

ETS Major Field Test Criminal Justice Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

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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. What type of facilities are utilized in shock incarceration programs?**
 - A. Traditional correctional institutions**
 - B. Community rehabilitation centers**
 - C. Boot camp-type prisons**
 - D. Therapeutic community homes**

- 2. What does the term corpus delicti refer to?**
 - A. The defendant's criminal history**
 - B. The evidence proving a crime has occurred**
 - C. The intentions of the perpetrator**
 - D. The sequence of events leading to a crime**

- 3. Which of the following describes reasonable suspicion?**
 - A. A belief that a specific crime has been committed**
 - B. A general belief that a crime is in progress**
 - C. An assumption with no supporting evidence**
 - D. A specific claim made by a witness**

- 4. What is the role of police in maintaining public trust according to police-community relations?**
 - A. To act independently of community influence**
 - B. To engage openly and cooperatively with the public**
 - C. To enforce laws without public input**
 - D. To prioritize their own operational needs over community concerns**

- 5. What philosophy holds that people tend to seek pleasure and avoid pain?**
 - A. Utilitarianism**
 - B. Hedonism**
 - C. Empiricism**
 - D. Rationalism**

- 6. Which type of sentence is served simultaneously for multiple offenses?**
- A. Consecutive sentences**
 - B. Detention sentences**
 - C. Concurrent sentences**
 - D. Probation sentences**
- 7. What does the Biological School suggest about criminal behavior?**
- A. It is primarily a result of environmental factors.**
 - B. It is purely a product of social influences.**
 - C. It has a physiological basis.**
 - D. It is never determined by heredity.**
- 8. What characterized the mass prison era?**
- A. A focus on individual rehabilitation**
 - B. A system of enforced silence and collective living**
 - C. Decentralization of prison management**
 - D. A flexible approach to inmate release**
- 9. What are courts of limited jurisdiction primarily known as?**
- A. Appeals courts**
 - B. District courts**
 - C. Trial courts**
 - D. Supreme courts**
- 10. What is required for concurrence in a criminal case?**
- A. Proof of intent and motive**
 - B. Simultaneous occurrence of act and intent**
 - C. A witness testimony supporting both act and intent**
 - D. A historical context for the crime**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What type of facilities are utilized in shock incarceration programs?

- A. Traditional correctional institutions
- B. Community rehabilitation centers
- C. Boot camp-type prisons**
- D. Therapeutic community homes

Shock incarceration programs are specifically designed to provide a highly structured and disciplined environment that emphasizes physical fitness, hard work, and military-style training. The intent of these boot camp-type programs is to instill discipline and provide a stark contrast to the traditional correctional experience, thereby encouraging behavioral change in offenders. These programs typically resemble an army boot camp, focusing on rigorous physical activities and a strict routine that often incorporates drill instruction. The goal is to shock the participants into recognizing the severity of their behavior and to motivate them to change. Unlike traditional correctional institutions, which may lack the intense physical training and discipline found in boot camps, shock incarceration programs aim to reduce recidivism through a concentrated effort on personal accountability and responsibility. Community rehabilitation centers and therapeutic community homes focus more on rehabilitation and reintegration into society, often emphasizing support and therapeutic approaches rather than the structured discipline central to shock incarceration. Thus, boot camp-type prisons are distinct in their approach and methodology, making them the correct answer for facilities utilized in shock incarceration programs.

2. What does the term corpus delicti refer to?

- A. The defendant's criminal history
- B. The evidence proving a crime has occurred**
- C. The intentions of the perpetrator
- D. The sequence of events leading to a crime

The term corpus delicti is a fundamental concept in criminal law that refers to the evidence proving that a crime has occurred. It encompasses all the necessary elements that establish that a specific offense has taken place, independent of the confession of the accused or any other singular piece of evidence. This concept is crucial because it underscores that a crime must be demonstrated by factual evidence rather than just by allegations or the defendant's admissions. Understanding corpus delicti helps to ensure that individuals are not wrongfully convicted based solely on confessions or circumstantial evidence without concrete proof that a specific crime occurred. It typically involves demonstrating both that a certain harm or result existed and that the harm was caused by a criminal act. This legal principle is vital in maintaining the integrity of the criminal justice process and protecting the rights of the accused.

