ARMY LAND NAVIGATION/MAP READING PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://armylandnavigationmapreading.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. Why is considering terrain crucial in operational planning?

A. It determines food supplies

B. It affects visibility and movement

C. It impacts communication systems

D. It reduces equipment wear

2. Which of the following is NOT one of the five major terrain features?

A. Saddle

B. River

C. Hill

D. Depression

3. What is the primary purpose of a topographic map?

A. To show political boundaries

B. To display terrain and land forms

C. To provide historical data

D. To illustrate weather patterns

4. How do you calculate distance on a map using the scale?

A. By measuring the distance on the map with a ruler

B. By estimating distance visually

C. By using GPS coordinates

D. By guessing based on previous experience

5. What is the benefit of carefully planning a route before navigation?

A. It avoids risk and improves efficiency

B. It takes too much time and is unnecessary

C. It allows for blind navigation

D. It focuses only on speed of travel

6. What are the different sizes of maps typically referred to?

A. Small, Medium, Large

B. Detailed, Overview, Compact

C. Basic, Advanced, Expert

D. Local, National, Global

SAMPLE

7. How can you establish a pace count?

A. Count steps taken over a timed duration

B. Count steps over a known distance

C. Use a distance measuring tool

D. Establish a rhythm while walking

8. Which of the following is a way to orient a map?

A. Using a compass and sun position

B. Using a compass and terrain association

C. Using GPS and landmarks

D. Using magnetic tools and terrain features

9. What is one method to hold a compass for accurate reading?

A. Compass-to-Cheek Method

B. Reverse Orientation Method

C. Angle Alignment Method

D. Horizontal Sight Method

10. What is a draw in terms of terrain features?

A. A steep slope

B. A low area between hills

C. A flat area with elevation

D. An elevated ridge

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Why is considering terrain crucial in operational planning?

A. It determines food supplies

B. It affects visibility and movement

C. It impacts communication systems

D. It reduces equipment wear

Considering terrain is crucial in operational planning because it directly influences visibility and movement. Different types of terrain can provide varying levels of cover and concealment, which can either enhance or hinder the ability of forces to observe enemy activity and navigate effectively. For instance, mountainous areas may restrict movement and line of sight, making it difficult for units to maneuver or for reconnaissance to spot enemy positions. Conversely, open plains may facilitate movement but can expose troops to enemy fire. Therefore, understanding the terrain allows military planners to strategize effectively, choosing routes and formation that optimize their forces' capabilities while minimizing vulnerabilities. Other aspects like food supplies, communication systems, and equipment wear are certainly important considerations, but they are secondary to how terrain impacts the fundamental actions of movement and visibility on the battlefield.

2. Which of the following is NOT one of the five major terrain features?

A. Saddle

B. River

C. Hill

D. Depression

The five major terrain features commonly recognized in military map reading are hill, saddle, valley, ridge, and depression. These features provide critical information for navigation and positioning on the battlefield. A river, while it is a significant geographic feature, is classified as a minor terrain feature rather than a major one. Major terrain features are characterized by their prominence and wide-ranging impact on movement and strategy, while rivers are important for terrain understanding but do not fall into the same category as the five major features recognized in military navigation. Understanding the distinction between major and minor terrain features is crucial for effective land navigation and operational planning, as it helps soldiers to assess the terrain and make informed decisions during missions.

3. What is the primary purpose of a topographic map?

A. To show political boundaries

B. To display terrain and land forms

C. To provide historical data

D. To illustrate weather patterns

The primary purpose of a topographic map is to display terrain and landforms. These maps use contour lines to represent the elevation and shape of the landscape, allowing users to understand the three-dimensional features of the terrain in a two-dimensional format. This detailed representation includes hills, valleys, mountains, and other physical features of the environment, which is vital for various applications such as hiking, military operations, and land development. While political boundaries can be shown on some maps, they are not the focus of a topographic map. Historical data is typically not featured in these maps, and illustrations of weather patterns are more relevant to meteorological maps rather than topographic ones. Thus, the emphasis on the representation of physical land features is what distinguishes topographic maps and defines their primary purpose.

SAMPLE

4. How do you calculate distance on a map using the scale?

A. By measuring the distance on the map with a ruler

B. By estimating distance visually

C. By using GPS coordinates

D. By guessing based on previous experience

Calculating distance on a map using the scale involves measuring the distance directly on the map with a ruler and then converting that measurement into real-world distance using the scale provided on the map. The scale gives a specific ratio or unit conversion, such as 1 inch equals 1 mile or 1:50,000, meaning that each unit on the map corresponds to 50,000 of the same units on the ground. By measuring the distance between two points on the map with a ruler, you can easily determine how far apart those points are in real life by using the scale to convert your measurement accordingly. For example, if you measure a distance of 3 inches on the map and the scale indicates that 1 inch equals 1 mile, then the actual distance would be 3 miles. This method is precise and reliable, making it essential for effective navigation and planning movements in the field. Other methods, like visual estimation or using GPS, while valuable in certain contexts, do not provide the same level of accuracy when it comes to calculating distance on a map based on its scale.

