

Community Policing 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

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- 1. A police officer in Community Services like a S.R.O. works generally in this zone?**
 - A. Green**
 - B. Blue**
 - C. Red**
 - D. Yellow**

- 2. In the Assessment stage of SARA, what happens?**
 - A. Gather feedback from stakeholders after actions**
 - B. Identify ongoing symptoms of the problem**
 - C. Implement patrols in targeted areas**
 - D. Police and community measure the result of the problem solving response**

- 3. What are the four steps of Victim Offender Mediation (VOM)?**
 - A. Intake / Preparation / Mediation session / Post session**
 - B. Referral / Intake / Mediation / Follow-up**
 - C. Screening / Planning / Mediation / Closure**
 - D. Referral / Preparation / Mediation / Evaluation**

- 4. Which statement is NOT among the ten trends in policing?**
 - A. Collaboration between police and community organizations**
 - B. Use of drones in routine patrols**
 - C. Reduction of overall numbers of police officers**
 - D. Increased private security**

- 5. Which of the following is NOT part of the 3 P's in policing?**
 - A. Prevention**
 - B. Problem solving**
 - C. Proactive patrol**
 - D. Partnership**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT one of the 3 R's of policing?**
- A. Rapid response**
 - B. Reactive investigation**
 - C. Random patrol**
 - D. Community engagement**
- 7. In schools, what is a recommended role for police officers?**
- A. Monitor from a distance without involvement**
 - B. Become a positive member of the school community**
 - C. Enforce zero tolerance by expulsion**
 - D. Conduct raids**
- 8. To avoid negativity, how should officers interact with students?**
- A. Interact only during emergencies**
 - B. Interact with students not just in a negative way**
 - C. Avoid student interactions**
 - D. Interact only to issue warnings**
- 9. In the SARA model, which stage involves determining the cause and impact of the problem?**
- A. Scanning**
 - B. Analysis**
 - C. Response**
 - D. Assessment**
- 10. Which element focuses on reducing unfounded fears of victimization?**
- A. Generalists rather than specialists**
 - B. Reduce unfounded fears of victimization**
 - C. Information managers**
 - D. Interagency cooperation**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. A police officer in Community Services like a S.R.O. works generally in this zone?

- A. Green**
- B. Blue**
- C. Red**
- D. Yellow**

In community policing, different colors are used to represent different policing postures or environments. A School Resource Officer (SRO) operates in a Green zone, which indicates a focus on prevention, relationship-building, and collaborative problem-solving within the community setting. This means engaging with students, teachers, and parents, delivering safety education, addressing non-criminal concerns like bullying, and coordinating with school staff on safety planning. The Green zone best fits the SRO's typical role of proactive support and partnership rather than reacting to emergencies or enforcing in a purely punitive way. The other colors generally map to more reactive or cautionary roles that don't capture the SRO's everyday emphasis on prevention and community engagement.

2. In the Assessment stage of SARA, what happens?

- A. Gather feedback from stakeholders after actions**
- B. Identify ongoing symptoms of the problem**
- C. Implement patrols in targeted areas**
- D. Police and community measure the result of the problem solving response**

In the Assessment stage, the emphasis is on measuring what happened as a result of the problem-solving effort, with input from both police and the community. The idea is to determine whether the response actually reduced the problem, met its objectives, and produced desired outcomes. This involves collecting and analyzing data—such as crime or nuisance indicators, calls for service, and perceptions of the problem—to see if conditions improved and to decide whether to continue, adjust, or stop the approach. This is why measuring the results is the best choice. The other options map to different parts of the process: implementing patrols in targeted areas belongs to the Response stage, identifying ongoing symptoms of the problem belongs to the Analysis stage, and gathering feedback from stakeholders after actions can occur but is not the central task of Assessment, which is about evaluating outcomes and effectiveness.

3. What are the four steps of Victim Offender Mediation (VOM)?

- A. Intake / Preparation / Mediation session / Post session**
- B. Referral / Intake / Mediation / Follow-up**
- C. Screening / Planning / Mediation / Closure**
- D. Referral / Preparation / Mediation / Evaluation**

Victim Offender Mediation follows a logical flow that prepares everyone, enables the actual dialogue, and ensures the outcomes are supported afterward. The four steps are intake, preparation, the mediation session, and post-session follow-up. Intake gathers essential information, confirms eligibility and consent, explains the process, and sets initial expectations and boundaries. Preparation then gets everyone ready for the meeting: clarifying goals, reviewing safety considerations, establishing ground rules, and coordinating logistics so the mediation can proceed smoothly. The mediation session is the core meeting where the victim expresses the harm they experienced, the offender takes responsibility, and a restorative plan—such as accountability or restitution—begins to take shape. Post-session follow-up focuses on what was agreed, ensuring it is implemented, offering needed resources, and checking on outcomes to support long-term resolution. The other options mix elements like referral, screening, planning, closure, or evaluation, which are not the standard four-step sequence used in VOM. The emphasis here is on the concrete progression from initial contact through preparation and the actual meeting to ongoing follow-up.

4. Which statement is NOT among the ten trends in policing?

- A. Collaboration between police and community organizations**
- B. Use of drones in routine patrols**
- C. Reduction of overall numbers of police officers**
- D. Increased private security**

The idea being tested is which developments are widely recognized as ongoing directions in policing. Among the common trends, collaboration with community organizations, expanding roles for private security to support public policing, and rethinking staffing levels to reduce sworn officer numbers are all consistent with broad shifts toward partnership, diversified security layers, and alternative response models. The statement about using drones in routine patrols does not fit that broad pattern. Drones appear in many departments as a useful tool in specific operations—such as search-and-rescue, large-scale incident response, or specialized investigations—but they are not typically described as a widespread, strategic trend for routine patrols. Issues like cost, training, maintenance, governance, privacy, and regulatory constraints limit their adoption as a standard, day-to-day patrol method. In contrast, the other items reflect systemic shifts in how policing is organized and delivered, which is why they are considered trends, while routine drone patrols are more of a tactical capability than a broad trend.

5. Which of the following is NOT part of the 3 P's in policing?

- A. Prevention**
- B. Problem solving**
- C. Proactive patrol**
- D. Partnership**

In community policing, the three Ps are Prevention, Problem solving, and Partnerships. Prevention focuses on reducing crime opportunities before they happen. Problem solving means analyzing recurring problems to uncover and address their underlying causes, often using a structured approach like SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment). Partnerships involve building strong, collaborative relationships with the community, businesses, and other agencies to share information and resources. Proactive patrol, while a common policing tactic used to deter crime through visibility and presence, isn't one of the three core elements. It supports prevention and other efforts, but it isn't itself one of the three Ps, which is why it's the option that doesn't fit.

6. Which of the following is NOT one of the 3 R's of policing?

- A. Rapid response**
- B. Reactive investigation**
- C. Random patrol**
- D. Community engagement**

The question tests your understanding of what the 3 Rs in policing refer to. Those three actions describe how officers respond to incidents: rapidly arriving at scenes to provide help or arrest, conducting investigations after an incident to determine what happened and identify perpetrators, and patrolling in a way that keeps the presence unpredictable to deter crime. Community engagement, while essential in modern policing for building trust and solving problems with residents, is not one of these incident-response actions. It's a broader practice focused on relationships and collaboration rather than a specific response to a single incident. That's why it's not part of the 3 Rs.

7. In schools, what is a recommended role for police officers?

- A. Monitor from a distance without involvement**
- B. Become a positive member of the school community**
- C. Enforce zero tolerance by expulsion**
- D. Conduct raids**

Building trust and positive relationships between police and students is central to effective school policing. When an officer participates as a visible, supportive member of the school community, they help create a safe environment by being approachable, listening to student and staff concerns, and working with teachers, counselors, and families to address problems before they escalate. This collaborative, preventive approach is a hallmark of community policing: it focuses on problem-solving, partnerships, and mentoring to keep students from getting involved in trouble and to connect them with needed resources. Choosing to monitor from a distance misses the chance to build trust and open lines of communication. A heavy-handed zero tolerance stance that emphasizes expulsions can undermine safety by pushing issues out of the school rather than resolving underlying causes. Conducting raids is disruptive and inappropriate in a school setting, harming the learning environment and eroding trust. By contrast, officers who are a positive part of the school community help students feel safe, supported, and more willing to seek help when problems arise, which is the best path to lasting safety and success.

8. To avoid negativity, how should officers interact with students?

- A. Interact only during emergencies**
- B. Interact with students not just in a negative way**
- C. Avoid student interactions**
- D. Interact only to issue warnings**

Building trust through positive, everyday contact with students is the approach that best reduces negativity. When officers engage in respectful, approachable conversations, listen, and offer help in nonconfrontational settings, policing shifts from a purely enforcement role to a partnership for safety and wellbeing. This proactive, positive engagement lowers fear, enhances perceived legitimacy, and increases students' willingness to cooperate and seek guidance in the future. Interacting only during emergencies, avoiding interactions, or speaking only to issue warnings sends a punitive, reactive message that can heighten distrust. So, the strongest approach is to interact with students in a positive, non-enforcement way rather than limiting contact to negative moments.

9. In the SARA model, which stage involves determining the cause and impact of the problem?

A. Scanning

B. Analysis

C. Response

D. Assessment

The stage focused on uncovering why a problem happens and how it affects the community is the Analysis phase. This step involves collecting and examining data, looking for patterns, and identifying root causes and contributing factors, as well as the extent or impact of the problem. Understanding these elements helps shape targeted, effective interventions. Think of it this way: Scanning is about spotting and defining the problem and prioritizing it for action. The Analysis phase then digs into the reasons behind the problem and who or what is affected, so you can design a strategy that addresses the real causes. After that, the Response phase puts the chosen interventions into action, and Assessment measures their effectiveness to determine what worked and what didn't.

10. Which element focuses on reducing unfounded fears of victimization?

A. Generalists rather than specialists

B. Reduce unfounded fears of victimization

C. Information managers

D. Interagency cooperation

Reducing unfounded fears of victimization is about addressing how people perceive safety in their community, not just the actual crime rate. In community policing, helping residents feel secure is as important as reducing crime itself, because fear can shape behavior—people may avoid certain areas, events, or activities even when the risk is low. The best answer directly identifies this focus: it emphasizes reassurance, accurate information, and transparent communication to counter rumor and overestimation of danger. While the other options describe roles, management of information, or collaboration—these are important supports, they don't single out the perception-based aim of fear reduction.

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://communitypolicing.examzify.com>

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

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