FIRE SUPPORT TEAM (FIST) CERTIFICATION 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. **What brevity term means to mark or indicate a target by infrared (IR) pointer?**

   A. Snake

   B. Pulse

   C. Lasing

   D. Sparkle

2. **What is the objective of the time portion during precision registration?**

   A. 4 rounds fired with the same data 20 meters above the registration point.

   B. 2 rounds fired with the same data 20 meters above the registration point.

   C. 4 rounds fired with the same data 40 meters above the registration point.

   D. 2 rounds fired with the same data 40 meters above the registration point.

3. **Under SLOCTOP, which of the following is considered a warning for the team when occupying an observation post?**

   A. Maintain a low profile.

   B. Choose a position with a clear field of fire.

   C. Use bright colors to signal allies.

   D. Remain stationary after observation.

4. **Which technique is recommended for responsive fires when the observer is experienced?**

   A. Creeping Fire

   B. Hasty Bracketing

   C. One Round Adjustment

   D. Successive Bracketing

5. **What method of control would an observer use to specify the exact time rounds impact on the target?**

   A. Time on Target

   B. Time to Target

   C. Request Time

   D. Duration

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6. What are the danger close distances for artillery and mortars / 5-inch naval guns and TLAM?

A. 600m / 750m

B. 600m / 1000m

C. 600m / 700m

D. 600m / 500m

7. What is the primary responsibility of the wing aircraft in the Neutral sensor posture?

A. Monitor friendly forces

B. Scan the objective

C. Sanitize the route

D. None of the Above

8. What is the primary goal of a fire support team (FIST)?

A. To manage logistics

B. To coordinate air support

C. To conduct reconnaissance

D. To provide artillery information

9. What is the initial height of burst in meters for the M485A2 illumination round?

A. 600

B. 500

C. 550

D. 750

10. What fuze can increase the precision of 155mm Artillery M795 HE and M549A1 HERA rounds?

A. APKWS

B. Excalibur

C. PGK

D. APMI

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What brevity term means to mark or indicate a target by infrared (IR) pointer?

A. Snake

B. Pulse

C. Lasing

D. Sparkle

The term that refers to marking or indicating a target using an infrared (IR) pointer is "Sparkle." This brevity term is commonly utilized in military communications to instruct personnel to employ an IR laser to highlight a target for identification or engagement. When a unit has received a command to "sparkle," they are expected to use their IR pointer to create a visible signal that can be detected by other assets, such as aerial platforms equipped with appropriate sensors, thus enhancing the accuracy of targeting and minimizing the risk of fratricide. In the context of joint military operations, effectively communicating the status of targets is crucial for coordination, and "sparkle" serves this purpose by providing a clear and concise method to visually indicate enemy positions. This is especially important in situations where other visual methods (such as smoke or marking rounds) may be less effective or when operations are conducted at night or in adverse weather conditions, making IR signals particularly valuable.

2. What is the objective of the time portion during precision registration?

A. 4 rounds fired with the same data 20 meters above the registration point.

B. 2 rounds fired with the same data 20 meters above the registration point.

C. 4 rounds fired with the same data 40 meters above the registration point.

D. 2 rounds fired with the same data 40 meters above the registration point.

The objective of the time portion during precision registration involves firing a specific number of rounds at a particular elevation above the registration point to ensure accuracy and reliability in targeting. Firing four rounds with the same data 20 meters above the registration point allows for a thorough assessment of the weapon's performance and the conditions affecting the trajectory and impact of those rounds. This process is essential because it helps to establish a consistent and precise firing solution that can be relied upon in future operations. The choice of four rounds ensures that there is sufficient data to evaluate both the dispersion of impacts and the potential need for any adjustments to the fire control solutions. The requirement to fire at 20 meters above the registration point further ensures that the rounds do not land too close to the original point, allowing for a clear and comprehensive understanding of the area's ballistics and any necessary corrections for future targeting. Thus, this approach improves the overall effectiveness and safety of fire support operations.

