

Arizona State University (ASU) CRJ100 Introduction to Criminal Justice Exam 1 Practice (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

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- 1. In relation to sentencing, what do guidelines typically aim to establish?**
 - A. Maximum sentences for all crimes**
 - B. Variable punishments based on individual circumstances**
 - C. Consistent frameworks for different offenses**
 - D. How to reduce judicial discretion**
- 2. In the context of the Six Concepts of Law, what does "discretion" refer to?**
 - A. The ability to choose without influence**
 - B. The freedom to legislate**
 - C. The authority to interpret law**
 - D. The variability in legal outcomes**
- 3. Why might crime data reports differ from actual crime occurrences?**
 - A. Because criminals often confess to their crimes**
 - B. Due to the dark figure of crime that represents unreported offenses**
 - C. Because statistics can be manipulated for political reasons**
 - D. Due to variations in law enforcement technology**
- 4. Which term describes offenses that are considered inherently wrong?**
 - A. Mala prohibita**
 - B. Misdemeanors**
 - C. Mala in se**
 - D. Felonies**
- 5. The fact that the International Association of Chiefs of Police has generated ethical guidelines for the police use of deadly force most directly supports the view that criminal justice is a(n):**
 - A. Profession**
 - B. Industry**
 - C. System**
 - D. Service**

6. Victimology is the study of:

- A. The principles of legal justice**
- B. How individuals become victims of crime**
- C. The effects of crime on community safety**
- D. The motivations behind criminal behavior**

7. Passing a law making it illegal to smoke in public would create a?

- A. Malum in se crime**
- B. Malum prohibitum crime**
- C. Felony**
- D. Misdemeanor**

8. Which approach would likely reject the notion of absolute legal principles?

- A. Legal positivism**
- B. Natural law theory**
- C. Critical legal studies**
- D. Sociological jurisprudence**

9. What are paradigms in the context of philosophical decision making?

- A. Societal rules**
- B. Philosophical frameworks**
- C. Scientific theories**
- D. Legal statutes**

10. Which theory asserts that there are universally accepted principles of human behavior applicable to all individuals?

- A. Legal Paternalism**
- B. Natural Law**
- C. Legal Realism**
- D. Legal Positivism**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In relation to sentencing, what do guidelines typically aim to establish?

- A. Maximum sentences for all crimes**
- B. Variable punishments based on individual circumstances**
- C. Consistent frameworks for different offenses**
- D. How to reduce judicial discretion**

Sentencing guidelines are designed to create a consistent framework for sentencing decisions across various offenses. This framework helps ensure that similar offenses receive similar punishments, which promotes fairness and equity in the criminal justice system. By providing a structured approach to sentencing, guidelines aim to reduce disparities that can arise from individual judges' interpretations and decisions. This consistency is crucial for maintaining public confidence in the legal system, as it ensures that offenders are treated equally based on the specifics of their crimes rather than varying personal biases or emotions from different judges. While maximum sentences are a component of the legal framework, and judicial discretion can be limited by these guidelines, the primary purpose is not to reduce discretion outright or to impose variable punishments without a standard basis. The focus on establishing a consistent approach helps streamline the process of sentencing and aligns with broader goals of justice and rehabilitation.

2. In the context of the Six Concepts of Law, what does "discretion" refer to?

- A. The ability to choose without influence**
- B. The freedom to legislate**
- C. The authority to interpret law**
- D. The variability in legal outcomes**

Discretion in the context of the Six Concepts of Law refers to the ability to choose without influence, which encompasses the power of legal authorities, such as police officers, judges, and prosecutors, to make decisions based on their judgment in specific situations. This concept highlights how individuals in the criminal justice system have the flexibility to decide how to act in given circumstances, allowing for a range of possible actions and outcomes rather than rigidly adhering to strict rules or statutes. For instance, a law enforcement officer might exercise discretion when deciding whether to issue a warning or make an arrest for a minor offense, taking into account the context and specifics of the situation. Likewise, judges often use discretion in sentencing, weighing various factors such as the nature of the crime, the defendant's history, and the intent behind the act. This flexibility is crucial for the application of justice, as it acknowledges the complexities of human behavior and the unique circumstances of each case.

