

ETS Major Field Test Criminal Justice Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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- 1. In the context of sentencing, what does the term "incapacitation" imply?**
 - A. Restoring the offender to society after treatment.**
 - B. Removing the ability of offenders to commit further crimes.**
 - C. Assigning community service to offenders.**
 - D. Providing monetary fines as punishment.**

- 2. What does the term "less than lethal weapons" refer to?**
 - A. Weapons used for crowd control**
 - B. Tools that incapacitate without causing death**
 - C. Weapons with limited use in law enforcement**
 - D. Non-violent conflict resolution techniques**

- 3. What does the due process requirement include regarding law enforcement?**
 - A. Immediate arrest without evidence**
 - B. Public trial without due consideration**
 - C. Investigation followed by arrest and interrogation**
 - D. Surveillance without warrants**

- 4. Which of the following is an example of a gratuity in police corruption?**
 - A. Accepting a ride home from a friend**
 - B. Taking a bribe to dismiss a ticket**
 - C. Not enforcing laws against friends or family**
 - D. Using excessive force during an arrest**

- 5. What does a nolo contendere plea signify for a defendant?**
 - A. The defendant admits guilt**
 - B. The defendant contests the charges**
 - C. The defendant does not wish to contest conviction**
 - D. The defendant requests a trial**

6. What does the term 'double jeopardy' refer to?

- A. The right to avoid civil and criminal trials**
- B. The prohibition against being tried for the same crime twice**
- C. The right to confront witnesses in a trial**
- D. The requirement for a public trial**

7. What describes a situation where a group faces social change and conflict, leading to a breakdown in societal norms?

- A. Social disorganization**
- B. Five Modes of Adaptation**
- C. Anomie**
- D. Chicago School**

8. Which is NOT one of the nine steps in the criminal justice process?

- A. Booking**
- B. Trial**
- C. Mitigation**
- D. Corrections**

9. During what era was education and treatment considered luxuries in prisons?

- A. The punitive era**
- B. The industrial era**
- C. The rehabilitative era**
- D. The community corrections era**

10. How does the Speedy Trial Act protect defendants?

- A. Ensures they do not face trial without legal representation**
- B. Requires a fair trial process be completed quickly**
- C. Limits the number of jurors in a trial**
- D. Allows for delaying a trial if needed**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In the context of sentencing, what does the term "incapacitation" imply?

- A. Restoring the offender to society after treatment.**
- B. Removing the ability of offenders to commit further crimes.**
- C. Assigning community service to offenders.**
- D. Providing monetary fines as punishment.**

In the context of sentencing, "incapacitation" refers to the strategy of preventing an offender from being able to commit further crimes, particularly by physically restraining them through imprisonment. The goal of incapacitation is to protect society by ensuring that individuals who have demonstrated a propensity to engage in criminal behavior are removed from the community for a period of time. This approach focuses on the safety of the public rather than on the rehabilitation of the offender or the restoration of the offender to society. In contrast, the other options focus on different aspects of sentencing. For instance, restoring an offender to society after treatment emphasizes rehabilitation, which is about helping the offender change their behavior. Assigning community service is a form of punishment intended to benefit the community while allowing the offender to remain in society. Finally, providing monetary fines as punishment is a form of financial deterrent rather than physical restraint, which does not align with the primary definition of incapacitation. Thus, option B is the most accurate representation of the concept in question.

2. What does the term "less than lethal weapons" refer to?

- A. Weapons used for crowd control**
- B. Tools that incapacitate without causing death**
- C. Weapons with limited use in law enforcement**
- D. Non-violent conflict resolution techniques**

The term "less than lethal weapons" specifically refers to tools designed to incapacitate individuals without the intent to cause death. These weapons, such as rubber bullets, tasers, and pepper spray, are intended for use in situations where traditional lethal force would be inappropriate. The primary goal of these weapons is to subdue or control a person while minimizing the risk of serious injury or fatality. This concept is particularly important in law enforcement strategies and practices that prioritize de-escalation and the preservation of life. While crowd control tactics can involve less than lethal weapons, the broader definition of these tools focuses on their incapacitating effects rather than their specific application in crowd scenarios. Other choices related to limited use or conflict resolution techniques do not accurately encapsulate the essential nature and purpose of less than lethal weapons.

