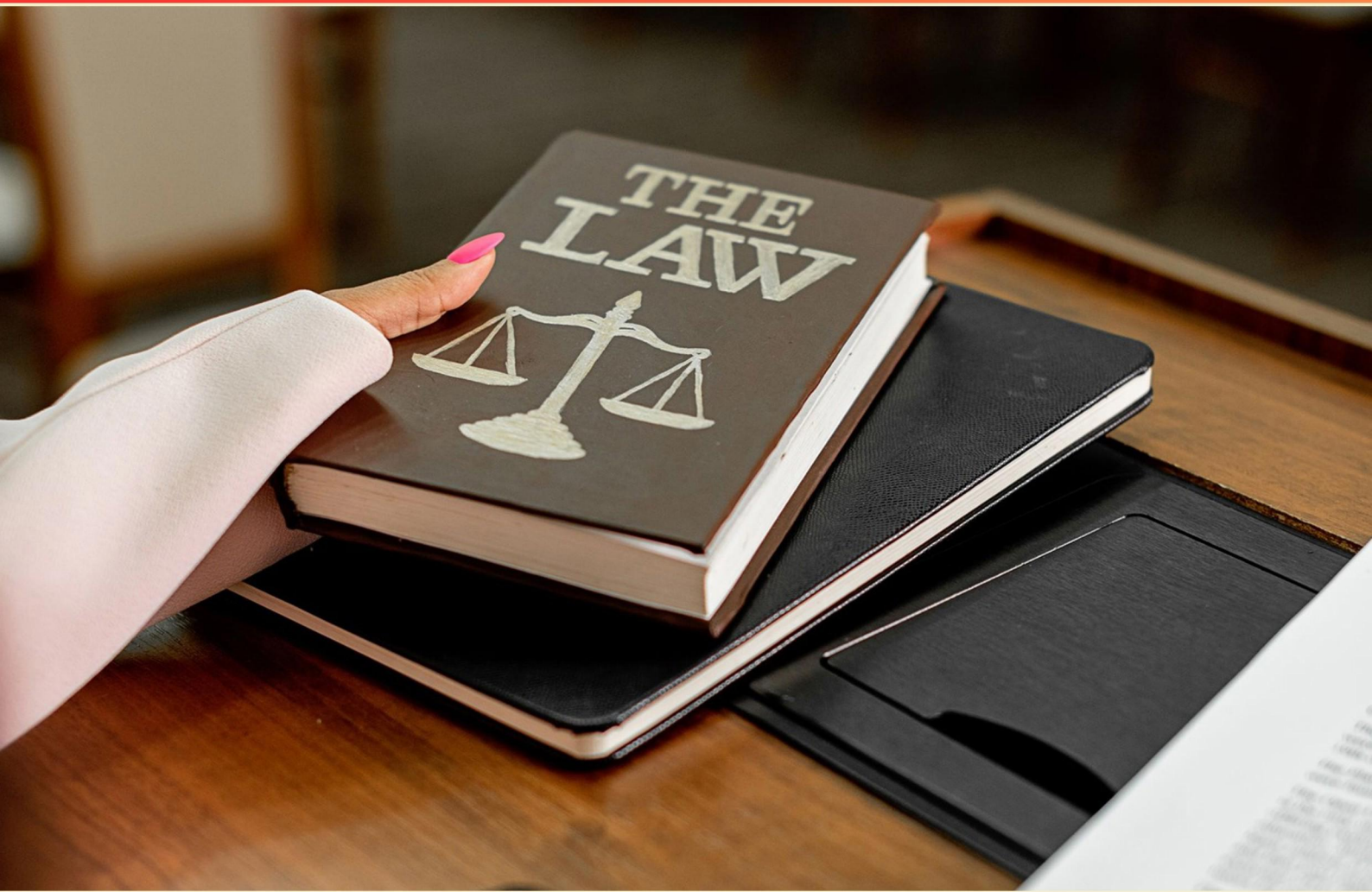


ETS MAJOR FIELD TEST CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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 does the harmless error rule state regarding appeals?**
 - A. Evidence must always be properly introduced at trial.
 - B. Improperly introduced evidence has no bearing on trial outcomes.
 - C. There may be no grounds for appeal due to improper evidence.
 - D. All improper evidence must lead to a retrial.
- 2. What right does a defendant have concerning juror challenges?**
 - A. To question jurors before selection
 - B. To have an unlimited number of challenges
 - C. To challenge a juror without specifying a reason
 - D. To disqualify jurors based on race
- 3. What is a foundational concept of the Classical School of criminology?**
 - A. Emphasis on sociological factors.
 - B. Focus on rehabilitation of offenders.
 - C. Belief in free will and rational choice.
 - D. Predetermination of criminal behavior.
- 4. Which of the following describes the nature of appeals in the legal system?**
 - A. All appeals are lengthy and complex
 - B. All appeals require a jury trial
 - C. Some appeals involve major questions of law and policy
 - D. Appeals automatically result in a trial de novo
- 5. What does the principle of proportionality in sentencing emphasize?**
 - A. The severity of punishment is irrelevant.
 - B. Sanction severity should relate directly to crime seriousness.
 - C. All crimes should receive equal punishment.
 - D. Sentencing should focus on rehabilitation.
- 6. What was a primary function of prisoners during the industrial era?**
 - A. To serve as cheap labor while learning a trade
 - B. To lead rehabilitation programs for other inmates
 - C. To manage prison facilities
 - D. To conduct research on criminal behavior

7. Why is restoration important in the context of crime and victimization?

- A. To ensure perpetrators are severely punished
- B. To reduce the likelihood of recidivism
- C. To heal the trauma experienced by victims
- D. To provide financial compensation to victims

8. What right is guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment?

- A. The right to bear arms
- B. The right to a speedy trial
- C. The right to remain silent
- D. The right to free speech

9. Which of the following is NOT considered a goal of sentencing?

- A. Deterrence
- B. Civil remedy
- C. Incapacitation
- D. Restoration

10. What protection does Amendment IV provide citizens?

- A. Protection from excessive bail
- B. Security against unreasonable searches and seizures
- C. Rights regarding jury trials
- D. Protection against self-incrimination

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does the harmless error rule state regarding appeals?

- A. Evidence must always be properly introduced at trial.
