

DPS COPS PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR
THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

<https://dpscops.examzify.com>



Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	16

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. What does the acronym SARA stand for in problem-solving policing?**
 - A. Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment
 - B. Separation, Assessment, Reactivation, and Adjustment
 - C. Surveillance, Analysis, Reaction, and Appraisal
 - D. Situation, Analysis, Retrospective, and Action
- 2. What is the implication of good control in driving situations?**
 - A. Safe and effective driving
 - B. Altered driving speed
 - C. Failure to signal
 - D. Obstruction of other vehicles
- 3. Which type of training might officers receive in community policing?**
 - A. Advanced weapon handling techniques
 - B. Crisis intervention and conflict resolution training
 - C. Surveillance tactics and undercover operations
 - D. Traffic control and management
- 4. What reflects bad observation during driving assessments?**
 - A. Missing clear turns
 - B. Looking in the mirror frequently
 - C. Neglecting to signal appropriately
 - D. Exceeding safe speed limits
- 5. What is a potential negative outcome when stopping on a stop line?**
 - A. Confusion for pedestrians
 - B. Improper lane positioning
 - C. Interference with right of way
 - D. Unnecessary hesitations
- 6. What is the result of continuing to back up when a combination vehicle is jackknifed?**
 - A. Proper maneuvering
 - B. Loss of vehicle control
 - C. Improved spatial awareness
 - D. Successful navigation

- 7. What does it mean when a driver looks in the mirror for more than two seconds?**
- A. Good awareness while driving
 - B. Distracted driving
 - C. Bad observation
 - D. Proper check before changing lanes
- 8. How is the control rated when the speed of the vehicle is reduced to the point of lugging during upshifting?**
- A. Good
 - B. Fair
 - C. Bad
 - D. Excellent
- 9. What is the assessment when a vehicle enters an intersection on an amber light?**
- A. Good
 - B. Fair
 - C. Bad
 - D. Excellent
- 10. What is the assessment for not depressing the clutch to start the engine?**
- A. Good
 - B. Fair
 - C. Bad
 - D. Fail

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. What does the acronym SARA stand for in problem-solving policing?

- A. Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment**
- B. Separation, Assessment, Reactivation, and Adjustment
- C. Surveillance, Analysis, Reaction, and Appraisal
- D. Situation, Analysis, Retrospective, and Action

The acronym SARA stands for Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment, which represents a structured approach to problem-solving in policing. Each component of SARA plays a critical role in addressing community issues and enhancing public safety. - Scanning involves identifying and prioritizing problems in the community. This step is crucial because it helps law enforcement agencies determine which issues need immediate attention and resource allocation. - Analysis requires a deeper examination of the identified problems. This includes gathering and reviewing data to understand the underlying causes, patterns, and contexts of the issues, which is essential for developing effective responses. - Response focuses on implementing strategies designed to address the problems identified in the scanning phase and refined through analysis. It requires a proactive approach to develop, select, and plan interventions that are appropriate for the specific issues being addressed. - Assessment entails evaluating the effectiveness of the responses. This step helps law enforcement understand whether the actions taken were successful in mitigating the problem and what modifications may be needed for future initiatives. Through this systematic process, law enforcement can better understand the problems they face and develop targeted, evidence-based strategies to effectively resolve them, ultimately leading to safer communities.

2. What is the implication of good control in driving situations?

- A. Safe and effective driving**
- B. Altered driving speed
- C. Failure to signal
- D. Obstruction of other vehicles

Good control in driving situations is fundamentally linked to safe and effective driving. This means that a driver who maintains good control of their vehicle is able to respond appropriately to various driving conditions, ensuring not only their own safety but also the safety of passengers and others on the road. When a driver has good control, they can maneuver the vehicle accurately, maintain a steady speed, and navigate turns without losing stability. Additionally, good control enables a driver to make timely decisions, such as stopping at red lights, signaling before turns, and maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles. All of these actions contribute to safer roadways and reduce the risk of accidents. In contrast, alterations in driving speed, failure to signal, and obstruction of other vehicles detract from the overall effectiveness and safety of driving. These behaviors could lead to dangerous situations on the road, emphasizing the importance of maintaining good control while driving.

