

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS) CODES PRACTICE EXAM (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. What is one of the main responsibilities of the Arizona Highway Patrol?

- A. To manage toll booth operations
- B. To enforce traffic laws and ensure safe travel
- C. To handle business registrations for vehicles
- D. To train emergency responders

2. What does Arizona's "Surcharge Program" for DUI offenses entail?

- A. Mandatory community service
- B. Compulsory attendance in educational programs
- C. Mandatory fines and penalties
- D. Increased insurance premiums only

3. What does the code 10-38MS refer to in Arizona Department of Public Safety codes?

- A. Misdemeanor warrant similarity
- B. Felony warrant
- C. Stolen vehicle
- D. Employee's residence

4. What situation is being monitored when Code 31 is called?

- A. Vehicle breakdown
- B. Possible armed suspect
- C. Passenger in a vehicle
- D. Employee welfare check

5. What does Code 964 refer to?

- A. Collision with minor injuries
- B. Collision with fatality
- C. Collision with unknown injuries
- D. Traffic stop

- 6. Which code refers to a collision involving a department employee or property?**
- A. Code 963
 - B. Code 964
 - C. Code 963A
 - D. Code 998
- 7. How does Arizona law define safe passing of cyclists?**
- A. By maintaining a close distance while passing
 - B. By ensuring at least 3 feet of distance when passing
 - C. By honking to alert the cyclist
 - D. By forcing the cyclist to the side of the road
- 8. In Arizona, what could lead to a vehicle being impounded during a traffic stop?**
- A. Having a loud exhaust system
 - B. Driving without a valid license
 - C. Using an expired fuel sticker
 - D. Not wearing a seatbelt
- 9. What is recommended when encountering a subject who is acting erratically?**
- A. Approach them closely
 - B. Call for backup
 - C. Use caution
 - D. Monitor from a distance
- 10. Which agency is primarily responsible for issuing traffic citations in Arizona?**
- A. The Department of Transportation
 - B. The Arizona Highway Patrol
 - C. The local police department
 - D. The Department of Motor Vehicles

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is one of the main responsibilities of the Arizona Highway Patrol?

- A. To manage toll booth operations
- B. To enforce traffic laws and ensure safe travel**
- C. To handle business registrations for vehicles
- D. To train emergency responders

One of the main responsibilities of the Arizona Highway Patrol is to enforce traffic laws and ensure safe travel on the highways and roadways across Arizona. This includes monitoring speed limits, checking for impaired driving, and responding to accidents. By actively enforcing traffic regulations, the Highway Patrol plays a critical role in promoting safe driving practices and reducing the occurrence of traffic-related incidents. This responsibility is fundamental to their mission of protecting the public and maintaining order on the streets, thereby contributing to overall roadway safety. The other options listed relate to functions that are not typically under the purview of the Highway Patrol. For example, managing toll booth operations is generally handled by transportation departments or agencies, while vehicle registrations are a function of motor vehicle departments. Additionally, training emergency responders often falls within the scope of emergency management or fire departments, rather than the Highway Patrol's direct responsibilities.

2. What does Arizona's "Surcharge Program" for DUI offenses entail?

- A. Mandatory community service
- B. Compulsory attendance in educational programs
- C. Mandatory fines and penalties**
- D. Increased insurance premiums only

Arizona's "Surcharge Program" for DUI offenses primarily revolves around the imposition of mandatory fines and penalties. This program is designed to raise funds for various state services while also serving as a deterrent for driving under the influence. When individuals are convicted of DUI, they face additional financial responsibilities beyond standard fines, which may include surcharges that contribute to the overall financial impact of the offense. This system emphasizes the importance of accountability for DUI offenses, reinforcing the idea that such behavior carries significant consequences. The monetary penalties involved are aimed not only at punishment but also at funding programs related to public safety and DUI prevention initiatives. In contrast, while community service and educational programs may be part of broader DUI sentencing options in Arizona, they are not the primary focus of the Surcharge Program itself. Increased insurance premiums generally result from a DUI conviction but are not a direct consequence mandated by the Surcharge Program. Thus, the core of the Surcharge Program centers on financial penalties rather than alternative measures or indirect results.