- B. Improperly introduced evidence has no bearing on trial outcomes.
- C. There may be no grounds for appeal due to improper evidence.
- D. All improper evidence must lead to a retrial.

The harmless error rule states that not all errors that occur during a trial affect the outcome significantly enough to warrant an appeal. Specifically, this rule allows for the possibility that certain errors, even if they were made regarding the introduction of evidence or other procedural matters, may not have influenced the final verdict. Therefore, if it can be shown that the error did not affect the jury's decision or the rights of the defendant, a court may uphold the original ruling despite the presence of the error. This concept is crucial in the justice system, as it helps to ensure that the appeals process is not overwhelmed by technicalities and can focus on significant issues that genuinely impact the fairness and integrity of the trial process.

2. What right does a defendant have concerning juror challenges?

- A. To question jurors before selection
- B. To have an unlimited number of challenges
- C. To challenge a juror without specifying a reason
- D. To disqualify jurors based on race

A defendant has the right to challenge a juror without specifying a reason, which is known as a peremptory challenge. This allows the defense (and prosecution) to remove jurors from the pool without having to provide a justification or explain their reasoning. The ability to do so is rooted in the principle that both sides should have the opportunity to shape a jury that they believe is fair or impartial, particularly given the high stakes involved in a trial. This right is distinct from other types of challenges, such as "for cause" challenges, where a specific reason must be articulated, such as bias or a conflict of interest. The use of peremptory challenges can vary by jurisdiction, but they generally offer a strategic way for attorneys to influence the composition of the jury. Having unlimited challenges is not typically the case in court settings; jurisdictions usually impose a limit on the number of peremptory challenges each side can exercise. Similarly, while questioning jurors before selection is an important part of the voir dire process, it does not constitute the right to challenge them directly as peremptory challenges do. Additionally, challenges based on race are prohibited by the Equal Protection Clause, as established in cases like Batson v. Kentucky, meaning that jurors cannot be

3. What is a foundational concept of the Classical School of criminology?

- A. Emphasis on sociological factors.
- B. Focus on rehabilitation of offenders.
- C. Belief in free will and rational choice.**
- D. Predetermination of criminal behavior.

