

APCO POLICE COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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

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- 1. Hue and cry refers to what in historical law enforcement?**
 - A. A modern radio dispatch
 - B. An online alert system
 - C. A parade for police
 - D. The act of shouting to summon help

- 2. Which practice helps prevent unauthorized access to CJIS data?**
 - A. Log out when away from the workstation to prevent unauthorized access and protect sensitive data
 - B. Leave login active to speed up re-access
 - C. Share credentials with others
 - D. Disable locks during breaks

- 3. Which statement about CAD systems is accurate?**
 - A. CAD systems track incident location and unit assignments to support efficient response.
 - B. CAD systems are rarely used in modern dispatch centers.
 - C. Most CAD systems consider the incident type and the number of available units in recommending a response.
 - D. CAD systems only record call notes and do not assist with responses.

- 4. How should a dispatcher prioritize incidents when multiple calls come in at once?**
 - A. Use first-come, first-served for all calls.
 - B. Assign units based on order of arrival and nearest unit.
 - C. Use established priority hierarchy, triage by severity, time-sensitivity, equipment/service requirements, and then assign units.
 - D. Wait for supervisor approval before acting.

- 5. What are the two primary duties of the law enforcement telecommunicator?**
 - A. Call taking and dispatching
 - B. Patrolling and reporting
 - C. Recording data and handling 911 calls
 - D. Emergency medical assistance

- 6. What is the primary goal of Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) instructions?**
- A. To replace EMS on scene.
 - B. To delay EMS response.
 - C. To aid patients before EMS arrives; enhance patient outcomes and reduce scene time.
 - D. To collect data for audits.
- 7. A 'fail to remain' incident type refers only to a vehicle striking a pedestrian and leaving the scene of the accident without providing any assistance or identification.**
- A. True
 - B. Not specified
 - C. Sometimes
 - D. False
- 8. Which group is typically described as holding power in a conflict perspective on crime?**
- A. The poor
 - B. The middle class
 - C. The rich
 - D. The government
- 9. Aircraft emergencies can be called into a PSAP by which of the following?**
- A. Pilot or passenger on board, or a witness on the ground
 - B. Only pilot
 - C. Only passenger
 - D. Witness on the ground
- 10. The theory that crime occurs when individuals perceive it is in their interest to engage in crime and the benefits outweigh the costs is known as which theory?**
- A. Classical Rational Choice Theory
 - B. Deterrence Theory
 - C. Biosocial Theory
 - D. Strain Theory

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Hue and cry refers to what in historical law enforcement?

- A. A modern radio dispatch
- B. An online alert system
- C. A parade for police
- D. The act of shouting to summon help**

Hue and cry is a historical practice centered on mobilizing the community to aid in a crime's pursuit by shouting to summon help. In earlier times, there wasn't a formal police dispatch system, so when a crime occurred, people nearby were expected to raise a loud alarm and rally others to assist in catching the offender or attracting authorities. This concept embodies the communal, immediate response to crime rather than any modern communication method or ceremonial event. The other options point to modern or ceremonial ideas (a radio dispatch, an online alert, or a parade), which don't reflect how the term was used in historical law enforcement.

2. Which practice helps prevent unauthorized access to CJIS data?

- A. Log out when away from the workstation to prevent unauthorized access and protect sensitive data**
- B. Leave login active to speed up re-access
- C. Share credentials with others
- D. Disable locks during breaks

Session security is essential to prevent unauthorized access to CJIS data. When you step away from a workstation, logging out or locking the screen ensures that the session cannot be resumed without re-authentication, so only you can access sensitive information. This aligns with the requirement to protect data from being viewed or manipulated by others who might gain physical access. The other options undermine security: leaving the login active creates a window for others to access your account; sharing credentials erodes accountability and is against policy; disabling locks removes a critical safeguard, increasing the risk of exposure during breaks.

3. Which statement about CAD systems is accurate?

- A. CAD systems track incident location and unit assignments to support efficient response.**
- B. CAD systems are rarely used in modern dispatch centers.
- C. Most CAD systems consider the incident type and the number of available units in recommending a response.
- D. CAD systems only record call notes and do not assist with responses.

CAD systems are built to manage the flow of a response by keeping real-time track of the incident location and the status and position of available units. This visibility lets dispatchers send the right units to the right place quickly, coordinate their movements, and update arrivals and on-scene status as the situation changes. That real-time location-and-unit tracking directly improves response speed and resource use, which is why this statement is the most accurate description of what CAD does. While CADs may also factor in incident type and unit availability to influence what response is suggested and they may record call notes, those features support the dispatch process rather than define it. The essential function is the live tracking of where an incident is and where responders are, to enable an efficient response.

4. How should a dispatcher prioritize incidents when multiple calls come in at once?

- A. Use first-come, first-served for all calls.
- B. Assign units based on order of arrival and nearest unit.
- C. Use established priority hierarchy, triage by severity, time-sensitivity, equipment/service requirements, and then assign units.**
- D. Wait for supervisor approval before acting.

