OCFA SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) 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. Explain the proper donning sequence for an SCBA.

A. Don on helmet if required; place facepiece on and adjust straps for a secure seal; don harness/cylinder assembly; tighten straps evenly; verify accessibility of controls and comfort.

B. Put on harness first, then helmet, then facepiece.

C. Don the facepiece last after securing the cylinder.

D. Skip the helmet if it fits.

2. What strap is pulled last when putting on a face piece?

A. Bottom Strap First

B. Chin Strap First

C. Side Straps Last

D. Top Strap Last

3. What should you do if the SCBA fails the pre-use inspection?

A. Do not use it; tag out of service; report to supervisor and arrange repair or replacement.

B. Attempt a second check after tightening straps.

C. Use a backup SCBA without reporting.

D. Proceed with caution.

4. The PASS device includes which feature?

A. It relies on battery from the HUD only

B. It uses a wired connection to the main control unit

C. It includes 2 omnidirectional speakers for PASS

D. It requires external power supply

5. What steps should you take if you detect a leak in the SCBA during use?

A. Stop and assess, maintain control of your movements, notify the team, and exit to safety if the leak compromises air supply or integrity.

B. Ignore the leak and continue working until air runs out.

C. Repair the leak on-site without exiting the area.

D. Switch to a buddy's cylinder and continue the operation.

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6. The SCBA valve is manufactured by which company?

A. Parker Hannifin

B. Sherwood Valves

C. Smith & Wesson

D. Victaulic

7. Which component on the Mask Mounted Regulator (MMR) is used to purge air from the system?

A. Spray Bar

B. Manual Purge Valve

C. Air Saver Switch

D. Regulator Gasket

8. Which component includes the band that secures the cylinder to the wearer?

A. Cylinder valve and band

B. Facepiece

C. Low-pressure hose

D. Gauges/alerts

9. What is the service life of an SCBA cylinder?

A. 15 years

B. 5 years

C. 10 years

D. 20 years

10. What are the PASS operation time and the full alarm time?

A. 8 hours charged operation, 1000 hours in full alarm mode

B. 12 hours charged operation, 4 hours full alarm mode

C. 1000 hours charged operation, 8 hours in full alarm mode

D. 24 hours charged operation, 2 hours full alarm mode

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Explain the proper donning sequence for an SCBA.

A. Don on helmet if required; place facepiece on and adjust straps for a secure seal; don harness/cylinder assembly; tighten straps evenly; verify accessibility of controls and comfort.

B. Put on harness first, then helmet, then facepiece.

C. Don the facepiece last after securing the cylinder.

D. Skip the helmet if it fits.

The main idea being tested is getting the SCBA gear on in a way that keeps the unit secure, protects the head, and ensures a reliable facepiece seal. Donning the harness first positions and secures the SCBA on your back, laying a solid foundation for the rest of the gear. With the harness in place, you can snug the straps and adjust the backplate without the weight of the cylinder pulling or shifting things around. Next, putting on the helmet protects the head and gives you a stable structure to align and adjust the helmet straps before the facepiece goes on. Finally, donning the facepiece last allows you to establish a proper seal with the entire gear already seated and secured, and it makes it easier to verify that the controls are accessible and comfortable to use. This sequence minimizes interference between components, helps you achieve a reliable seal on the facepiece, and ensures you can operate the SCBA controls smoothly once everything is in place.

2. What strap is pulled last when putting on a face piece?

A. Bottom Strap First

B. Chin Strap First

C. Side Straps Last

D. Top Strap Last

The straps are tightened in a sequence that lets the facepiece seat correctly on the face before the final securing pressure is applied at the top. You start by getting the mask in place and snug with the lower and side straps, which pull the edges of the seal toward the jaw and cheeks. Once the facepiece is seated and a stable seal is formed, you tighten the top strap last to secure the forehead area and lock in the seal without distorting the mask as the other straps are snugged. This order helps prevent the mask from shifting or lifting during tightening and ensures a uniform, airtight fit. The chin strap, if present, is not the standard final step for securing an SCBA facepiece.

3. What should you do if the SCBA fails the pre-use inspection?

A. Do not use it; tag out of service; report to supervisor and arrange repair or replacement.

B. Attempt a second check after tightening straps.

C. Use a backup SCBA without reporting.

D. Proceed with caution.

When a pre-use inspection reveals a problem with the SCBA, it means there could be a fault that compromises breathing protection. You must not use gear that fails inspection because even a small defect can fail at a critical moment, putting you in serious danger. The correct action is to remove the SCBA from service, tag it as out of service, and report the issue to a supervisor so it can be repaired or replaced. This keeps unsafe equipment from being used, ensures proper maintenance is documented, and gets you a safe, functioning unit before you rely on it again. Why the other options aren't appropriate: attempting a second check after tightening straps doesn't address potential leaks, regulator faults, or other hidden failures that caused the initial problem, so it can give a false sense of security. Using a backup SCBA without reporting bypasses the formal process that ensures equipment is properly tracked, maintained, and ready. Proceeding with caution implies the gear is still trustworthy, which isn't the case when the pre-use inspection fails.

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4. The PASS device includes which feature?

