

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR TRAINING PROGRAM (CITP) EXAM 4 PRACTICE (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. Define surveillance.

- A. An ongoing, continuous process of monitoring people, places, or things to gather intel about a case.
- B. A one-time data collection.
- C. Only undercover operations.
- D. Handling evidence in court.

2. During an inventory search of an impounded vehicle, which areas are included?

- A. Trunk, glove box, suitcase, purse
- B. Gas tank interior
- C. Engine compartment
- D. Inside the vehicle's catalytic converter

3. How does a suspect correctly invoke their right to counsel during questioning?

- A. By clearly stating they want an attorney; questioning must cease until counsel is present or waived.
- B. By remaining silent.
- C. By asking to speak to a supervisor.
- D. By showing a lawyer card.

4. Which of the following is a common warrant exception?

- A. All of the above
- B. Consent to search
- C. Plain view when evidence is visible
- D. Exigent circumstances

5. What is basic ballistics in crime investigations?

- A. The study of handwriting analysis
- B. The study of blood spatter
- C. The study of firearms, ammunition, and projectile trajectories to link weapons to crimes.
- D. The study of shoe impressions

- 6. Which chemical is listed as a clandestine lab reagent?**
- A. Water
 - B. Oxygen
 - C. Red Phosphorous
 - D. Ammonia
- 7. The human fingerprint is the most widely used method of scientific identification in what system?**
- A. World Wide Health System
 - B. Global Taxation System
 - C. Worldwide Criminal Justice System
 - D. Educational Records System
- 8. Attachment A describes which element of a SW?**
- A. The location or places to be searched
 - B. What are you looking for
 - C. PC and Facts
 - D. The time to execute
- 9. What is a primary safety objective during domestic violence investigations?**
- A. Ensure witness and victim safety, and scene security.
 - B. Archive all evidence at the end of shift.
 - C. Publicize incident details immediately.
 - D. Ignore trauma-informed interviewing.
- 10. Non-electronic items that may be important in an electronic crime investigation include which of the following?**
- A. All of the above
 - B. DNA, fingerprints, trace evidence
 - C. Passwords and access codes
 - D. Computer generated reports/documents

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Define surveillance.

- A. An ongoing, continuous process of monitoring people, places, or things to gather intel about a case.
- B. A one-time data collection.
- C. Only undercover operations.
- D. Handling evidence in court.

Surveillance is the ongoing, sustained watching of people, places, or things to gather information that supports an investigation. It's about collecting intel over time—observing routines, movements, associations, and behaviors to connect facts, corroborate statements, establish timelines, and build the bigger picture of what happened. This can involve physical stakeouts, cameras, or other lawful monitoring methods, and it can be overt or covert depending on the case, but the emphasis is on persistence and relevance to the case. It isn't a single data capture, it isn't limited to undercover operations, and it isn't about handling evidence in court, which are separate aspects of investigative work.

2. During an inventory search of an impounded vehicle, which areas are included?

- A. Trunk, glove box, suitcase, purse
- B. Gas tank interior
- C. Engine compartment
- D. Inside the vehicle's catalytic converter

During an inventory search, the officer catalogs the vehicle's belongings in areas where people routinely store personal items. The focus is on interior storage spaces that can be opened and inventoried without disassembling the vehicle. The trunk, glove box, and personal containers like suitcases and purses fall into this category, making them appropriate for inventory. In contrast, the interior of the gas tank, the engine compartment, or the interior of a catalytic converter are mechanical areas not used for storing personal items and would require more invasive searching beyond standard inventory procedures. So the areas included are the trunk, glove box, suitcase, and purse.

3. How does a suspect correctly invoke their right to counsel during questioning?

- A. By clearly stating they want an attorney; questioning must cease until counsel is present or waived.
- B. By remaining silent.
- C. By asking to speak to a supervisor.
- D. By showing a lawyer card.

When a suspect is in custody, invoking the right to counsel requires a clear, unequivocal statement of wanting an attorney. If the suspect plainly says they want an attorney, questioning must stop immediately and cannot resume until counsel is present or the suspect knowingly waives the right in the presence of counsel or after consulting with one. This safeguard ensures the suspect can consult with a lawyer before continuing any questioning, preventing coercion or pressured admissions. Other responses don't count as a proper invocation because they don't explicitly request legal counsel. Merely remaining silent, asking to speak to a supervisor, or showing a lawyer card does not obligate the police to halt questioning; those actions do not clearly trigger the right to counsel.