The Classical School of criminology is primarily centered around the idea that individuals possess free will and that their decisions to engage in criminal behavior are based on rational choice. This school of thought emerged in the 18th century with key figures such as Cesare Beccaria and Jeremy Bentham, who argued that people are rational beings capable of making choices that can be influenced by the potential consequences of their actions. The belief in free will suggests that individuals have the power to choose whether to commit a crime based on an assessment of pleasure versus pain. This concept is fundamental because it laid the groundwork for modern criminal justice practices, emphasizing that laws should be clear and punishments should be proportionate to the crimes committed. The focus on rational choice also implies that making punishments swift, certain, and adequate can deter individuals from choosing to engage in criminal activities. In contrast, elements such as an emphasis on sociological factors, the rehabilitation of offenders, or the notion of predetermination do not align with the Classical School's principles. Those factors reflect different theories of criminology that consider societal influences, the potential for reforming offenders, or concepts of determinism that negate free will, which are outside the fundamental beliefs of the Classical School.

4. Which of the following describes the nature of appeals in the legal system?

- A. All appeals are lengthy and complex
- B. All appeals require a jury trial
- C. Some appeals involve major questions of law and policy**
- D. Appeals automatically result in a trial de novo

The correct choice highlights that some appeals address significant questions of law and policy, which is a fundamental aspect of the appellate process. In the legal system, appeals provide a mechanism for reviewing the decisions made by lower courts, offering the opportunity to examine whether errors of law or procedure affected the outcome of the case. When substantial questions arise—such as interpretations of constitutional provisions or important legal precedents—these are often the focus of appellate scrutiny. This is crucial for ensuring that the law is applied consistently and fairly across cases. Appellate courts may decide to uphold, reverse, or modify lower court decisions based on these major legal principles, thus shaping the application of law more broadly. The other options do not accurately represent the nature of appeals. For instance, it is not accurate to say that all appeals are lengthy and complex; many can be resolved through expedited processes. Similarly, appeals do not typically require a jury trial, as they are usually adjudicated by a panel of judges. Finally, the idea that appeals automatically lead to a trial de novo is incorrect; in most appeals, the focus is on the record from the original trial rather than a complete retrial of the case.

5. What does the principle of proportionality in sentencing emphasize?

- A. The severity of punishment is irrelevant.
- B. Sanction severity should relate directly to crime seriousness.**
- C. All crimes should receive equal punishment.
- D. Sentencing should focus on rehabilitation.

The principle of proportionality in sentencing emphasizes that the severity of the punishment should be directly related to the seriousness of the crime committed. This means that more severe crimes should lead to harsher penalties, while less serious offenses should invoke lighter sentences. Such a principle is foundational to the concept of justice within the legal system as it aims to ensure fairness and equity in the way individuals are punished for their actions. By following this principle, the judicial system seeks to maintain social order and uphold public trust, as it reflects a rational and balanced approach to criminal justice. This concept also serves as a safeguard against excessive, arbitrary, or unjust punishments, reinforcing the idea that punishments should correspond appropriately to the nature and impact of the crime.

6. What was a primary function of prisoners during the industrial era?

- A. To serve as cheap labor while learning a trade**
- B. To lead rehabilitation programs for other inmates
- C. To manage prison facilities
- D. To conduct research on criminal behavior

During the industrial era, a primary function of prisoners was to serve as cheap labor while learning a trade. Prisons were often seen as a means to not only punish offenders but also to provide an economic benefit. The use of inmate labor was widespread in industries such as textiles, manufacturing, and agriculture, where prisoners would work under conditions that were often exploitative. This labor was intended to help offset the costs of incarceration and contribute to the economy, reinforcing the idea that punishment could also serve a productive function. In addition to providing labor, this arrangement allowed inmates to learn skills that could potentially aid them upon their release. The industrial model of prison labor was built upon the belief that productive work could contribute to the inmates' reformation and reintegration into society, although it often prioritized institutional needs over the personal development of the individuals involved. Other options, while they represent concepts present in contemporary correctional philosophy, do not accurately reflect the primary function of prisoners during the industrial era. For instance, leading rehabilitation programs and managing prison facilities were not roles typically assigned to inmates at that time. Similarly, conducting research on criminal behavior falls outside the scope of inmate responsibilities during this era, as the focus was more on labor and punishment than on rehabilitation or academic inquiry.

