

Crime Scene Follow Up Investigations Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. When collecting evidence, which protective gear is essential for the collector?**
 - A. Gloves, boots, jackets, hats**
 - B. Booties, facemasks, goggles, aprons**
 - C. Jackets, gloves, aprons, masks**
 - D. Face shields, helmets, gloves, booties**
- 2. What is one key factor when comparing different crime scenes?**
 - A. Community feedback**
 - B. Day of occurrences**
 - C. Officer response time**
 - D. Witness reliability**
- 3. Developing an unknown suspect typically requires a _____ approaching solution.**
 - A. Unique approach**
 - B. Team approach**
 - C. Solo effort**
 - D. Traditional method**
- 4. If a defense attorney draws conclusions based on assumptions, how should a witness respond?**
 - A. By agreeing with their conclusions**
 - B. By correcting inaccuracies**
 - C. By avoiding answering any questions**
 - D. By remaining silent**
- 5. Which category of evidence is considered indirect but can still support facts in a case?**
 - A. Circumstantial evidence**
 - B. Documentary evidence**
 - C. Physical evidence**
 - D. Testimonial evidence**

- 6. What is the first step that should be taken when documenting a crime scene?**
- A. Interview witnesses**
 - B. Establish a perimeter**
 - C. Photographing the scene**
 - D. Collecting evidence**
- 7. In legal terms, evidence is described as what in relation to proof?**
- A. Evidence is proof**
 - B. Evidence supports proof**
 - C. Evidence cannot be proof**
 - D. Evidence and proof are unrelated**
- 8. What information should be recorded before photographing or sketching a crime scene?**
- A. Witness accounts and statements**
 - B. Case number, location, date and time, officer's name**
 - C. Type of weapon used and suspect description**
 - D. Location of physical evidence and suspect's actions**
- 9. What should be carefully documented during a lineup?**
- A. Photographic evidence**
 - B. Comments and non-verbal communication/action**
 - C. Witness location**
 - D. Timeline of events**
- 10. What should never be promised to a confidential source?**
- A. Freedom**
 - B. Rewards**
 - C. Testimony**
 - D. Confidentiality**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. When collecting evidence, which protective gear is essential for the collector?

- A. Gloves, boots, jackets, hats**
- B. Booties, facemasks, goggles, aprons**
- C. Jackets, gloves, aprons, masks**
- D. Face shields, helmets, gloves, booties**

When collecting evidence at a crime scene, the use of protective gear is crucial to ensure the safety of the collector and to maintain the integrity of the evidence. The collection and handling of physical evidence can expose individuals to various hazards, including biological materials, chemicals, and contaminants. The selected option includes booties, facemasks, goggles, and aprons, all of which serve specific protective functions. Booties prevent contamination of the crime scene and protect the collector's footwear.

Facemasks help filter out potential airborne pathogens or chemicals, reducing the risk of inhalation. Goggles provide eye protection against splashes and particulates that may be present, safeguarding the collector from potential injuries or exposures. Aprons act as a barrier to protect the collector's clothing and body from any hazardous substances that may come into contact during the evidence collection process. In comparison to other options, the selected gear covers a comprehensive range of protective needs suitable for various types of evidence collection scenarios, particularly those which may involve biological or hazardous evidence. This thorough approach is essential for maintaining the safety of personnel and the integrity of the evidence collected at a crime scene.

2. What is one key factor when comparing different crime scenes?

- A. Community feedback**
- B. Day of occurrences**
- C. Officer response time**
- D. Witness reliability**

One key factor when comparing different crime scenes is the day of occurrences. This aspect is crucial because the timing of incidents can significantly influence various elements of a crime scene, including witness availability, environmental conditions, and even the timing of police response. Different days may show variations in local activity levels, such as the presence of pedestrians or potential witnesses, which can impact the evidence collected. Understanding the day of occurrences is essential for establishing patterns over time, analyzing crime trends in a specific area, and even identifying if specific days have higher crime rates. For example, crimes may happen more frequently during weekends or specific events, which is vital information for investigators when they are looking for similarities or distinguishing features across multiple crime scenes. Other options, while relevant in their contexts, do not provide the same foundational basis for comparison across different crime scenes. Community feedback may reflect perceptions or concerns but does not directly compare evidentiary elements. Officer response time involves the law enforcement process rather than the crime scene itself. Witness reliability is important for investigation outcomes but does not serve as a broad comparative metric for analyzing crime scene similarities or patterns.