3. What does the code 10-38MS refer to in Arizona Department of Public Safety codes?

- A. Misdemeanor warrant similarity
- B. Felony warrant
- C. Stolen vehicle
- D. Employee's residence

The code 10-38MS, in the context of Arizona Department of Public Safety codes, specifically refers to "Misdemeanor warrant similarity." This designation is used by law enforcement to indicate that there is a warrant for a person's arrest that is classified as a misdemeanor, which often entails less severe penalties than felonies but still requires police attention. This code helps officers communicate effectively and efficiently when dealing with particular situations involving warrants, ensuring that resources are properly allocated. Understanding this code is essential for law enforcement officers as it provides clarity on the nature of the offenses they might be dealing with, thus aiding in proper enforcement of the law. In contrast, the other options reference different situations that are not encompassed by this specific code. A felony warrant would involve more severe criminal charges, while a stolen vehicle pertains to property crime, and an employee's residence is related to administrative or personal matters rather than legal actions. Each of these serves distinct purposes within law enforcement operations and are not applicable to the 10-38MS designation.

4. What situation is being monitored when Code 31 is called?

- A. Vehicle breakdown
- B. Possible armed suspect
- C. Passenger in a vehicle
- D. Employee welfare check

When Code 31 is called, it references a situation involving a possible armed suspect. This code is specifically used by law enforcement to alert other officers to a potentially dangerous scenario, allowing for a coordinated response to ensure the safety of both officers and the public. The emphasis on a "possible armed suspect" indicates the seriousness of the situation, as it involves immediate threats that can escalate quickly and requires vigilance and precaution in the response. This context elucidates the necessity for rapid communication and response measures among law enforcement, reinforcing the importance of situational awareness during encounters with individuals who may pose a threat due to the presence of a weapon. When this code is activated, it signifies that additional resources or backup may be required to handle the scenario effectively.

5. What does Code 964 refer to?

- A. Collision with minor injuries
- B. Collision with fatality
- C. Collision with unknown injuries
- D. Traffic stop

Code 964 refers specifically to a collision with unknown injuries. This terminology is utilized by law enforcement to indicate that, at the time of reporting the incident, the extent of injuries involved in the collision has not been assessed or communicated. It is vital for dispatch and responding officers to understand that while a collision has occurred, the situation regarding injuries might still be evolving or unclear. In contrast, other codes like those denoting minor injuries or fatalities provide more specific information about the severity of the injuries, which would be more definitive than the label of "unknown." By using Code 964, first responders are alerted to the need for further assessment upon arrival at the scene to determine the necessary medical response for individuals involved.

6. Which code refers to a collision involving a department employee or property?

- A. Code 963
- B. Code 964
- C. Code 963A**
- D. Code 998

The code that pertains to a collision involving a department employee or property is Code 963A. This particular code is specifically designated to address incidents where employees of the department are involved in a collision, ensuring that the appropriate procedures and responses are followed for such occurrences. The main aim of this code is to maintain accountability and ensure that all related information is recorded accurately, which is vital for both legal and administrative purposes. It provides a structured way to handle these sensitive situations, highlighting the department's commitment to safety and proper conduct. Other codes mentioned may refer to different types of incidents or situations that do not specifically involve department employees or property, making them unsuitable for this particular context.

