

The American Civil War Society Ltd

Notes for the guidance on correct answers to the Firearms Safe Practice Examination

ARTILLERY

These tests can be conducted piecemeal and built up over a number of events/opportunities. All those who go on a battlefield and/or acts as an Artilleryman need to do this test once a year. Each soldier should have his/her own test sheet (or, preferably, a senior holds all test sheets until all tests completed), Kept by his/her unit, and as each part is successfully passed, It's ticked off and an examiner initials it with a date. At conclusion of all parts the examining officer and the soldier sign all three copies of the Firearms Safe Practice Certificate (F.S.P.C.) [Artillery]
One copy to the Soldier, one to H&S Director and a copy held by the Battery.

All Artillerymen/women are to be competent in the following:

1. Basic Cannon drills [Loading/firing and misfire procedures including the use of the Linstock] and the position/number and duties of each crew member. The Officers/S.Nco. of the Regt./Bty are required to drill the unit/group of examinees so that All the drill movements are carried out correctly by all members, as per the Battery's Training Manual.
2. That they must wear gauntlets if they are sponging/worming or ramming, And why we recommend [But not insist] Ear Defenders are worn, and why we recommend, but not insist, they use the Shooters Type Ear Defenders.
3. Soldiers of the Bty are also to be instructed in the safe distance between each Cannon (6-8 Paces) and between each two gun section (8-10 Paces), as well the Safe Firing Range and Arc of the Guns (25 Yds./M.) and the minimum distance from the spectators (Also 25 Yds./M.).
4. The reasons the cannons are cleared and made safe after each battle and cleaned after each event.
5. The safe movement of the cannons around the site (so as not to be a danger to themselves or others) with particular attention to the Moving of the cannons during the battle which are covered by another set of drills.
6. The Soldiers must also be able to master basic foot drill, [with or without small arms].
7. The Safe use of a Musket/Carbine, and Pistol [Loading/Firing and capping off procedures], remembering to unload Pistols after each battle.
8. The Maintenance of personal small arms, [when to clean them] (the correct answer is after each battle), Prior to firing each day, the weapon must be checked for safe operation e.g. does NOT fire on half cock, ONLY on full cock, that the hammer and nipple strike alignment is correct and that the trigger pull is firm and true. Remembering to check that all screws are tight and nothing is loose, split or rusted. You must report any defects right away.
9. The safe handling/storage of Blackpowder [the reason why only Licence holders are allowed to handle it].
10. Why we clear the area around the cannons after each battle.
11. Why we clean out the Cannon Barrels and what are we preventing by doing so.

12. Why you never stand in front of a loaded cannon and do not move forward unless the order „RELOAD“ has been given by the Gun Captain [Whatever his rank, he is in command of the individual Cannon,
(The Battery Commander, will order reload, the two section commanders [the Lt's.] will repeat the order, and so will the Gun Captains of each Cannon, It is only when the Gun Captain in charge of the gun you are servicing orders „reload“ will you then move forward and commence the reload drills).
13. Safety signals,
LOADED = Sponge and Worm held upright with their base on hub or Rim of wheel.
MISFIRE = Sponge and Worm held in the form of an X or are crossed over the barrel. Both signals mean the cannon is loaded and therefore unsafe.
14. Equine Safety measures
Remember horses are big animals and can harm you if they bump you.
Do not frighten them or hit them in any way. A Bolting horse/or one that has unseated his rider are a danger to you and the public – unpredictable and uncontrollable. Do not fire directly at horses or discharge firearms if they are inside the safety zone. Do not shout, wave your arms or brandish a sword or weapon near the animals head/eyes, Do not move or run if they come close, stand still and the rider will manoeuvre around you.
13. Ground Charges
The examinee must demonstrate a common sense understanding of what to look out for with ground charges e.g. wires leading to them and the displaced earth etc. where one is buried. Ground Charges come in all sorts and sizes : you can never know what is buried at the end of that detonation wires. The minimum safe distance is 15 Yds./M. but beware of (a) falling debris on detonation, so never look up and (b) the effects of blast. Also if moving through the area after they have detonated watch out for the holes formed by the blast and Wires are trip hazards, so watch were your putting your feet, Be Cautious and Observant.
14. Whistle Blasts
Are a signal that there are REAL casualties, so stop what you are doing and kneel down, One person nearest the casualty will remain standing and attract the attention of the Medics, [By placing his/her hat on their sword or musket and raising it into the air, and blowing their whistle When the person in charge of the unit deems it safe to carry on , you will be so ordered. Please assist the medics when asked to do so, unless to do so would put yourself in danger, secure and clear any abandoned weapons and if not licensed yourself give them to someone who you know is.
15. Temporary Certificates
Temporary Certificates will be issued to Infantry and other Volunteers who assist the Battery by taking part in events on the Guns for a particular day/weekend.