

USCG MARINE SCIENCE TECHNICIAN (MST) SERVICE WIDE EXAM (SWE) PRACTICE (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://uscgmstswexamzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

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.

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!

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. What is the normal GTCC limit for cardholders?**
 - A. \$1,500
 - B. \$2,000
 - C. \$2,500
 - D. \$3,000
- 2. What essential element is often included in the organization assessment for incident management?**
 - A. Staff training records
 - B. Communication protocols
 - C. Incident resource availability
 - D. Legal compliance checks
- 3. How often must a LHG operator test the emergency shutdown system?**
 - A. Every month
 - B. At least once every 2 months
 - C. Every 3 months
 - D. Every 6 months
- 4. How fast do winds need to blow for a storm to be classified as a hurricane?**
 - A. At least 39 MPH
 - B. At least 74 MPH
 - C. At least 96 MPH
 - D. At least 111 MPH
- 5. What term is used to describe the act of taking one's own life voluntarily or intentionally?**
 - A. Self-harm
 - B. Suicide
 - C. Depression
 - D. Despair

- 6. What is the name of the scale used to classify hurricane wind speeds?**
- A. Fujita Scale
 - B. Richter Scale
 - C. Saffir-Simpson Scale
 - D. Enhanced Fujita Scale
- 7. In which area of a facility can you access unescorted with a TWIC?**
- A. Public access area
 - B. Date and time specific area
 - C. Secure area
 - D. Operational control room
- 8. What type of beach is challenging to clean due to tidal influences?**
- A. Exposed rocky cliff
 - B. Sandy shoreline
 - C. Exposed tidal flats
 - D. Fine grain
- 9. How far is the vertical line of a load line tree marked from the center of the ring?**
- A. 15 inches
 - B. 18 inches
 - C. 21 inches
 - D. 24 inches
- 10. What defines a cold front in terms of precipitation?**
- A. Precipitation occurs behind the front
 - B. Precipitation occurs at the leading edge of the front
 - C. Precipitation is absent
 - D. Precipitation occurs after a warm front pass

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What is the normal GTCC limit for cardholders?

- A. \$1,500
- B. \$2,000
- C. \$2,500**
- D. \$3,000

The normal Government Travel Charge Card (GTCC) limit for cardholders is indeed \$2,500. This limit is established to facilitate travel expenses while ensuring that expenditures remain manageable within the confines of federal regulations. The GTCC is designed to help government employees cover expenses such as lodging, meals, and transportation when traveling for official business purposes. Having a limit of \$2,500 enables cardholders to meet most travel-related costs without frequent requests for increases, thus facilitating smoother travel experiences. This amount reflects a balance that allows adequate financial flexibility for typical government travel scenarios while promoting accountability and fiscal responsibility. In contrast, other figures such as \$1,500, \$2,000, or \$3,000 may not align with the standard practices in place for managing travel expenditures effectively. These amounts could either restrict the cardholder's ability to cover necessary expenses or exceed what is typically necessary for routine travel.

2. What essential element is often included in the organization assessment for incident management?

- A. Staff training records
- B. Communication protocols
- C. Incident resource availability**
- D. Legal compliance checks

The essential element included in the organization assessment for incident management focuses on incident resource availability. This aspect is critical because having the right resources available during an incident directly influences the effectiveness and efficiency of the response efforts. Incident resource availability encompasses not only the physical resources, such as equipment and supplies, but also includes personnel and their training, which are vital for a coordinated and effective response. Understanding the available resources helps incident managers to identify any gaps in capabilities and allows for strategic planning to ensure that the necessary tools and personnel are deployed to mitigate the incident effectively. Without comprehensively assessing resource availability, an organization risks being underprepared for an incident, which can lead to delays in response, increased risk to safety, and further complications. In contrast, while staff training records, communication protocols, and legal compliance checks are indeed important components of overall incident management, they serve different purposes. Staff training records are crucial for ensuring that team members are competent and can effectively utilize the resources available. Communication protocols ensure that information flows efficiently during an incident, while legal compliance checks help ensure that the response adheres to relevant laws and regulations. However, the immediate focus during an assessment of incident management readiness is on ensuring that all necessary resources are available for effective incident management.

3. How often must a LHG operator test the emergency shutdown system?

- A. Every month
- B. At least once every 2 months**
- C. Every 3 months
- D. Every 6 months

A liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility operator is required to test the emergency shutdown system at least once every two months to ensure that it is functioning correctly and can be relied upon in case of an emergency. Regular testing is crucial in maintaining the safety and integrity of operations involving liquefied gases, as it verifies the responsiveness and reliability of the emergency response mechanisms in place. Testing the emergency shutdown system every two months is consistent with industry standards and regulatory requirements, which are designed to minimize risks associated with the operation of hazardous materials. This frequency allows operators to identify any issues or malfunctions that may arise, ensuring that the system is operational and effective when needed. The other options suggest either a more frequent testing schedule or a less frequent one, which does not align with the established safety protocols. Regular checks at the defined interval help maintain a high level of readiness, which is vital in the event of any safety concerns or emergency situations.

