

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

**STUDY GUIDE**



**SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE  
WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS**

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

<https://criminaljustice.examzify.com>



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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 of the following is NOT a criticism of the War on Drugs?**
  - A. the abuse or misuse of illegal drugs has contributed to more deaths annually than alcohol or tobacco
  - B. the drug war is easiest
  - C. the drug war is hugely expensive
  - D. the government has exaggerated the dangers of illegal drug use
- 2. Which of the following terms refers to the societal reaction to behaviors perceived as deviant?**
  - A. Labeling
  - B. Stigmatization
  - C. Cultural Deviance
  - D. Social Conditioning
- 3. The purpose of a preliminary hearing is to determine what?**
  - A. Whether to indict the defendant
  - B. Guilty plea acceptance
  - C. Probable cause of the crime
  - D. Trial date scheduling
- 4. When the FBI was initially established, which type of crime did it NOT investigate?**
  - A. National banking crimes
  - B. Drug crimes
  - C. Naturization crimes
  - D. Peonage crimes
- 5. What does the "chain of custody" refer to?**
  - A. The order of witnesses in a court case
  - B. The process of maintaining and documenting the handling of evidence
  - C. The ability to link a suspect to a crime scene
  - D. The collection of jury members

**6. What constitutes "reasonable suspicion"?**

- A. A hunch that a crime may happen in the future
- B. The belief that a person may be involved in criminal activity, based on specific, articulable facts
- C. General awareness of crime in an area
- D. Evidence that a crime is currently taking place

**7. What is the definition of "cybercrime"?**

- A. Crimes committed by virtual characters in online games
- B. Criminal activities involving physical theft of property
- C. Criminal activities that involve computers or computer networks
- D. Cybernetic enhancements used for illegal activities

**8. What is meant by universal jurisdiction?**

- A. The legal principle allowing national courts to prosecute individuals for serious crimes irrespective of the location
- B. The authority of local courts to handle only state law violations
- C. The concept of extraditing criminals between countries
- D. The practice of judging international disputes

**9. Edwin H. Sutherland's theory that a person becomes a criminal due to contact with criminals' definitions is known as?**

- A. Social disorganization
- B. Collective conscience
- C. Differential social organization
- D. Differential association

**10. A practice where an entire patrol station is instructed to make numerous traffic stops is referred to as \_\_\_ patrol.**

- A. aggressive
- B. foot
- C. directed
- D. preventative

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. Which of the following is NOT a criticism of the War on Drugs?

- A. the abuse or misuse of illegal drugs has contributed to more deaths annually than alcohol or tobacco
- B. the drug war is easiest
- C. the drug war is hugely expensive
- D. the government has exaggerated the dangers of illegal drug use

The option identified as the correct answer states a fact regarding the impact of drug abuse and misuse compared to legal substances like alcohol and tobacco. This assertion highlights public health concerns but does not serve as a criticism of the War on Drugs itself. Instead, it points out a grave issue that the War on Drugs aims to address. In contrast, the other options provide critiques related to the War on Drugs. The mention of the war being "easiest" suggests an oversimplification of complex social issues, indicating criticism regarding the effectiveness of strategies employed. The reference to the program's significant expense draws attention to the financial burden it imposes on society, questioning the justification of such expenditures in light of its outcomes. Finally, indicating that the government has exaggerated the dangers of illegal drug use reflects skepticism about the narrative surrounding drugs and their impacts, which is a frequent criticism expressed by various stakeholders, including policymakers and advocates for reform. Thus, the assertion in the correct answer does not align with criticisms aimed at the War on Drugs, as it simply relays statistics about drug misuse without engaging with the implications or effectiveness of the policies in place.

## 2. Which of the following terms refers to the societal reaction to behaviors perceived as deviant?

- A. Labeling
- B. Stigmatization
- C. Cultural Deviance
- D. Social Conditioning

The term that refers to the societal reaction to behaviors perceived as deviant is "labeling." This concept is rooted in labeling theory, which suggests that the labels society places on individuals can significantly impact their self-identity and their future behavior. When someone is labeled as deviant, it can lead to a process where they adopt the behaviors associated with that label. Labeling is important in understanding how societal perceptions shape individual identities and actions; it emphasizes the role of social context and interactions in defining what is considered deviant. The act of labeling can lead to further deviance as individuals may internalize these labels and modify their behavior accordingly. This is an essential concept in criminology and sociology, leading to discussions about prejudice, discrimination, and the reinforcement of social norms. Stigmatization, while related, specifically focuses on the negative implications and societal ostracism that arise from being labeled, instead of the broader process of labeling itself. Cultural deviance refers to behaviors that go against societal norms but does not encompass the reaction of society to those behaviors. Social conditioning involves the processes by which individuals are taught the norms and values of their society and does not specifically address the reactions to deviance.

### 3. The purpose of a preliminary hearing is to determine what?

- A. Whether to indict the defendant
- B. Guilty plea acceptance
- C. Probable cause of the crime**
- D. Trial date scheduling

*The purpose of a preliminary hearing is to determine probable cause for the crime. This hearing is a judicial proceeding that takes place after charges have been filed but before the trial begins. During the preliminary hearing, the judge evaluates the evidence presented by the prosecution to decide whether there is sufficient cause to believe that a crime was committed and that the defendant may have committed it. This step is crucial as it protects individuals from being subjected to unnecessary criminal trials when there is insufficient evidence to support the charges. Establishing probable cause aims to ensure that the legal process is being upheld fairly and that individuals are not wrongfully prosecuted without adequate evidence. Other options, such as indicting the defendant or scheduling a trial date, involve different processes. An indictment is typically decided by a grand jury rather than through a preliminary hearing, while scheduling a trial date occurs after the preliminary hearing if the case proceeds. Accepting a guilty plea also falls under different legal proceedings and is not the focus of the preliminary hearing.*

### 4. When the FBI was initially established, which type of crime did it NOT investigate?

- A. National banking crimes
- B. Drug crimes**
- C. Naturalization crimes
- D. Peonage crimes

*The FBI was established in 1908, initially focusing on federal offenses that were problematic at the time. Among these were national banking crimes, naturalization crimes, and peonage crimes. National banking crimes pertained to the regulation and enforcement of laws regarding banking practices. Naturalization crimes involved the fraudulent or deceptive practices used by individuals seeking U.S. citizenship. Peonage crimes referred to the system where individuals were bound in servitude or forced labor to pay off debts, which was prevalent during that period. On the other hand, drug-related crimes were not among the FBI's earliest concerns. Although drug enforcement became a significant part of the FBI's mission later, especially with the rise of organized crime and drug trafficking in the mid-20th century, the agency did not initially focus on these crimes at the time of its formation. Thus, the correct answer highlights the FBI's original mandate and the evolution of its investigative priorities over time.*

## 5. What does the "chain of custody" refer to?

- A. The order of witnesses in a court case
- B. The process of maintaining and documenting the handling of evidence**
- C. The ability to link a suspect to a crime scene
- D. The collection of jury members

*The term "chain of custody" specifically refers to the process of maintaining and documenting the handling of evidence from the time it is collected until it is presented in court. This process is crucial in the legal system to ensure that the evidence has not been altered or tampered with at any point. Proper documentation during the chain of custody helps maintain the integrity of the evidence, which can affect its admissibility in court and ultimately, the outcome of the case. This meticulous tracking of evidence allows for clear accountability and transparency, ensuring that the evidence can be traced back to its origins and handled according to legal standards. The other options do not accurately capture the essence of the chain of custody; they refer to aspects of the legal process that, while important, do not involve the critical procedural aspects that ensure the credibility and reliability of evidence in a legal context.*

## 6. What constitutes "reasonable suspicion"?

- A. A hunch that a crime may happen in the future
- B. The belief that a person may be involved in criminal activity, based on specific, articulable facts**
- C. General awareness of crime in an area
- D. Evidence that a crime is currently taking place

*Reasonable suspicion refers to a legal standard applied in the field of criminal justice that allows law enforcement officers to stop and briefly detain a person for investigative purposes when they have a particularized and objective basis for suspecting that the person is engaged in criminal activity. The key component of reasonable suspicion is that it must be based on specific, articulable facts rather than vague hunches or general feelings. This means that the officer must be able to articulate specific reasons for their suspicion, which could be based on observed behavior, knowledge of the area, or other identifiable facts. This standard is not as high as "probable cause," which is required for arrests and obtaining search warrants, but it does require more than just a general feeling or instinct. In contrast, other options do not meet the legal requirement of reasonable suspicion. A hunch without specific facts does not provide a solid foundation for an investigative stop. Likewise, having a general awareness of crime in an area does not provide particularized information about an individual. Finally, evidence that a crime is currently taking place would elevate the situation to probable cause, thereby exceeding the threshold of reasonable suspicion. The emphasis in this context is on the necessity of having clear, articulated reasons for suspicion to justify a stop.*

