

Sample DE Scenario Questions – Part 2

Instructions:

The three sample scenarios (A, B, and C) are provided to illustrate the content of the DE Certification Assessment.

Please note that on the actual DE Certification Assessment, detailed background information is provided for some questions and electronic reference materials are available to look up information that may be important to consider when answering some questions.

You may need to reference the **Delegated Examining Operations Handbook, Appendix A of VetGuide**, and the appropriate OPM qualifications standard to answer the sample questions.

Use Scenario A to answer questions 1 and 2.

Scenario A: Your agency has posted an Economist, GS-0110-09, vacancy. The vacancy announcement defines the specialized experience as "experience applying methods and principles of economics and their application to research projects or experience developing, analyzing, and presenting statistical information."

1) For the economics 0110 series, the OPM qualification standards is covered by a group standard and has individual occupational requirements (IOR). Which OPM qualifications group standard is used for an Economist position?

- A. Clerical and Administrative Support Positions
 - B. Technical and Medical Support Positions
 - C. Administrative and Management Positions
 - D. Professional and Scientific Positions
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2) Maria applies to this Economist, GS-0110-09, vacancy. She possesses a bachelor's degree from an accredited university. She submits a copy of her college transcripts which list a major in economics with 24 completed semester hours in economics and 6 completed semester hours in calculus. Maria's resume notes 18 months of experience as an Economist Assistant, GS-0119-5. As the HR Specialist reviewing Maria's qualifications, what is the correct qualifications determination?

- A. Maria meets the minimum qualification requirements and the individual occupational requirements
- B. Maria meets the individual occupational requirements but does not meet the minimum qualification requirements
- C. Maria does not meet the individual occupational requirements
- D. Maria does not meet time-in-grade

Answer Key: D, B.
Key Considerations: OPM
Qualifications Standards (OPM
Operating Manual: Qualification
Standards for GS Positions and
Individual Occupation Requirements
for Economist, 0110), DEOH
Appendix K, and the agency
definition of minimum qualification
requirements.

Use Scenario B to answer questions 3-6.

Scenario B: Your agency has posted a Statistician, GS-1530-11, vacancy. The quality categories are: Gold (95 and above), Silver (80–94), and Bronze (70–79). Twenty-one (21) applicants applied and 7 are qualified. (see Table 1)

Table 1

Name	Score	Veterans' Preference
Maria	94	CPS
Jason	85	XP
Ken	72	CP
Lauren	100	NV
John	70	NV
Nina	80	TP
Teresa	95	CP

3) From the qualified candidates listed in Table 1, who should be placed in the Gold category?

- A. Maria, Ken, Lauren, Teresa
- B. Lauren
- C. Lauren and Teresa
- D. Maria, Jason, Ken, Nina, Teresa

5) Merge the top two categories. Who are the eligibles in the newly merged highest quality category for the Statistician, GS-1530-11, position?

- A. Maria, Jason, Ken, Lauren, John, Nina, Teresa
- B. Maria, Jason, Lauren, Nina
- C. Maria, Jason, Ken, Nina, Teresa
- D. Maria, Jason, Lauren, Nina, Teresa

4) The HR Specialist is preparing to issue the certificate of eligibles for the Statistician, GS-1531-11, position to the hiring manager. The agency policy allows the HR Specialist to merge categories. The hiring official would like to merge, if possible. Can the Gold and Silver categories be merged?

- A. Yes, merging is allowable because there are fewer than 3 eligibles in the Gold category
- B. No, merging is not allowable because there is a preference eligible in the Gold category
- C. No, merging is only allowable after selections have been made
- D. Yes, merging is allowable because there are preference eligibles in the Silver category

6) Based on the newly merged highest quality category, who is within reach for selection for the Statistician, GS-1530-11, position?

- A. Lauren
- B. Maria, Jason, Nina, and Teresa
- C. Maria, Jason, and Teresa
- D. Maria and Teresa

Use Scenario C to answer questions 7-9.

Scenario C: Your agency has posted an Industrial Hygienist, GS-0690-12, vacancy. There are three candidates in the highest quality category who claimed veterans' preference: Stephanie, Rachel, and Mark.

7) Stephanie served in the military on active duty from August 3, 2003, to June 3, 2005. Her DD-214 shows she received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Purple Heart, and an Honorable discharge. How should you adjudicate Stephanie's claimed veterans' status?

- A. As a TP preference eligible, because Stephanie served on active duty for more than 120 days during a qualifying period of time
 - B. As a TP preference eligible, because the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is qualifying for veterans' preference
 - C. As a CP preference eligible, because Stephanie was awarded the Purple Heart
 - D. As an XP preference eligible, because Stephanie was awarded the Purple Heart
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8) Rachel served in the military on active duty from March 3, 2015, to March 3, 2018. Her DD-214 shows she received the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and an Honorable discharge. She also submitted a letter from the VA stating she had a service-connected disability that was 0% disabling. How should you adjudicate Rachel's claimed veterans' status?

- A. As a NV, because her service is not qualifying for veterans' preference
 - B. As a TP preference eligible, because Rachel received the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
 - C. As a XP preference eligible, because Rachel has a service-connected disability
 - D. As a CP preference eligible, because Rachel has a service-connected disability
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9) Mark served in the military on active duty from September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2021. His DD-214 shows he received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and an Honorable discharge. How should you adjudicate Mark's claimed veterans' status?

- A. As a NV, because his service is not qualifying for veterans' preference
- B. As a TP preference eligible, because Mark served during a qualifying period of time
- C. As a TP preference eligible, because he received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal
- D. As a CP preference eligible, because he served in a campaign or expedition