COMBAT TACTICAL COORDINATOR (COTAC) BOARD PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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

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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. Which statement is true regarding Link-16 in relation to Link-11 affiliations?

A. Link-11 adds Neutral and Suspect to Link-16 affiliations

B. Link-16 adds Neutral and Suspect to Link-11 affiliations

C. Link-11 and Link-16 have the same affiliation list

D. Link-16 replaces Link-11 entirely

2. To access SIPR on the INMARSAT system, what is required?

A. SIPR token plugged into a 90-meter card reader.

B. KG-40A encryption.

C. KG-175 with CIK.

D. ES-19 crypto key.

3. Explain what a 'kill chain' is in target engagement and its stages.

A. Detect, identify, locate, orient, decide, act, and assess.

B. Observe, identify, locate, orient, decide, act, and assess.

C. Plan, Decide, Act, Assess.

D. Detect, Observe, Locate, Decide, Act, Assess.

4. What are the key components of an OPORD tailored for a COTAC mission?

A. Mission statement

B. Commander's intent

C. Concept of operations

D. Tasks to units, coordinating and movement instructions, risk and ROE.

5. In the Integrated Broadcast System, which broadcast type is primary?

A. IBS-I: Integrated

B. IBS-S: Simplex

C. IBS-NS: Network Service

D. CIB: Common Interactive Broadcast (primary)

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6. Which measures reduce fratricide risk in a dense urban environment?

A. Increase overall firepower to overwhelm threats.

B. Use area-effect munitions to ensure any target is hit.

C. PID, deconfliction, designated targets, and precise targeting and engagement procedures.

D. Ignore standard operating procedures in dense urban areas.

7. Which aircraft, derived from the Boeing 707, provides survivable airborne Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications as a communications relay and airborne command post?

A. E-6 Mercury

B. E-2 Hawkeye

C. E-3 AWACS

D. MQ-4 Triton

8. What is the purpose of a Joint Security Area (JSA) in a multi-service operation?

A. A communications lab

B. A designated zone where security measures ensure protection and coordination during operations

C. A medical facility

D. A weather monitoring area

9. In Direct Support, TACON shifts to whom?

A. The asset owner

B. The unit receiving TACON

C. The supported unit takes TACON from us

D. TACON shifts to OTC or ACU being supported

10. Which checklist is part of the postflight 900 checklists?

A. After Landing Checklist

B. Preflight Fuel Checklist

C. In-Flight Maintenance Checklist

D. Takeoff Clearance

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which statement is true regarding Link-16 in relation to Link-11 affiliations?

A. Link-11 adds Neutral and Suspect to Link-16 affiliations

B. Link-16 adds Neutral and Suspect to Link-11 affiliations

C. Link-11 and Link-16 have the same affiliation list

D. Link-16 replaces Link-11 entirely

Affiliation classifications determine how data from a participant can be shared and who is considered a trusted source. Link-16 expands on Link-11 by keeping the underlying concept intact but adding two more categories—Neutral and Suspect. This lets operators distinguish units that aren't clearly friendly or clearly hostile and apply appropriate data-sharing rules, enhancing interoperability while maintaining security controls. In practice, Link-16 therefore adds Neutral and Suspect to the affiliations that exist in Link-11, rather than replacing Link-11 or making the two networks have identical affiliation lists.

2. To access SIPR on the INMARSAT system, what is required?

A. SIPR token plugged into a 90-meter card reader.

B. KG-40A encryption.

C. KG-175 with CIK.

D. ES-19 crypto key.

Access to SIPR on INMARSAT hinges on hardware token authentication. The SIPR token serves as the possession factor that proves you're authorized, and when it's plugged into the compatible card reader, the system can verify your identity and grant access. Without the token and the reader, you can't establish a SIPR session because the login authentication step cannot occur. The other items are cryptographic tools used to protect traffic after access is granted or to manage keys, not to authenticate and unlock the SIPR network on INMARSAT. Encryption devices and crypto keys secure communications once you're in, but they don't replace the initial token-based login needed to access SIPR.