3. Which of the following describes reasonable suspicion?

- A. A belief that a specific crime has been committed
- B. A general belief that a crime is in progress**
- C. An assumption with no supporting evidence
- D. A specific claim made by a witness

Reasonable suspicion is defined as a standard used in the criminal justice system that allows law enforcement to briefly detain a person for investigative purposes if they have a particular set of facts or circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a crime is occurring or is about to occur. This belief does not need to meet the standard of proof required for an arrest, which is a higher threshold known as probable cause. The choice that describes reasonable suspicion correctly emphasizes a general belief that a crime is either in progress or about to happen, rather than confirming that a specific crime has been committed or being based solely on an assumption or hearsay. This makes it a critical standard for police officers when assessing situations in real time and deciding whether to stop, question, or search a person. It's worth noting that reasonable suspicion is based on articulate facts, observations, and experience, which distinguishes it from mere speculation or general assumptions.

4. What is the role of police in maintaining public trust according to police-community relations?

- A. To act independently of community influence
- B. To engage openly and cooperatively with the public**
- C. To enforce laws without public input
- D. To prioritize their own operational needs over community concerns

The role of police in maintaining public trust is fundamentally rooted in their engagement with the community. This relationship is built on the principles of transparency, accountability, and collaboration. By engaging openly and cooperatively with the public, police can foster a sense of partnership and shared responsibility for community safety. When law enforcement agencies take the time to interact positively with citizens—through community policing initiatives, public forums, and listening to community concerns—they demonstrate that they value the opinions and needs of the public. This approach not only enhances trust but also encourages community cooperation, which is essential for effective crime prevention and problem-solving. Building public trust through cooperation allows officers to better understand community dynamics and challenges. It also helps in de-escalating tensions and improving overall public safety. In contrast, acting independently of community influence, enforcing laws without public input, or prioritizing their own operational needs can create a disconnect between the police and the communities they serve, eroding trust and potentially leading to increased conflict.

5. What philosophy holds that people tend to seek pleasure and avoid pain?

- A. Utilitarianism**
- B. Hedonism**
- C. Empiricism**
- D. Rationalism**

The philosophy that states people tend to seek pleasure and avoid pain is hedonism. Hedonism primarily focuses on the pursuit of pleasure as the highest good and the ultimate aim of human life. It posits that actions can be considered morally right if they increase pleasure or happiness and reduce pain. This philosophy has roots in ancient Greek thought, notably articulated by figures like Epicurus, who distinguished between different types of pleasures and emphasized the idea that true happiness comes from moderation and the absence of pain. Utilitarianism, although concerned with pleasure and pain, encompasses a broader framework that evaluates actions based on their consequences for the greater good, not just individual pleasure. Empiricism and rationalism deal more with theories of knowledge and perception rather than the pursuit of pleasure and avoidance of pain.

6. Which type of sentence is served simultaneously for multiple offenses?

- A. Consecutive sentences**
- B. Detention sentences**
- C. Concurrent sentences**
- D. Probation sentences**

Concurrent sentences are those that allow offenders to serve multiple sentences at the same time, rather than one after the other. This means that if a person is convicted of several offenses, they would only serve the longest sentence among those offenses, with the other sentences running concurrently. For instance, if an offender is sentenced to three years for one charge and four years for another, under concurrent sentencing, they would serve four years total rather than seven. This approach can be beneficial in managing prison populations and can also be seen as a more lenient option for lesser offenses or circumstances where the defendant's crimes are closely related. Conversely, consecutive sentences, on the other hand, require that each sentence be served one after the other, leading to a longer total time in incarceration. Detention sentences and probation sentences refer to different forms of punishment and do not fit the criteria for being served simultaneously.

7. What does the Biological School suggest about criminal behavior?

- A. It is primarily a result of environmental factors.
- B. It is purely a product of social influences.
- C. It has a physiological basis.**
- D. It is never determined by heredity.