3. Which type of training might officers receive in community policing?

- A. Advanced weapon handling techniques
- B. Crisis intervention and conflict resolution training**
- C. Surveillance tactics and undercover operations
- D. Traffic control and management

In community policing, officers focus on building relationships with the community and addressing local issues in a collaborative manner. This approach emphasizes communication skills, empathy, and the ability to manage and resolve conflicts within the community. Training in crisis intervention and conflict resolution equips officers with the necessary tools to effectively engage with individuals in high-stress situations, reducing the potential for escalation and promoting positive outcomes. By learning crisis intervention techniques, officers can better understand mental health issues, substance abuse, and other societal challenges that residents may face. This not only aids in resolving conflicts but also fosters trust and cooperation between law enforcement and the community. These skills are essential for community policing efforts, as they empower officers to act as mediators and problem solvers rather than just enforcers of the law. Other types of training, such as advanced weapon handling techniques, surveillance tactics, and traffic control, focus more on traditional law enforcement methods and may not align as closely with the principles of community engagement and support that define community policing.

4. What reflects bad observation during driving assessments?

- A. Missing clear turns**
- B. Looking in the mirror frequently
- C. Neglecting to signal appropriately
- D. Exceeding safe speed limits

Missing clear turns during driving assessments indicates a lack of attention to critical driving maneuvers and awareness of one's surroundings. Being able to identify and execute turns safely is an essential part of driving, as these actions can significantly affect road safety for the driver and others. When a driver is unable to recognize where and when to make turns, it demonstrates poor situational awareness and can lead to dangerous behaviors on the road, such as sudden stops or erratic lane changes. In contrast, looking in the mirror frequently is generally considered a good driving habit, as it allows the driver to be aware of vehicles and hazards around them. Neglecting to signal appropriately reflects a failure to communicate intentions to other road users, which is crucial for safe driving but can be classified as poor etiquette rather than bad observation. Exceeding safe speed limits is certainly a concern and demonstrates a disregard for speed regulations, but it may not indicate poor observational skills as much as a failure to adhere to laws and safe driving protocols.

5. What is a potential negative outcome when stopping on a stop line?

- A. Confusion for pedestrians
- B. Improper lane positioning
- C. Interference with right of way**
- D. Unnecessary hesitations

Stopping past the stop line can result in interference with right of way, which is a significant issue in traffic management and safety. The stop line is painted at intersections to indicate where vehicles should come to a complete stop to ensure both visibility and safety for all road users, including pedestrians and other vehicles. When a vehicle stops over the stop line and into the crosswalk or intersection, it can block the view of oncoming traffic, obscure pedestrian paths, and lead to miscommunication about who has the right of way. This can create confusion among drivers and pedestrians alike, increasing the likelihood of accidents. Drivers may think they have a clear path to proceed when they do not, and pedestrians may find it difficult to cross safely if vehicles are encroaching into their space. The other potential outcomes listed, such as confusion for pedestrians, improper lane positioning, and unnecessary hesitations, are certainly relevant in the context of stopping inappropriately, but they can be seen as secondary consequences of the primary issue of right-of-way interference. The core problem lies in failing to stop correctly at the designated line, which has the most direct impact on the flow of traffic and safety at intersections.

6. What is the result of continuing to back up when a combination vehicle is jackknifed?

- A. Proper maneuvering
- B. Loss of vehicle control**
- C. Improved spatial awareness
- D. Successful navigation

When a combination vehicle is jackknifed, it indicates that the trailer has swung out and is at an angle to the towing vehicle, forming a V-shape. Continuing to back up in this situation exacerbates the loss of vehicle control. As the trailer moves further away from the truck, it becomes increasingly difficult to steer the combination vehicle effectively. Attempting to back up can lead to the trailer swinging wildly, causing the operator to lose steering and control altogether, which may result in dangerous situations or accidents. Stopping or attempting to straighten out the vehicles rather than continuing to back up is crucial to regain control and prevent further complications. Therefore, the outcome of continuing to back up during a jackknife situation is indeed a loss of vehicle control, which leads to potential hazards on the road.

