

The American Civil War Society Ltd

**Brief Soldiers Guide to answers to Infantry
Firearms Safe Practice Examination**

- (1) Drills. Be able to carry out all arms drill movements when static and when on the march.
- (2) Carry out correctly firing positions and maintain safe distances in and between ranks when firing, first in close formations, and secondly when skirmishing.
- (3) Wheeling and turning. Achieve correctly and maintain dressings when:-
 - Getting from 2s to 4s and back again on the march
 - Right and left face and right about face on the march
 - Form battle line from 4s on the march
 - Wheeling/halting/achieving a straight line
 - Firing obliquely safely
- (4) Be competent in marching out to form a skirmish line, manoeuvring within one and then rally on the reserve.
- (5) Cleaning weapons
 - Check safe working of gun each day before use
 - Ensure nipple is clean and clear through to the barrel
 - How do you clean the gun and when – boiling out barrel procedures
- (6) Loading and Cartridge preparation – Do drills correctly for loading in 4 motions, plus those instructions suitable for other period firearms where relevant to the unit in question. Be able to describe how you make the cartridge appropriate to the weapon.
- (7) Safe distances/elevation for firing

15M or yds = minimum distance between infantrymen for firing at an opponent. Safe Procedures for crossing obstacles with a loaded gun.
- (8) Procedures when charged: Discharge gun if safe to do so/remove percussion cap from nipple and put hammer down. Ultimate immediate action – play dead/hit the deck, and sort your gun out later.

- (9) Hand-to-hand engagements: DO NOT go into hand-to-hand with a loaded gun. Also what else not to do and what to do.
- (10) Immediate action drills. Misfires. Cap again and try again. If it still won't fire, fall out to rear and safely clear problem under supervision.
- (11) Capping off at the end of event – why? Spring rammers – why?
- (12) Clearing the field – Why? What are you looking for?
- (13) Whistles – When out in the field = medical emergency, a real one. Officers and NCO's blowing whistles means stop what you are doing, stop firing, everybody kneel down apart from the person next to the casualty who puts hat on muzzle of gun remains standing and holds gun aloft, so that the medics can immediately see where the casualty is and go straight to it. Another person can render first aid pending arrival of medics.

When in camp, especially authentic camp, this is a fire drill/fire emergency. Clear the camp to the colour line. Senior NCO checks everybody there. Corporals go down the line of tents and make sure everybody is out of their tents and at the colour line. If a real fire, also form a fire fighting party.

- (14) Artillery : when artillery loaded or in action keep clear of the muzzle + arc of fire by no less than 25 yds or metres.

If gun crew hold rammer or other tools upright = its loaded
If gun crew hold rammer or other tools across in an X = a misfire. In either case steer clear of the gun.
- (15) Horse safety – Again 25m/yds rule applies. Don't run – Why?
- (16) Pyrotechnics – ground charges : what are you looking for? How far away do you have to be? Trip hazards. Keep you head down, do NOT look up.