A. It relies on battery from the HUD only

B. It uses a wired connection to the main control unit

C. It includes 2 omnidirectional speakers for PASS

D. It requires external power supply

Audibility of the PASS alarm in all directions is achieved by two omnidirectional speakers built into the device, ensuring the alert can be heard from any angle in smoky or noisy conditions. This setup helps teammates locate a wearer quickly when visibility is limited. The PASS unit is self-contained with its own power source, so it does not rely on the HUD battery or require an external power supply, and it does not use a wired connection to the main SCBA control unit. In short, the two omnidirectional speakers are the feature that guarantees reliable audible alert regardless of orientation or obstacles.

5. What steps should you take if you detect a leak in the SCBA during use?

A. Stop and assess, maintain control of your movements, notify the team, and exit to safety if the leak compromises air supply or integrity.

B. Ignore the leak and continue working until air runs out.

C. Repair the leak on-site without exiting the area.

D. Switch to a buddy's cylinder and continue the operation.

When an SCBA leak is detected, the top priority is to protect your air supply and safety by not pushing forward into a hazardous area. Stop where you are and assess the situation so you understand the severity of the leak and whether your air supply or equipment integrity is at risk. Maintaining control of your movements is essential so you can move deliberately and avoid a sudden loss of balance or entanglement while you decide your next step. Let your team know immediately. Alerting teammates ensures someone can assist, manage the team's air status, and coordinate a safe plan to exit or address the problem. If the leak compromises the air supply or the integrity of the equipment, you should exit to safety to prevent inhaling contaminated air, rapid air loss, or a catastrophic failure of your SCBA. Repair on-site or continuing to operate with a known leak can lead to rapid depletion of air or sudden equipment failure, which is not acceptable in a hazardous environment. Switching to another cylinder or ignoring the leak also creates unacceptable risk and is not appropriate.

6. The SCBA valve is manufactured by which company?

A. Parker Hannifin

B. Sherwood Valves

C. Smith & Wesson

D. Victaulic

In an SCBA, the valve is a specialized safety component that controls air flow from the cylinder to the regulator and helps maintain a secure seal. That part is typically made by manufacturers who focus specifically on breathing apparatus components and meet the relevant safety standards. Sherwood Valves is known in the industry for producing SCBA valves and related control components, so they are the best match for this part. The other brands listed don't specialize in SCBA valves: Parker Hannifin is a broad manufacturer of various valves and industrial components, Smith & Wesson is a firearms company, and Victaulic mainly makes piping fittings. So the SCBA valve manufacturer is Sherwood Valves.

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7. Which component on the Mask Mounted Regulator (MMR) is used to purge air from the system?

A. Spray Bar

B. Manual Purge Valve

C. Air Saver Switch

D. Regulator Gasket

Purging air from the MMR is done with the manual purge valve. This valve is opened to vent air from the regulator path to the outside, clearing the line of moisture, debris, or stale air so the system is clean and ready for breathing when you begin use. The other parts aren't used to vent the system: the spray bar is not the vent path, the air saver switch is there to conserve air by modifying flow, and the regulator gasket is just a seal.

8. Which component includes the band that secures the cylinder to the wearer?

A. Cylinder valve and band

B. Facepiece

C. Low-pressure hose

D. Gauges/alerts

Securing the cylinder to the wearer is handled by the mounting band that wraps around the cylinder and connects to the valve assembly on the top of the cylinder. This cylinder valve and band combination is the part that actually holds the cylinder in place against the wearer's back. The facepiece is the breathing mask, the low-pressure hose carries air from the regulator to the mask, and gauges/alerts provide status information. So the component that includes the band is the cylinder valve and band.

9. What is the service life of an SCBA cylinder?

A. 15 years

B. 5 years

C. 10 years

D. 20 years

The service life is the maximum safe period a SCBA cylinder can be used before retirement due to aging of the materials. For most fire-service cylinders, that service life is 15 years from the date of manufacture. This retirement age is separate from hydrostatic testing, which is typically required every 5 years to check cylinder integrity; a cylinder can pass tests but still reach its 15-year limit. Once the 15-year mark is reached, the cylinder must be retired regardless of its test results. Always check the manufacture date stamped on the cylinder and follow department policies, since some cylinders or jurisdictions may have different retirement ages.

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10. What are the PASS operation time and the full alarm time?

A. 8 hours charged operation, 1000 hours in full alarm mode

B. 12 hours charged operation, 4 hours full alarm mode

C. 1000 hours charged operation, 8 hours in full alarm mode

D. 24 hours charged operation, 2 hours full alarm mode

PASS operation time is how long a charged PASS unit can run in normal, non-alarm use, and full alarm time is how long the unit will stay sounding if a PASS alarm is activated. In this context, the standard spec shows the PASS can operate for a very long time on a full charge when not alarming, and can sustain an alarm for several hours, with the full alarm duration being much shorter than the continuous operation time. That combination is reflected by a 1000-hour operation on a full charge and an 8-hour full alarm duration, which is why this option is the best fit. The other pairings mix shorter operating times with longer alarm times, which doesn't align with how the device's battery life and alarm duration are typically specified.

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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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