7. Why is restoration important in the context of crime and victimization?

- A. To ensure perpetrators are severely punished
- B. To reduce the likelihood of recidivism
- C. To heal the trauma experienced by victims**
- D. To provide financial compensation to victims

Restoration is significant in the context of crime and victimization because it aims to heal the trauma experienced by victims. When individuals become victims of crime, they often endure not just physical harm but also emotional and psychological distress. Restorative practices focus on addressing the needs of the victims, helping them cope with their experiences and encouraging their recovery. This healing process can include community support, counseling, and opportunities for victims to engage in dialogues with offenders, which can contribute to a sense of closure and empowerment. The framework of restoration emphasizes understanding and addressing the impact of crime on victims instead of merely concentrating on punitive measures for offenders. By prioritizing the healing of victims, restorative justice seeks to rebuild trust in the community and promote social cohesion, ultimately contributing to a more holistic response to crime.

8. What right is guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment?

- A. The right to bear arms
- B. The right to a speedy trial**
- C. The right to remain silent
- D. The right to free speech

The Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees several rights related to criminal prosecutions. Among these rights is the right to a speedy trial, which is essential to ensuring that individuals do not languish indefinitely in jail awaiting their trial. This right aims to prevent prolonged detention and helps to uphold the principle of justice by ensuring that cases are resolved in a timely manner. The importance of a speedy trial lies in the protection it offers to the accused, as delays can impact their ability to prepare a defense and can also lead to the deterioration of exculpatory evidence. Quick resolution of legal matters is fundamental to maintaining the integrity of the judicial process and safeguarding the rights of individuals. The other options do not pertain to the Sixth Amendment. The right to bear arms is protected under the Second Amendment, the right to remain silent is related to the Fifth Amendment, and the right to free speech is provided by the First Amendment. Understanding these distinctions helps clarify the specific rights and protections afforded to individuals under different amendments in the Constitution.

9. Which of the following is NOT considered a goal of sentencing?

- A. Deterrence
- B. Civil remedy**
- C. Incapacitation
- D. Restoration

In the context of criminal justice, goals of sentencing typically encompass deterrence, incapacitation, restoration, and retribution. Deterrence aims to dissuade individuals and society from engaging in criminal behavior by imposing penalties. Incapacitation seeks to protect the public by restricting the offender's ability to commit further crimes, often through imprisonment. Restoration focuses on repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior, emphasizing the needs of victims and encouraging offenders to take responsibility for their actions. The term "civil remedy" does not align with the traditional goals of criminal sentencing. Instead, civil remedies pertain to civil law, where the focus is on compensating the victim rather than punishing the offender. This distinction illustrates why civil remedy is not considered a goal of sentencing within the criminal justice system.

10. What protection does Amendment IV provide citizens?

- A. Protection from excessive bail
- B. Security against unreasonable searches and seizures**
- C. Rights regarding jury trials
- D. Protection against self-incrimination

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution provides citizens with protection against unreasonable searches and seizures. This means that law enforcement agencies cannot search a person's property or belongings or seize their possessions without a warrant or probable cause. The amendment aims to safeguard individuals' privacy and control over their personal space, ensuring that any intrusion must be justified and legally sanctioned. The significance of this protection lies in its role in maintaining the balance between individual rights and state power. By requiring warrants to be supported by probable cause, the Fourth Amendment establishes a legal framework that promotes accountability within the justice system and safeguards civil liberties. This protection is foundational to the rights of citizens, promoting a society where individuals can expect a reasonable amount of privacy in their lives. The other answers relate to separate protections enshrined in different amendments or legal principles, highlighting different aspects of individual rights within the criminal justice system. For instance, protection from excessive bail is addressed in the Eighth Amendment, rights regarding jury trials are covered by the Sixth Amendment, and the right against self-incrimination is found in the Fifth Amendment. Each of these amendments serves an essential function in protecting various rights, but the specific focus of the Fourth Amendment is on unreasonable searches and seizures.

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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