3. Why might crime data reports differ from actual crime occurrences?

- A. Because criminals often confess to their crimes**
- B. Due to the dark figure of crime that represents unreported offenses**
- C. Because statistics can be manipulated for political reasons**
- D. Due to variations in law enforcement technology**

The correct choice highlights the concept of the "dark figure of crime," which refers to crimes that are not reported to law enforcement and, therefore, do not appear in official crime statistics. This phenomenon occurs for various reasons, including victims' fear of retaliation, lack of trust in authorities, or not recognizing an incident as a crime. Consequently, the dark figure of crime contributes to discrepancies between reported crime data and the actual incidence of crime in society. This underlying issue is critical in criminology as it emphasizes that official statistics may paint an incomplete picture of crime trends and the overall public safety landscape. Other options may touch on different aspects of crime reporting and statistics but do not accurately capture the significant reasons underlying the disparity between reported data and actual crime occurrences. For example, while criminals may confess to some crimes, this is not a widespread reason for discrepancies in overall crime data. Similarly, although statistics can be manipulated, the dark figure of crime more fundamentally illustrates the gap between what occurs and what is reported. Variations in law enforcement technology can influence reporting practices but do not directly explain the core issue of unreported offenses that the dark figure of crime encapsulates.

4. Which term describes offenses that are considered inherently wrong?

- A. Mala prohibita**
- B. Misdemeanors**
- C. Mala in se**
- D. Felonies**

The term that describes offenses considered inherently wrong is mala in se. This phrase, derived from Latin, translates to "wrong in itself." These crimes are seen as universally immoral and harmful, regardless of laws or cultural contexts. Examples of mala in se offenses include murder, rape, and theft, which are generally condemned by all societies due to their fundamental violation of ethical standards. In contrast, mala prohibita are offenses that are not inherently evil but are prohibited by law, such as jaywalking or not having a business license. Misdemeanors and felonies refer to classifications of crimes based on their severity, with misdemeanors being less severe and typically punishable by fines or short jail terms, while felonies are more serious and can lead to longer prison sentences. These classifications do not necessarily indicate the moral nature of the offenses, which is why mala in se is the correct term for inherently wrong actions.

5. The fact that the International Association of Chiefs of Police has generated ethical guidelines for the police use of deadly force most directly supports the view that criminal justice is a(n):

A. Profession

B. Industry

C. System

D. Service

The correct answer reflects the idea that the existence of ethical guidelines for police conduct, specifically in the context of using deadly force, underscores the characteristics of a profession. A profession is typically defined by its adherence to established ethical standards, a commitment to ongoing training, and a duty to serve the public good while upholding a higher level of accountability. The International Association of Chiefs of Police developing ethical guidelines indicates that law enforcement personnel are expected to uphold specific standards that govern their actions. This is indicative of a professional practice that goes beyond mere job functions; it involves a moral obligation to act ethically and responsibly in complex and often life-threatening situations. The emphasis on ethics in policing demonstrates that law enforcement is not merely a job but a profession rooted in principles that protect both officer conduct and community trust. While the other options provided—industry, system, and service—can describe aspects of criminal justice, they do not capture the unique essence of what makes policing a profession. An industry suggests a focus on economic factors and the production of goods or services, a system connotes the structural organization and interworking of criminal justice agencies, and a service highlights the act of assisting or providing for the public. However, these terms lack the explicit emphasis on ethical standards and professional conduct.

6. Victimology is the study of:

A. The principles of legal justice

B. How individuals become victims of crime

C. The effects of crime on community safety

D. The motivations behind criminal behavior

Victimology focuses specifically on understanding how individuals become victims of crime. This field examines the relationships between victims and offenders, the societal response to victims, and the patterns and factors that contribute to victimization. It encompasses various aspects, including the characteristics of victims, the context of victimization, and the impact of crime on the victims' lives. By studying victimology, researchers can identify risk factors associated with victimization, apply this knowledge to prevention efforts, and enhance support systems for victims. The other options touch on relevant areas within the broader criminal justice field but do not accurately capture the essence of victimology. Legal justice principles relate more to the legal system's functioning, community safety concerns address crime's impact on society at large, and motivations behind criminal behavior pertain to criminology rather than victimization. Thus, recognizing that victimology centers on individuals' experiences and circumstances leading to their victimization clarifies why the choice referring to how individuals become victims is the most accurate.

7. Passing a law making it illegal to smoke in public would create a?

- A. Malum in se crime**
- B. Malum prohibitum crime**
- C. Felony**
- D. Misdemeanor**

The correct choice is based on the classification of crimes. A malum prohibitum crime refers to actions that are considered wrong not because they are intrinsically evil, but because they are prohibited by law. In this scenario, passing a law against smoking in public establishes a legal framework where smoking in that context is not inherently harmful or immoral, but is deemed unacceptable due to societal and health considerations defined by legislation. This concept is important in understanding how laws adapt to reflect changing social norms and values. Unlike malum in se crimes, which are universally recognized as wrong (like murder or theft), a malum prohibitum crime is contingent on the laws of a specific jurisdiction or society. Thus, smoking in public does not violate an inherent moral command but violates a statute put in place to protect public health or welfare. This distinction is crucial in criminal justice studies as it highlights how laws can evolve and the various motivations behind legal prohibitions.

8. Which approach would likely reject the notion of absolute legal principles?

- A. Legal positivism**
- B. Natural law theory**
- C. Critical legal studies**
- D. Sociological jurisprudence**

The approach that rejects the notion of absolute legal principles is rooted in the belief that law is not universally fixed and is instead shaped by social, economic, and political contexts. Critical legal studies challenge traditional legal doctrines by asserting that law is inherently indeterminate and that its application can vary greatly depending on the circumstances surrounding it. This perspective emphasizes that legal outcomes are deeply influenced by the biases and perspectives of those who interpret and enforce the law, suggesting that what is considered "just" or "fair" is subjective rather than absolute. In contrast, legal positivism emphasizes the separation of law and morality, viewing laws as rules created by humans and not necessarily tied to moral principles. Natural law theory posits that certain moral principles underpin legal systems, implying a form of absolutism. Sociological jurisprudence focuses on the relationship between law and society but does not inherently reject the idea of absolute principles; instead, it studies law as it functions in the social context. Thus, critical legal studies stand out for its specific assertion that there are no inherently absolute legal principles, aligning closely with the question's intent.

9. What are paradigms in the context of philosophical decision making?

- A. Societal rules
- B. Philosophical frameworks**
- C. Scientific theories
- D. Legal statutes

In the context of philosophical decision making, paradigms refer to philosophical frameworks that shape our understanding and approach to complex issues. These frameworks serve as foundational structures through which individuals or groups interpret experiences, beliefs, and knowledge. They influence the methodologies, values, and reasoning processes used when making decisions about ethics, morality, and the nature of reality. Philosophical paradigms help provide context for inquiries and debates, guiding how individuals frame problems and consider different perspectives. They offer a lens through which various theories and ideas can be assessed and understood, fundamentally impacting how philosophical discussions unfold. Other concepts, such as societal rules, scientific theories, and legal statutes, do provide various forms of guidance in decision making but operate within different contexts. Societal rules are contingent upon cultural norms, scientific theories rely on empirical evidence and experimentation, while legal statutes pertain specifically to the governance and regulation of behavior within a society. In contrast, philosophical frameworks invite deeper contemplation and analysis of principles that can transcend empirical or legal boundaries.

10. Which theory asserts that there are universally accepted principles of human behavior applicable to all individuals?

- A. Legal Paternalism
- B. Natural Law**
- C. Legal Realism
- D. Legal Positivism

The theory that asserts there are universally accepted principles of human behavior applicable to all individuals is Natural Law. This philosophical concept posits that certain rights and moral values are inherent to human beings and discoverable through reason, rather than being contingent upon legislation or social norms. Natural Law holds that these principles are universally applicable, meaning they should be recognized and upheld across all societies and cultures. In contrast, Legal Paternalism focuses on the justification for restricting individual freedoms for their own well-being, rather than asserting universally accepted moral principles. Legal Realism emphasizes the importance of the actual practices and decisions of the courts, suggesting that law is not just a set of written rules but can also be influenced by social, economic, and contextual factors. Legal Positivism asserts that law is based on social facts and is separate from morality, meaning that its applicability does not necessarily rely on universal moral standards. Thus, while these theories contribute significantly to legal philosophy, it is Natural Law that directly connects to universally accepted human behavioral principles.

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://asu-crj100exam1.examzify.com>

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

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