7. What does it mean when a driver looks in the mirror for more than two seconds?

- A. Good awareness while driving
- B. Distracted driving
- C. Bad observation**
- D. Proper check before changing lanes

When a driver looks in the mirror for more than two seconds, it suggests a lapse in the natural flow of driving, which can indicate that the driver is not maintaining proper awareness of their surroundings. Extended gaze into the mirror may suggest that the driver is not focused on the road ahead and is potentially missing other critical cues from the environment, such as changes in traffic conditions, pedestrians, or road obstacles. This behavior can lead to impaired reaction times and an increased risk of accidents, making it essential for drivers to keep their mirror checks brief and to integrate them seamlessly into their driving routine. It also highlights the importance of situational awareness, which is crucial for safe driving; thus, prolonged mirror observation can signify a problem with observation skills even if it was intended for safety prior to a lane change.

8. How is the control rated when the speed of the vehicle is reduced to the point of lugging during upshifting?

- A. Good
- B. Fair
- C. Bad**
- D. Excellent

When the speed of a vehicle is reduced to the point of lugging during upshifting, it indicates that the engine is not receiving enough power to maintain an efficient operation due to a mismatch in speed and gear selection. Lugging occurs when the engine speed drops too low for the gear engaged, which can cause excessive strain on the engine as it struggles to perform. In this scenario, the control can be rated as "bad" because the vehicle is not performing efficiently. Proper shifting involves changing gears at optimal engine speeds to ensure smooth power delivery and to avoid damaging the engine. When the vehicle is in a state of lugging, it signifies poor control over the transmission and overall vehicle dynamics, leading to potential engine strain and reduced performance. Therefore, the rating reflects the negative consequences of lugging during upshifting, making it a clear indicator of ineffective control at that moment.

9. What is the assessment when a vehicle enters an intersection on an amber light?

- A. Good
- B. Fair
- C. Bad**
- D. Excellent

When a vehicle enters an intersection on an amber light, the appropriate assessment is understood in the context of traffic laws and safety principles. An amber light typically serves as a warning that the signal is about to change to red. The intention behind this is to enable drivers to make safe and informed decisions. Entering an intersection during this phase can be hazardous, particularly if the driver does not have adequate distance to safely clear the intersection before the light turns red. It may indicate that the driver didn't stop in time when faced with the amber light, or potentially misjudged the timing of their approach. As such, this scenario is often deemed unsafe, leading to a "bad" assessment of the situation. Drivers are generally instructed to stop on amber if it is safe to do so, which further emphasizes that entering the intersection during this signal phase is not ideal or recommended. This aligns with the understanding that stopping would typically be the correct or safer choice, reinforcing the negative implications of proceeding on amber without careful consideration.

10. What is the assessment for not depressing the clutch to start the engine?

- A. Good
- B. Fair**
- C. Bad
- D. Fail

The evaluation of the action of not depressing the clutch to start the engine is considered fair because, while it is not an ideal practice, it may not necessarily indicate a serious error in driving skills. Starting the engine without fully pressing the clutch can result in the vehicle lurching forward if it is in gear, which may pose a safety risk. Therefore, it is important for drivers to recognize this as an important step in ensuring safe vehicle operation. This assessment allows for some recognition of a driver's awareness of basic vehicle controls. To receive a higher rating, the driver would need to demonstrate absolute adherence to proper starting procedures, emphasizing the importance of safely engaging the clutch to avoid unintended movement. A lower rating would reflect a more serious concern regarding the driver's understanding or technique, which is why "fair" captures the intent of the assessment without marking it as outright inadequate.

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://dpscops.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE