

911 Dispatcher Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

- 1. Why is cultural competency important for dispatchers?**
 - A. To ensure all callers speak the same language**
 - B. To effectively communicate and empathize with a diverse population**
 - C. To follow strict protocol guidelines**
 - D. To expedite the call process**
- 2. What does the code 10-7 indicate?**
 - A. In service**
 - B. Out of service**
 - C. Repeat**
 - D. Busy unless urgent**
- 3. What should a dispatcher do when receiving a call from an uncooperative person?**
 - A. Hang up the call**
 - B. Stay calm, maintain professionalism, and attempt to gather useful information**
 - C. Scold the caller for their behavior**
 - D. Transfer the call immediately**
- 4. What term is used to describe an individual who is armed and poses a potential threat?**
 - A. Person down**
 - B. Person with weapon**
 - C. Assault**
 - D. Traffic hazard**
- 5. What should a dispatcher do when receiving a call about a dead person?**
 - A. Send an ambulance immediately**
 - B. Ask if the caller is safe**
 - C. Notify the coroner's office**
 - D. Determine the deceased's identity**

- 6. Which code indicates that a unit is busy but available for urgent calls?**
- A. 10-6**
 - B. 10-7**
 - C. 10-8**
 - D. 10-9**
- 7. What illegal action entails leaving a vehicle in a prohibited area?**
- A. Driving under the influence**
 - B. Reckless driving**
 - C. Illegal parking**
 - D. Traffic hazard**
- 8. In cases of "traffic accident-no injury," what is usually noted?**
- A. A major road blockage**
 - B. Minimized law enforcement response**
 - C. The presence of several injured parties**
 - D. Hit and run investigations**
- 9. What is a 'call queue' in the context of emergency dispatching?**
- A. A system that holds incoming calls until they can be answered**
 - B. A way to track the duration of each call**
 - C. A list of callers in order of urgency**
 - D. A method for dispatchers to share notes**
- 10. What approach should a dispatcher take when handling a distressed caller?**
- A. Remain calm and provide reassurance**
 - B. Ignore the emotional outbursts**
 - C. Redirect the caller to someone else**
 - D. Ask them to calm down before continuing**

Answers

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1. B
2. B
3. B
4. B
5. C
6. A
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. A

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Explanations

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1. Why is cultural competency important for dispatchers?

- A. To ensure all callers speak the same language
- B. To effectively communicate and empathize with a diverse population**
- C. To follow strict protocol guidelines
- D. To expedite the call process

Cultural competency is crucial for dispatchers because it enhances their ability to communicate effectively and empathize with a diverse population. In emergency situations, callers may come from various cultural backgrounds, each with unique perspectives, values, and methods of communication. Understanding these differences allows dispatchers to build rapport quickly, gather vital information accurately, and respond to the caller's needs more effectively. When dispatchers possess cultural competency, they are better equipped to identify and address any potential barriers to communication, such as language differences or cultural misunderstandings. This not only improves the quality of service but also fosters trust between the dispatcher and the caller, which is essential during high-stress emergency calls. In contrast, the other options focus on aspects that do not directly enhance the interaction between dispatchers and callers. Ensuring all callers speak the same language may not be feasible in a diverse society, and following strict protocol guidelines does not account for the need for empathy and understanding in communication. While expediting the call process is important, it should not come at the expense of understanding the caller's cultural background, which can be crucial for an effective response.

2. What does the code 10-7 indicate?

- A. In service
- B. Out of service**
- C. Repeat
- D. Busy unless urgent

The code 10-7 is widely recognized in law enforcement and emergency services to indicate "Out of service." When a unit is marked as out of service, it communicates that they are not available to respond to calls or emergencies at that time. This could be due to a variety of reasons, such as being on a break, handling a non-emergency situation, or performing administrative duties. Understanding this code is crucial for dispatchers as it helps in managing resources and ensuring that calls for service are directed to available personnel. When responding agencies understand the status of their units, it enhances the effectiveness of response operations and maintains clear communication channels among responders. The other options refer to different statuses: "In service" indicates a unit is active and ready to respond, "Repeat" suggests the dispatcher is requesting the information to be reiterated for clarity, and "Busy unless urgent" implies that while a unit is occupied, they will respond to urgent matters, but none of these pertain to a unit being out of service like the 10-7 code does.

3. What should a dispatcher do when receiving a call from an uncooperative person?

A. Hang up the call

B. Stay calm, maintain professionalism, and attempt to gather useful information

C. Scold the caller for their behavior

D. Transfer the call immediately

When a dispatcher receives a call from an uncooperative person, the best course of action is to stay calm, maintain professionalism, and attempt to gather useful information. This approach is essential because maintaining composure helps defuse potential tension and establishes a sense of control over the situation. By remaining professional, the dispatcher can create a more conducive environment for communication, which may encourage the caller to open up and provide necessary details. Additionally, actively listening and asking clear and purposeful questions can help the dispatcher collect critical information that may be needed to dispatch the appropriate emergency services. It's important to prioritize gathering relevant data that can aid responders in effectively addressing the situation at hand. This technique not only helps maintain a constructive interaction but also aligns with the goals of emergency dispatching, which are to ensure safety and provide accurate information to first responders.