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3. Under SLOCTOP, which of the following is considered a warning for the team when occupying an observation post?

A. Maintain a low profile.

B. Choose a position with a clear field of fire.

C. Use bright colors to signal allies.

D. Remain stationary after observation.

Maintaining a low profile is essential when occupying an observation post because it minimizes the risk of detection by the enemy. A low profile helps the team remain concealed and reduces the likelihood of enemy fire or counter-surveillance activities. This principle is crucial in tactical operations where the element of surprise and stealth can significantly impact mission success. When occupying an observation post, the primary goal is often to gather intelligence while remaining undetected. By keeping a low profile, team members can observe enemy movements and activities without drawing attention to themselves or their location, thus enhancing their operational effectiveness. The other options do not represent the same level of caution or protective measures. For instance, a clear field of fire is vital for engagement but does not directly relate to concealment or warning against enemy detection. Bright colors would actually increase visibility, contradicting the need for stealth. Remaining stationary can be a double-edged sword; while it may be necessary to gather observation, it also has the potential to expose the team if they become predictable or if enemy forces actively search for them.

4. Which technique is recommended for responsive fires when the observer is experienced?

A. Creeping Fire

B. Hasty Bracketing

C. One Round Adjustment

D. Successive Bracketing

The recommended technique for responsive fires when the observer is experienced is hasty bracketing. This method allows for a quick adjustment of fire based on the observer's initial assessment and experience with the target environment. Hasty bracketing involves firing rounds to establish a range or lateral deviation from the target quickly, enabling the observer to refine the target's location effectively without extensive delay. An experienced observer can rapidly evaluate the impact of the initial rounds and make informed corrections to achieve an accurate strike. This technique is particularly useful in dynamic situations where speed is critical, and the target may not remain stationary or identifiable for long. Other techniques may not offer the same level of efficiency and responsiveness as hasty bracketing. While creeping fire, one round adjustment, and successive bracketing can be effective in their contexts, they may require more time or additional rounds to achieve desired accuracy, which may not be suitable for all operational scenarios where quick reactions are essential.

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5. What method of control would an observer use to specify the exact time rounds impact on the target?

A. Time on Target

B. Time to Target

C. Request Time

D. Duration

The method of control that an observer would use to specify the exact time rounds impact on the target is known as "Time on Target." This method allows for precise coordination of multiple rounds of indirect fire so that they all impact simultaneously on the target at a predetermined moment. This synchronization is critical for maximizing the effectiveness of the fire support and reducing the risk of enemy forces maneuvering or reacting before the rounds arrive. In this control method, the observer relays the specific time that rounds are scheduled to hit the target, contributing to tactical surprise and overwhelming the enemy's defenses. It is particularly beneficial in situations where achieving a significant impact at a specific moment is vital, such as during a coordinated assault or when aiming to destroy an enemy asset that might be moved or reinforced. The other options do not accurately describe a control method designed to achieve simultaneous impact at a specified time. "Time to Target" usually refers to the duration it takes for a round to reach the target after it has been fired, and while it is a relevant consideration in fire support planning, it does not dictate the timing of impact. "Request Time" is not a standard term associated with fire control methods, and "Duration" does not provide the specificity necessary for coordinating artillery strikes in the

6. What are the danger close distances for artillery and mortars / 5-inch naval guns and TLAM?

A. 600m / 750m

B. 600m / 1000m

C. 600m / 700m

D. 600m / 500m

The danger close distances refer to the minimum safe distance from friendly troops that indirect fire can be used without the risk of causing harm to those troops. For artillery and mortars, the established danger close distance is set at 600 meters. This figure is critical because it provides commanders and fire support teams with a guideline on how close they can position their forces to the target while still ensuring safety. When it comes to naval gunfire, particularly the 5-inch naval guns, the standard danger close distance is set at 750 meters. This distance takes into account the different characteristics of naval gunfire, which can vary due to the firing platform's elevation and the projectile's trajectory. Thus, the pairing of the 600 meters for artillery and mortars, and 750 meters for naval guns, reflects established military protocols aiming to maximize fire effectiveness while minimizing risks to friendly forces. Understanding these danger close distances is crucial for effective coordination between ground units and fire support.