7. How does Arizona law define safe passing of cyclists?

- A. By maintaining a close distance while passing
- B. By ensuring at least 3 feet of distance when passing**
- C. By honking to alert the cyclist
- D. By forcing the cyclist to the side of the road

Arizona law defines the safe passing of cyclists as requiring drivers to maintain a distance of at least 3 feet when passing. This regulation is designed to protect cyclists by ensuring they have enough space to operate safely on the road without the risk of being hit or coming into close contact with a vehicle. The 3-foot rule acknowledges the vulnerability of cyclists in traffic and aims to promote safer interactions between motor vehicles and bicycles. This standard is important as it helps to reduce the number of accidents and injuries involving cyclists, providing them with a buffer zone that accounts for the unpredictability of both road conditions and cyclist behavior. Adhering to this rule exemplifies a responsible driving practice and encourages a culture of safety on the roads, reflecting an understanding of the shared responsibility that both drivers and cyclists have when utilizing the roadways. Other choices do not meet the safety standards established in Arizona law. Maintaining a close distance while passing, for example, does not provide sufficient space for the cyclist and increases the risk of accidents. Honking to alert a cyclist does not guarantee safety and could even startle them. Forcing a cyclist to the side of the road is not only unfair but may also be illegal and dangerous, as it does not respect the cyclist's right to share

8. In Arizona, what could lead to a vehicle being impounded during a traffic stop?

- A. Having a loud exhaust system
- B. Driving without a valid license**
- C. Using an expired fuel sticker
- D. Not wearing a seatbelt

In Arizona, driving without a valid license is a serious violation that can lead to a vehicle being impounded during a traffic stop. The law requires that all drivers possess a valid driver's license while operating a vehicle. If a law enforcement officer stops a driver and finds that they lack a valid license, the vehicle may be impounded to prevent further operation of the vehicle by an unlicensed driver. This action is taken to ensure public safety, as unlicensed drivers may not have the necessary knowledge of traffic laws or the skills required to operate a vehicle safely. The other options, while they may be violations of traffic laws, do not typically result in vehicle impoundment. For instance, a loud exhaust system may incur fines but does not pose the same level of risk to public safety as unlicensed driving. Similarly, using an expired fuel sticker or not wearing a seatbelt may lead to citations but are generally addressed through fines rather than impoundment.

9. What is recommended when encountering a subject who is acting erratically?

- A. Approach them closely
- B. Call for backup
- C. Use caution**
- D. Monitor from a distance

When encountering a subject who is acting erratically, using caution is highly recommended as it prioritizes the safety of both the officer and the individual involved. Erratic behavior can often indicate that the person may be under the influence of substances, experiencing a mental health crisis, or behaving unpredictably due to various stressors. In such situations, a calm and cautious approach is important to assess the situation without escalating it. Using caution allows an officer to gauge the subject's behavior from a safe distance, stay alert for any signs of aggression, and prepare for a response without provoking the individual. It also provides time to consider the best course of action—whether to engage, wait for additional resources, or find a way to de-escalate the situation. The alternative options, while they may have valid contexts, do not emphasize the initial approach needed to ensure safety. Approaching closely could create a risk of confrontation. Calling for backup may be necessary but does not address the immediate need for caution. Monitoring from a distance can be prudent, but it lacks the proactive element of considering safety first, which is central to the recommended cautious approach.

10. Which agency is primarily responsible for issuing traffic citations in Arizona?

- A. The Department of Transportation
- B. The Arizona Highway Patrol**
- C. The local police department
- D. The Department of Motor Vehicles

The Arizona Highway Patrol is the agency primarily responsible for issuing traffic citations in Arizona. This agency, now part of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, has the jurisdiction and authority to enforce traffic laws on highways and other roadways throughout the state. They conduct traffic stops, investigate accidents, and ensure compliance with traffic regulations, which includes issuing citations for violations. The other entities mentioned have different roles. The Department of Transportation primarily oversees the state's roadways, traffic systems, and public transportation but does not handle law enforcement or citation issuance. Local police departments may issue traffic citations within their jurisdictions, but they are not the primary agency for statewide traffic law enforcement. The Department of Motor Vehicles focuses on vehicle registration, licensing, and related administrative tasks rather than active law enforcement. Therefore, the Arizona Highway Patrol is the correct and central body for enforcing traffic laws and issuing citations.

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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:

<https://arizonadpscodes.examzify.com>

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

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