4. How fast do winds need to blow for a storm to be classified as a hurricane?

- A. At least 39 MPH
- B. At least 74 MPH**
- C. At least 96 MPH
- D. At least 111 MPH

A storm is classified as a hurricane when its sustained winds reach at least 74 miles per hour (MPH). The designation of a hurricane is part of a broader classification system for tropical storms. Before a storm has sustained winds of 39 MPH, it is considered a tropical depression, and as winds reach between 39 MPH and 73 MPH, it becomes a tropical storm. Once the winds exceed 73 MPH, it meets the criteria for hurricane status. This classification is crucial for meteorologists and disaster management agencies, as it helps in responding to and preparing for severe weather events that can have significant impacts on affected areas. The specific thresholds define the intensity and potential damage associated with different storm types.

5. What term is used to describe the act of taking one's own life voluntarily or intentionally?

- A. Self-harm
- B. Suicide**
- C. Depression
- D. Despair

The term that accurately describes the act of taking one's own life voluntarily or intentionally is suicide. This term is used in psychological and medical contexts to specifically refer to this tragic act. Understanding this definition is crucial for those involved in mental health and crisis intervention, as it provides clarity on the intent behind the action. Self-harm refers to behaviors where individuals intentionally hurt themselves, but it does not necessarily lead to death or indicate intent to end one's life. Depression is a mental health condition characterized by persistent feelings of sadness and loss of interest but does not by itself indicate a suicidal act. Despair reflects a sense of hopelessness and can be a feeling experienced by someone contemplating suicide but does not define the act itself. By focusing on the term suicide, we recognize the severity and seriousness of this issue, highlighting the need for appropriate responses and support for those in crisis.

6. What is the name of the scale used to classify hurricane wind speeds?

- A. Fujita Scale
- B. Richter Scale
- C. Saffir-Simpson Scale**
- D. Enhanced Fujita Scale

The Saffir-Simpson Scale is the system specifically designed to categorize hurricane wind speeds and their potential damage. It classifies hurricanes into five categories based on sustained wind speeds, ranging from minimal to catastrophic damage. This scale helps communicate the potential impact of a hurricane, assisting with preparedness and response efforts. The other scales mentioned serve different purposes. The Fujita Scale is used to classify tornado intensity based on the damage inflicted, while the Enhanced Fujita Scale is a revised version of the original Fujita Scale, also focused on tornadoes. The Richter Scale measures the magnitude of earthquakes, not wind speeds or hurricanes. By understanding the Saffir-Simpson Scale, individuals, communities, and organizations can better prepare for the impacts of hurricanes.

7. In which area of a facility can you access unescorted with a TWIC?

- A. Public access area
- B. Date and time specific area
- C. Secure area**
- D. Operational control room

A Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) is designed to grant individuals access to secure areas of maritime facilities. The correct answer relates to the fact that a secure area is defined as a restricted area where access is controlled and permissions are required to enter. When a person holds a valid TWIC, they have been vetted and cleared for access to these secure areas to perform their job duties. In contrast, a public access area is open to everyone and does not require a TWIC for access. The date and time specific area typically refers to zones where entry is allowed during certain conditions or schedules, which may not align with general TWIC access privileges. The operational control room is a specific area that likely has additional restrictions and requires an operational need or further authorization beyond just having a TWIC. Thus, the secure area is the correct context for unescorted access with a TWIC.

8. What type of beach is challenging to clean due to tidal influences?

- A. Exposed rocky cliff
- B. Sandy shoreline
- C. Exposed tidal flats**
- D. Fine grain

The type of beach that is particularly challenging to clean due to tidal influences is exposed tidal flats. These areas are characterized by their flat, expansive surfaces which are exposed at low tide and submerged during high tide. The dynamic nature of tidal movements complicates cleanup efforts because pollutants, debris, or contaminants can be washed in and out with the changing water levels, making it difficult to implement a focused and effective cleanup strategy. Additionally, the sediment composition and the presence of various intertidal organisms can further complicate the cleanup process. Therefore, exposed tidal flats present unique challenges not typically encountered in other types of beach environments.

9. How far is the vertical line of a load line tree marked from the center of the ring?

- A. 15 inches
- B. 18 inches
- C. 21 inches**
- D. 24 inches

The vertical line of a load line tree is an important component for ensuring proper loading and stability of a vessel. The standard measurement for the vertical line from the center of the ring to the marking is set at 21 inches. This measurement helps mariners accurately assess the vessel's loading conditions and maintain safety standards while at sea. The specific height ensures consistency across different vessels and allows for proper compliance with regulatory requirements related to load line specifications. Understanding this measurement is crucial for marine science technicians as they assist in ensuring the safe operation of various vessels.

10. What defines a cold front in terms of precipitation?

- A. Precipitation occurs behind the front
- B. Precipitation occurs at the leading edge of the front**
- C. Precipitation is absent
- D. Precipitation occurs after a warm front pass

A cold front is characterized by the rapid lifting of warm, moist air as it meets colder air, which can lead to significant weather changes. Specifically, precipitation associated with a cold front typically occurs at the leading edge of the front. This is due to the abrupt boundary created when the colder, denser air pushes under the warmer air, forcing the warm air to rise rapidly. As the warm air ascends, it cools and condenses, resulting in cloud formation and precipitation, often in the form of heavy rain, thunderstorms, or snow, depending on the temperature profile. This aligns with the typical weather patterns observed during cold fronts, where storms can develop preceding the front itself. Therefore, precipitation generated by cold fronts is most commonly found at the front's leading edge, distinguishing it from other frontal types and their associated weather phenomena.

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://uscgmstswe.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE