

# Criminal Justice EOPA Practice Test (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

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- 1. Which option is not a common sentencing option?**
  - A. Parole.**
  - B. Probation.**
  - C. Fines.**
  - D. Restitution.**
  
- 2. Which category includes acts illegal solely because a statute prohibits them, not because they are inherently evil?**
  - A. Mala in se**
  - B. Mala prohibita**
  - C. Corpus delicti**
  - D. Actus reus**
  
- 3. When must Miranda warnings be given?**
  - A. Only during arraignments**
  - B. Before custodial interrogation by police**
  - C. After a suspect is released on bail**
  - D. At any time before filing charges**
  
- 4. What factor is the strongest predictor of support for or against the police?**
  - A. Race**
  - B. Gender**
  - C. Age**
  - D. Education**
  
- 5. Under the doctrine of respondeat superior, which party may be held liable for the actions of an employee performed within the scope of employment?**
  - A. The employee bears liability for actions within the scope of employment.**
  - B. Employers can be held liable for employees' actions performed within the scope of employment.**
  - C. Liability for independent contractors only.**
  - D. The government is always liable for employee actions.**

- 6. In accordance with the Constitution, which term applies?**
- A. Statutory**
  - B. Administrative**
  - C. Constitutional**
  - D. Common law**
- 7. Theft is best classified as which type of offense?**
- A. Mala in se**
  - B. Mala prohibita**
  - C. Corpus delicti**
  - D. Actus reus**
- 8. The body of law derived from court decisions is called**
- A. Statutory law**
  - B. Administrative law**
  - C. Case law**
  - D. Constitutional law**
- 9. What is a use-of-force continuum?**
- A. A progression of force levels that should match the suspect's resistance.**
  - B. A fixed list of actions used by officers regardless of the situation.**
  - C. A set of courtroom procedures for presenting evidence.**
  - D. A guideline for writing incident reports.**
- 10. What must a search warrant specify to be valid?**
- A. The date and time of the search only**
  - B. The place to be searched and the items or persons to be seized, based on probable cause**
  - C. The suspect's prior criminal history**
  - D. The police officer's personal preferences**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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### 1. Which option is not a common sentencing option?

- A. Parole.**
- B. Probation.**
- C. Fines.**
- D. Restitution.**

Understanding what counts as a sentencing option helps you see how punishments are structured. The key idea is distinguishing between what a judge can impose as part of a sentence and what happens after a sentence is served. Common tools at sentencing include probation, fines, restitution, and imprisonment. Parole is different: it's a conditional release from prison after serving part of the sentence, decided by a parole board. It involves supervision and meeting conditions, but it is not the initial punishment imposed at sentencing. So, while a sentence may set the term of incarceration and eligibility for parole, the release itself is a post-release mechanism rather than a sentencing decision.

### 2. Which category includes acts illegal solely because a statute prohibits them, not because they are inherently evil?

- A. Mala in se**
- B. Mala prohibita**
- C. Corpus delicti**
- D. Actus reus**

In criminal law, some acts are considered wrong in themselves (mala in se), while others are illegal mainly because the law says so (mala prohibita). The question points to conduct that is prohibited not for its inherent evil but simply because a statute forbids it. That describes mala prohibita—the acts are criminal due to legal prohibition, not because they are intrinsically harmful or immoral. Examples include things like speeding or certain licensing violations—conduct that's regulated by law to maintain order or safety, even if the act isn't morally condemned on its own. Corpus delicti refers to the essential facts proving a crime occurred, not a classification of the conduct. Actus reus refers to the actual physical act or omission that comprises the crime, again a different concept.

### 3. When must Miranda warnings be given?

- A. Only during arraignments**
- B. Before custodial interrogation by police**
- C. After a suspect is released on bail**
- D. At any time before filing charges**

Miranda warnings are required whenever a person is in custody and subject to interrogation by the police. The warnings protect against self-incrimination and must be given before any questioning intended to elicit an incriminating response while the suspect is under police control. If the person isn't in custody or isn't being questioned about the case, Miranda warnings aren't required. They aren't tied to arraignments, bail, or the timing of charging decisions; the key factor is custodial interrogation.

**4. What factor is the strongest predictor of support for or against the police?**

**A. Race**

**B. Gender**

**C. Age**

**D. Education**

Race stands out because it captures long-standing experiences with policing and the historical context that shapes trust and views of legitimacy. People from different racial groups often encounter law enforcement differently, face varying levels of perceived threat or protection, and carry distinct memories of how policing has treated them or their communities. These lived experiences strongly influence attitudes toward the police, making race a more consistent predictor than other factors. Gender, age, and education can influence opinions, but their effects are usually smaller or intertwined with broader social experiences. For example, education can affect critical perspectives on policing, but it doesn't typically override the broad patterns tied to race. Age and gender may shape attitudes in specific contexts, yet they don't account for as much of the variation in opinions about law enforcement as race does. So, race most reliably predicts support for or against the police.

