

The following are sample open and closed book exam questions from the Sergeants Major Course's curriculum. These sample questions cover Military Science, Leadership, and Professional Studies. Each SMC department has a mid-term and a final examination in addition to writing, speaking, classroom contribution, leadership, and research assessments. These questions are designed to evaluate your mastery of the Learning Objectives, and enhance your critical thinking skills and abilities.

The purpose of these sample questions is to give future students a snap shot of the type of questions asked during exams.

Open Book Exam Questions

1. You overhear First Sergeant Johnson giving guidance to Sergeant First Class Brown. "I am reassigning Staff Sergeant Toms to your platoon. This is a rehabilitative transfer. Staff Sergeant Toms does not know his job and he is a substandard leader. He was recommended for an administrative reduction board by his last platoon sergeant, however when I looked at his counseling file, there was nothing in it. I have four specific actions I want you to take in regards to developing Staff Sergeant Toms." When the First Sergeant is finished talking to Sergeant First Class Brown you tell him three of the actions he directed Sergeant First Class Brown to take were spot on, but one was not. Which of the actions listed below was not correct?

- a. I want you to counsel Staff Sergeant Toms and I want you to ensure he is an active participant in the process. I want his strengths and weaknesses identified and a plan of action created for him.
- b. I want you to coach Staff Sergeant Toms. Identify his developmental needs and help him figure out how to overcome the obstacles preventing him from developing.
- c. Staff Sergeant Toms does not know his job. I want him developed and it is your responsibility to help him learn.
- d. I am assigning you as his mentor. I want you to develop a training plan to specifically address his deficiencies and get him to where he needs to be.

2. As a Sergeant Major conducting planning for a major operation, you start to consider how contracting management challenges will affect the mission. Which operational contracting support principle are you best addressing?

- a. Contracting is not just a source of logistic support
- b. Other non-cost related factors
- c. Integration
- d. Contracting as a manpower multiplier

3. You are an Operations Sergeant Major working in the Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) G2 and the CFLCC commander tasked you to compose a white paper outlining the successes and failures of the CFLCC's joint intelligence process and the CFLCC's adherence to the Principles of Joint Intelligence during Operation Chance Venture. The following is an excerpt from your 56-page white paper:

"The interpretation of the evidence should not result from over reliance of any one particular intelligence discipline, but rather, based on information derived from all of the intelligence disciplines—all-source intelligence. Analysis based on all-source intelligence would have provided a more accurate picture of the situation and would have reduced self-deception. There is nothing wrong with having different interpretations of the same evidence. In fact, this is healthy because it addresses many if not all of the potential possibilities of threat courses of action. The misinterpretation of evidence from lacking all-source analysis and from ignoring intelligence warnings can cause unfavorable results."

Based on the above excerpt from your white paper, which of the following Principles of Joint Intelligence did the CFLCC violate during Operation Chance Venture?

- a. Synchronization
- b. Unity of Effort
- c. Prioritization
- d. Fusion

4. The S-3 operations officer was briefing the commander and his staff. He stated “The war is not going well. Our initial end state and operational approach seemed to be the correct approach. However, after achieving initial success our forces seem to have stalled and we are not gaining much ground. I think that we need to reassess our current situation and apply what we learn from it.” Which of the following is the best method to assess the current situation and provide a new look at the current operational approach?

- a. MDMP
- b. Reframing
- c. JOPE
- d. Wargaming

5. When Baron Von Steuben arrived at Valley Forge he quickly realized that George Washington’s men were untrained, undisciplined and lacked precision. What did he use to mass and maneuver the troops into different battle positions?

- a. bugle calls
- b. use of the guidon
- c. company drills
- d. supplementary commands

Closed Book Exam Questions

1. _____ is how members feel about the organization and comes from shared perceptions and attitudes about the unit’s daily functioning.

- a. Culture
- b. Climate
- c. Morale
- d. Esprit de Corps

2. Which of the following missions are doctrinally correct and could possibly be tasked to a sustainment brigade?

- a. Initial entry, area sustainment, and redeployment assistance.
- b. Distribution, Initial entry, Opening operations
- c. Fort to port; Port to battlefield integration; Battlefield integration and sustainment support
- d. Theater opening, theater distribution, theater sustainment

3. Which of the following international relations theories focuses on the rising number of democracies and the turbulence of democratic transitions?

- a. Constructivism
- b. Realism
- c. Liberalism
- d. Idealism

4. 1/22 IN BDE secures OBJ BRAVO to prevent the 42nd BN from crossing the Azar River and disrupting operations in AO SPARTAN. Which of the following items is missing from this mission statement?

- a. When
- b. Where
- c. Who
- d. Why

5. How did General-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant's plan for the 1864 campaign differ from Union strategy in previous years?

- a. The main effort to destroy confederate forces would be concentrated in the west
- b. Union armies in different departments would no longer operate autonomously
- c. Grant would employ a combined arms strategy to defeat Lee and take Richmond
- d. The Union would focus on seizing control of the Mississippi River from the South

SAMPLE TEST QUESTIONS