3. Explain what a 'kill chain' is in target engagement and its stages.

A. Detect, identify, locate, orient, decide, act, and assess.

B. Observe, identify, locate, orient, decide, act, and assess.

C. Plan, Decide, Act, Assess.

D. Detect, Observe, Locate, Decide, Act, Assess.

A kill chain is the step-by-step process used to move from sensing a potential threat to applying an effect and then checking the result, ensuring a deliberate and validated engagement. It begins with detecting something in the environment, then identifying what it actually is to avoid hitting the wrong object, followed by locating its precise position. Next comes orienting yourself to the broader situation—understanding where the target sits relative to friendly forces, terrain, and other factors. After that comes deciding on the appropriate action, then acting to execute that decision. Finally, assessing the outcome closes the loop, confirming whether the target was neutralized and determining if further action is needed. This sequence ties together sensors, targeting, and decision-making to minimize mistakes and enable real-time feedback. The other options miss or reorder essential steps—one replaces identifying with observing, another collapses stages into planning, and another omits locating or assessing—so they don't capture the full, validated flow from detection through assessment.

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4. What are the key components of an OPORD tailored for a COTAC mission?

A. Mission statement

B. Commander's intent

C. Concept of operations

D. Tasks to units, coordinating and movement instructions, risk and ROE.

This tests focusing on translating broad purpose into actionable on-the-ground instructions. For a COTAC mission, the most important part of the OPORD is the section that tells units exactly what to do, how to coordinate and move, and what constraints guide those actions. The elements in question—tasks to units, coordinating and movement instructions, and the inclusion of risk considerations and ROE—provide the concrete, step-by-step instructions and guardrails needed to execute, synchronize, and safely manage the operation in real time. Why this is the best fit: listing the tasks assigned to each unit tells you who is doing what; including coordinating instructions and movement details ensures actions are synchronized and deconflicted; and embedding risk management and ROE ensures the mission stays within safety and legal parameters while moving efficiently. The other options describe broader purpose or approach—the mission statement states why you are there, the commander's intent conveys the desired end state, and the concept of operations sketches how the operation will be conducted at a high level. While those are important, they do not provide the actionable, ground-level directives needed to actually run a COTAC mission.

5. In the Integrated Broadcast System, which broadcast type is primary?

A. IBS-I: Integrated

B. IBS-S: Simplex

C. IBS-NS: Network Service

D. CIB: Common Interactive Broadcast (primary)

The main concept here is identifying which broadcast channel in an Integrated Broadcast System handles the interactive, real-time control that coordinates all nodes. The Common Interactive Broadcast is the primary channel because it is designed for bidirectional communication, allowing operators and devices to send commands, receive status, and synchronize actions across the network in real time. This interactive capability is what makes it the backbone of system operations. The other channels serve more specialized or one-way purposes: an integrated channel handles combined data flows but isn't built for ongoing two-way interaction; a simplex channel is one-way and cannot carry responses or control signals back; a network service channel distributes data without requiring immediate interactive feedback. So the Common Interactive Broadcast stands out as the primary channel due to its essential two-way, real-time interaction role.

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6. Which measures reduce fratricide risk in a dense urban environment?