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7. What is the primary responsibility of the wing aircraft in the Neutral sensor posture?

A. Monitor friendly forces

B. Scan the objective

C. Sanitize the route

D. None of the Above

The primary responsibility of the wing aircraft in the Neutral sensor posture is to scan the objective. In this posture, the aircraft is positioned to gather intelligence or information on potential targets without engaging in offensive actions. Scanning the objective allows the wing aircraft to assess the situation on the ground, identify enemy positions, and provide situational awareness to ground forces. This capability is crucial for effective decision-making and coordination in the battlefield, ensuring that friendly forces can maneuver safely and be aware of any threats. Monitoring friendly forces, while important, is typically associated with other postures or mission directives. Sanitizing routes primarily involves ensuring that paths taken by friendly forces are clear of threats, which is not the main function of neutral sensor posture. Thus, scanning the objective is the correct focus for wing aircraft operating in this capacity.

8. What is the primary goal of a fire support team (FIST)?

A. To manage logistics

B. To coordinate air support

C. To conduct reconnaissance

D. To provide artillery information

The primary goal of a fire support team (FIST) is centered around coordinating air support. This involves integrating various fire support assets, which may include air-to-ground munitions, into the larger scheme of battle in order to achieve mission objectives effectively. A FIST operates as a tactical liaison, ensuring that air support is utilized efficiently and effectively to provide timely and accurate fire on designated targets. The role of the FIST is crucial in the joint and combined arms operations environment, where close coordination with both aviation and artillery is necessary to optimize the effects of fires on the battlefield. This coordination improves situational awareness among the team and enhances their ability to communicate critical information to commanders, leading to decisive advantages in combat scenarios. While managing logistics, conducting reconnaissance, and providing artillery information are important functions in military operations, they are not the primary focus or operational goal of the FIST. Instead, the FIST is primarily concerned with fires and their integration within the maneuver framework, mainly focusing on facilitating effective air support.

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9. What is the initial height of burst in meters for the M485A2 illumination round?

A. 600

B. 500

C. 550

D. 750

The initial height of burst for the M485A2 illumination round is indeed 600 meters. This specific height is critical for maximizing the effectiveness of the illumination while supporting ground operations. When the round is fired and reaches this altitude, it emits a strong light to illuminate the battlefield, which is essential for troops to identify enemy positions or navigate in low-visibility conditions. Understanding the initial height of burst is critical for Fire Support Teams (FIST) because it directly impacts the planning and coordination of fire missions. The height allows for optimal dispersion of light and ensures that the illumination duration is maximized, which enhances situational awareness for ground forces. Recognizing this helps in making informed decisions on mission planning and execution during operations involving illumination rounds.

10. What fuze can increase the precision of 155mm Artillery M795 HE and M549A1 HERA rounds?

A. APKWS

B. Excalibur

C. PGK

D. APMI

The Precision Guidance Kit (PGK) is designed to enhance the precision of conventional artillery rounds, including the 155mm M795 HE and M549A1 HERA rounds. By integrating GPS guidance technology, the PGK allows for greater accuracy in targeting, reducing the circular error probable (CEP) and increasing the effectiveness of artillery fire. This precision capability is especially beneficial in minimizing collateral damage and ensuring that munitions strike their intended targets more reliably. PGK achieves this by enabling the shells to adjust their flight path after being fired, ensuring they can compensate for variables such as wind or target movement during flight. This makes it particularly advantageous in operations that require high levels of accuracy while still utilizing existing artillery systems. The other options may involve advanced technology and capabilities that enhance precision, but PGK specifically is meant for use with standard artillery shells and provides the immediate benefit of increased accuracy for the M795 and M549A1 rounds.

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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://firesupportteam.examzify.com

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

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