USCG GUNNERS MATE (GM) SERVICE WIDE EXAM (SWE) PRACTICE (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. How many CG units report directly to headquarters?

A. 25

B. 30

C. 35

D. 40

2. A unit of what size or more is required to have a human relations council?

A. 25

B. 50

C. 75

D. 100

3. What is the capacity of the Steel Pallet, NALC JW01, for SRBOC ammo?

A. 12 rounds

B. 18 rounds

C. 24 rounds

D. 36 rounds

4. Who is responsible for the disposal of ammunition and pyro found ashore?

A. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

B. Coast Guard Supply Center

C. Local Fire Department

D. Base Command

5. What is the primary benefit of using hollow-point ammunition for law enforcement?

A. It causes minimal noise

B. It expands to reduce the chance of over-penetration

C. It is less expensive

D. It increases magazine capacity

6. Which sinking led to the establishment of the international ice patrol?

A. Andrea Doria

B. Empress of Ireland

C. Titanic

D. Lusitania

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7. Members attached to which type of units are not permitted to have romantic relationships, regardless of personnel count?

A. Shore

B. Afloat

C. Coastal

D. Stationary

8. What is the term used for the detailed examination of weapon malfunctions?

A. Inspection

B. Maintenance

C. Troubleshooting

D. Repair

9. What is the minimum thickness for chains used to secure racks?

A. 1/4 inch

B. 3/8 inch

C. 5/16 inch

D. 1/2 inch

10. When is a special EER required?

A. When a member retires

B. When a member advances to rank of E-7 or above

C. When a member changes duty stations

D. When a member receives an award

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How many CG units report directly to headquarters?

A. 25

B. 30

C. 35

D. 40

The information regarding how many Coast Guard (CG) units report directly to headquarters is important for understanding the organizational structure and command hierarchy within the Coast Guard. The correct answer, which indicates that 35 units report directly to headquarters, reflects the arrangement of various specialized and operational units that function at a high level across the service. These direct-reporting units can include specialized task forces, training centers, and operationally focused units that align their activities closely with the directives and strategic goals established by Coast Guard headquarters. This structure is designed to enhance communication and operational effectiveness, ensuring that these units are aligned with the overall mission and priorities of the Coast Guard. Understanding the number of units reporting directly to headquarters provides insight into the scale of command and operational oversight, which is essential for personnel involved in management, training, and operations within the Coast Guard.

2. A unit of what size or more is required to have a human relations council?

A. 25

B. 50

C. 75

D. 100

The requirement for a human relations council is tied to the size of a unit, specifically with a threshold set at 50 personnel or more. The establishment of such councils is aimed at fostering better communication, understanding, and support among personnel regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion issues within the unit. A council typically serves to address grievances, enhance morale, and promote positive workplace dynamics. Unit sizes below this threshold may not have the same level of complexity or diversity, which diminishes the need for a formalized council to manage these crucial interpersonal relationships. By setting the bar at 50, it ensures that the councils are implemented where they can have the best impact, facilitating a more inclusive environment that supports personnel effectively.

3. What is the capacity of the Steel Pallet, NALC JW01, for SRBOC ammo?

A. 12 rounds

B. 18 rounds

C. 24 rounds

D. 36 rounds

The capacity of the Steel Pallet, NALC JW01, designed for the storage and transport of SRBOC (Super Rapid Blooming Offboard Chaff) ammunition, is indeed 24 rounds. This capacity allows for an efficient and organized means of handling SRBOC rounds, which are essential for electronic warfare and defensive measures against incoming threats. The design of the steel pallet also ensures that the rounds are securely held, minimizing the risk of damage during transport and providing ease of access during operations. This capability is crucial for maintaining operational readiness, as SRBOC is a vital component of vessel defense systems. Understanding the capacity of various storage solutions like the Steel Pallet is important for maintaining supply chain efficiency and ensuring that the necessary ammunition is readily available when needed.

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4. Who is responsible for the disposal of ammunition and pyro found ashore?

A. Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

B. Coast Guard Supply Center

C. Local Fire Department

D. Base Command

The responsibility for the disposal of ammunition and pyrotechnics found ashore falls to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). EOD teams are specifically trained and equipped to handle explosive materials safely, including ammunition and pyrotechnics, to mitigate risks associated with explosives. Their expertise ensures that any hazardous materials are disposed of in accordance with safety protocols and regulations, minimizing dangers to personnel and property. While other entities, such as the Coast Guard Supply Center, may manage logistics related to ammunition, and local fire departments could respond to emergencies involving fires or explosions, they do not have the specialized training that EOD possesses for the specific task of safely disposing of ordnance. Similarly, Base Command oversees operations and personnel at the base but does not specialize in hazardous material handling like EOD does. Therefore, having the EOD handle these situations is crucial for maintaining operational safety and compliance with regulations.