**5. Under the doctrine of respondeat superior, which party may be held liable for the actions of an employee performed within the scope of employment?**

**A. The employee bears liability for actions within the scope of employment.**

**B. Employers can be held liable for employees' actions performed within the scope of employment.**

**C. Liability for independent contractors only.**

**D. The government is always liable for employee actions.**

Respondeat superior means an employer can be held liable for what an employee does while performing the job. When someone is acting within the scope of their employment—carrying out duties, following instructions, or conducting work-related tasks—the employer is considered responsible for those actions because the employee is acting as the employer's agent. This is why the employer is the party most often able to answer for damages or harms arising from the employee's conduct in the course of work. The employee may still have personal liability, but the employer's liability exists due to the employer's control over the work and the relationship between employer and employee. If the act occurs outside the scope of employment, or involves an independent contractor, the employer typically isn't liable in the same way.

**6. In accordance with the Constitution, which term applies?**

- A. Statutory**
- B. Administrative**
- C. Constitutional**
- D. Common law**

The main idea is what we call something that fits within the Constitution. When a rule, law, or action follows the Constitution, it is described as constitutional. The Constitution is the supreme law, so anything that complies with it is valid under constitutional law. Statutory refers to laws created by the legislature, not to whether they conform to the Constitution. Administrative describes rules or decisions issued by government agencies. Common law is the body of law developed by courts through decisions and precedents. These describe origins or sources of law or how it's created, rather than whether it aligns with constitutional requirements. So, "in accordance with the Constitution" specifically means it is constitutional.

**7. Theft is best classified as which type of offense?**

- A. Mala in se**
- B. Mala prohibita**
- C. Corpus delicti**
- D. Actus reus**

The idea being tested is how crimes are categorized by whether they are morally wrong in themselves versus merely illegal by statute. Theft is mala in se because it involves taking someone else's property with the intent to permanently deprive them, an inherently wrongful act that society typically condemns as criminal regardless of specific statutes. This contrasts with mala prohibita, which covers offenses that are wrong only because the law says so, often regulatory in nature. Corpus delicti refers to the essential facts proving that a crime occurred, not how the offense is classified. Actus reus is about the actual guilty act itself, not its moral classification. So theft is best described as mala in se.

**8. The body of law derived from court decisions is called**

- A. Statutory law**
- B. Administrative law**
- C. Case law**
- D. Constitutional law**

Case law is the body of law formed by decisions of courts. When judges decide cases, their written opinions explain how the law should be interpreted and applied to the facts before them. Those opinions create precedents that future courts follow, shaping legal rules over time. This accumulation of judicial rulings is what people mean when they talk about case law (often called common law in many places). It's distinct from statutory law, which is enacted by legislative bodies; administrative law, which consists of rules created by agencies to implement statutes; and constitutional law, which concerns the interpretation and application of the Constitution itself.

## 9. What is a use-of-force continuum?

- A. A progression of force levels that should match the suspect's resistance.**
- B. A fixed list of actions used by officers regardless of the situation.**
- C. A set of courtroom procedures for presenting evidence.**
- D. A guideline for writing incident reports.**

The use-of-force continuum is a framework that guides how an officer responds to a suspect's resistance, moving through levels of force in proportion to the threat. The best answer describes a progression of force levels that should match the suspect's resistance, because officers are taught to escalate or de-escalate based on how the situation unfolds, using only what is reasonably necessary to gain compliance and protect safety. In practice, this includes starting with presence and verbal commands, then moving to softer controls, then intermediate means, and only escalating to more serious options if the resistance increases or remains unresolved. It's about proportionality and adaptability to each scenario, not a one-size-fits-all script. The other choices don't fit because the continuum is not a fixed list of actions regardless of the situation, nor is it about courtroom procedures or incident-report guidelines.

## 10. What must a search warrant specify to be valid?

- A. The date and time of the search only**
- B. The place to be searched and the items or persons to be seized, based on probable cause**
- C. The suspect's prior criminal history**
- D. The police officer's personal preferences**

A valid search warrant must identify precisely what authorizes the search: where you can search and what you may seize, and there must be probable cause supporting that there is evidence or contraband linked to a crime in that place. This means the warrant specifies the exact location and the items or persons to be seized, described with enough particularity to distinguish them. The basis for issuing the warrant must be probable cause and the warrant should be issued by a neutral magistrate after the appropriate oath or affirmation. That's why selecting the option that includes both the place to be searched and the items or persons to be seized, grounded in probable cause, is correct. The other options miss essential elements: listing only date and time is insufficient, prior criminal history isn't required, and the officer's preferences aren't legally relevant.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://criminaljusticeeopa.examzify.com>**

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

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