USMC Machine Gunnery Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Questions

1. Which of the following is NOT a type of ammunition for the Mk-19?

A. Dummy

B. TP

C. Ball

D. HE

2. How often should the barrel of the M249 be changed during the rapid rate of fire?

A. Every 2 minutes

B. Every 3 minutes

C. Every minute

D. Every 5 minutes

3. What is the sustained rate of fire for the M249?

A. 85 rounds per minute

B. 100 rounds per minute

C. 70 rounds per minute

D. 60 rounds per minute

4. In the MARCH acronym, which element comes after airways?

A. Respiration

B. Circulatory

C. Head

D. Hypothermia

5. Name one of the most important tactical principles when employing a machine gun.

A. Flexibility in positioning to adapt to the battlefield

B. Consistency in ammunition supply

C. Accuracy of fire at all times

D. Prioritizing defensive positions

6. What is a common malfunction with belt-fed machine guns?

A. Overheating of the barrel

B. Failure to feed or chamber a round

C. Misalignment of sights

D. Excessive recoil

7. Which lubricant is preferred for the Mk-19?

A. Mineral oil

B. WD-40

C. LSA-T

D. Grease

8. How many groups (assemblies) are there for the M240?

A. Three

B. Four

C. Five

D. Six

9. What are the firing pauses recommended for the sustained rate of fire of the Mk-19?

A. 2-3 seconds

B. 4-5 seconds

C. 5-6 seconds

D. 3-4 seconds

10. Name a common tactical formation that incorporates machine guns.

A. The "fire team" formation

B. The "medium machine gun team" formation

C. The "reconnaissance" formation

D. The "assault squad" formation

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Which of the following is NOT a type of ammunition for the Mk-19?

A. Dummy

B. TP

C. Ball

D. HE

The assertion that "Ball" ammunition is not a type of ammunition for the Mk-19 is accurate because the Mk-19, which is a belt-fed, automatic grenade launcher, does not utilize ball ammunition as part of its operational design. The types of ammunition specifically designed for the Mk-19 include Dummy rounds, which are used for training and ensuring safety during handling and operation; Training Practice (TP) rounds, which are designed to mimic the weight and handling characteristics of live rounds for training purposes; and High-Explosive (HE) rounds, which are the primary combat rounds used for engaging targets with explosive projectile capabilities. Ball ammunition, which typically refers to standard lead or metal-filled projectiles used in most rifle and handgun applications, does not apply to the Mk-19. This system is built to fire grenades specifically designed for explosive impact, rather than conventional bullets. Understanding the types of ammunition utilized by this weapon is crucial for effective training and operational readiness within the Marine Corps.

2. How often should the barrel of the M249 be changed during the rapid rate of fire?

A. Every 2 minutes

B. Every 3 minutes

C. Every minute

D. Every 5 minutes

The correct frequency for changing the barrel of the M249 during rapid rates of fire is every 2 minutes. This procedure is crucial because sustaining a high rate of fire generates significant heat, which can lead to a loss of accuracy and could potentially damage the weapon if the barrel overheats. By changing the barrel at this interval, the operator helps to ensure that the M249 remains effective and functional, reducing the chances of a malfunction caused by overheating. The rapid rate of fire is typically characterized by sustained bursts, which escalates the heat buildup. Thus, adhering to the 2-minute interval for barrel changes is a standard practice to maintain operational readiness and weapon integrity.

3. What is the sustained rate of fire for the M249?

A. 85 rounds per minute

B. 100 rounds per minute

C. 70 rounds per minute

D. 60 rounds per minute

The sustained rate of fire for the M249 is 85 rounds per minute. This rate of fire is vital for maintaining effectiveness during prolonged engagements while managing heat buildup and ammunition consumption. The sustained rate allows gunners to employ the weapon effectively without overheating it, which is crucial for ensuring reliability and accuracy in various combat scenarios. The M249 is designed to provide a balance between firepower and controllability, making this rate of fire an optimal choice for infantry maneuvers. A higher rate of fire can lead to excessive heat, potentially causing malfunctions and reduced accuracy, while a lower rate may not offer sufficient fire support. Thus, understanding and adhering to the established sustained rate of fire is essential for effective gunnery practice in the USMC.

4. In the MARCH acronym, which element comes after airways?

A. Respiration

B. Circulatory

C. Head

D. Hypothermia

The MARCH acronym is a systematic approach used in tactical combat casualty care to prioritize the treatment of life-threatening injuries in a specific order. The elements of MARCH represent the following: - M: Massive hemorrhage - A: Airway - R: Respiration - C: Circulation - H: Hypothermia Following the airway management, the next critical component is respiration. This focuses on ensuring that the casualty can adequately breathe and that any thoracic injuries, like tension pneumothorax, are addressed. Prioritizing respiration after airways is crucial because even with a clear airway, if the casualty cannot breathe effectively, it can lead to hypoxia and potential fatality. Understanding the sequence of the MARCH acronym is vital for anyone in tactical care situations, as it guides immediate actions that can save lives. The correct order emphasizes addressing the most life-threatening conditions first, thus ensuring a comprehensive and effective response to trauma.

5. Name one of the most important tactical principles when employing a machine gun.

A. Flexibility in positioning to adapt to the battlefield

B. Consistency in ammunition supply

C. Accuracy of fire at all times

D. Prioritizing defensive positions

Flexibility in positioning is critical when employing a machine gun because the battlefield is dynamic and can change rapidly due to numerous factors such as terrain, movement of enemy forces, and shifting engagements. Being able to reposition a machine gun allows gunners to adapt to the evolving tactical situation, enhancing their effectiveness in providing suppressive fire and supporting maneuvering units. This adaptability can lead to better fields of fire, greater concealment from enemy observation, and the ability to exploit opportunities as they arise. Engaging different targets or supporting flanking maneuvers with a repositioned machine gun can turn the tide in combat scenarios. A static position, while beneficial in some circumstances, can become ineffective if the enemy successfully adapts or counters the initial positioning, emphasizing the need for an agile approach that maintains the element of surprise and maximizes firepower at critical moments.

6. What is a common malfunction with belt-fed machine guns?

A. Overheating of the barrel

B. Failure to feed or chamber a round

C. Misalignment of sights

D. Excessive recoil

The failure to feed or chamber a round is a recognized and common malfunction with belt-fed machine guns. This issue can arise from several factors, such as improper belt assembly, dirt or debris in the feeding system, or worn components within the feed mechanism. When rounds do not feed correctly, it interrupts the weapon's cycle of operation and can lead to a stoppage, which requires immediate attention and remedial action from the operator to resolve. Understanding this malfunction is crucial for effective weapon training and maintenance, as it directly impacts the reliability and effectiveness of the weapon during operations. Other issues, such as overheating of the barrel, while relevant, are more related to operational limits and cooling procedures rather than a malfunction. Misalignment of sights is typically more about aiming accuracy than a mechanical failure, and excessive recoil is often related to the caliber and design of the weapon rather than a feed mechanism issue. Focusing on the most common malfunctions allows operators to better prepare for and troubleshoot weapons under stress during operations.

7. Which lubricant is preferred for the Mk-19?

A. Mineral oil

B. WD-40

C. LSA-T

D. Grease

The preferred lubricant for the Mk-19 is LSA-T, which stands for "Lubricating Oil, Special, Tactical." This lubricant is specifically formulated to meet the operational requirements of military weapons, providing optimal performance under various environmental conditions. LSA-T offers excellent lubrication qualities, corrosion resistance, and stability over a wide range of temperatures, which is essential for the Mk-19, a heavy machine gun used in diverse and often harsh conditions. Its specialized formulation ensures that it can effectively reduce friction and wear on the moving parts of the Mk-19, thereby enhancing the reliability and longevity of the weapon system. In contrast, mineral oil is a general-purpose lubricant that may not provide the specific benefits needed for military-grade applications. WD-40, while useful for cleaning and moisture displacement, is not designed as a long-term lubricant for high-stress applications like machine guns. Standard grease can be too thick for a machine gun's moving parts, potentially leading to malfunctions or decreased performance, especially in extreme conditions. Using LSA-T ensures that the Mk-19 operates smoothly and efficiently, making it the ideal choice for maintaining this weapon system.

8. How many groups (assemblies) are there for the M240?

A. Three

B. Four

C. Five

D. Six

The M240 machine gun is designed with five major groups or assemblies, each serving a specific function essential to the operation and maintenance of the weapon. These assemblies are the trigger housing assembly, the bolt and operating group, the feed tray assembly, the barrel assembly, and the receiver assembly. Understanding the structure of the M240 is important as each group plays a crucial role in the firearm's operation. For example, the bolt and operating group are critical for the cycling of the weapon, while the feed tray assembly ensures the ammunition is correctly loaded into the chamber. Familiarity with these groups enhances a gunner's ability to conduct maintenance, troubleshoot issues, and ensure proper operation in various combat scenarios. Remembering that there are five assemblies helps reinforce the complexity and sophistication of the M240, which is an integral piece of equipment within the Marine Corps armament. Knowing the number of assemblies is foundational knowledge for effective training in machine gunnery.

9. What are the firing pauses recommended for the sustained rate of fire of the Mk-19?

A. 2-3 seconds

B. 4-5 seconds

C. 5-6 seconds

D. 3-4 seconds

The recommended firing pauses for the sustained rate of fire of the Mk-19 machine gun are crucial for maintaining the weapon's integrity and ensuring effective operation. The specific pause of 4-5 seconds allows the weapon to cool down sufficiently between bursts. This cooling period helps to prevent overheating, which can lead to malfunctions or decreased accuracy. Maintaining the right firing rate and allowing designated pauses is essential in managing heat buildup within the weapon, especially when firing continuously. By adhering to the recommended 4-5 seconds, operators ensure they maximize the effectiveness of the Mk-19 while minimizing the risk of damage or failure during high-volume fire situations. The other options either suggest pauses that are too short or too long for the sustained firing conditions, which could compromise performance and reliability.

10. Name a common tactical formation that incorporates machine guns.

A. The "fire team" formation

B. The "medium machine gun team" formation

C. The "reconnaissance" formation

D. The "assault squad" formation

The medium machine gun team formation is a commonly used tactical setup in military operations, particularly within the USMC, to maximize the effectiveness of machine guns. This formation is specifically designed to leverage the heavy firepower of medium machine guns, which play a crucial role in providing suppressive fire during engagements. In this formation, the machine gun team is configured to provide a wide field of fire while maintaining mobility and control over the engagement area. Typically, the team consists of a gunner, an assistant gunner, and ammunition bearers, allowing for efficient operation and quick maneuvering. The focus is on placing the machine gun in a position to deliver sustained fire, making it a key element in offensive and defensive maneuvers. Utilizing this formation enables infantry units to effectively control the battlefield, suppress enemy positions, and protect maneuvering elements, enhancing the overall tactical effectiveness of the operation.