3. What does the due process requirement include regarding law enforcement?

- A. Immediate arrest without evidence**
- B. Public trial without due consideration**
- C. Investigation followed by arrest and interrogation**
- D. Surveillance without warrants**

The due process requirement includes the necessity for law enforcement to engage in a systematic and lawful process when investigating, arresting, and interrogating individuals. This ensures that individuals' rights are protected throughout the criminal justice process. The approach involves conducting thorough investigations to gather evidence before making an arrest, which helps to uphold the principle of fairness in the legal system. Following this, individuals can be interrogated, provided that their rights are respected, and they have the opportunity for legal representation. This emphasis on investigation, arrest, and interrogation reflects a commitment to lawful procedures that guarantee individuals are not subjected to arbitrary decisions or actions by law enforcement. It ensures that any information obtained is done so in a manner that complies with legal standards, which is essential for maintaining public trust and legitimacy in law enforcement.

4. Which of the following is an example of a gratuity in police corruption?

- A. Accepting a ride home from a friend**
- B. Taking a bribe to dismiss a ticket**
- C. Not enforcing laws against friends or family**
- D. Using excessive force during an arrest**

The correct answer highlights a scenario that exemplifies a gratuity within the context of police corruption. Gratuities refer to benefits or favors received by law enforcement officers without any direct exchange of money or official compensation. In this case, not enforcing laws against friends or family demonstrates a form of corruption where the officer provides preferential treatment due to personal relationships. This acceptance of favoritism can undermine the integrity of the law enforcement system and foster a culture of corruption. By failing to enforce laws in these cases, the officer misuses their authority and the public's trust, benefiting personally while neglecting their duty to uphold the law impartially. This example aligns with the concept of gratuities because it illustrates how personal relationships can lead to unethical behavior in a professional setting. The other options involve more direct forms of corruption, such as accepting rides or bribes, or using excessive force, which while serious, do not fall under the traditional definition of gratuities. Understanding the nuances of these terms is essential in recognizing the various forms of corruption within law enforcement.

5. What does a nolo contendere plea signify for a defendant?

- A. The defendant admits guilt
- B. The defendant contests the charges
- C. The defendant does not wish to contest conviction**
- D. The defendant requests a trial

A nolo contendere plea, also known as a no-contest plea, is a legal term that signifies that the defendant does not wish to contest the charges against them. By entering a nolo contendere plea, the defendant does not admit guilt but also does not contest the prosecution's case. This allows the court to treat the plea similarly to a guilty plea, resulting in a conviction, but it does not provide an admission of guilt that can be used against the defendant in any subsequent civil litigation arising from the same act. Typically, defendants may choose this plea to avoid the implications of admitting guilt, especially in cases where a civil suit might follow the criminal proceedings. The plea can create a sense of compromise, as the defendant may wish to resolve the case without directly admitting wrongdoing. This understanding is crucial, as it reflects the unique nature of a nolo contendere plea in the judicial system.

6. What does the term 'double jeopardy' refer to?

- A. The right to avoid civil and criminal trials
- B. The prohibition against being tried for the same crime twice**
- C. The right to confront witnesses in a trial
- D. The requirement for a public trial

The term 'double jeopardy' specifically refers to the constitutional protection that prohibits an individual from being tried twice for the same offense once a verdict has been reached in a criminal case. This principle is rooted in the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution, which ensures that an accused person does not face the anxiety and potential penalties of being subjected to multiple prosecutions for the same act. Once a jury has delivered a verdict, be it guilty or not guilty, that verdict is intended to be final regarding that particular charge, thus safeguarding individuals from the continual threat of legal action for the same alleged crime. This protection is seen as a fundamental right, reinforcing the idea that once the judicial process has spoken, it should not be reopened for the same circumstances, promoting fairness and stability in the legal system. The other options, while they each address important elements of the rights afforded to individuals in a legal context, do not encapsulate the specific definition and implications of double jeopardy. For example, avoiding civil and criminal trials, confronting witnesses, and ensuring public trials speak to different aspects of legal rights, but do not define or relate to the concept of being tried multiple times for the same crime.

