

Forensics - Crime Scene Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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 tools are used to record the crime scene?**
 - A. Photography, Sketches, Videography, and Notes**
 - B. Only Photography**
 - C. Only Sketches**
 - D. Audio recordings only**

- 2. Why is it recommended to take many photographs at a crime scene?**
 - A. Better to take too many than too few**
 - B. Take only a few key photos**
 - C. Photos are optional**
 - D. Photos should replace notes**

- 3. Medical dissection to determine COD**
 - A. Biopsy**
 - B. Postmortem exam**
 - C. Necropsy**
 - D. Autopsy**

- 4. Which item is listed as evidence to collect from the victim's body?**
 - A. Blood**
 - B. Bullets from the body**
 - C. Hair samples**
 - D. Vaginal and oral swabs**

- 5. What type of container must arson materials be stored in to prevent leakage and contamination?**
 - A. Airtight**
 - B. Sealed**
 - C. Breathable**
 - D. Waterproof**

- 6. Which types of swabs are listed as potential evidence from the victim?**
- A. Vaginal and oral swabs (if appropriate)**
 - B. Nasal swabs**
 - C. Ear swabs**
 - D. Rectal swabs**
- 7. What is the main difference between a rough sketch and a final crime scene sketch?**
- A. Color**
 - B. Orientation**
 - C. Handwriting**
 - D. Scale**
- 8. A search pattern that does not follow a geometric pattern is known as a what?**
- A. Grid**
 - B. Link**
 - C. Spiral**
 - D. Zone**
- 9. Type of Circumstantial Evidence: _____ evidence: synthetic fibers, weapons, bullets, shell casings, paint chips, documents, imprints and prints (shoes, tires, etc.), tool marks, soil, drugs, etc.**
- A. Biological**
 - B. Class**
 - C. Physical**
 - D. Trace**
- 10. Example of _____ evidence: Blood Type- can be A, B, AB, O.**
- A. Physical**
 - B. Class**
 - C. Biological**
 - D. Trace**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which tools are used to record the crime scene?

A. Photography, Sketches, Videography, and Notes

B. Only Photography

C. Only Sketches

D. Audio recordings only

Recording a crime scene uses multiple tools because each method preserves different aspects of the scene: what you see, how things relate to each other, how the scene unfolds over time, and the written context behind the evidence. Photography provides a lasting, objective record of the scene from multiple angles, with scale and detail that can be re-examined later. It captures the layout, positions of items, and close-up details of evidence, which is essential for later analysis and court presentation. Sketches translate the real scene into measured drawings—floor plans, layouts, and relative distances between objects. They help investigators and analysts visualize spatial relationships and plan where to search for additional evidence, something a photo alone can't fully convey. Videography adds the dimension of time by recording movement, sequence, and actions as responders move through the scene or as evidence is discovered. This can reveal processes, lighting changes, and contextual flow that static images might miss. Notes supply the narrative and operational details: times, who collected evidence, methods used, conditions, and chain of custody. They provide the chronological story and practical context that ties all physical evidence to a defensible sequence of events. Relying on any single method risks losing important information. Photos show what exists at a moment, sketches convey layout, videos show how the scene evolves, and notes record the context and procedural details. Together, these tools create a complete, defensible record of the crime scene.

2. Why is it recommended to take many photographs at a crime scene?

A. Better to take too many than too few

B. Take only a few key photos

C. Photos are optional

D. Photos should replace notes

Capturing a crime scene with many photographs ensures a complete, objective record of conditions, layout, and evidence before anything is disturbed. Wide-angle shots establish the overall scene and how items relate to one another; mid-range images show context and groupings of objects; close-ups document crucial details and provide a sense of scale. Taking photos from multiple angles and distances reduces the risk of missing important items and creates backups if some images are later unusable. Photos also support later reconstruction, analysis, and presentation in court, and they reinforce notes, sketches, and measurements rather than replacing them. It's better to have more documentation so nothing essential is overlooked; too few photos can leave gaps in understanding what was present or how things were arranged. Photos are not optional and should be taken before evidence is moved or altered to preserve the original state.

3. Medical dissection to determine COD

- A. Biopsy
- B. Postmortem exam
- C. Necropsy
- D. Autopsy**

The main idea here is identifying the precise term for the post-death examination used to determine the cause of death. The process described—medical dissection of a body after death to figure out what caused death and to study disease processes—fits autopsy. An autopsy is a systematic internal examination that may include opening body cavities, inspecting organs, and taking tissue or fluid samples for further testing. This is the standard procedure used in both clinical and forensic settings to establish the cause and manner of death. Biopsy refers to taking a tissue sample from a living person to diagnose disease, not to examining a body after death. A postmortem exam is a broad, general phrase for examining someone after death, but autopsy is the specific, formal term for the detailed dissection and organ assessment. Necropsy is another term often used for animal autopsies; in human medicine, autopsy is the usual term. Therefore, autopsy best matches the concept of medical dissection to determine the cause of death.