Prioritize incidents using a formal priority framework and triage, evaluating severity, time-sensitivity, and equipment or service requirements before deciding which units to dispatch. This approach ensures the most dangerous or time-critical situations receive attention first, while other calls are handled according to policy-defined priorities. After categorizing, assign the nearest available unit that has the necessary capabilities, balancing speed with the right resources. Relying on first-come, first-served can delay critical responses, and routing purely by proximity or waiting for supervisor approval can slow action on urgent incidents.

5. What are the two primary duties of the law enforcement telecommunicator?

- A. Call taking and dispatching**
- B. Patrolling and reporting
- C. Recording data and handling 911 calls
- D. Emergency medical assistance

The main idea being tested is what a law enforcement telecommunicator actually does to start and coordinate a response. The two core duties are call taking and dispatching. Call taking means receiving the call, gathering essential details (location, nature of the incident, people involved, safety concerns), and prioritizing the response. Dispatching is then coordinating and sending the appropriate units to the scene, relaying updates, and maintaining clear radio communications between responders and the control room. Together, these tasks ensure the right help is alerted quickly and directed efficiently to where it's needed. Other options mix in activities that belong to field officers or are only a part of the job. Patrolling and reporting are officer duties, not telecommunicator responsibilities. Recording data and handling 911 calls overlaps with the information-gathering part of call taking but doesn't capture the critical dispatching function. Emergency medical assistance isn't performed by telecommunicators, who may provide instructions to callers but do not deliver medical care.

6. What is the primary goal of Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) instructions?

- A. To replace EMS on scene.
- B. To delay EMS response.
- C. To aid patients before EMS arrives; enhance patient outcomes and reduce scene time.**
- D. To collect data for audits.

Emergency Medical Dispatch instructions are meant to guide bystanders through essential actions while EMS is on the way, so immediate help is provided even before responders arrive. The dispatcher uses simple, clear steps tailored to the situation—like verifying responsiveness, starting CPR if needed, controlling bleeding, helping the patient breathe, or placing them safely—so the patient receives critical care as soon as possible. This early guidance helps stabilize the condition and speeds up care, which can improve survival and outcomes once responders arrive. It's not about replacing EMS on scene or delaying the response, and data collection isn't the primary purpose; the focus is on aiding the patient before professional help arrives and reducing delays in getting life-saving interventions started.

7. A 'fail to remain' incident type refers only to a vehicle striking a pedestrian and leaving the scene of the accident without providing any assistance or identification.

- A. True
- B. Not specified
- C. Sometimes
- D. False**

Fail to remain is the duty to stop after a crash and stay to handle the consequences—render aid if needed and exchange required information such as name and license. This obligation applies to any crash, not just those involving a pedestrian. It covers collisions with vehicles, pedestrians, or property, and leaving the scene after any crash is a violation. Because it is not limited to a pedestrian strike, the statement is false.

8. Which group is typically described as holding power in a conflict perspective on crime?

- A. The poor
- B. The middle class
- C. The rich**
- D. The government

In this view, power comes from economic resources and the ability to shape laws and how they are enforced. Those with wealth—often identified as the rich—have the influence, money, and access to political channels that allow them to affect what is defined as crime, who is pursued by law enforcement, and how penalties are applied. Because of this, the rich are the group described as holding power within the conflict perspective on crime: they can protect their interests and navigate the system to minimize consequences for their behavior, while laws and enforcement tend to reflect and reinforce their advantages. The government and institutions do play a role in enforcing laws, but the conflict framework sees them as instruments that serve the interests of the powerful. The poor or middle class, while affected by crime policies, do not wield the same capacity to shape those policies, making the wealthy the primary power holders in this analysis.

9. Aircraft emergencies can be called into a PSAP by which of the following?

- A. Pilot or passenger on board, or a witness on the ground**
- B. Only pilot
- C. Only passenger
- D. Witness on the ground

Emergency reporting to a PSAP can come from anyone who notices or experiences the incident—pilots and passengers on board, or a witness on the ground. A pilot or a passenger may directly call in to report an in-flight emergency, provide essential details such as location, altitude, flight number, and the nature of the problem, and request assistance. A ground witness who observes an aircraft in distress, smoke, fire, or a crash can also contact emergency services to alert responders and provide a location and description of the situation. This broad set of reporting sources ensures that emergencies are reported promptly, even if one channel isn't available. Restricting reports to only the pilot, or only the passenger, or only ground witnesses could delay or miss critical information. In real events, any of these parties might be the first to detect a problem, so the system must accept notifications from all of them.

10. The theory that crime occurs when individuals perceive it is in their interest to engage in crime and the benefits outweigh the costs is known as which theory?

A. Classical Rational Choice Theory

B. Deterrence Theory

C. Biosocial Theory

D. Strain Theory

Crime happens when a person calculates that the benefits of committing it outweigh the costs. This view is Classical Rational Choice Theory. It treats people as rational actors who weigh rewards and risks before acting, so crime is a deliberate decision rather than something forced by circumstance alone. If the perceived payoff is high and the potential punishment is low or uncertain, the choice to offend looks favorable. This perspective also helps explain deterrence ideas: increasing the costs or reducing the benefits of crime should shift the calculation away from offending. Other theories focus on different factors—Deterrence emphasizes punishment as the primary tool to prevent crime, Biosocial Theory looks at biological and social influences, and Strain Theory points to pressure from blocked goals pushing people toward illicit means.

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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:

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

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