

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR TRAINING PROGRAM (CITP) EXAM 3 EPO PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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 is the difference between a search warrant and an arrest warrant?**
 - A. A search warrant authorizes arrest; an arrest warrant authorizes seizure of property.
 - B. A search warrant is valid for 7 days; an arrest warrant valid for 30 days.
 - C. A search warrant must be issued by a prosecutor; an arrest warrant is issued by a judge.
 - D. A search warrant authorizes seizing property; an arrest warrant authorizes arrest of a named person.
- 2. Who has authority to execute a search warrant?**
 - A. Private security firms
 - B. Federal agents only
 - C. State troopers only
 - D. Local Police Department
- 3. What is a key difference between 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1) and § 1957(a)?**
 - A. 1956 can be any amount; 1957 requires over \$10,000
 - B. 1956 is a 20 year felony and 1957 is a 10 year felony
 - C. 1956 requires intent; 1957 does not
 - D. 1956 applies to currency only
- 4. Which statement correctly contrasts a lead and a fact?**
 - A. A lead is a known, verifiable detail.
 - B. A lead is a hunch with no connection to the case.
 - C. A lead is a possible path to pursue in an investigation.
 - D. A lead becomes a fact simply by reporting it.
- 5. Identify how the three interrelated micro-environments affect decision making.**
 - A. The officer, the scene, and the suspect
 - B. The vehicle, bystanders, and the suspect
 - C. The policy, the statute, and the judge
 - D. The weather, the lighting, and the noise

- 6. Which statement best describes critical communication strategies in de-escalation?**
- A. Demonstrating authority to quickly end the encounter.
 - B. Offering people choices to empower autonomy and dignity.
 - C. Using threats to gain compliance.
 - D. Delaying a decision to avoid confrontations.
- 7. After the DNA sample is collected from an arrestee, when should the buccal collection kit be mailed to the FBI?**
- A. Within 48 hours
 - B. Within 24 hours
 - C. Within 1 week
 - D. Immediately
- 8. Which practice best supports avoiding coercive tactics during suspect interviews?**
- A. Withhold all information about the case.
 - B. Engage in long silent treatment.
 - C. Use aggressive interrogation techniques.
 - D. Avoid coercive tactics.
- 9. What does 'custody' mean for Miranda purposes?**
- A. A situation where a reasonable person would feel deprived of freedom of action in a significant way.
 - B. A formal arrest only.
 - C. Any encounter with a police officer.
 - D. A search conducted with a warrant.
- 10. Assets that are the direct proceeds of illegal activity fall under which asset forfeiture theory?**
- A. Proceeds of a crime.
 - B. Property involved in money laundering.
 - C. Enterprise involved in racketeering.
 - D. Facilitation of a crime.

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the difference between a search warrant and an arrest warrant?

- A. A search warrant authorizes arrest; an arrest warrant authorizes seizure of property.
- B. A search warrant is valid for 7 days; an arrest warrant valid for 30 days.
- C. A search warrant must be issued by a prosecutor; an arrest warrant is issued by a judge.
- D. A search warrant authorizes seizing property; an arrest warrant authorizes arrest of a named person.**

The key difference is who or what is targeted. A search warrant is about a place and the items there; it authorizes officers to search a location and seize property connected to a crime. An arrest warrant is about a person; it authorizes lawful detention of a named individual who is believed to have committed a crime. This aligns with the idea that a search warrant authorizes seizing property, while an arrest warrant authorizes arrest of a named person. In practice, both warrants are typically issued by a judge or magistrate upon probable cause, and exact rules (like how long a warrant is valid) can vary by jurisdiction. The other statements mix up who can be arrested, who issues warrants, or general timeframes, which aren't the defining difference.

2. Who has authority to execute a search warrant?

- A. Private security firms
- B. Federal agents only
- C. State troopers only
- D. Local Police Department**

The key idea is that a search warrant must be carried out by sworn law enforcement officers who have authority in the relevant jurisdiction. Private security firms do not have the power to execute search warrants. While federal agents can execute warrants in federal cases, and state troopers serve warrants within the state, the agency most typically authorized to execute warrants in local investigations is the local police department, which operates with jurisdiction over the local area. Therefore, the local police department is the best answer because it represents the primary authority for conducting searches within its local area.

3. What is a key difference between 18 U.S.C. § 1956(a)(1) and § 1957(a)?

- A. 1956 can be any amount; 1957 requires over \$10,000**
- B. 1956 is a 20 year felony and 1957 is a 10 year felony
- C. 1956 requires intent; 1957 does not
- D. 1956 applies to currency only

The key distinction is the dollar threshold. §1956 money laundering has no minimum amount; a transaction can be any size as long as it involves proceeds of a specified unlawful activity and is meant to promote or conceal that crime. In contrast, §1957 targets large cash or monetary-instrument transactions – it requires the amount to be over \$10,000 in a transaction involving property derived from unlawful activity, and the transaction must affect interstate commerce. So a small amount could fit §1956, but only amounts above \$10,000 would fit §1957. The other options are off because §1956 isn't limited to currency-only transfers, and both statutes involve intent to promote or conceal crime, not zero intent.

4. Which statement correctly contrasts a lead and a fact?

- A. A lead is a known, verifiable detail.
- B. A lead is a hunch with no connection to the case.
- C. A lead is a possible path to pursue in an investigation.**
- D. A lead becomes a fact simply by reporting it.