4. Which item is listed as evidence to collect from the victim's body?

- A. Blood
- B. Bullets from the body**
- C. Hair samples
- D. Vaginal and oral swabs

The main idea here is gathering ballistic evidence directly from a gunshot victim. Recovered bullets or bullet fragments inside the body are crucial because they carry rifling marks from the firearm's barrel. Those marks can be compared to a suspect's gun in a ballistic lab to determine if a specific weapon fired the bullet. This link between the weapon and the crime is a key reason why bullets retrieved from the body are collected as evidence—they provide direct, primary evidence about the weapon used. Blood, hair, and swabs are also important in forensic investigations for DNA, toxicology, or other analyses, but they don't offer the same direct firearm linkage as a bullet does.

5. What type of container must arson materials be stored in to prevent leakage and contamination?

- A. Airtight**
- B. Sealed**
- C. Breathable**
- D. Waterproof**

Preventing leakage and contamination hinges on using an airtight container. An airtight container forms a complete seal that stops air, moisture, and volatile residues from escaping and from entering the container. This is crucial for arson materials because accelerants and residues can evaporate or become contaminated if exposed to air, which can spoil the sample or skew analyses. A sealed container might not guarantee a perfect, durable seal in all conditions, so leaks are still possible. Breathable containers would allow vapors to escape and contaminants to enter, and waterproof only guards against liquid water without stopping vapors. The airtight option best achieves the goal of containing both liquids and vapors, preserving the material for accurate analysis.

6. Which types of swabs are listed as potential evidence from the victim?

- A. Vaginal and oral swabs (if appropriate)**
- B. Nasal swabs**
- C. Ear swabs**
- D. Rectal swabs**

In evidence collection for sexual assault cases, swabs from the victim are used to recover DNA and trace fluids. Vaginal and oral swabs are listed because they target the fluids most likely to be exchanged during intercourse—semen in the vaginal tract and saliva or trace DNA in the mouth or on the lips. Collecting these swabs, when appropriate, provides the best chance to obtain DNA for analysis and comparison to a suspect. Nasal, ear, or rectal swabs aren't standardly collected from the victim in all cases and are only used in specific circumstances, so they're not the typical items listed as potential evidence from the victim.

7. What is the main difference between a rough sketch and a final crime scene sketch?

- A. Color**
- B. Orientation**
- C. Handwriting**
- D. Scale**

The key idea is how dimensions are represented. A rough sketch is done quickly and freehand, so distances and proportions aren't exact; it captures the layout and positions without forcing precise proportions. A final crime scene sketch, on the other hand, is drawn to scale, with precise measurements translated into a proportional plan (for example, a specific scale like 1 inch equals 1 foot). This scale lets you accurately determine true distances between objects and reconstruct the scene later, including for court presentations. Other traits like color, orientation marks, or handwriting can appear in both kinds of sketches, but they don't define the difference the way scale does.

8. A search pattern that does not follow a geometric pattern is known as a what?

- A. Grid
- B. Link**
- C. Spiral
- D. Zone

Understanding search patterns in crime scene work, some methods follow a clear geometric shape, while others prioritize relationships between items. A pattern that doesn't conform to a geometric shape is used when investigators move from clue to clue based on how items are connected or how evidence flows through the scene. This is the link pattern: the search path shifts to follow these connections, rather than sweeping in straight lines, circles, or defined zones. It's useful when evidence is irregularly scattered or when relationships between objects guide where to look next. In contrast, geometric patterns provide structured coverage: a grid uses intersecting straight lines for thorough, methodical scanning; a spiral follows a circular path moving inward or outward; and a zone approach divides the area into defined sections for focused searching. The link pattern stands out because it abandons the fixed geometric route in favor of following links between items.

9. Type of Circumstantial Evidence: _____ evidence: synthetic fibers, weapons, bullets, shell casings, paint chips, documents, imprints and prints (shoes, tires, etc.), tool marks, soil, drugs, etc.

- A. Biological
- B. Class
- C. Physical**
- D. Trace

Physical evidence comprises tangible items associated with a crime that can be collected, measured, and analyzed. The items listed—synthetic fibers, weapons, bullets, shell casings, paint chips, documents, imprints and prints (shoes, tires), tool marks, soil, drugs—are all material substances or objects that can be recovered at a scene and subjected to examination. While some of these can be characterized as trace evidence because they occur in small quantities (like fibers, paint chips, or soil), they fit under the broader category of physical evidence, which includes both large items and tiny particles. Biological evidence would cover fluids and tissues, not represented here, and class evidence refers to characteristics that point to a group rather than a specific item, which doesn't capture the range here. Thus, the best label for this list is physical evidence.

10. Example of _____ evidence: Blood Type- can be A, B, AB, O.

A. Physical

B. Class

C. Biological

D. Trace

Blood type is an example of class evidence. The main idea is distinguishing class evidence from individual evidence. Blood type can be A, B, AB, or O, and many people share each type. That means the finding points to a group of people who could have produced the sample, not a single, unique source. It can help narrow down suspects or exclude someone, but it cannot identify one person on its own. While blood itself is a biological material, the way this trait is used in evidence classification is as class evidence because it does not uniquely source to one individual.

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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://forensicscrimescene.examzify.com>

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

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