4. What term is used to describe an individual who is armed and poses a potential threat?

A. Person down

B. Person with weapon

C. Assault

D. Traffic hazard

The term "Person with weapon" is used to describe an individual who is armed and poses a potential threat because it clearly communicates the presence of a weapon, which is crucial information for first responders and law enforcement. This terminology enables dispatchers to convey to officers the critical situation they may encounter, highlighting the possible danger involved. The explicit mention of a weapon alerts responders to prepare appropriately for potential violence or escalation. In contrast, the other terms do not specifically indicate an armed individual or suggest a threat. "Person down" typically refers to someone who is unconscious or injured, without any reference to weapons. "Assault" describes an action rather than an individual, making it less relevant in this context. "Traffic hazard" refers to dangerous conditions related to vehicles or roadways, which is unrelated to potential threats posed by individuals. Therefore, "Person with weapon" is the most suitable term for identifying someone armed and potentially dangerous in a dispatch scenario.

5. What should a dispatcher do when receiving a call about a dead person?

- A. Send an ambulance immediately**
- B. Ask if the caller is safe**
- C. Notify the coroner's office**
- D. Determine the deceased's identity**

When receiving a call about a dead person, the appropriate action for a dispatcher is to notify the coroner's office. This is because the coroner is responsible for investigating the cause and circumstances of death, especially in cases that may be suspicious or unexpected. Their involvement is critical for legal and health reasons, as they need to examine the body and potentially conduct an autopsy. In such situations, while assessing the scene and ensuring that emergency services are appropriately dispatched is important, the coroner's office must be informed as they have the jurisdiction over the matter. Dispatchers must ensure that all proper protocols are followed for reporting deaths, which typically includes contacting the coroner or medical examiner as one of their duties. The other options may be related to various emergency situations but do not specifically address the unique needs that arise when dealing with a deceased individual. For example, ensuring the safety of the caller is crucial in many emergencies, but it is secondary to the need for official notification of the death.

6. Which code indicates that a unit is busy but available for urgent calls?

- A. 10-6**
- B. 10-7**
- C. 10-8**
- D. 10-9**

The code that indicates a unit is busy but available for urgent calls is 10-6. This code specifically conveys that while the unit is engaged in a current task or call, they remain accessible for emergencies or additional urgent requests. Understanding this code is crucial for efficient dispatching, as it helps ensure that resources are appropriately allocated while still allowing for quick responses to critical situations. The other codes listed signal different statuses: 10-7 typically indicates that a unit is out of service, 10-8 denotes that a unit is in service and available for calls, while 10-9 often refers to a repeat request. Therefore, using 10-6 appropriately allows dispatchers to manage calls and resources effectively during busy periods.

7. What illegal action entails leaving a vehicle in a prohibited area?

- A. Driving under the influence**
- B. Reckless driving**
- C. Illegal parking**
- D. Traffic hazard**

The concept of illegal parking specifically refers to the act of leaving a vehicle in a designated prohibited area, which can include spaces where parking is restricted by signs or regulations. This type of violation directly impacts traffic flow and safety, as it can create obstacles for other vehicles, pedestrians, and emergency responders. Understanding the consequences of illegal parking is vital for maintaining orderly conduct on the roads, as improper parking can lead to fines, towing, or even accidents. Thus, illegal parking is recognized as an offense that can disrupt public safety and the proper functioning of roadways. Other actions, such as driving under the influence or reckless driving, pertain to unsafe driving behaviors but do not specifically involve the act of leaving a vehicle in an improper location.

8. In cases of "traffic accident-no injury," what is usually noted?

- A. A major road blockage**
- B. Minimized law enforcement response**
- C. The presence of several injured parties**
- D. Hit and run investigations**

In scenarios described as "traffic accident-no injury," minimized law enforcement response is typically noted because these incidents do not pose a threat to public safety or require immediate medical attention. When injuries are not present, the urgency for police involvement decreases, allowing them to prioritize more serious incidents that do require immediate intervention. Additionally, the response may often entail just gathering information or exchanging insurance details rather than an extensive investigation, further supporting a lighter law enforcement footprint in such situations. Other options address more serious incidents or circumstances involving significant traffic disruption or criminal activity, which are not characteristic of a minor accident where no injuries occur.

9. What is a 'call queue' in the context of emergency dispatching?

- A. A system that holds incoming calls until they can be answered**
- B. A way to track the duration of each call**
- C. A list of callers in order of urgency**
- D. A method for dispatchers to share notes**

A 'call queue' refers to a system that manages incoming emergency calls by holding them in line until they can be answered by a dispatcher. In the context of emergency dispatching, this is crucial because it ensures that all incoming emergency requests are accounted for and addressed in a timely manner, particularly when call volumes are high. It allows dispatchers to respond to emergencies in the order they are received, promoting efficiency and better resource allocation. Properly managing a call queue helps ensure that callers do not remain waiting indefinitely when they are in need of urgent assistance, as prioritization will often occur based on the nature of the call. While tracking the duration of each call, creating a list of callers in order of urgency, and sharing notes among dispatchers are important aspects of the dispatch process, they do not define what a call queue is. These functions support the overall efficiency and effectiveness of a call center, but they operate on different principles than the basic functionality of a call queue itself.

10. What approach should a dispatcher take when handling a distressed caller?

- A. Remain calm and provide reassurance**
- B. Ignore the emotional outbursts**
- C. Redirect the caller to someone else**
- D. Ask them to calm down before continuing**

When handling a distressed caller, remaining calm and providing reassurance is crucial. This approach helps to establish trust and creates an environment where the caller feels safe to express their thoughts and emotions. A calm demeanor can help de-escalate a situation, allowing the dispatcher to gather necessary information more effectively. By offering reassurance, the dispatcher validates the caller's feelings and demonstrates that they are being heard, which can significantly alleviate anxiety during a critical moment. This empathetic interaction not only promotes a more productive conversation but also facilitates the dispatcher in assessing the situation accurately and providing appropriate assistance.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://911dispatcher.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!