7. What describes a situation where a group faces social change and conflict, leading to a breakdown in societal norms?

- A. Social disorganization**
- B. Five Modes of Adaptation**
- C. Anomie**
- D. Chicago School**

A situation where a group faces social change and conflict, leading to a breakdown in societal norms, is best described as social disorganization. This concept originates from sociological studies that examine how the disintegration of social structures, such as families and communities, can affect behavior and lead to increased crime rates. When social norms are weakened due to rapid changes—such as urbanization, economic shifts, or cultural conflicts—individuals may feel disconnected from the societal framework, resulting in confusion and a lack of guidance in behaviors. In this context, social disorganization emphasizes the disruption of the fabric that holds society together, illustrating how environments that experience drastic changes can become crime-prone due to weakened societal controls. Understanding this helps to explain the dynamics of communities facing challenges that undermine established norms and values.

8. Which is NOT one of the nine steps in the criminal justice process?

- A. Booking**
- B. Trial**
- C. Mitigation**
- D. Corrections**

The nine steps in the criminal justice process typically include a series of stages that a case undergoes, from initial investigation to final resolution and beyond. These steps are crucial in understanding how criminal cases are handled within the justice system. Among these steps are booking, which involves the formal recording of an arrest; trial, where the accused is tried before a judge or jury; and corrections, which encompasses the management of convicted offenders, including incarceration and rehabilitation. Mitigation, while important in the context of sentencing where it refers to the presentation of circumstances that may lessen the severity of a punishment, is not a formal step in the criminal justice process itself. It is rather an aspect considered during the sentencing phase after a conviction has occurred, rather than a procedural step that all cases must go through. Thus, it does not belong to the sequential steps that outline the criminal justice process.

9. During what era was education and treatment considered luxuries in prisons?

- A. The punitive era**
- B. The industrial era**
- C. The rehabilitative era**
- D. The community corrections era**

The correct choice highlights the punitive era of corrections, which is characterized by a focus on punishment over rehabilitation or education within the prison system. During this time, the primary goal of incarceration was to inflict suffering and to deter crime through harsh treatment. As a result, educational programs and treatment options for inmates were often viewed as unnecessary luxuries rather than essential components of offender management. In contrast, other eras, such as the rehabilitative era, emphasized the need for reform and personal development through education and therapy, recognizing their importance in reducing recidivism. The industrial era focused more on labor and work programs to keep inmates occupied, while the community corrections era moved towards integrating offenders into society with support systems, which also places significant emphasis on education and treatment. The punitive era stands out as one where those aspects were largely neglected in favor of strict, harsh confinement.

10. How does the Speedy Trial Act protect defendants?

- A. Ensures they do not face trial without legal representation**
- B. Requires a fair trial process be completed quickly**
- C. Limits the number of jurors in a trial**
- D. Allows for delaying a trial if needed**

The Speedy Trial Act was enacted to safeguard a defendant's right to a prompt trial, which is a fundamental aspect of ensuring fairness in the judicial process. It establishes specific timeframes within which a trial must commence following an indictment or an arrest. This helps to prevent undue delays that could negatively impact the defendant's ability to mount a relevant defense, preserve evidence, or maintain their liberty. By requiring that legal proceedings proceed in a timely manner, the Act aims to reduce the anxiety and uncertainty associated with prolonged pretrial detention, thus reinforcing the integrity of the judicial system and upholding the principle of justice. The focus of the Speedy Trial Act is on the efficiency and timeliness of legal proceedings, which is crucial in balancing the rights of defendants with the interests of justice. This framework aims to discourage unnecessary postponements, thereby promoting a legal environment where defendants are assured that they will have their day in court relatively quickly.

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://etsmajfieldtestcrimjustice.examzify.com>

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

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