

Skill at arms test

Each year all members of SOSKAN who take part on the field must pass a skill at arms test which comprises of two parts, a practical weapon handling test and a verbal test. The practical test requires that the individual demonstrate the following;

1. Correct loading of the weapon
2. How to carry a loaded weapon
3. Correct firing positions when in line in both front and rear rank

The verbal test requires the individual to answer correctly at least five of the following questions;

Q1. What is the correct procedure for a soldier in the firing line in the event of a misfire?

Keep the barrel above head height and pass the weapon to a file closer for inspection.

Q2. Why should a weapon not be fired if it come in to contact with the ground?

There may be debris in the barrel that could become a projectile, the weapon must be cleared and checked by a file closer.

Q3. What is the society's black powder/explosive distribution policy?

Each individual must produce their membership card, skill at arms card, shotgun/firearms license and black powder license at the distribution point, they sign for the rounds and return and sign back any unspent rounds after the battle/display.

Q4. If an officer/nco gives the order to fire and you believe it to be unsafe, what should you do?

Do not fire.

Q5. what is the approved method of carrying black powder rounds?

Inside the tins in the cartridge box.

Q6. how do you test the half cock on a rifle/musket/pistol?

Draw back the hammer until the weapon is at half cock, apply pressure to the trigger the hammer should not move, apply slight forward pressure to the hammer, it should not move.

Q7. If you are handed or find a weapon how should you treat it?

As if it was loaded.

Q8. Who can collect empty cartridges from the field after firing has taken place?

Holders of a black powder/explosives licenses.

Q9. Who is physically allowed to hold a rifle/musket?

A holder of a current firearms/shotgun license.

Q10. How many guns are you allowed to carry on the battlefield/display area?

One unless scripted.

Q11. why are ramrods not used on the battlefield?

They might accidentally become projectiles.

Q12. What is the safe distance when firing your weapon at opposing forces on the battlefield?

(rifle/musket) 30 metres and over

(pistol front venting) 10 meters and over

(pistol side venting) 2 meters and over to each side

Q13. Why do we cap off at the end of a battle/demonstration?

To check all weapons have been discharged.

Q14. If you are told to become a casualty during the battle/demonstration and you have a loaded weapon, what should you do?

Wait until you have safely discharged your weapon before becoming a casualty.

Q15. What does a red flag with a white square in the centre signify?

That the pyrotechnic team are still in the process of laying their charges and it is not safe to commence.

Q16. What does a white flag with a red square in the centre signify?

That the pyrotechnics team are ready, all charges are live and firing point are manned.

Q17. What would neither red or white flag flying signify?

All pyrotechnics are discharged, field is safe.

Q18. If you saw a length of electrical wire on the battlefield what would you assume was connected to it?

A pyrotechnic charge.

Q19. What is the signal from an artillery piece that the weapon has misfired?

Crew hold the Worm and Rammer upright on the wheels.

Q20. Why should you carry a full canteen of water on the battlefield?

To deal with burns.

Q21. What is paramount on the battlefield, authenticity or safety?

Safety.

Q22. Who is responsible for your health and safety?

You are.

Q23. What should you be carrying if you are carrying your weapon?

Your current firearms/shotgun licence, black powder licence, skill at arms card and membership card.

Q24. How many rounds/charges should be loaded and fired out of a single barrelled weapon?

One.

Artillery supplement

The supplementary Artillery test requires that the individual demonstrate correct operating procedure of their Post as part of the crew of an Artillery piece and answer correctly at least three of the above questions Q15-23 and two of the following questions Q1a-5a

Q1a. Why do we wet sponge the bore of an Artillery piece as part of the loading procedure?

- i) To prevent the build-up of fouling in the bore which might lead to a misfire ii) To extinguish any remaining smouldering embers in the breech of the piece that might ignite the next charge when rammed.

Q2a. Why do we cover the vent of an Artillery piece as part of the loading procedure?

- i) To prevent any stray sparks or burning embers from entering the vent and causing premature discharge of the piece.
- ii) To restrict the movement of air into the breech during sponging that might fan a smouldering ember.

Q3a. What is the minimum safe distance of a Combatant from the front of an Artillery piece when discharging the piece?

Combatants on the Field must be at least 50m away from the front, ie 45 degrees either side of the centre line, of an Artillery piece when firing.

Q4a. Who may be positioned forward of the muzzle of an Artillery piece during the loading of a charge ?

Only Numbers 1 and 2 may be forward of the muzzle and they must minimise exposure of all parts of their body forward of the muzzle. Once a charge/wad is rammed no one should be forward of the muzzle.

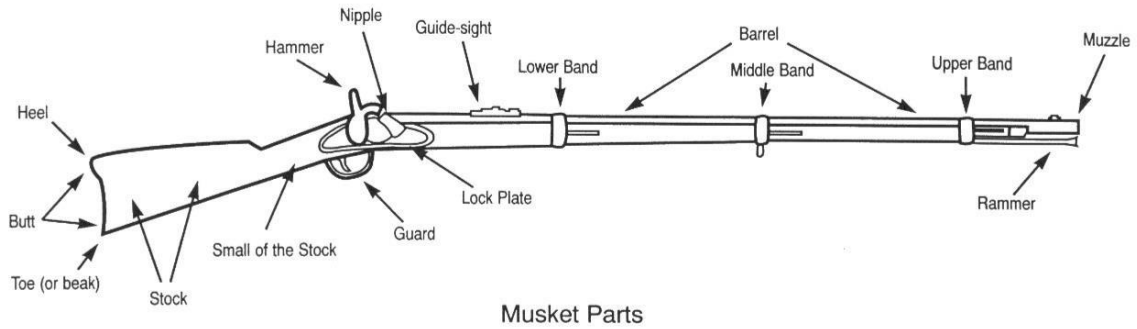
Q5a. In the event of a misfire, how long should the Gunner wait before repriming and why?

60 seconds. This delay is to give any slow burning embers that might be left from the previous ignition time to either burn out or ignite the live charge.

Practical test

For the practical part of the test the instructor should be checking for

1. That the pupil can identify basic parts of the weapon.



2. Correct and safe weapon drills. (handling/loading/mis fire)
3. Correct foot placement. (front and rear rank)
4. Cartridge box and cap pouch are closed after each round is loaded.
5. And general safety awareness with the weapon.