## 7. What is the definition of "cybercrime"?

- A. Crimes committed by virtual characters in online games
- B. Criminal activities involving physical theft of property
- C. Criminal activities that involve computers or computer networks**
- D. Cybernetic enhancements used for illegal activities

*The definition of "cybercrime" encompasses criminal activities that involve computers or computer networks, making this the correct understanding of the term. These activities can range from hacking, identity theft, and online fraud, to the distribution of malware and other illegal activities conducted through or with the aid of technology. Given the pervasive role of digital interfaces in society, the scope of cybercrime continues to expand as more aspects of life become intertwined with digital technology. In contrast, the first option describes fictional scenarios tied to online games rather than actual criminal behavior. The second option focuses on physical theft, which falls under traditional crime rather than cyber-related offenses. The fourth option mentions cybernetic enhancements, which could relate to advanced technology but does not specifically define cybercrime itself. Thus, the focus on computers and networks in the correct answer aligns perfectly with contemporary definitions and understandings of cybercrime.*

## 8. What is meant by universal jurisdiction?

- A. The legal principle allowing national courts to prosecute individuals for serious crimes irrespective of the location**
- B. The authority of local courts to handle only state law violations
- C. The concept of extraditing criminals between countries
- D. The practice of judging international disputes

*Universal jurisdiction refers to the principle that allows national courts to prosecute individuals for serious crimes regardless of where the crime was committed, the nationality of the perpetrator, or the nationality of the victims. This is particularly applied to heinous offenses such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and torture. The rationale behind universal jurisdiction is that such crimes are of concern to all humanity, and therefore, any state should have the authority to assert jurisdiction to bring perpetrators to justice. This principle serves as a mechanism for accountability in a global context, ensuring that individuals cannot escape justice merely due to the geographic location of their crimes. In contrast, other options focus on specific legal contexts. Local courts' authority is typically limited to state law violations, which do not encompass the broader international scope represented by universal jurisdiction. The concept of extradition addresses the transfer of individuals across borders to face charges but does not inherently involve the prosecution by the extraditing country. Finally, judging international disputes usually pertains to the resolution of conflicts between states, rather than prosecuting individual criminal behavior under universal principles.*

**9. Edwin H. Sutherland's theory that a person becomes a criminal due to contact with criminals' definitions is known as?**

- A. Social disorganization
- B. Collective conscience
- C. Differential social organization
- D. Differential association**

*Differential association is a theory proposed by Edwin H. Sutherland which posits that criminal behavior is learned through interactions with others. According to this theory, individuals are influenced by the definitions and attitudes towards crime that they encounter in their relationships. If a person is exposed to more definitions that favor criminal behavior than those that discourage it, they are more likely to engage in criminal activities. The emphasis on the social environment in shaping behavior is critical, as it suggests that crime is not merely a result of individual choice or biology, but rather a social phenomenon influenced by one's surroundings. This concept is central to understanding how criminal behavior can be perpetuated within communities or social groups, as individuals adopt the norms and values of those they associate with. The theory highlights the importance of peer influence and the social context in which individuals operate, making it a foundational perspective in criminology. The other options relate to sociological concepts, but they do not capture the specific idea that crime is learned through the influence of others, which is the essence of differential association. For instance, social disorganization focuses on the breakdown of community structures and the impact on crime rates, while collective conscience refers to the shared beliefs and moral attitudes of a society. Differential social organization, while relevant to*

**10. A practice where an entire patrol station is instructed to make numerous traffic stops is referred to as \_\_\_ patrol.**

- A. aggressive**
- B. foot
- C. directed
- D. preventative

*The term "aggressive patrol" refers to a policing strategy where law enforcement officers are instructed to conduct a high volume of traffic stops within a specific timeframe or area. This approach aims to deter crime and enhance police visibility and interaction with the community. The philosophy behind aggressive patrol is that by increasing the number of police encounters with the public on the roads, officers can potentially discover illegal activities, enforce traffic laws, and address other concerns such as driver behavior and safety on the roadways. In contrast, foot patrol involves officers patrolling on foot, often in neighborhoods, to foster community relations and deter crime through a visible presence. Directed patrol relates to focusing police efforts on specific areas or activities based on intelligence or crime trends, rather than a blanket increase in traffic stops. Preventative patrol generally refers to routine patrols designed to prevent crime through visibility and deterrence, but without the focused intensity and volume of stops characteristic of aggressive patrol strategies. Thus, "aggressive patrol" specifically captures the essence of prompting numerous traffic stops as part of a concerted law enforcement effort.*

## 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://criminaljustice.examzify.com>

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

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