3. Developing an unknown suspect typically requires a _____ approaching solution.

- A. Unique approach**
- B. Team approach**
- C. Solo effort**
- D. Traditional method**

Developing an unknown suspect in a criminal investigation necessitates a team approach because it leverages the strengths, expertise, and resources of multiple professionals. Investigations can be complex and multifaceted, often encompassing various areas such as forensic science, interviewing witnesses, analyzing evidence, and utilizing technology. A collaborative effort can lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the case and improve the likelihood of identifying a suspect. Involving a team allows for the pooling of different perspectives and skills, which is critical when considering the various aspects of criminal behavior and investigative techniques. This multidisciplinary collaboration is essential for brainstorming, sharing insights, and ensuring that no critical leads are overlooked. In contrast, options suggesting a unique or solo effort may lead to missed information, as one person's perspective can be limited. Similarly, traditional methods alone may not sufficiently adapt to the unique nature of the crime or the complexities that arise when identifying an unknown suspect. Thus, a team approach is integral to maximizing efficiency and effectiveness in the investigative process.

4. If a defense attorney draws conclusions based on assumptions, how should a witness respond?

- A. By agreeing with their conclusions**
- B. By correcting inaccuracies**
- C. By avoiding answering any questions**
- D. By remaining silent**

When a defense attorney draws conclusions based on assumptions, it is crucial for a witness to respond by correcting inaccuracies. Witnesses have the responsibility to provide truthful and factual testimony. If the attorney's conclusions are based on incorrect assumptions, it is important for the witness to clarify these inaccuracies to ensure that the court receives accurate information. Correcting inaccuracies helps maintain the integrity of the legal process and provides the judge and jury with the correct context and facts surrounding the case. Doing so not only supports the witness's credibility but also aids in preserving the pursuit of justice, as allowing unfounded assumptions to go unchallenged could misguide the legal proceedings. Responses such as agreeing with the conclusions or remaining silent would not serve the purpose of clarifying the truth. Avoiding answers would also not contribute to a fair evaluation of the facts in the case. Therefore, actively correcting inaccuracies is the most effective and ethical response for a witness in this scenario.

5. Which category of evidence is considered indirect but can still support facts in a case?

- A. Circumstantial evidence**
- B. Documentary evidence**
- C. Physical evidence**
- D. Testimonial evidence**

Circumstantial evidence is classified as indirect evidence that suggests a fact or supports a conclusion without directly proving it. This type of evidence can be crucial in a case, as it allows investigators and juries to piece together a narrative based on the circumstances surrounding an event. For example, finding someone's fingerprints at a crime scene can suggest their presence, even if it does not directly prove they committed a crime. Circumstantial evidence often plays a significant role in building a case, providing context and support to direct evidence, which is more definitive. While other forms of evidence such as documentary, physical, and testimonial evidence have their own merits, they typically fall into categories of direct evidence or provide specific, concrete details. Thus, circumstantial evidence effectively supports facts by allowing the interpretation of a series of related events or behaviors leading to logical conclusions.

6. What is the first step that should be taken when documenting a crime scene?

- A. Interview witnesses**
- B. Establish a perimeter**
- C. Photographing the scene**
- D. Collecting evidence**

The first step in documenting a crime scene is photographing the scene. This is crucial because visual documentation provides a permanent record of the crime scene as it was found, capturing details that may later be lost or altered. Photographs should be taken from various angles and distances to ensure that all aspects of the scene are covered, including the overall setting and close-ups of specific pieces of evidence. Capturing this visual evidence first allows investigators to have a baseline reference for the scene before any alterations occur due to the presence of personnel, collection of evidence, or environmental changes. After the scene is thoroughly photographed, investigators can move on to other critical steps such as establishing a perimeter, interviewing witnesses, and collecting evidence, all of which rely on the initial documentation for accuracy and context.

7. In legal terms, evidence is described as what in relation to proof?

- A. Evidence is proof**
- B. Evidence supports proof**
- C. Evidence cannot be proof**
- D. Evidence and proof are unrelated**

In legal terms, evidence is understood as something that supports proof in a case. Evidence is the information presented during a trial or investigation that is used to establish the facts of the case. It can include testimonies, documents, physical items, and other relevant data that help to substantiate claims. While evidence plays a crucial role in the legal process, it is important to recognize that it is not proof by itself. Proof is the culmination of evidence that establishes a fact beyond a reasonable doubt or to the required standard of certainty in that particular legal context. Thus, evidence serves as the foundational support for building proof, enabling the court or jury to come to a conclusion about the validity of the assertions made by either side. This highlights the relationship between evidence and proof - evidence is the material that bolsters proof but does not automatically equate to proof itself.

8. What information should be recorded before photographing or sketching a crime scene?

- A. Witness accounts and statements**
- B. Case number, location, date and time, officer's name**
- C. Type of weapon used and suspect description**
- D. Location of physical evidence and suspect's actions**

Recording the case number, location, date and time, and officer's name is essential for establishing a clear and organized foundation for the investigation. This information provides context and ensures accurate documentation of the scene, which can be crucial for legal purposes later on. It allows investigators and the court to reference specific details about the investigation, maintain chain of custody, and validate the credibility of the crime scene documentation. Having a structured record helps to prevent confusion and miscommunication, particularly in complex cases involving multiple officers or jurisdictions. Additionally, this information assists in correlating the time frame and geographical location of the incident with other related events or evidence that may arise during the investigation. This foundational data is critical for maintaining the integrity of the investigation process and supporting subsequent actions taken by law enforcement.

9. What should be carefully documented during a lineup?

- A. Photographic evidence
- B. Comments and non-verbal communication/action**
- C. Witness location
- D. Timeline of events

The documentation of comments and non-verbal communication or actions during a lineup is crucial for several reasons. These elements can provide insights into the witness's perceptions and thought processes, which are important for the overall context of the investigation. For example, a witness's hesitation, body language, or specific statements can indicate their level of confidence in their identification, as well as any potential influence or distractions present during the lineup. Capturing this information can assist in assessing the reliability of the identification process and may reveal patterns of behavior that could affect the outcome of the case. Additionally, documenting non-verbal cues can be vital in court as it provides a fuller picture of the witness's experience and reliability, potentially influencing how testimony is presented and interpreted. While other aspects such as photographic evidence, witness location, and a timeline of events are important in criminal investigations and provide valuable context, the immediate reactions and communications of the witness during a lineup can critically impact the perception of the identification's validity. Thus, careful documentation of these non-verbal and verbal cues is considered essential in maintaining an objective record of the identification process.

10. What should never be promised to a confidential source?

- A. Freedom
- B. Rewards**
- C. Testimony
- D. Confidentiality

The correct choice is that rewards should never be promised to a confidential source. Promising rewards can lead to a number of ethical and legal issues. It may create a situation where the source feels pressured to provide information that could be false or biased in order to receive the promised reward. This compromises the integrity of the investigation and could negatively impact the credibility of the recovered evidence or testimonies. Additionally, offering rewards may lead to the exploitation of vulnerable individuals or encourage informants to act in ways that are not in the public's interest, ultimately jeopardizing the investigation. It can also create expectations that may not be met, leading to a breakdown in trust between law enforcement and potential informants. Confidentiality, on the other hand, must be maintained as it is fundamental to fostering open communication between law enforcement and sources. Ensuring confidentiality encourages individuals to come forward without fear of retribution or exposure, which is crucial in gathering accurate information and building a reliable case.