18B MORTARS PRACTICE EXAM (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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. How are mortar rounds typically transported?

A. In artillery trucks

B. In ammunition containers or ammo cans

C. In portable backpacks

D. On open trailers

2. What is the main advantage of using mortars in combat?

A. They are silent weapons

B. They can be rapidly deployed and provide indirect fire support

C. They require minimal training

D. They have unlimited range

3. When using Searching or Traversing Fire, how is the total turns of traverse determined?

A. Total turns of traverse = Total mils of target / Mils per turn

B. Total turns of traverse = Target size in meters x Mils per turn

C. Total turns of traverse = Total mils of target - Mils per turn

D. Total turns of traverse = Mils per turn x Target size

4. Which of the following is the most important criterion for selecting a mortar position?

A. Tactical Situation

B. Survivability

C. Mission Accomplishment

D. Surface Conditions

5. In the context of firing formations, which formation is described as 'Lazy W'?

A. Diamond

B. Triangle

C. Parallel

D. Lazy W

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6. Which is a common type of mortar used in combat?

A. M224 60mm Mortar

B. M77 81mm Mortar

C. M120 120mm Mortar

D. All of the above

7. Which round is classified as M888?

A. FRTC

B. HE

C. Smoke

D. Illumination

8. Which of the following terms refers to a type of occupation characterized by a planned approach?

A. Hasty

B. Emergency

C. Deliberate

D. Displacement

9. How often must the M120 bore be swabbed at lower elevations?

A. After every 10 rounds

B. After every 5 rounds

C. After every fire mission

D. Only when it misfires

10. How many rounds per minute can the M252 fire at maximum rate for 2 minutes?

A. 20 rpm

B. 25 rpm

C. 30 rpm

D. 35 rpm

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How are mortar rounds typically transported?

A. In artillery trucks

B. In ammunition containers or ammo cans

C. In portable backpacks

D. On open trailers

Mortar rounds are typically transported in ammunition containers or ammo cans due to the need for protection and organization during transit. These containers are specifically designed to safeguard the munitions from environmental factors such as moisture and physical damage, which could compromise their functionality and safety. Additionally, using standardized ammunition containers ensures that rounds of various calibers can be efficiently stored and transported, facilitating quick access and deployment when needed. This storage method also helps in maintaining accountability and preventing mix-ups with other types of ordnance. While artillery trucks and open trailers may be used for transporting larger artillery pieces or bulk munitions, they often lack the specific protective features required for mortar rounds. Portable backpacks, while convenient for carrying smaller items or gear by infantry, would not be suitable for the secure transport of mortar rounds due to safety risks and weight considerations.

2. What is the main advantage of using mortars in combat?

A. They are silent weapons

B. They can be rapidly deployed and provide indirect fire support

C. They require minimal training

D. They have unlimited range

Mortars offer significant tactical advantages on the battlefield, and one of their main strengths is their ability to provide rapid deployment and indirect fire support. This capability enables military units to engage targets that are obscured from direct line of sight, allowing for effective support without exposing troops to direct enemy fire. Mortars can be quickly set up and shifted to different firing positions, which is crucial in dynamic combat scenarios. This rapid response allows forces to deliver accurate firepower against enemy positions, troops, or fortifications without the need for a direct engagement. Their versatility in various terrains and operational contexts enhances their role in combined arms operations, making them a vital component of modern military strategy. In contrast, the other options presented have limitations. While mortars are relatively quiet compared to other artillery, they are not silent weapons; they produce noise upon firing and when rounds impact. The idea of requiring minimal training overlooks the need for operators to understand targeting, ballistics, and safety protocols necessary for effective use. Lastly, stating they have unlimited range is misleading; mortars do have range limits determined by their design and caliber, with the effective range generally being a few kilometers as opposed to being unlimited.

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3. When using Searching or Traversing Fire, how is the total turns of traverse determined?

A. Total turns of traverse = Total mils of target / Mils per turn

B. Total turns of traverse = Target size in meters x Mils per turn

C. Total turns of traverse = Total mils of target - Mils per turn

D. Total turns of traverse = Mils per turn x Target size

The chosen method for determining the total turns of traverse is based on the relationship between the total angular displacement required to reach the target and the degree of rotation provided per turn of the weapon system, measured in mils. When you're using Searching or Traversing Fire, you start by calculating the total angle in mils that needs to be covered to engage the target accurately. This total angular displacement is the total mils of target. To find out how many full turns of the traverse mechanism are required to achieve that total movement, you divide the total mils by the number of mils the weapon turns for each individual stroke. The formula essentially breaks down the total area to cover into manageable chunks defined by the weapon's mechanical limits, allowing for efficient engagement of targets at various distances. This method ensures that you can accurately apply the necessary adjustments to aim effectively, supporting precise firing operations. The other options do not accurately reflect the mathematical relationship needed to calculate turns of traverse. For example, options involving multiplication or subtraction do not account for the straightforward division necessary to relate total mils to the angular capacity of the weapon mechanism. This understanding is vital to conducting effective fire operations in different environments and against varying target types.

4. Which of the following is the most important criterion for selecting a mortar position?

A. Tactical Situation

B. Survivability

C. Mission Accomplishment

D. Surface Conditions

The most important criterion for selecting a mortar position centers around mission accomplishment because the primary objective of deploying mortars is to effectively fulfill their intended operational role. A mortar's position must enable it to engage targets accurately and effectively, providing support to the ground forces during combat operations. This involves ensuring that the mortar can deliver fire support in line with the mission parameters, whether that is suppressing enemy positions, providing area fire, or supporting maneuver units. When assessing a position based on mission accomplishment, consideration must be given to factors such as range, angle of fire, and the ability to achieve the desired effects on the target. This focus on operational effectiveness inevitably influences other aspects of position selection, such as tactical situation, survivability, and surface conditions, as these elements must support the mortar's ability to accomplish its mission successfully. In essence, mission accomplishment drives the decision-making process, ensuring that the mortar can operate in a manner that directly contributes to the success of the overall military strategy.