4. Which of the following is a common warrant exception?

- A. All of the above
- B. Consent to search
- C. Plain view when evidence is visible
- D. Exigent circumstances**

The question tests you on recognizing common warrant exceptions. Three well-established exceptions are consent to search, the plain view doctrine, and exigent circumstances. Consent to search works when a person with authority voluntarily agrees to a search, making a warrant unnecessary. Plain view allows an officer to seize evidence without a warrant if they are lawfully present and the item is clearly visible in plain sight. Exigent circumstances cover situations like imminent danger, hot pursuit, or the imminent destruction of evidence, where waiting to obtain a warrant would be impractical or dangerous. Since all of these are recognized warrant exceptions, the best choice is the option that encompasses all of them. The given answer focusing only on exigent circumstances misses the other valid exceptions, so the comprehensive correct choice is the one that includes consent, plain view, and exigent circumstances.

5. What is basic ballistics in crime investigations?

- A. The study of handwriting analysis
- B. The study of blood spatter
- C. The study of firearms, ammunition, and projectile trajectories to link weapons to crimes.**
- D. The study of shoe impressions

Ballistics in crime investigations focuses on firearms, ammunition, and the path of projectiles. It covers how a gun fires a cartridge, the markings left on bullets and cartridge cases, and the trajectory a bullet takes from the barrel to the target. This information helps link a specific weapon to a crime by matching tool marks and reconstructing shooting events, including estimating range. Other areas you might see—handwriting analysis, bloodstain patterns, or shoe impressions—are separate forensic disciplines that don't deal with firearms or bullets.

6. Which chemical is listed as a clandestine lab reagent?

- A. Water
- B. Oxygen
- C. Red Phosphorous**
- D. Ammonia

Red phosphorus is a chemical strongly linked to clandestine lab activity, especially methamphetamine production, where it is used in key reduction steps with iodine or hydroiodic acid. Its presence is a known red flag to investigators because it is not a common household or legitimate industrial reagent in ordinary contexts, yet it has a well-established role in illicit synthesis. Water and oxygen are ubiquitous and nonspecific, so they don't indicate illicit activity. Ammonia is widely used in legitimate industries and agriculture, so it isn't as strongly associated with clandestine labs as red phosphorus. For those reasons, red phosphorus stands out as the reagent most associated with clandestine lab operations.

7. The human fingerprint is the most widely used method of scientific identification in what system?

- A. World Wide Health System
- B. Global Taxation System
- C. Worldwide Criminal Justice System**
- D. Educational Records System

Fingerprints are a reliable form of identification used globally in the criminal justice process because each person's ridge patterns are unique and remain stable over time. In the worldwide criminal justice system, fingerprints can be collected from suspects, victims, or crime scenes and matched against large databases to confirm identity or link a person to a crime. This practical, widely implemented approach is why fingerprints are considered the primary scientific method of identification in that system. Other systems—like health, taxation, or education—rely on non-biometric identifiers such as names, dates of birth, or assigned IDs, rather than fingerprints, as their main means of identification.

8. Attachment A describes which element of a SW?

- A. The location or places to be searched**
- B. What are you looking for
- C. PC and Facts
- D. The time to execute

Attachment A defines the places to be searched, giving the exact locations authorized by the warrant. This is the part that narrows the search to specific premises, ensuring the officers search only where permission exists and the Fourth Amendment protections are respected. The items to seize are described elsewhere, the probable cause and supporting facts justify the warrant, and timing of execution is handled separately from the location list. For example, Attachment A might specify the residence at a particular address and any outbuildings on the property.

9. What is a primary safety objective during domestic violence investigations?

- A. Ensure witness and victim safety, and scene security.**
- B. Archive all evidence at the end of shift.
- C. Publicize incident details immediately.
- D. Ignore trauma-informed interviewing.

Ensuring victim and witness safety and securing the scene is the primary safety objective. In domestic violence investigations, the immediate goal is to reduce the risk of further harm to those involved and to prevent the crime environment from changing or becoming more dangerous. This means separating involved parties if safe, checking for weapons, assessing injuries, and arranging urgent assistance or shelter as needed, all while preserving the scene to maintain evidence integrity for the investigation. Other options miss the immediacy of safety: archiving evidence at the end of a shift is an administrative task and doesn't address immediate protection; publicizing details right away can put victims and witnesses at greater risk; and ignoring trauma-informed interviewing undermines safety by increasing re-traumatization and reducing trust, which is counterproductive to both safety and effective investigation.

10. Non-electronic items that may be important in an electronic crime investigation include which of the following?

- A. All of the above**
- B. DNA, fingerprints, trace evidence
- C. Passwords and access codes
- D. Computer generated reports/documents

In an electronic crime investigation, non-electronic artifacts can still be pivotal; evidence isn't limited to digital data. Physical traces like DNA, fingerprints, and trace evidence can place a suspect at a scene or on a device and provide corroborating context for digital findings. Passwords and access codes, even when not stored digitally, may be found on paper or in notes and can explain how access was gained or attempted, linking actions to individuals. Computer-generated reports or documents, while produced by a computer, can be physical records when printed and used as tangible evidence to show timelines, communications, or data summaries relevant to the case. Taken together, all these types can contribute meaningful non-electronic evidence in an electronic crime investigation.

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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://citp4.examzify.com>

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

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