SQUADRON OFFICER SCHOOL (SOS) 26D – A03 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. In a military context, how do ethics and law relate?

A. Ethics guides what should be done; law defines what must be done and penalties for violations.

B. Ethics guides penalties; law defines what should be done.

C. They are unrelated.

D. Law defines what should be done; ethics defines penalties.

2. Describe METT-T and its use in planning.

A. Mission, Enemy, Terrain and Weather, Troops and support available; used to analyze environment and plan accordingly.

B. Mission, Enemies, Time and Tactics; used to justify operations after the fact.

C. Mission, Equipment, Time, and Training; used to manage cost.

D. Mission, Enemy, Terrain and Weather, Troops and support available; used to analyze environment and plan accordingly.

3. Which definition describes air superiority?

A. Complete control of the air with no effective enemy interference.

B. A marginal air advantage with occasional interference.

C. The ability to deny enemy air operations while allowing own freedom to operate in defined airspace.

D. Enough control of the air to operate without prohibitive enemy interference.

4. Which functional area is designated as A2?

A. Plans and Requirements

B. Intel

C. Manpower

D. Ops

5. Which term identifies the Joint Function responsible for information activities?

A. C2

B. Information

C. Intel

D. Fires

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6. What does SMART stand for in objective-setting?

A. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant

B. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Time-bound

C. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant

D. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound

7. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of cross-cultural competence?

A. Decreased team effectiveness

B. Improved communication

C. Reduced misunderstandings

D. Increased safety

8. What is mission command and how does it empower subordinates?

A. Mission command is centralized decision-making with strict oversight; empowers subordinates by providing detailed orders for every task.

B. Mission command is a policy requiring subordinate compliance with directives.

C. Mission command is a leadership style that avoids delegation.

D. Mission command is empowering subordinates with intent, information, trusted initiative, and decreased micromanagement; fosters initiative and adaptability.

9. What is Commander's Intent?

A. A detailed set of step-by-step orders.

B. A clear statement of purpose, desired end state, and key tasks.

C. A communication protocol for the chain of command.

D. A strategy document for the entire war.

10. Which functional area is designated as A8?

A. Ops

B. Intel

C. Studies, analysis, assessment

D. Strategic, plans and programs

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In a military context, how do ethics and law relate?

A. Ethics guides what should be done; law defines what must be done and penalties for violations.

B. Ethics guides penalties; law defines what should be done.

C. They are unrelated.

D. Law defines what should be done; ethics defines penalties.

Ethics establish what is right and what you should do, while law provides the mandatory rules you must follow and the consequences for violations. In a military setting, ethics guide your judgment in situations where harm is possible or the norms aren't crystal clear—like how to protect noncombatants, apply proportional force, or treat detained persons. The law turns those moral expectations into concrete obligations—rules of engagement, the law of armed conflict, and procedures for accountability—so actions can be judged against an objective standard. It also spells out penalties for violations, ranging from disciplinary measures to courts-martial. So ethics set the aspirational conduct; law enforces the minimum standard and the consequences if you fall short.

2. Describe METT-T and its use in planning.

A. Mission, Enemy, Terrain and Weather, Troops and support available; used to analyze environment and plan accordingly.

B. Mission, Enemies, Time and Tactics; used to justify operations after the fact.

C. Mission, Equipment, Time, and Training; used to manage cost.

D. Mission, Enemy, Terrain and Weather, Troops and support available; used to analyze environment and plan accordingly.

METT-T is a planning framework used to quickly assess a situation by focusing on four key factors that shape how you plan and execute a mission. The four elements are: Mission, which clarifies what must be accomplished and any constraints, guiding the purpose and end state of the operation; Enemy, which prompts you to consider the opponent's capabilities, likely courses of action, and how they might respond to your plan; Terrain and Weather, which examine how geography, climate, visibility, and environmental features affect movement, positioning, lines of sight, and exposure; and Troops and Support Available, which looks at the forces you have at hand, including personnel, equipment, logistics, and available assistance or adjunct units. Together these factors help you understand risks, opportunities, and how to allocate resources, time, and tempo to accomplish the mission while minimizing surprises. Note that some versions of the framework add Time, forming METT-TC, to explicitly account for time available. In this question's framing, the four-factor set described aligns with METT-T and its use in planning to analyze the environment and shape the plan accordingly.

3. Which definition describes air superiority?

A. Complete control of the air with no effective enemy interference.

B. A marginal air advantage with occasional interference.

C. The ability to deny enemy air operations while allowing own freedom to operate in defined airspace.

D. Enough control of the air to operate without prohibitive enemy interference.

Air superiority means you have enough control of the air to operate without prohibitive enemy interference. It implies you can conduct missions and project power with the enemy unable to impose disruption severe enough to stop or greatly hinder those operations. It's a level short of complete domination everywhere (that would be air supremacy), and it's more than a marginal advantage or a tightly bounded, denial-focused posture. The option describing operating without prohibitive interference in the relevant airspace best captures the standard meaning.

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4. Which functional area is designated as A2?

