

USNA SECOND-CLASS MIDSHIPMAN (2/C) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT (PCA) PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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 is the primary duty of the sub reactor controls assistant (RCA)?**
 - A. Maintenance of nuclear mechanical systems
 - B. Management of power supply to other systems
 - C. Reactor plant protective equipment maintenance
 - D. Training of electrical divisions
- 2. What is one way leaders can inspire their subordinates?**
 - A. By demanding respect through fear
 - B. By setting unrealistic expectations
 - C. By sharing their vision and goals
 - D. By maintaining authority over trivial matters
- 3. What is the aim of the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS)?**
 - A. Advanced academic instruction
 - B. Simulation and aircraft events
 - C. Submarine tactical training
 - D. Environmental management training
- 4. What is a key attribute of a successful military leader?**
 - A. The ability to enforce discipline
 - B. The ability to manage resources effectively
 - C. The ability to inspire and motivate others
 - D. The ability to execute orders efficiently
- 5. In what way can self-reflection benefit midshipmen's growth?**
 - A. It focuses only on past successes
 - B. By analyzing experiences and setting future goals
 - C. It is best used in private, away from others
 - D. By avoiding confronting challenges
- 6. Which officer is responsible for the planning and execution of tactical systems?**
 - A. Sub Quality Assurance Officer
 - B. Sub Assistant Weapons Officer
 - C. Sub Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant
 - D. Sub Damage Control Assistant

- 7. What is a primary focus of the Sub Combat Systems Officer?**
- A. Management of quality assurance
 - B. Safe navigation of the submarine
 - C. Weapons systems operation
 - D. Chemical analysis
- 8. Which corps is responsible for preventing and controlling disease, as well as providing oral surgery and hygiene?**
- A. Medical service corps
 - B. Nurse corps
 - C. Dental corps
 - D. Medical corps
- 9. How long is the training duration for the Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC)?**
- A. 8 weeks
 - B. 12 weeks
 - C. 16 weeks
 - D. 26 weeks
- 10. Which role is dedicated to handling external communication and electronic warfare?**
- A. Sub Communication Officer
 - B. Sub Assistant Weapons Officer
 - C. Sub Quality Assurance Officer
 - D. Sub Damage Control Assistant

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the primary duty of the sub reactor controls assistant (RCA)?

- A. Maintenance of nuclear mechanical systems
- B. Management of power supply to other systems
- C. Reactor plant protective equipment maintenance**
- D. Training of electrical divisions

The primary duty of the sub reactor controls assistant (RCA) is centered around the maintenance and operation of the reactor plant protective equipment. This responsibility is critical because reactor plant protective systems are designed to ensure the safety and security of the nuclear reactor environment. Proper maintenance of these systems is vital for monitoring reactor conditions, responding to operational anomalies, and preventing incidents that could jeopardize the safety of the crew and the integrity of the vessel. In contrast to the options involving maintenance of mechanical systems, management of power supplies, or training electrical divisions, the focus of the RCA is specifically on the protective equipment associated with the reactor. This includes ensuring that systems such as alarms, shutdown mechanisms, and other safety-related devices are functioning correctly and are regularly tested to comply with safety protocols. Thus, the RCA plays a crucial role in maintaining the safety frameworks that protect both personnel and the operational capabilities of the submarine's reactor.

2. What is one way leaders can inspire their subordinates?

- A. By demanding respect through fear
- B. By setting unrealistic expectations
- C. By sharing their vision and goals**
- D. By maintaining authority over trivial matters

Inspiring subordinates is fundamentally about motivating and engaging them in a shared purpose. When leaders share their vision and goals, they create a clearer understanding of the direction in which the team is headed. This approach fosters a sense of belonging and commitment among team members, as they can see how their contributions fit into the larger picture. It encourages collaboration and innovation, as individuals feel valued and empowered to work towards a common objective. In contrast, demanding respect through fear can lead to a toxic work environment that stifles creativity and morale. Setting unrealistic expectations can be demotivating, as it may lead to frustration and a sense of inadequacy among team members. Lastly, maintaining authority over trivial matters can undermine trust and respect, as it may signal a lack of confidence in the team's capabilities. Thus, sharing a leader's vision and goals stands out as the most effective way to inspire and engage subordinates.