The Biological School suggests that criminal behavior has a physiological basis, indicating that biological factors, such as genetics, brain structure, and neurochemistry, can influence an individual's propensity for criminal conduct. This perspective posits that certain physical characteristics or genetic make-up may predispose individuals to engage in criminal behavior, as opposed to solely attributing criminality to external environmental or social influences. This school of thought emerged as part of the broader field of criminology and is associated with early theorists like Cesare Lombroso, who believed that criminals could be identified by physical features. The idea is that biological predispositions can manifest in behavior, and this understanding can help in forming strategies for prevention and rehabilitation, recognizing that not all behavior is strictly learned or influenced by one's environment. The focus on physiological factors underscores the complexity of criminal behavior and the need to consider multiple influences, including biological, psychological, and social elements, when analyzing criminality.

8. What characterized the mass prison era?

- A. A focus on individual rehabilitation
- B. A system of enforced silence and collective living**
- C. Decentralization of prison management
- D. A flexible approach to inmate release

The mass prison era is characterized by a system of enforced silence and collective living, which was a hallmark of this period in the history of corrections. This approach arose during the 19th century when the prison systems underwent significant expansion due to rising incarceration rates. The focus was on maintaining order, discipline, and a uniform way of life among inmates. Enforced silence was a critical aspect of the mass prison era, as it was believed that eliminating conversation among prisoners would reduce disruption and promote reflection on their wrongdoings. This method aimed to create an environment conducive to change through isolation from the external world and a strict regimen of conduct. Collective living was also vital, as it emphasized the notion that prisoners would live amongst each other in a highly controlled setting, reinforcing a sense of shared experience and collective punishment. In contrast, the other options present characteristics that do not align with the central focus of the mass prison era. Individual rehabilitation was not the primary aim during this time; rather, the emphasis was on punishment and control. Decentralization of prison management marks a departure from the mass prison era, which was characterized by a more centralized, uniform approach. Furthermore, the era did not embody a flexible approach to inmate release; it instead operated under strict rules regarding

9. What are courts of limited jurisdiction primarily known as?

- A. Appeals courts
- B. District courts
- C. Trial courts**
- D. Supreme courts

Courts of limited jurisdiction are primarily known as trial courts because they handle specific types of cases, often with defined limits on the matters they can adjudicate. These courts typically deal with minor civil and criminal cases, such as misdemeanors, small claims, and preliminary hearings for felonies. The term "limited jurisdiction" indicates that these courts can only hear cases that fall within the parameters set by law, distinguishing them from general jurisdiction courts that can address a broader range of issues. In many jurisdictions, trial courts serve as the starting point for most legal proceedings, making them essential in the judicial system. The other types of courts mentioned have different functions. Appeals courts primarily review decisions made by trial courts, focusing on whether law was correctly applied in those cases. District courts can refer to various courts depending on the jurisdiction, but they often have broader authority than courts of limited jurisdiction, handling more significant criminal and civil cases. Supreme courts are the highest courts in a jurisdiction, primarily focused on appeals and significant legal questions, rather than initial trials. Thus, trial courts best represent courts of limited jurisdiction.

10. What is required for concurrence in a criminal case?

- A. Proof of intent and motive
- B. Simultaneous occurrence of act and intent**
- C. A witness testimony supporting both act and intent
- D. A historical context for the crime

For concurrence in a criminal case, it is essential that both the act and the intent occur simultaneously. This principle, known as the "concurrence of act and intent," means that for an individual to be held criminally liable, their intent to commit a crime must coincide with the act of committing that crime. In other words, the individual's mental state influencing their decision to commit the illegal act must align with the act itself at the same moment in time. This concept is crucial in establishing culpability because it helps ensure that the defendant had the requisite mental state when the crime was committed. If the act and intent are not concurrent, it may indicate that the individual did not possess the necessary culpable state of mind for the commission of that crime, which could lead to a different legal outcome. The other choices touch on various aspects of criminal law but do not directly address the critical element of concurrence. Proof of intent and motive, for instance, relates to understanding why a defendant acted but does not mention the necessity of simultaneous occurrence. Witness testimony and historical context may provide insight into the circumstances surrounding the crime, but they do not establish the fundamental legal requirement of concurrent act and intent needed for a conviction.

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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