5. What is the primary benefit of using hollow-point ammunition for law enforcement?

A. It causes minimal noise

B. It expands to reduce the chance of over-penetration

C. It is less expensive

D. It increases magazine capacity

The primary benefit of using hollow-point ammunition for law enforcement is that it expands upon impact, which reduces the chance of over-penetration. This characteristic is significant in law enforcement scenarios where minimizing risks to innocent bystanders is paramount. The design of hollow-point bullets allows them to expand in diameter when they hit a target, creating a larger wound channel and transferring more energy to the target while also effectively stopping the threat. This expansion helps to prevent the round from passing through the target and hitting unintended targets behind it, which is a critical consideration in populated areas where law enforcement often operates. Other factors such as noise level, cost, and magazine capacity are not the primary considerations for the use of hollow-point ammunition in law enforcement contexts. While quieter ammunition might be beneficial in certain operations and factors like cost and capacity can influence choice, the primary aim with hollow-point ammunition is to enhance safety by limiting over-penetration and ensuring that threats are neutralized with the least risk to bystanders.

6. Which sinking led to the establishment of the international ice patrol?

A. Andrea Doria

B. Empress of Ireland

C. Titanic

D. Lusitania

The establishment of the International Ice Patrol was directly influenced by the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. The Titanic struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage, resulting in a catastrophic loss of life. This tragedy highlighted the risks posed by icebergs in transatlantic shipping lanes, leading to increased awareness of the need for precautionary measures. In response to the Titanic disaster, the International Ice Patrol was formed in 1914 to monitor iceberg dangers in the North Atlantic and provide timely warnings to vessels in the region. The Patrol's primary goal is to enhance maritime safety by tracking ice movement and issuing advisories to help avoid similar accidents in the future. This initiative marked a significant advancement in international cooperation for the safety of maritime navigation.

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7. Members attached to which type of units are not permitted to have romantic relationships, regardless of personnel count?

A. Shore

B. Afloat

C. Coastal

D. Stationary

Members attached to afloat units are not permitted to have romantic relationships, regardless of personnel count, due to the potential for conflicts of interest, perceptions of favoritism, and the challenges that can arise from personal relationships in a confined environment. The nature of afloat service, which often involves working in close quarters for extended periods, can complicate interpersonal dynamics. This restriction is put in place to maintain unit cohesion, operational effectiveness, and to ensure a professional work environment free from distractions that personal relationships may create. The policies governing relationships in the military are designed to uphold the integrity of the unit and ensure that all personnel can perform their duties without personal issues interfering with mission readiness. In contrast, shore units and other types might have different regulations that allow for personal relationships, as the dynamics and social environments in those settings do not present the same level of risk to operational cohesion as seen in afloat settings.

8. What is the term used for the detailed examination of weapon malfunctions?

A. Inspection

B. Maintenance

C. Troubleshooting

D. Repair

The term used for the detailed examination of weapon malfunctions is troubleshooting. Troubleshooting involves identifying, diagnosing, and resolving issues that arise with weapon systems, which can include a variety of problems such as mechanical failures, ammunition issues, or operational errors. This process is critical for ensuring firearms operate safely and effectively. It typically involves systematic procedures that help technicians understand the root cause of the malfunction and decide on the necessary steps to correct it. While inspection and maintenance are related concepts, they refer more broadly to checking the overall condition of the weapon and performing routine care to prevent issues, rather than the specific act of identifying existing malfunctions. Repair refers to the actual actions taken to fix identified issues, but does not encompass the investigative process that troubleshooting entails. Therefore, troubleshooting is the most accurate term for the specific activity of examining and determining the cause of weapon malfunctions.

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9. What is the minimum thickness for chains used to secure racks?

A. 1/4 inch

B. 3/8 inch

C. 5/16 inch

D. 1/2 inch

The minimum thickness for chains used to secure racks is specified at 5/16 inch. This size is chosen for several reasons related to safety and functionality. A chain of this thickness provides a balance between strength and manageability, ensuring that it can adequately support the weight of equipment without risk of breaking or deformation under load. Additionally, a 5/16 inch chain is sufficiently robust to withstand environmental factors, such as corrosion and wear, thus ensuring longevity in keeping equipment secure. Choosing a chain that is either too thin could risk failure under stress, while a thicker chain might be unnecessarily heavy and difficult to handle, affecting efficiency when securing or releasing loads. Therefore, using a 5/16 inch thick chain strikes the right balance for securing racks effectively in various operational conditions.

10. When is a special EER required?

A. When a member retires

B. When a member advances to rank of E-7 or above

C. When a member changes duty stations

D. When a member receives an award

A special Enlisted Evaluation Report (EER) is indeed required when a member advances to the rank of E-7 or above. This report serves a critical role in the evaluation process by ensuring that the individual's performance and potential are formally assessed at significant career milestones, particularly during promotions to senior ranks where leadership and responsibilities are heightened. At this level, the assessment not only impacts the individual's career trajectory but also the overall effectiveness of the unit, as E-7s and higher often play vital roles in mentorship and guidance for junior personnel. The EER reflects the member's readiness for increased responsibilities and provides a documented appraisal of their capabilities, leadership qualities, and contribution to the service, which are crucial for retention and assignment to future roles.

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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://uscggunnersmateswe.examzify.com

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

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