3. What is the aim of the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS)?

- A. Advanced academic instruction
- B. Simulation and aircraft events**
- C. Submarine tactical training
- D. Environmental management training

The primary aim of the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) is to provide specialized training for newly assigned pilots and aircrew members on specific aircraft. This includes simulations that mimic real-life scenarios and aircraft events that trainees are likely to encounter in operational environments. The training is designed to ensure that personnel are proficient in the handling and operation of aircraft before they are sent to fleet squadrons. Simulation activities allow trainees to practice and refine their skills in a controlled environment, which is crucial for their success in actual flight operations. The focus on both simulated scenarios and real aircraft events prepares them comprehensively for the challenges they will face in a combat or operational setting. In contrast, options related to advanced academic instruction, submarine tactical training, or environmental management do not align with the specific objective of the FRS, which is concentrated on aviation and aircraft operation training.

4. What is a key attribute of a successful military leader?

- A. The ability to enforce discipline
- B. The ability to manage resources effectively
- C. The ability to inspire and motivate others**
- D. The ability to execute orders efficiently

A key attribute of a successful military leader is the ability to inspire and motivate others. This quality is essential because leadership in a military context goes beyond merely executing tasks or maintaining discipline; it involves building trust, fostering teamwork, and encouraging individuals to perform at their best, especially in high-pressure situations. Inspiring and motivating subordinates helps to create a cohesive unit where members feel valued and energized to achieve common goals. A leader who can articulate a vision, connect emotionally with their team, and instill a sense of purpose can effectively guide their unit towards success. This motivational aspect is critical, as it directly impacts morale, performance, and the overall effectiveness of the team in fulfilling its mission. While enforcing discipline, managing resources, and executing orders are undoubtedly important aspects of military leadership, they often rely on a foundation of motivation and inspiration. Without a motivated team, even well-informed orders or resource management can lead to underperformance and a lack of commitment to the mission. Thus, the ability to inspire and motivate stands out as a cornerstone attribute of effective leadership in the military.

5. In what way can self-reflection benefit midshipmen's growth?

- A. It focuses only on past successes
- B. By analyzing experiences and setting future goals**
- C. It is best used in private, away from others
- D. By avoiding confronting challenges

Self-reflection is a crucial practice for midshipmen as it fosters personal and professional growth by encouraging them to analyze their experiences. This analysis involves looking at both successes and failures, which helps in understanding their strengths and weaknesses. By taking the time to reflect, midshipmen can draw valuable lessons from past situations, allowing them to recognize patterns in their behavior and decision-making. Setting future goals is a significant part of this process. Once they have identified what worked well and what did not, midshipmen can establish specific, measurable objectives aimed at improvement, skill enhancement, or even leadership development. This forward-looking approach equips them with a clearer pathway for their academic and military careers, making them more prepared for challenges ahead. The other choices do not accurately reflect the comprehensive benefits of self-reflection. Focusing solely on past successes ignores the critical learning that comes from failures. Claiming self-reflection is best done in private neglects the potential value of sharing insights and learning with peers or mentors. Lastly, avoiding challenges runs counter to the purpose of self-reflection, which is about confronting and learning from all experiences, not shying away from them.

6. Which officer is responsible for the planning and execution of tactical systems?

- A. Sub Quality Assurance Officer
- B. Sub Assistant Weapons Officer**
- C. Sub Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant
- D. Sub Damage Control Assistant

The officer responsible for the planning and execution of tactical systems is the Sub Assistant Weapons Officer. This role typically involves overseeing the weapons systems onboard a naval vessel, ensuring they are effectively integrated into tactical operations. The Assistant Weapons Officer is trained in the operation, maintenance, and strategic use of various weapon systems, enabling them to contribute significantly to mission planning and execution. By managing both the technical aspects and the tactics associated with these systems, this officer plays a crucial part in enhancing the combat effectiveness of the ship. Other roles, while important, focus on different areas. For example, the Sub Quality Assurance Officer is primarily responsible for ensuring that processes and systems meet required standards, while the Sub Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant oversees safe practices related to chemical and radiological materials. The Sub Damage Control Assistant focuses on damage control measures and emergency responses, which are essential for safety and survival but do not involve direct responsibility for tactical systems. Each of these roles is important in its own right, but the planning and execution of tactical systems specifically falls to the Assistant Weapons Officer.