A. Increase overall firepower to overwhelm threats.

B. Use area-effect munitions to ensure any target is hit.

C. PID, deconfliction, designated targets, and precise targeting and engagement procedures.

D. Ignore standard operating procedures in dense urban areas.

In dense urban environments, preventing fratricide hinges on four connected safeguards: positive identification, deconfliction, designated targets, and precise targeting and engagement procedures. Positive identification means confirming a target is hostile before engaging, using multiple cues and corroboration from sensors and command to avoid misidentifying friendlies or civilians as the threat. Deconfliction keeps fires from interfering with each other by sharing a clear, up-to-date picture of where every unit and asset is, coordinating timing and airspace, and ensuring everyone knows who is allowed to fire where and when. Designated targets provide a pre-approved set of objects of fire, so shooters aren't making ad hoc decisions in the middle of a chaotic street scene. Precise targeting and engagement procedures tie all fires to strict rules of engagement, sensor confirmations, and weapon effects planning, ensuring that every shot is deliberate, within the permitted footprint, and minimizes collateral damage. These measures reduce the likelihood of hitting friendlies or noncombatants by removing ambiguity and tightly controlling how and when fires are directed. In contrast, increasing firepower without improving identification, using area-effect munitions that blanket broad areas, or ignoring standard procedures in crowded environments all raise the chance of fratricide and civilian harm because they sacrifice precision and accountability.

7. Which aircraft, derived from the Boeing 707, provides survivable airborne Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications as a communications relay and airborne command post?

A. E-6 Mercury

B. E-2 Hawkeye

C. E-3 AWACS

D. MQ-4 Triton

The key idea is a survivable airborne command post and communications relay for nuclear command and control. The E-6 Mercury fits this role exactly because it's a Boeing 707 derivative specifically configured as TACAMO—Take Charge And Move Out. In a crisis, it provides a mobile, airborne means for the National Command Authority to issue orders and relay them to strategic forces, even if ground networks are compromised. Its systems are hardened and redundant, with extensive HF/UHF/SATCOM links to submarines and bombers, ensuring continuous NC3 connectivity in contested environments. Other options focus on different missions. The E-3 AWACS is an airborne surveillance and battle-management platform with a radar dome, not primarily a nuclear C2 relay or airborne command post. The E-2 Hawkeye is a carrier-based early warning and control aircraft based on a different airframe, and the MQ-4 Triton is an unmanned reconnaissance aircraft. None of these are the survivable airborne NC3 command post that TACAMO provides.

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8. What is the purpose of a Joint Security Area (JSA) in a multi-service operation?

A. A communications lab

B. A designated zone where security measures ensure protection and coordination during operations

C. A medical facility

D. A weather monitoring area

A Joint Security Area is a designated, secure space where forces from multiple services come together to operate safely and in coordination. Its purpose is to ensure protection and enable coordination during operations by controlling who has access, enforcing security measures, sharing situational awareness, and synchronizing command and control so different units can plan, brief, maneuver, and execute without slipping into ambiguity or conflict. It's not a communications lab, medical facility, or weather monitoring area—the JSA specifically supports security and coordinated action in a joint environment.

9. In Direct Support, TACON shifts to whom?

A. The asset owner

B. The unit receiving TACON

C. The supported unit takes TACON from us

D. TACON shifts to OTC or ACU being supported

In Direct Support, TACON is shifted to the unit that is being supported so they can directly employ the assets to accomplish the mission. This gives the supported unit the authority to decide how, when, and where to use those resources to meet task requirements, ensuring fast, mission-focused action. The asset owner retains administrative and logistical responsibilities, but the tactical employment of the assets is under the control of the supported unit (the OTC or ACU being supported). This arrangement keeps the asset ready and aligned with the supported unit's specific operational needs.

10. Which checklist is part of the postflight 900 checklists?

A. After Landing Checklist

B. Preflight Fuel Checklist

C. In-Flight Maintenance Checklist

D. Takeoff Clearance

Postflight checks are about securing the aircraft after landing and preparing it for the next flight. The After Landing portion of the 900-series checklists is specifically designed for that moment, guiding actions like shutting down systems, securing power, verifying the aircraft is parked safely, and noting any discrepancies for maintenance. This alignment with closing out the flight is why it's the best choice. The other options fit different phases: Preflight Fuel is done before departure to confirm fuel and related systems; In-Flight Maintenance would occur during the flight if issues arise; and Takeoff Clearance is an ATC instruction given before takeoff, not a postflight task.

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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://cotacboard.examzify.com

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

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