

Court Reporter Practice Exam (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. What does it mean to impeach a witness?**
 - A. To interrupt the witness during testimony**
 - B. To show that a witness has lied in the past**
 - C. To praise a witness for their honesty**
 - D. To question the competency of the witness**
- 2. Who appoints the CRCB?**
 - A. Legal advisory board**
 - B. Governor of Texas**
 - C. Texas Supreme Court**
 - D. State Legislature**
- 3. When are objections based on evidence being incompetent typically raised?**
 - A. At the beginning of the trial**
 - B. Before witness testimony begins**
 - C. When the evidence is being presented**
 - D. After the trial concludes**
- 4. Which document would most likely include the term 'femme sole'?**
 - A. Marriage certificate**
 - B. Legal corpus**
 - C. Wills and Testaments**
 - D. Adoption papers**
- 5. What does the abbreviation EBT stand for in legal contexts?**
 - A. Examination Before Trial**
 - B. Evidentiary Before Trial**
 - C. Examination Briefing Testimony**
 - D. Evidence Before Testimony**

- 6. What does a court reporter do with exhibits at the end of proceedings?**
- A. Store them in a personal archive**
 - B. File them with the court clerk**
 - C. Return them to the attorney**
 - D. Destroy them after the case**
- 7. When can court reporters go off the record?**
- A. At any time during the trial**
 - B. Only when the judge permits it**
 - C. When both attorneys agree**
 - D. Once per session**
- 8. What distinguishes "common law" from statutory law?**
- A. Common law is based on judicial precedents**
 - B. Statutory law does not require evidence**
 - C. Common law is established by state legislatures**
 - D. Statutory law is based on historical cases**
- 9. In legal terminology, what does "jurat" primarily signify?**
- A. The signing of a contract**
 - B. A witness's statement under oath**
 - C. The act of swearing an affidavit**
 - D. The formal closing of a case**
- 10. What type of understanding does empathy involve?**
- A. Critical analysis of behavior**
 - B. Comprehensive legal understanding**
 - C. Compassionate understanding**
 - D. Quick judgement**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does it mean to impeach a witness?

- A. To interrupt the witness during testimony**
- B. To show that a witness has lied in the past**
- C. To praise a witness for their honesty**
- D. To question the competency of the witness**

Impeaching a witness involves demonstrating that the witness has previously lied or provided false information, which undermines their credibility in the current case. This process is essential in legal proceedings as it allows attorneys to challenge the reliability and truthfulness of the witness's testimony. By introducing evidence of prior dishonesty, the attorney aims to cast doubt on the witness's reliability, making the testimony less persuasive to the judge or jury. The act of impeachment can involve a variety of techniques, such as presenting prior inconsistent statements made by the witness or bringing in evidence that contradicts the witness's testimony. This is a crucial skill in court as the strength of a case can often hinge on the credibility of the witnesses involved.

2. Who appoints the CRCB?

- A. Legal advisory board**
- B. Governor of Texas**
- C. Texas Supreme Court**
- D. State Legislature**

The correct answer, which identifies the Texas Supreme Court as the appointing authority for the Court Reporters Certification Board (CRCB), is significant in understanding the administrative structure governing court reporting in Texas. The Texas Supreme Court plays a key role in overseeing and regulating the judicial system, including the certification of court reporters. By designating the Supreme Court as the appointing body, it ensures that a respected and authoritative entity, well-acquainted with legal and procedural standards, is responsible for maintaining the quality and professionalism of court reporters in the state. The Supreme Court's involvement also underscores the importance of adhering to legal standards and promoting competence among court reporters, which reflects on the integrity of the judicial process itself. This relationship between the Supreme Court and the CRCB helps to maintain high standards for certification and conduct in the field of court reporting, ultimately benefiting the legal system and its participants.

3. When are objections based on evidence being incompetent typically raised?

- A. At the beginning of the trial**
- B. Before witness testimony begins**
- C. When the evidence is being presented**
- D. After the trial concludes**

Objections based on evidence being incompetent are typically raised when the evidence is being presented. This timing is crucial as it allows the party opposing the evidence to contest its admissibility and relevance in the moment. By raising the objection during the presentation, the judge can immediately assess the validity of the evidence and decide whether it should be allowed to continue or be excluded from consideration. This practice ensures the trial proceeds fairly and according to legal standards, allowing for real-time management of the evidence being put forth. Raising objections at other stages, such as at the beginning of the trial or before witness testimony begins, might not effectively address specific pieces of evidence that could arise later in the proceedings. Similarly, waiting until after the trial concludes would be impractical because it wouldn't influence the outcome of the trial as no immediate remedy can be provided. Thus, addressing these objections "when the evidence is being presented" is not only standard practice but also essential for preserving the integrity of the judicial process.

4. Which document would most likely include the term 'femme sole'?

- A. Marriage certificate**
- B. Legal corpus**
- C. Wills and Testaments**
- D. Adoption papers**

The term 'femme sole' historically refers to a woman who is unmarried and operates independently, particularly in legal terms or the context of property ownership. This legal terminology stems from historical legal practices surrounding women's rights and status before the introduction of modern legal reforms. A legal corpus would most likely include the term 'femme sole' because it encompasses legal doctrines, statutes, and case law that define and interpret various legal concepts, including the status of women in relation to property and legal rights. The term is often used in discussions about women's autonomy in a legal context, which would align well with a comprehensive legal collection or corpus. In contrast, a marriage certificate generally pertains to the formal union of two individuals and would not utilize the term in its documentation. Wills and testaments focus on the distribution of property after death and may not use 'femme sole' explicitly in modern contexts. Adoption papers typically address parental rights and the legal aspect of adopting a child, which also would not involve the specific historical context of 'femme sole'. Thus, a legal corpus, focusing on the broader aspects of law and individual legal status, is the most appropriate context for the term.

5. What does the abbreviation EBT stand for in legal contexts?

- A. Examination Before Trial**
- B. Evidentiary Before Trial**
- C. Examination Briefing Testimony**
- D. Evidence Before Testimony**

In legal contexts, the abbreviation EBT stands for "Examination Before Trial." This term refers to a pre-trial procedure during which a witness provides sworn testimony that can be used to gather information, assess the strength of a case, and prepare for trial. The EBT is crucial as it allows attorneys to understand the facts and gather evidence from the witness's perspective before the formal trial starts, which helps them strategize accordingly. The other options provided do not accurately describe this legal concept. "Evidentiary Before Trial" focuses on evidence but lacks the specific procedural context of an examination. "Examination Briefing Testimony" and "Evidence Before Testimony" do not align with standard legal terminology and misinterpret the function of the examination process before a trial. Thus, "Examination Before Trial" is the established and widely recognized definition of EBT in legal settings.

6. What does a court reporter do with exhibits at the end of proceedings?

- A. Store them in a personal archive**
- B. File them with the court clerk**
- C. Return them to the attorney**
- D. Destroy them after the case**

A court reporter has the responsibility of ensuring that all exhibits presented during a legal proceeding are properly documented and handled in accordance with legal procedures. At the end of the proceedings, the correct action is to file the exhibits with the court clerk. This practice maintains the integrity of the court records, as exhibits may be critical for future reference in the case, potential appeals, or other legal matters. Filing with the court clerk ensures that these important pieces of evidence are preserved in a secure and organized manner, following legal protocols. Moreover, the other options do not conform to the standard practices for handling exhibits in a courtroom setting. Storing exhibits in a personal archive would compromise their legality and accessibility. Returning them to the attorney may not be appropriate if the exhibits are meant to be part of the official court record. Destroying them after the case would not be permissible, as exhibits may need to be reviewed later in connection with the proceedings, particularly if the case is subject to appeal. Thus, filing them with the court clerk is the necessary and correct procedure.

7. When can court reporters go off the record?

- A. At any time during the trial
- B. Only when the judge permits it
- C. When both attorneys agree**
- D. Once per session

Court reporters have the authority to go off the record primarily when both attorneys agree. This ensures that all parties involved in the legal proceedings are on the same page and collectively consent to temporarily halt the official record. It is a collaborative decision that maintains the integrity of the legal process and respects the roles of both the judge and the attorneys present. In many cases, going off the record might involve discussions or negotiations that are not relevant to the official transcript, and having the agreement of both attorneys safeguards the transparency and fairness of the proceedings. The role of the court reporter is to capture an accurate record of the trial, so it is essential that any off-the-record conversations are mutually endorsed to preserve the legal framework. The other options either misrepresent the procedure or imply conditions that are not standard practice. For example, while it may seem feasible for court reporters to go off the record at any time, doing so without the consent of both attorneys may lead to confusion or potential disputes regarding the accuracy of the official record. Similarly, suggesting that a judge permits this action implies a requirement that is not necessarily aligned with general practice, as consent from attorneys supersedes the need for a judge's specific permission for this situation. Lastly, the characterization of going off the record as being

8. What distinguishes "common law" from statutory law?

- A. Common law is based on judicial precedents**
- B. Statutory law does not require evidence
- C. Common law is established by state legislatures
- D. Statutory law is based on historical cases

The distinction between common law and statutory law is fundamentally rooted in the sources from which each derives its authority. Common law is based on judicial precedents, which means it evolves from the decisions made by courts over time. These judicial rulings create a body of law that guides future cases with similar circumstances, helping ensure consistency and predictability in legal outcomes. Judges interpret laws and their rulings become part of the legal framework, forming a basis for further decisions. This reliance on historical judicial decisions signifies the importance of judicial interpretation in shaping the law as society changes. In contrast, statutory law is created by legislative bodies, such as state legislatures or Congress, which enact statutes intended to address specific issues or needs within society. This means that while common law is more fluid and evolves through court rulings, statutory law is established through formal legislative processes. Thus, the reliance on judicial precedents is what distinctly characterizes common law, making this the correct choice.

9. In legal terminology, what does "jurat" primarily signify?

- A. The signing of a contract**
- B. A witness's statement under oath**
- C. The act of swearing an affidavit**
- D. The formal closing of a case**

The term "jurat" specifically refers to the part of an affidavit where the individual swears to the truthfulness of the contents before an authorized official, such as a notary. This act serves to add credibility to the affidavit, ensuring that the information provided is both genuine and verifiable. It typically includes a statement about when and where the oath was taken, along with the signature of the affiant. While the other options touch on legal concepts, they do not capture the precise definition of "jurat." For example, signing a contract does not inherently involve an oath, and a witness's statement, while related to legal testimony, isn't synonymous with the concept of a jurat. The formal closing of a case does not have any direct connection to the procedure of a jurat either. The central focus of "jurat" lies specifically in the act of swearing an affidavit, which confirms the truth of the statements made within that legal document.

10. What type of understanding does empathy involve?

- A. Critical analysis of behavior**
- B. Comprehensive legal understanding**
- C. Compassionate understanding**
- D. Quick judgement**

Empathy involves a compassionate understanding of others' feelings, emotions, and experiences. It allows individuals to connect on a personal level, going beyond just recognizing someone's emotional state. This understanding entails putting oneself in another person's shoes, which fosters stronger interpersonal relationships and effective communication, particularly in legal settings where understanding a client's or a witness's emotional context can be crucial. Unlike critical analysis of behavior, which focuses on assessing actions and motivations analytically, empathy seeks to grasp the underlying emotions without the intent of judgment or criticism. While comprehensive legal understanding is vital for court reporters, it does not encapsulate the emotional connection that empathy provides. Moreover, quick judgment reflects a tendency to form opinions rapidly without deep consideration, which can impede genuine understanding and connection. Therefore, compassionate understanding is at the heart of empathy and is essential for effective interaction in various personal and professional contexts.

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://courtreporter.examzify.com>

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