BASIC OFFICER LEADER COURSE (BOLC) 3 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. Supervise/Rehearse includes which activities?

A. Maintenance; Training; Rehearsals; Supply; Pre-combat Checks; Pre-combat Inspections; Rest; Convoy Briefing; Strip Maps; Start Point

B. Maintenance and fuel planning

C. Safety briefings only

D. Training and evaluation

2. Which of the following is not a convoy formation listed?

A. Staggered Column

B. Close Column

C. Open Column

D. Infiltration

3. What are the three leader competencies in the Army Leadership Requirements Model?

A. Leads others, Develops others, Achieves the mission

B. Plans, Communicates, Executes

C. Thinks, Speaks, Acts

D. Leads, Follows, Edifies

4. Army Reserve and National Guard: When must requests arrive?

A. 15 days

B. 30 days

C. 45 days

D. 60 days

5. Why are Ethics and Values important for officers?

A. To maximize personal gain.

B. To comply with laws of armed conflict only.

C. To uphold Army values, comply with laws of armed conflict, and maintain professional integrity.

D. To speed up decision-making.

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6. Which statement best describes the Convoy Commander's responsibilities?

A. Located wherever they can lead best to facilitate command and control; approves everything; analyzes mission and unit capability and conducts risk assessment

B. Sits in the HQ and does nothing

C. Only handles communications

D. Only instructs at the beginning of the mission

7. Convoy Identifiers define the color flags used for the lead and rear vehicles, respectively; which option reflects this correctly?

A. Lead vehicle displays blue flag; rear vehicle green flag; convoy/march unit commanders display black and white flag; rotating amber warning on oversized/overweight vehicles and first/last vehicles

B. Lead vehicle displays red flag; rear vehicle blue flag; convoy/march unit commanders display green flag; no warning flag

C. Lead vehicle displays white flag; rear vehicle yellow flag; convoy/march unit commanders display red flag; rotating amber warning on all vehicles

D. Lead vehicle displays green flag; rear vehicle blue flag; convoy/march unit commanders display black flag; rotating amber warning on light vehicles only

8. Which component name is described by Observation and Fields of Fire, Avenues of Approach, Key Terrain, Obstacles, and Cover and Concealment?

A. METT-TC

B. OAKOC

C. PMESII

D. SALUTE

9. Should T&EOs be the sole source of feedback the commander considers in making an assessment?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Only for MET tasks

D. Sometimes

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10. In the Eight Step Training Model, what step comes directly after issuing the OPORD?

A. Rehearse

B. Train

C. Conduct AARs

D. Retrain

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Supervise/Rehearse includes which activities?

A. Maintenance; Training; Rehearsals; Supply; Pre-combat Checks; Pre-combat Inspections; Rest; Convoy Briefing; Strip Maps; Start Point

B. Maintenance and fuel planning

C. Safety briefings only

D. Training and evaluation

Supervise/Rehearse is about ensuring the unit is fully ready to execute by running through the plan and confirming every piece is in place. It covers equipment and gear being functional (maintenance), soldiers knowing their roles (training), and practicing the sequence of actions (rehearsals). It also includes making sure you have what you need to sustain the operation (supply), performing pre-combat checks and inspections to verify that weapons, vehicles, and systems are ready, and scheduling rest to keep the team alert and effective. A convoy briefing communicates route, threats, and procedures; strip maps are used to rehearse navigation and route details; and establishing the start point marks where the operation begins. Taken together, these activities ensure readiness, coordination, and a smooth execution of the plan. The other options are too narrow—for example, focusing only on maintenance and fuel planning, or only on safety briefings, or only on training and evaluation—without capturing the full range of tasks involved in supervising and rehearsing.

2. Which of the following is not a convoy formation listed?

A. Staggered Column

B. Close Column

C. Open Column

D. Infiltration

Convoy movements rely on how vehicles are arranged to balance protection, speed, and maneuverability. In the material you're studying, the formations listed are Close Column, Open Column, and Infiltration. Close Column keeps vehicles tightly spaced for quick movement and security; Open Column spaces vehicles out to reduce vulnerability to ambush and to improve observation and sector coverage. Infiltration describes a stealthy approach to reach an objective, often treated as a movement method within convoy operations. Staggered Column, while a recognized tactic in some contexts, isn't part of the listed convoy formations in this question, so it's the one that isn't listed.

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3. What are the three leader competencies in the Army Leadership Requirements Model?

A. Leads others, Develops others, Achieves the mission

B. Plans, Communicates, Executes

C. Thinks, Speaks, Acts

D. Leads, Follows, Edifies

The three leader competencies in the Army Leadership Requirements Model are leads others, develops others, and achieves the mission. This framework centers on how a leader interacts with people while guiding toward a successful outcome. Leads others means influencing, guiding, and taking care of soldiers and teams. It's about setting direction, modeling ethical behavior, building trust, and ensuring everyone understands the commander's intent and their role in achieving it. Develops others focuses on growth and readiness. It involves coaching, mentoring, giving constructive feedback, providing training opportunities, and helping subordinates reach their potential so the unit becomes more capable over time. Achieves the mission is about planning, executing, and delivering results. It emphasizes applying resources effectively, adapting to conditions, and ensuring tasks are completed to standard while maintaining overall welfare and discipline. These three competencies together describe how a leader integrates people leadership with mission accomplishment. Other options mix elements like planning, communicating, or generic actions, but they do not reflect the distinct trio of guiding people, developing them, and delivering the mission as the Army defines it.

4. Army Reserve and National Guard: When must requests arrive?

A. 15 days

B. 30 days

C. 45 days

D. 60 days

In Army Reserve and National Guard planning, requests should arrive 45 days before the event starts. That lead time lets the chain of command review and approve, secure personnel, arrange funding and pay, complete medical clearances if needed, and coordinate travel and lodging. It also provides a window to line up supporting units and resources so the operation or training can run smoothly without last-minute scrambles. Shorter timelines, like 15 or 30 days, risk missing approvals or resources, while 60 days is longer than typically required for standard processing. 45 days strikes the balance, ensuring proper preparation and readiness.

5. Why are Ethics and Values important for officers?

A. To maximize personal gain.

B. To comply with laws of armed conflict only.

C. To uphold Army values, comply with laws of armed conflict, and maintain professional integrity.

D. To speed up decision-making.

Ethics and values guide how officers lead and decide under pressure, making sure actions align with what is right, lawful, and professional. The best answer recognizes that officers must uphold Army values, comply with laws of armed conflict, and maintain professional integrity. Army values provide the standard for daily conduct; LOAC sets the legal and humanitarian boundaries for actions in combat; professional integrity ensures honesty, accountability, and trust with soldiers, peers, and the public. Together, these elements support responsible leadership, mission effectiveness, and the Army's legitimacy. The other options miss important parts: pursuing personal gain contradicts military ethics; focusing only on LOAC ignores the broader obligation to values and integrity; and trying to speed up decisions without considering ethics and law undermines proper leadership.

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6. Which statement best describes the Convoy Commander's responsibilities?

A. Located wherever they can lead best to facilitate command and control; approves everything; analyzes mission and unit capability and conducts risk assessment

B. Sits in the HQ and does nothing

C. Only handles communications

D. Only instructs at the beginning of the mission

In convoy operations, the leader who commands the convoy must stay closely engaged to maintain clear command and control, make critical decisions, and oversee the entire mission from planning through execution. The best description is that the Convoy Commander should be placed where they can lead effectively, ensuring timely decisions, approving essential actions, and keeping a real-time view of mission status, unit capability, and risks. This means continually analyzing what needs to be done, what the units can realistically accomplish, and what hazards or threats exist, then adjusting plans as conditions change. This approach contrasts with notions of delegating everything away, remaining idle in a distant headquarters, focusing only on communications, or giving instructions only at the start. A convoy commander who stays actively involved can direct and coordinate movements, resolve issues on the ground, adapt to terrain, weather, or enemy activity, and maintain safety for personnel and assets. Continuous leadership and ongoing risk assessment are essential to protect the force and ensure mission success.

7. Convoy Identifiers define the color flags used for the lead and rear vehicles, respectively; which option reflects this correctly?

A. Lead vehicle displays blue flag; rear vehicle green flag; convoy/march unit commanders display black and white flag; rotating amber warning on oversized/overweight vehicles and first/last vehicles

B. Lead vehicle displays red flag; rear vehicle blue flag; convoy/march unit commanders display green flag; no warning flag

C. Lead vehicle displays white flag; rear vehicle yellow flag; convoy/march unit commanders display red flag; rotating amber warning on all vehicles

D. Lead vehicle displays green flag; rear vehicle blue flag; convoy/march unit commanders display black flag; rotating amber warning on light vehicles only

Convoy identifiers rely on color flags to give quick, at-a-glance cues about roles and warnings in a formation. The lead vehicle uses a blue flag so everyone up front and in the convoy can instantly spot who is directing the path and signals. The rear vehicle carries a green flag to clearly mark the tail, helping maintain accountability and ensuring signals from the back are visible. Convoy or march unit commanders use a black-and-white flag to indicate who has authority to issue directives to the rest of the units. A rotating amber warning is placed on oversized/overweight vehicles and on the first and last vehicles to alert nearby traffic and other road users to the special status and boundary of the convoy. This combination provides distinct, visible cues for leadership, endpoints, and safety considerations, which is why it aligns with standard practice. Other color pairings or omissions would blur roles or reduce warning visibility, making coordination in the convoy less reliable.

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8. Which component name is described by Observation and Fields of Fire, Avenues of Approach, Key Terrain, Obstacles, and Cover and Concealment?

A. METT-TC

B. OAKOC

C. PMESII

D. SALUTE

The main concept being tested is terrain analysis using the OAKOC framework. The list given—Observation and Fields of Fire, Avenues of Approach, Key Terrain, Obstacles, and Cover and Concealment—are the five factors that make up OAKOC, a method soldiers use to assess how terrain affects all aspects of an operation, from visibility and fields of fire to routes, terrain importance, barriers, and protection. This framework helps analysts understand where to position forces, how enemy and friendly fires might interact with the landscape, which routes to prioritize, which terrain features hold strategic value, what obstacles could hinder movement, and where forces can remain concealed or protected. Other frameworks like METT-TC or PMESII describe different aspects of planning and situational awareness, while SALUTE is a reporting format, so they don't enumerate the terrain factors the way OAKOC does.

9. Should T&EOs be the sole source of feedback the commander considers in making an assessment?

A. Yes

B. No

C. Only for MET tasks

D. Sometimes

Feedback should come from multiple sources, not just one. T&EOs provide important observations of how a leader performs during training events, but they capture only a slice of performance—limited in context, timing, and observer perspective. Relying on them alone can miss how a leader handles day-to-day duties, long-term development, or stress in different environments. To form a complete assessment, a commander integrates T&EO feedback with other inputs such as supervisor observations, peer and subordinates' feedback, self-assessment, and performance data across a range of tasks, including both MET and non-MET tasks. This broader approach gives a more accurate picture of readiness and development needs.

10. In the Eight Step Training Model, what step comes directly after issuing the OPORD?

A. Rehearse

B. Train

C. Conduct AARs

D. Retrain

After issuing the OPORD, rehearsing is done to practice the plan and lock in how it will unfold. A rehearsal allows everyone to walk through their tasks, confirm the timing and sequence of actions, and test communications and coordination between units. It helps reveal ambiguities or gaps in the order before actual execution, so the team can adjust while everything is still controllable. Once the rehearsal confirms the plan, the unit moves into the execution phase, followed by an after-action review and any retraining if needed.

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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://bolc3.examzify.com

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

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