A lead is a possible path to pursue in an investigation, something that could connect to the case but isn't yet verified. A fact is a detail that has been verified with evidence and can be established as true. That's why the correct statement is the one that describes a lead as a potential direction to investigate. A known, verifiable detail is a fact, not a lead. A lead might start as a hunch, but it should have some connection to the case and be testable; saying it has no connection makes it unhelpful. A lead does not become a fact simply by reporting it—you must verify and corroborate it before it can be treated as a fact.

5. Identify how the three interrelated micro-environments affect decision making.

- A. The officer, the scene, and the suspect**
- B. The vehicle, bystanders, and the suspect
- C. The policy, the statute, and the judge
- D. The weather, the lighting, and the noise

Decision making in police encounters is shaped by three interacting factors that the officer directly engages with: the officer themselves, the scene, and the suspect. The officer's own training, experience, stress level, and cognitive load influence perception, danger appraisal, and response options. The scene sets the physical constraints and possibilities—lighting, space, obstacles, distance, cover, weather, and other situational details—that limit or steer what can be done. The suspect brings threat cues, potential weapons, movement, and intent, all of which affect how risky the situation appears and what actions are appropriate. These three elements continually interact, driving rapid judgments about safety, legality, and the quickest way to resolve the situation. The other options don't capture this triad. The vehicle and bystanders are important parts of the scene but don't constitute the core three interconnected decision-making inputs. The policy, statute, and judge describe the legal framework rather than the immediate micro-environments shaping moment-to-moment choices. Weather, lighting, and noise are situational factors within the scene, not the distinct three-factor framework guiding decision making.

6. Which statement best describes critical communication strategies in de-escalation?

- A. Demonstrating authority to quickly end the encounter.
- B. Offering people choices to empower autonomy and dignity.**
- C. Using threats to gain compliance.
- D. Delaying a decision to avoid confrontations.

Offering people choices to empower autonomy and dignity is central to effective de-escalation because it hands control back to the other person and signals respect, not dominance. When individuals feel their input matters and their safety is prioritized, they're less likely to meet calm communication with resistance. This approach reduces defensiveness, lowers the perceived threat, and creates space for cooperation. Contrast that with asserting authority to end the encounter quickly, which can come across as coercive and leave the other person feeling cornered or disrespected, often fueling pushback. Using threats to gain compliance tends to escalate tension and can dangerously undermine trust. Delaying a decision to avoid confrontation can be read as indecision or avoidance, which may frustrate the other person and prolong the interaction without addressing the underlying issue. In practice, offering choices might look like inviting the person to decide where to talk, what pace to take, or what information they want to share, while keeping the situation calm and safe. This combination of autonomy support and collaborative problem-solving is what makes it the most effective strategy for de-escalation.

7. After the DNA sample is collected from an arrestee, when should the buccal collection kit be mailed to the FBI?

- A. Within 48 hours
- B. Within 24 hours**
- C. Within 1 week
- D. Immediately

Submitting the buccal DNA collection to the FBI within 24 hours of collection is the standard practice. This timing helps preserve the sample's integrity and ensures prompt entry into CODIS, while also maintaining proper chain-of-custody. Waiting longer, such as 48 hours or a week, can delay processing and potentially raise compliance issues. While "immediately" isn't always practical due to packaging and handling needs, the goal is to get the kit mailed within a full day to keep the process timely and compliant.

8. Which practice best supports avoiding coercive tactics during suspect interviews?

- A. Withhold all information about the case.
- B. Engage in long silent treatment.
- C. Use aggressive interrogation techniques.
- D. Avoid coercive tactics.**

Coercive-free interviewing is essential because it preserves voluntariness, protects rights, and yields more reliable information. When you avoid coercive tactics, you're more likely to obtain statements that are truthful and admissible, because the suspect speaks of their own accord without feeling pressured or scared into saying what they think you want to hear. Choosing to avoid coercive tactics aligns with fair investigative practice: you build trust, explain rights clearly, and use open, non-threatening questioning. That contrasts with withholding case information, which creates confusion; long silent treatment, which pressures the suspect without genuine dialogue; or aggressive interrogation, which directly coerces and risks false confessions. So the best approach is simply to avoid coercive tactics.

9. What does 'custody' mean for Miranda purposes?

- A. A situation where a reasonable person would feel deprived of freedom of action in a significant way.**
- B. A formal arrest only.
- C. Any encounter with a police officer.
- D. A search conducted with a warrant.

Custody for Miranda purposes means that a reasonable person would feel their freedom of action has been significantly restricted by the police, such that they wouldn't feel free to leave. This is evaluated objectively from the totality of the circumstances, not by labels like "arrest." That makes the described statement the right one: it captures the essential idea that custody arises when the person's movement is curtailed in a meaningful way during police dealings. Custody can occur without a formal arrest, and it isn't just any police encounter or a search with a warrant. For example, being questioned in a locked room, with officers closely supervising exits, or being restrained in some manner, can create custody. In short, it's about the reasonable person's perception of being significantly restricted, not merely the presence of police.

10. Assets that are the direct proceeds of illegal activity fall under which asset forfeiture theory?

- A. Proceeds of a crime.**
- B. Property involved in money laundering.
- C. Enterprise involved in racketeering.
- D. Facilitation of a crime.

Proceeds of a crime. This theory targets assets that are the actual profits or gains derived from illegal activity. The focus is on the money or property that results directly from the crime itself, such as cash earned from drug sales or a house bought with illicit funds. Forfeiting these directly obtained assets disrupts the financial incentive for crime. The other theories describe different relationships: instrumentality refers to items used to commit the crime, facilitation covers property that helps the crime occur, and enterprise/racketeering assets belong to the criminal organization itself. Those are not the direct profits from the illegal act, which is why they don't fit as precisely as the proceeds theory.

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://citp3epo.examzify.com>

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

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