

CRIME SCENE TECHNICIAN PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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 must sharp items be packaged in?

- A. A regular paper bag
- B. A plastic grocery bag
- C. A cardboard envelope
- D. A puncture-resistant container with a biohazard labeling

2. What is the definition of evidence?

- A. Something legally submitted to a court or law as a means of determining the truth
- B. A hunch about a case
- C. A presumption of guilt
- D. A rumor without verification

3. When samples from the exterior surface of a vehicle are required, at what time should they be sampled?

- A. After the vehicle has been transported to the lab
- B. During a later inspection
- C. At least 24 hours after the incident
- D. As soon as possible at the scene

4. Which statement about transferring evidence between locations is correct?

- A. Transfer requires no documentation if the items are small.
- B. Documentation should be avoided to speed processes.
- C. Document the transfer, maintain chain of custody, and ensure packaging remains sealed.
- D. Only the supervisor needs to approve and no records kept

5. What is touch DNA?

- A. Items where contact between a person and an object could result in the transfer of cells in an object
- B. DNA that is only found on skin cells
- C. DNA collected by swabbing air
- D. DNA present only in plants

- 6. Why must exams for biological evidence or fingerprints be done BEFORE submission to the Firearm Identification Section?**
- A. Biological and latent fingerprint evidence WILL BE DESTROYED
 - B. To prevent cross-contamination
 - C. Because the firearm section requires exclusive access
 - D. Because it must be completed before court order
- 7. Which statement best describes evidence?**
- A. A piece of clothing found at the scene
 - B. An assumption about the suspect
 - C. Something legally submitted to a court or law as a means of determining the truth
 - D. A statement made by a witness
- 8. During evidence handling, which practice minimizes contamination risk?**
- A. Wearing shared gloves between exhibits
 - B. Wearing disposable gloves and changing them between exhibits
 - C. Touching samples with bare hands
 - D. Storing all items in the same bag without separation
- 9. In crime investigations, MO stands for what?**
- A. Modus Operandi
 - B. Mode of Operation
 - C. Mental Operation
 - D. Method of Operation
- 10. Which of the following is one of the eight steps to produce an examination quality photograph?**
- A. Move the camera quickly without a tripod
 - B. Photograph without lighting from any angle
 - C. Remove the label from the picture
 - D. Place scale next/on same plane as impression

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What must sharp items be packaged in?

- A. A regular paper bag
- B. A plastic grocery bag
- C. A cardboard envelope
- D. A puncture-resistant container with a biohazard labeling**

Sharp items pose both a physical hazard and a potential biological risk. Packaging them in a puncture-resistant container eliminates the chance a blade or needle can pierce through and injure someone handling it, while the biohazard labeling communicates that the contents could be contaminated and require special handling and disposal. This combination also helps preserve evidence integrity and supports proper chain-of-custody procedures. Regular paper bags, plastic bags, or cardboard envelopes do not provide the necessary puncture resistance or hazard communication, so they are not appropriate for containing sharps.

2. What is the definition of evidence?

- A. Something legally submitted to a court or law as a means of determining the truth**
- B. A hunch about a case
- C. A presumption of guilt
- D. A rumor without verification

Evidence is information or items presented to a court to prove or disprove facts of a case. This captures why the chosen option fits best: it points to something that is officially recognized and used in the legal process to determine what happened, under rules that govern relevance, reliability, and admissibility. In crime scene work, evidence can be physical items, documents, digital data, or witness testimony, but only when it can be evaluated and connected to the facts in question. A hunch, a presumption of guilt, or a rumor without verification are not evidence because they lack verifiable support and cannot establish facts in court.

3. When samples from the exterior surface of a vehicle are required, at what time should they be sampled?

- A. After the vehicle has been transported to the lab
- B. During a later inspection
- C. At least 24 hours after the incident
- D. As soon as possible at the scene**

Sampling exterior surfaces as soon as possible at the scene is essential to preserve the evidence in its original state. Exterior evidence is exposed to the environment and to handling, so delays can lead to loss, contamination, or alteration—from weathering, heat, moisture, wind, or contact with bystanders and investigators. Collecting at the scene keeps the evidence in its original context, which is crucial for accurate interpretation and for maintaining a solid chain of custody. Transporting the vehicle before sampling or waiting for a later inspection increases the risk that the trace material will be disturbed or destroyed, making lab comparisons unreliable. So, the best practice is to sample as soon as possible at the scene.

4. Which statement about transferring evidence between locations is correct?

- A. Transfer requires no documentation if the items are small.
- B. Documentation should be avoided to speed processes.
- C. Document the transfer, maintain chain of custody, and ensure packaging remains sealed.**
- D. Only the supervisor needs to approve and no records kept

Transferring evidence between locations must be documented, keep a continuous chain of custody, and ensure the packaging stays sealed. This creates a traceable, verifiable record of every person who handles the item, along with when and where it moved, which is essential for integrity and admissibility in court. The seal on the packaging serves as a tamper-evident indicator, and it should be checked and re-sealed as needed during each transfer, with the transfer details logged in the chain of custody. Documentation is necessary even for small items because any gap in the trail can cast doubt on the evidence's authenticity. Relying on supervisor approval alone or rushing transfers without proper records can undermine the evidence's integrity.