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5. In the context of firing formations, which formation is described as 'Lazy W'?

A. Diamond

B. Triangle

C. Parallel

D. Lazy W

The term 'Lazy W' specifically refers to a unique firing formation used by mortar units. In this context, it is designed to effectively position the mortars in a manner that maximizes their coverage and flexibility while minimizing vulnerability. The 'Lazy W' formation allows for a more relaxed setup compared to other formations, enabling units to fire effectively in different directions while maintaining effective communication and coordination among the crew. This formation typically involves placing mortars at varying angles which resemble a 'W' shape, lending to the name 'Lazy W'. This allows for overlapping fields of fire and ensures that the unit can respond quickly to shifting tactical situations. The design is beneficial in dynamic environments where adaptability is crucial for successful engagement with the enemy. Understanding the characteristics of the 'Lazy W' formation is crucial for mortar teams as they plan their positioning strategies based on the terrain and mission requirements. It highlights the importance of both protection and firepower in mortar operations, reinforcing effective tactics in combat scenarios.

6. Which is a common type of mortar used in combat?

A. M224 60mm Mortar

B. M77 81mm Mortar

C. M120 120mm Mortar

D. All of the above

In combat situations, various types of mortars are employed based on mission requirements, terrain, and the type of fire support needed. Each mortar mentioned is designed to deliver indirect fire support but varies in caliber and operational role. The M224 60mm mortar is lightweight and often used by infantry units for close support. It provides flexibility and is easy to transport, making it suitable for a variety of combat scenarios. The M77 81mm mortar bridges the gap between lighter and heavier systems, providing a greater range and explosive capability than a 60mm mortar. It is versatile enough to be used by both infantry and armored formations. The M120 120mm mortar is a heavier system that offers significant firepower and range, making it valuable in more sustained fire support operations. Individually, each of these mortars serves critical roles on the battlefield, and together they represent a broad and effective artillery strategy used by military forces. Therefore, recognizing that all these mortars are commonly utilized in combat settings makes the choice comprehensive and accurate.

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7. Which round is classified as M888?

A. FRTC

B. HE

C. Smoke

D. Illumination

The M888 round is classified as a high-explosive (HE) round. This type of round is designed to achieve a high order detonation, producing a significant blast effect and fragmentation upon impact. It is primarily used against personnel and soft targets, making it a versatile choice for various field applications. HE rounds like the M888 are integral to the effectiveness of mortar systems, providing a powerful means of delivering explosive ordnance to situations where quick and impactful fire support is necessary. Understanding the characteristics of the M888, particularly its explosive capabilities, is crucial for those operating mortars, as it directly influences tactical decisions in combat situations. In contrast, other types of rounds, such as smoke, illumination, or practice rounds like the FRTC, serve different purposes that do not involve direct explosive engagement with targets. This distinct classification reinforces the intended function of the M888 and highlights the importance of properly understanding the capabilities and applications of different mortar ammunition types.

8. Which of the following terms refers to a type of occupation characterized by a planned approach?

A. Hasty

B. Emergency

C. Deliberate

D. Displacement

The term that accurately describes a type of occupation characterized by a planned approach is "deliberate." In military operations, a deliberate occupation typically involves thorough planning and execution, ensuring that all necessary considerations, resources, and strategies are accounted for in advance. This allows forces to systematically assess the operational environment, gather intelligence, and prepare for various contingencies, thereby increasing the likelihood of mission success. In contrast, the other terms often denote different characteristics of occupations. For example, a hasty occupation is executed rapidly, often without the comprehensive planning that a deliberate approach entails, making it more reactive to immediate circumstances. An emergency occupation usually arises from unforeseen situations or crises, where the need for action is urgent and leaves little room for extensive planning. Displacement refers to the movement of forces or populations from one area to another, rather than an occupation strategy. Therefore, the term "deliberate" effectively captures the essence of a carefully considered and structured approach to occupation.

9. How often must the M120 bore be swabbed at lower elevations?

A. After every 10 rounds

B. After every 5 rounds

C. After every fire mission

D. Only when it misfires

Swabbing the bore of the M120 mortar is a critical maintenance practice designed to ensure the weapon functions safely and effectively. At lower elevations, the recommendation is to swab the bore after every five rounds. This practice is important because the accumulation of residue from previous firings can lead to dangerous conditions, including the risk of misfires or reduced accuracy. By adhering to this swabbing frequency, soldiers can maintain a clear bore, ensuring that any buildup of material is removed before it can impact the performance of subsequent rounds. In situations where firings occur frequently, such as during training exercises or live fire missions, consistent maintenance like this not only prolongs the life of the mortar but also helps to maintain the safety of the crew operating the weapon.

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10. How many rounds per minute can the M252 fire at maximum rate for 2 minutes?

A. 20 rpm

B. 25 rpm

C. 30 rpm

D. 35 rpm

The M252 mortar can achieve a maximum rate of fire of 30 rounds per minute for a limited duration, specifically up to 2 minutes. This high rate of fire is typically utilized in combat situations where rapid response is essential. The design of the M252 allows for this increased fire rate, incorporating a quick barrel change and efficient operation procedures that facilitate rapid loading and firing. This fire rate is significant because it enables indirect fire support to deliver a large volume of munitions on a target in a short timeframe, providing critical support during engagements. The capability to fire at this maximum rate is contingent upon the crew's proficiency and the availability of ammunition, emphasizing the importance of training and logistics in mortar operations.

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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:

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

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