7. What is a primary focus of the Sub Combat Systems Officer?

- A. Management of quality assurance
- B. Safe navigation of the submarine
- C. Weapons systems operation**
- D. Chemical analysis

The primary focus of the Sub Combat Systems Officer is the operation of weapons systems. This role is critical because it involves managing the submarine's fire control systems, which include identifying and tracking targets, as well as maintaining the weapon systems readiness. These officers ensure that the submarine can effectively engage in combat scenarios while protecting the crew and the submarine itself. Mastering the technical aspects of weapons systems operation is essential for mission success and the overall effectiveness of the submarine in tactical situations. The other options relate to important tasks but do not encapsulate the main responsibility of this specific role. For instance, while management of quality assurance and safe navigation of the submarine are vital for operational effectiveness and safety, they fall under different responsibilities within the submarine's hierarchy. Chemical analysis, although relevant in broader contexts such as environmental measures or maintenance, does not align with the core duties of a Sub Combat Systems Officer.

8. Which corps is responsible for preventing and controlling disease, as well as providing oral surgery and hygiene?

- A. Medical service corps
- B. Nurse corps
- C. Dental corps**
- D. Medical corps

The correct answer is the Dental corps, as this branch specifically focuses on oral health, which includes the prevention and management of dental diseases, oral surgery, and oral hygiene practices. Members of the Dental corps are trained to diagnose and treat conditions related to the teeth, gums, and mouth. They play a crucial role in maintaining oral health standards and contribute to overall public health efforts by preventing dental disease, which can have systemic effects on patients' health. While the Medical service corps, Nurse corps, and Medical corps do provide essential health services, their primary areas of focus are broader and encompass a wider range of healthcare delivery. The Medical service corps provides support services in health care management and administrative roles, the Nurse corps specializes in nursing care and patient education, and the Medical corps emphasizes treatment and prevention of general medical issues rather than specifically addressing oral health. Hence, the Dental corps is uniquely positioned to handle the responsibilities outlined in the question.

9. How long is the training duration for the Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC)?

- A. 8 weeks
- B. 12 weeks**
- C. 16 weeks
- D. 26 weeks

The training duration for the Submarine Officer Basic Course (SOBC) is indeed 12 weeks. This program is designed to provide new submarine officers with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary for their roles aboard submarines. Over the course of these 12 weeks, officers receive instruction on various critical areas such as submarine systems, navigation, tactics, and leadership, all tailored to ensure they are adequately prepared for the unique challenges of submarine operations. The structured timeline allows for a comprehensive understanding while maintaining a focused and intensive learning environment that is crucial for their future responsibilities in the fleet.

10. Which role is dedicated to handling external communication and electronic warfare?

- A. Sub Communication Officer**
- B. Sub Assistant Weapons Officer**
- C. Sub Quality Assurance Officer**
- D. Sub Damage Control Assistant**

The role dedicated to handling external communication and electronic warfare is known as the Sub Communication Officer. This position specifically focuses on managing all aspects of communications, including the operational use of communication systems and the management of electronic warfare capabilities. The Sub Communication Officer ensures that the submarine can effectively communicate with other naval forces and command structures while also defending against electronic threats. This role is crucial in the context of modern naval operations, where successful communication and the ability to conduct electronic warfare can significantly influence mission outcomes. In contrast, the other roles mentioned have distinct functional focuses; the Sub Assistant Weapons Officer deals with armament and weaponry, the Sub Quality Assurance Officer oversees standards and compliance, and the Sub Damage Control Assistant is responsible for firefighting and damage mitigation.

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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://usna2cpca.examzify.com>

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

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