A. Plans and Requirements

B. Intel

C. Manpower

D. Ops

In this staff structure, the A2 slot is the intelligence function. It concentrates on gathering, analyzing, and distributing information about threats, adversaries, and the operating environment to inform decisions. This intel work—threat assessments, intelligence summaries, and estimates—provides the situational awareness that shapes planning and how operations are executed. The other areas play different roles: Plans and Requirements focuses on developing plans and identifying what is needed to accomplish missions; Manpower handles personnel and staffing; Ops is about directing and carrying out missions. So, assigning intelligence to the A2 designation fits its role of delivering timely information that guides both planning and execution.

5. Which term identifies the Joint Function responsible for information activities?

A. C2

B. Information

C. Intel

D. Fires

Information activities are grouped under the Information Joint Function, which governs how information is managed, shared, and protected across the force to support awareness and decision-making. This function specifically addresses information operations, information management, and the flow of information to the right people at the right time. It is distinct from other Joint Functions: command and control focuses on directing forces, intelligence deals with gathering and analyzing adversary data, and fires concerns the application of force. So the term that identifies the Joint Function responsible for information activities is Information.

6. What does SMART stand for in objective-setting?

A. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant

B. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Time-bound

C. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant

D. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound

SMART objectives require clarity, quantifiability, realism, relevance, and a deadline. Specific means the goal states exactly what will be accomplished, leaving no guesswork. Measurable provides a way to track progress and know when the target is reached. Attainable (or achievable) assures the goal is realistic given available resources and constraints. Relevant connects the objective to a broader mission or desired outcomes, ensuring it truly matters. Time-bound sets a deadline that creates urgency and helps prioritize actions. The best choice includes all five elements, giving you a complete framework. Without Time-bound, you lose the deadline; without Relevant, the goal may not support larger aims; without Measurable or Attainable, progress and feasibility become unclear.

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7. Which of the following is NOT a benefit of cross-cultural competence?

A. Decreased team effectiveness

B. Improved communication

C. Reduced misunderstandings

D. Increased safety

Cross-cultural competence improves teamwork by enabling people from diverse backgrounds to share information clearly, interpret intentions accurately, and coordinate actions effectively. When team members understand cultural nuances, language differences, and different communication styles, messages are conveyed with less ambiguity, expectations are aligned, and trust builds. This leads to fewer misinterpretations and smoother collaboration, which in turn supports safer and more reliable operations. So, the statement describing decreased team effectiveness as a benefit doesn't fit; cross-cultural competence, in fact, tends to boost team effectiveness. The other outcomes—improved communication, reduced misunderstandings, and increased safety—are all ways this competence enhances performance in a diverse team.

8. What is mission command and how does it empower subordinates?

A. Mission command is centralized decision-making with strict oversight; empowers subordinates by providing detailed orders for every task.

B. Mission command is a policy requiring subordinate compliance with directives.

C. Mission command is a leadership style that avoids delegation.

D. Mission command is empowering subordinates with intent, information, trusted initiative, and decreased micromanagement; fosters initiative and adaptability.

Mission command means empowering subordinates by communicating a clear intent, sharing the information they need to make good decisions, granting trusted initiative, and reducing micromanagement. In dynamic situations, the people closest to the action must be able to adapt—so your guidance focuses on the purpose and boundaries of the mission, not every step they must take. When you give them the intent, the relevant information, and the authority to act within that framework, they can resolve problems, exploit opportunities, and adjust plans rapidly without waiting for orders from above. This approach builds initiative and adaptability, because decisions are made at the appropriate level with a full understanding of the desired end state. Centralized decision-making, mere compliance policies, or a style that avoids delegation typically slow responses and suppress initiative, making operations less effective in uncertain environments.

9. What is Commander's Intent?

A. A detailed set of step-by-step orders.

B. A clear statement of purpose, desired end state, and key tasks.

C. A communication protocol for the chain of command.

D. A strategy document for the entire war.

Commander's Intent is a concise statement of purpose, the desired end state, and the key tasks that will lead to success. It communicates why the mission matters, what success looks like, and the critical activities that must be accomplished, so subordinates can adapt their actions on the ground while still aligning with the commander's objectives. This enables initiative and flexible execution when plans change, or when conditions prevent following a fixed sequence of steps. It is not a detailed, step-by-step set of orders, not a communication protocol for the chain of command, and not a broad strategic document for an entire war.

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10. Which functional area is designated as A8?

A. Ops

B. Intel

C. Studies, analysis, assessment

D. Strategic, plans and programs

The question tests recognizing which office handles long-range strategy, planning, and program management within the Air Force staff structure. The A8 designation corresponds to Strategic, plans and programs—the area charged with developing and aligning long-term strategy, major programs, and cross-cutting initiatives with resource decisions. This is about setting direction and overseeing how future capabilities are developed and funded, not about running daily operations, collecting intelligence, or performing analyses of current programs. Operations focuses on current missions, Intelligence handles data and analysis about threats, and Studies, analysis, and assessment evaluates performance and effectiveness. So, the strategic, plans and programs function is the best fit for long-range planning and program oversight.

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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://sos26dao3.examzify.com

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

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