5. What is the benefit of carefully planning a route before navigation?

A. It avoids risk and improves efficiency

B. It takes too much time and is unnecessary

C. It allows for blind navigation

D. It focuses only on speed of travel

Carefully planning a route before navigation provides significant benefits, particularly in avoiding risks and improving efficiency. When a route is planned in advance, navigators can identify potential hazards, difficult terrain, and other obstacles that could impede progress. This foresight allows for informed decision-making and minimizes the chances of running into trouble during the actual navigation. Moreover, a well-thought-out plan enhances efficiency by optimizing the chosen path to reduce unnecessary detours and conserve time and resources. It enables the navigator to assess various factors such as distance, elevation changes, and environmental conditions, leading to a smoother journey overall. In contrast, the other options either suggest negative outcomes or misunderstand the importance of route planning. Taking too much time is not a valid concern when considering the safety and effectiveness of navigation, and blind navigation runs counter to the principles of good land navigation, which emphasize awareness of surroundings and strategic planning. Lastly, focusing solely on speed overlooks the comprehensive assessment required for safe and effective navigation.

SAMPLE

6. What are the different sizes of maps typically referred to?

A. Small, Medium, Large

B. Detailed, Overview, Compact

C. Basic, Advanced, Expert

D. Local, National, Global

The correct answer identifies the commonly recognized sizes of maps, which are categorized as small, medium, and large based on the scale of the maps and the amount of detail they provide. Small maps typically cover a limited area and provide a broad overview, often used for quick reference. Medium maps offer a balance, with more detail than small maps but not as much as large maps. Large maps present extensive detail and are designed for more specific navigation or analysis over a larger area. Understanding these sizes is crucial for users choosing the right type of map for their navigation needs, ensuring they can read and interpret the information effectively for different situations. Other options, while they may seem logical, do not represent the standard categorization of map sizes as clearly or accurately as the small, medium, and large distinction. For example, terms like detailed, overview, and compact are more descriptive of map types rather than sizes and do not follow the conventional classification in cartography.

7. How can you establish a pace count?

A. Count steps taken over a timed duration

B. Count steps over a known distance

C. Use a distance measuring tool

D. Establish a rhythm while walking

To establish a pace count, counting steps over a known distance is the method that provides the most accurate and reliable measure of how far you travel for each step taken. By walking a predetermined distance, such as 100 meters or 100 yards, and counting the number of steps it takes to cover that distance, you can determine your individual pace count. This is critical for navigation, as knowing your pace count allows you to estimate distances on a map and convert that into real-world travel, which is essential for accurate land navigation. This approach is particularly useful as it takes into account your personal stride length and walking style, which can vary widely between individuals. Using a timed duration to count steps, employing a distance measuring tool, or establishing a rhythm while walking may contribute to understanding overall movement or fitness but do not specifically provide the precision needed to establish an effective pace count for navigation purposes.

8. Which of the following is a way to orient a map?

A. Using a compass and sun position

B. Using a compass and terrain association

C. Using GPS and landmarks

D. Using magnetic tools and terrain features

One effective method to orient a map is by utilizing a compass in conjunction with terrain association. This approach involves aligning the map with the actual landscape you are observing. By identifying recognizable landmarks or features in the terrain, such as hills, rivers, or roads, and matching them with their representation on the map, you can accurately align the map's orientation with the real world. Using a compass provides a precise direction, allowing you to determine your heading and how it corresponds to the features on your map. This combination ensures that you have a clear and accurate understanding of where you are in relation to the landscape, thus enhancing your navigation skills. Other methods, such as using GPS and landmarks, can be helpful but rely on technology rather than direct observation and traditional navigation skills. Similarly, while using magnetic tools may assist in reading bearings, it may not facilitate a comprehensive orientation as effectively as using a compass with terrain features.

SAMPLE

9. What is one method to hold a compass for accurate reading?

A. Compass-to-Cheek Method

B. Reverse Orientation Method

C. Angle Alignment Method

D. Horizontal Sight Method

The Compass-to-Cheek Method is a well-established technique for obtaining accurate compass readings. This method involves holding the compass against your cheek, usually with the needle pointing in the desired direction of travel. By aligning the sighting line with your eye and the direction of the needle, you can effectively minimize any parallax error and ensure that you are reading the compass accurately. When using this method, the user can take advantage of their natural line of sight to better align themselves with the target direction, which enhances precision. It also stabilizes the compass, as it allows for better control and reduces movement, which can lead to inaccurate readings. In contrast, the other methods listed may focus on different aspects of compass use or may not achieve the same level of accuracy. For instance, reverse orientation could confuse the direction of the compass needle, and angle alignment may depend on specific calculations that require more advanced understanding. Horizontal sight methods might not provide the same level of contact and stability that the Compass-to-Cheek Method does, making it a preferred choice for both novice and experienced navigators.

10. What is a draw in terms of terrain features?

A. A steep slope

B. A low area between hills

C. A flat area with elevation

D. An elevated ridge

A draw is defined as a low area between hills, which makes option B the correct choice. In terrain terminology, draws are typically characterized by their V-shape when viewed on a topographic map and serve as natural channels for water runoff. They are often associated with steep sides and can be useful in land navigation as they can lead to other geographical features or waterways. Understanding the concept of a draw is essential for effective navigation and terrain analysis, as they can significantly influence movement and line of sight on the battlefield. This knowledge allows soldiers to utilize the terrain to their advantage during operations.

SAMPLE

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://armylandnavigationmapreading.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE