention. Withdrawal symptoms occur when a person who is dependent on alcohol abruptly reduces or stops consumption, manifesting as physical and psychological distress. Alcoholic fatigue refers more generally to a state of tiredness related to alcohol consumption, but it doesn't encompass the full range of symptoms experienced during a hangover. Thus, the hangover is distinctly characterized by the depressant effects lingering after the initial intoxication has passed.

4. What is the last step you should take after throwing a grenade?

- A. Aim for the target
- B. Take cover**
- C. Wait for it to explode
- D. Retrieve the grenade launcher

After throwing a grenade, the last step you should take is to take cover. This action is critical for personal safety following the release of the grenade. When a grenade detonates, it can generate shrapnel and a powerful shockwave that can inflict harm. By taking cover, you reduce your risk of injury from the explosion, as well as protect yourself from any potential hazards in the surrounding area. Once the grenade is thrown, the focus shifts to ensuring that you are in a secure position. This is often the last action required before assessing the effectiveness of the grenade in hitting the intended target or dealing with any immediate threat. While aiming and considering retrieval of equipment are important steps in their own context, none of them addresses the immediate need for personal safety after a grenade is deployed.

5. What is the initial step in performing Mouth-to-Mouth Resuscitation?

- A. Check for breathing
- B. Clear the airway**
- C. Perform chest compressions
- D. Call for emergency assistance

The initial step in performing Mouth-to-Mouth Resuscitation involves clearing the airway. This action is critical because an obstructed airway is one of the primary reasons a person may not be breathing effectively. Ensuring that the airway is clear allows for unimpeded airflow, which is essential for oxygen exchange during resuscitation efforts. If the airway is obstructed by food, vomit, or other objects, performing artificial respiration will not be effective, as air cannot reach the lungs. While checking for breathing is also important, it comes after ensuring that the airway is clear. Similarly, performing chest compressions and calling for emergency assistance are vital steps in the overall process of resuscitation, but they follow the need to first ensure that the airway is unobstructed. By prioritizing airway management, the responder increases the chances of successful artificial respiration and helps stabilize the victim until professional medical help arrives.

6. Which of the following is NOT a type of grenade?

- A. Fragmentation
- B. Incendiary offensive
- C. Explosive breaching**
- D. Chemical smoke

The correct answer is based on the classification and purpose of different types of grenades. Fragmentation grenades are designed to disperse shrapnel upon detonation, causing damage to adversaries in a wide area. Incendiary offensive grenades are intended to ignite fires or create destruction through heat and flames, often used against flammable targets or to create chaos in enemy positions. Chemical smoke grenades are used to create visual obscuration, signaling, or even chemical warfare; they release smoke or chemicals when detonated. The term "explosive breaching" refers to a method or technique rather than a specific type of grenade. Breaching explosives are typically used in demolition operations to create entry points through barriers, but they do not classify as grenades in the conventional sense. Grenades are generally handheld or thrown devices that detonate upon impact or after a set delay, with larger explosive breaching materials being more akin to specialized charges used in military operations rather than to the handheld grenades listed.

7. Which of the following is considered a facing movement?

- A. Left Face**
- B. Front March
- C. Backward Step
- D. All of the Above

A facing movement involves turning or pivoting to orient oneself in a different direction while remaining in place. The left face is a specific command in drill and ceremonies that directs a Marine to turn 90 degrees to the left, effectively changing their orientation while still retaining their position on the ground. This action is crucial for maintaining order and discipline during formations and transitions in a tactical environment. While the other options involve movement, they do not qualify as facing movements. The front march indicates a forward movement, which does not involve changing the direction the Marine is facing. The backward step also focuses on moving in a direction rather than changing the Marine's facing. Therefore, the left face specifically meets the criteria for a facing movement, emphasizing the importance of directional awareness in military protocol and operations.

8. Which Commandant installed the office of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps?

- A. General James McHenry
- B. General Pate**
- C. Archibald Henderson
- D. General John H. Glenn

The office of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established under the command of General Pate. He recognized the need for a senior enlisted advisor who could provide guidance and leadership to the enlisted ranks in the Marine Corps. This role was created to ensure that the concerns and needs of enlisted personnel were represented at the highest levels of command, solidifying the importance of enlisted leadership within the Corps. General Pate's decision to institutionalize this position reflects a broader recognition of the vital role that non-commissioned officers play in maintaining morale and discipline within the Marine Corps. While the other figures mentioned made significant contributions to the Marine Corps, they were not responsible for establishing the office of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

9. Who has the authority to command the guard?

- A. Cpl of the Guard
- B. Officer of the Day
- C. Commanding Officer**
- D. Sergeant of the Guard

The authority to command the guard rests with the Commanding Officer. This is because the Commanding Officer holds the ultimate responsibility for all military personnel and operations within their command. Their authority encompasses oversight of security and protective measures, which includes the operation and command of the guard forces. The Commanding Officer sets the rules and guidelines for the guard's conduct and ensures that the security posture aligns with the overall mission objectives. This level of authority is necessary to maintain discipline, order, and effective communication among all ranks involved. While positions like the Corporal of the Guard, Officer of the Day, and Sergeant of the Guard have specific responsibilities within the guard structure, including execution of tasks and supervision, they do not possess the overarching authority to command the guard in the same manner as the Commanding Officer. Their roles are typically more tactical and operational, focusing on the day-to-day functioning and direction of guard activities as outlined by the Commanding Officer.

10. Which type of grenade is shaped like an egg?

- A. Fragmentation grenade
- B. Concussion grenade
- C. Illumination grenade**
- D. Smoke grenade

The type of grenade that is shaped like an egg is the illumination grenade. Illumination grenades are specifically designed to produce a bright light to illuminate an area for a short duration, particularly during nighttime operations. Their egg-shaped design aids in their aerodynamics and helps ensure that they can be effectively thrown and will reach the desired target area. Fragmentation grenades typically have a spherical or cylindrical shape and are designed to disperse shrapnel upon detonation. Concussion grenades, which are primarily designed to produce a shock wave and are used for breaching or disabling targets without the fragmentation effect, also do not resemble the egg shape. Smoke grenades can come in various shapes, but they are often more cylindrical or rectangular due to their function and design as containers for smoke-producing agents. Understanding the characteristics and design of these types of grenades is crucial for proper identification and use in tactical scenarios, ensuring that the right type of grenade is employed for the intended purpose.

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://usmcbstkknowledge.examzify.com>

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

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