5. What is touch DNA?

- A. Items where contact between a person and an object could result in the transfer of cells in an object**
- B. DNA that is only found on skin cells
- C. DNA collected by swabbing air
- D. DNA present only in plants

Touch DNA is genetic material that is transferred to an object simply by a person touching it. It comes from tiny amounts of cells shed from the skin, along with other trace materials, and can remain on the surface long enough to be collected later. In crime scene work, investigators swab the surfaces that were touched to recover this DNA and possibly identify who touched the item, even when there's no obvious biological evidence. The correct idea describes transfer of cells to a surface through contact, which is the essence of touch DNA. The other statements don't fit: DNA isn't limited to what's found only on skin cells, it isn't collected from air, and plant DNA isn't relevant to human touch DNA.

6. Why must exams for biological evidence or fingerprints be done BEFORE submission to the Firearm Identification Section?

- A. Biological and latent fingerprint evidence WILL BE DESTROYED**
- B. To prevent cross-contamination
- C. Because the firearm section requires exclusive access
- D. Because it must be completed before court order

Preserving the ability to recover biological material and latent fingerprints is the key idea here. Firearm identification work often involves cleaning, disassembling parts, handling surfaces with tools, and applying chemicals or tests to cartridges and components. Those procedures can destroy DNA samples and lift or smear latent prints, making later analysis impossible. Because of that, exams for biological evidence and fingerprints should be completed before any firearm identification work begins, so the evidence remains intact for those analyses. While preventing cross-contamination is important, the principal reason is that firearm processing can destroy the very evidence that DNA testing and fingerprint examination rely on. The other reasons don't address the fundamental risk to recoverable evidence in this context.

7. Which statement best describes evidence?

- A. A piece of clothing found at the scene
- B. An assumption about the suspect
- C. Something legally submitted to a court or law as a means of determining the truth**
- D. A statement made by a witness

Evidence is anything that can be used to prove or disprove facts in a case within a legal or investigative setting. The best description here highlights its role in the courtroom: it is something legally submitted to a court or law as a means of determining the truth. That focus on admissibility and the purpose of establishing facts explains why this option is the most accurate. A piece of clothing found at the scene is a physical item that can support a theory about what happened, so it counts as evidence, but it is just one example. A statement made by a witness is also evidence, yet the concept of evidence includes many forms beyond words. An assumption about the suspect is not evidence, because it is a belief not substantiated by data or admissible information. Understanding evidence means recognizing that it must be relevant, authentic, and capable of being admitted to help establish what happened.

8. During evidence handling, which practice minimizes contamination risk?

- A. Wearing shared gloves between exhibits
- B. Wearing disposable gloves and changing them between exhibits**
- C. Touching samples with bare hands
- D. Storing all items in the same bag without separation

Preventing cross-contamination during evidence handling hinges on using a fresh barrier between items. Wearing disposable gloves and changing them between exhibits provides that clean barrier for each item, so materials from one exhibit aren't transferred to another. Gloves protect evidence from the handler's skin oils, sweat, fibers, and DNA, and changing them between items stops any residue picked up from the previous item from being carried forward. Reusing gloves or touching multiple items with bare hands would transfer contaminants and compromise analyses such as DNA, fingerprints, or trace evidence. Storing everything in one bag or sharing gloves between items would also allow cross-contact and contaminate multiple pieces of evidence. So, using disposable gloves and changing them between exhibits minimizes contamination risk.

9. In crime investigations, MO stands for what?

- A. Modus Operandi
- B. Mode of Operation
- C. Mental Operation
- D. Method of Operation**

MO in crime investigations refers to the pattern the offender uses to commit a crime—their typical method, steps, tools, timing, and approach. This Modus Operandi is the descriptive framework investigators compare across cases to see if the same person or group is involved, because it captures how the crime was executed, not just what happened. The term Modus Operandi is the standard, widely used label in criminology and investigative practice. While phrases like "Mode of Operation" or "Method of Operation" convey a similar idea, they are not the established term for this concept. Recognizing the MO helps link incidents, identify repeat behaviors, and guide investigative focus on the offender's specific style. For example, a burglar who consistently enters through a particular type of window, uses the same tool, and targets similar valuables at a specific time demonstrates a recognizable MO that can connect disparate crimes.

10. Which of the following is one of the eight steps to produce an examination quality photograph?

- A. Move the camera quickly without a tripod
- B. Photograph without lighting from any angle
- C. Remove the label from the picture
- D. Place scale next/on same plane as impression**

In examination-quality photography, having a size reference and correct perspective is essential. Placing a scale next to the impression on the same plane gives an accurate size reference and keeps the scale and evidence in the same depth, so measurements taken from the photo reflect real dimensions without distortion from perspective or parallax. This makes the image reliable for analysis and court presentation. Other options undermine the photo's usefulness: moving the camera quickly without a tripod can cause blur and unstable framing, making details hard to read; photographing without lighting from any angle can leave important features hidden in shadows; and removing the label from the image erases crucial contextual information that ties the photo to the item and the case.

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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://crimescenetech.examzify.com>

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

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