

# Fundamentals of Criminal Investigation 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. What are the basic steps in a criminal investigation?**
  - A. Identification, collection, preservation, and analysis of evidence**
  - B. Witness interviews, incident report, and case closure**
  - C. Surveillance, arrest, and prosecution**
  - D. Initial response, evidence storage, and jury selection**
- 2. What is the main focus of the final survey in a crime scene investigation?**
  - A. To collect more evidence**
  - B. To review findings with testifying experts**
  - C. To assess if all evidence has been collected**
  - D. To provide a summary report**
- 3. What is the primary function of a suspect interview in an investigation?**
  - A. To obtain a confession**
  - B. To understand the suspect's perspective and gather information**
  - C. To intimidate the suspect into silence**
  - D. To analyze suspect's body language for deception**
- 4. What type of photography is included in non-forensic applications?**
  - A. Infrared camera usage**
  - B. Surveillance via drone cameras**
  - C. Forensic victim analysis**
  - D. Accident reconstruction**
- 5. What role does victimology play in criminal investigation?**
  - A. It focuses solely on the criminal's behavior**
  - B. It helps understand the impact of crime on victims**
  - C. It determines the punishment for the offender**
  - D. It is irrelevant to the investigation process**

**6. What are "victim rights laws" designed to do?**

- A. Protect the interests of the accused**
- B. Protect and inform victims during the justice process**
- C. Streamline the court process**
- D. Reduce the number of victim reports**

**7. What does the acronym RICO stand for?**

- A. Racketeer Influenced and Criminal Operations Act.**
- B. Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.**
- C. Regulating Illegal Commerce Organizations Act.**
- D. Rights of Individuals in Criminal Operations Act.**

**8. What is the first step when approaching a crime scene?**

- A. Interview witnesses**
- B. Secure the scene**
- C. Call for backup**
- D. Document surroundings**

**9. Who is credited with the first formal use of the term "Detective"?**

- A. Edgar Allan Poe**
- B. Francis Galton**
- C. Francois Vidoeq**
- D. John F. Kennedy**

**10. What is a key principle of the Pinkerton Code regarding dealings with clients?**

- A. Accept bribes to secure information**
- B. Never compromise with criminals**
- C. Work exclusively in high-profile cases**
- D. Charge high fees regardless of client knowledge**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What are the basic steps in a criminal investigation?

**A. Identification, collection, preservation, and analysis of evidence**

**B. Witness interviews, incident report, and case closure**

**C. Surveillance, arrest, and prosecution**

**D. Initial response, evidence storage, and jury selection**

The basic steps in a criminal investigation primarily focus on the systematic process of handling evidence and gathering information. The identification, collection, preservation, and analysis of evidence represents a comprehensive framework that ensures all physical and testimonial evidence is appropriately managed. This process begins with the identification of potential evidence at a crime scene and continues with the collection of that evidence in a manner that maintains its integrity. Preservation involves securing the evidence to prevent contamination or degradation, which is crucial for maintaining its integrity for later analysis. Finally, the analysis of the collected evidence allows investigators to draw conclusions that can assist in the resolution of the case. This methodical approach is vital for producing reliable evidence that can be presented in court. The other available options focus on different aspects or stages related to criminal investigations but do not encapsulate the foundational steps as effectively. While witness interviews and incident reports are important, they fit within the broader context of evidence collection rather than being primary steps themselves. Surveillance and arrest are actions that may follow initial investigative steps, and evidence storage and jury selection relate more to the later stages of the judicial process than the initial investigative phases. Thus, the selected answer captures the essential, foundational actions vital in any criminal investigation.

## 2. What is the main focus of the final survey in a crime scene investigation?

**A. To collect more evidence**

**B. To review findings with testifying experts**

**C. To assess if all evidence has been collected**

**D. To provide a summary report**

The primary aim of the final survey in a crime scene investigation is to ensure that no evidence has been overlooked and that all potential evidence has been collected appropriately. This step is crucial as it serves as a comprehensive checklist for investigators, allowing them to verify that every piece of evidence has been accounted for before concluding the investigation at the scene. This process helps prevent future legal challenges by ensuring that the investigation is thorough and that nothing vital has been missed. While collecting more evidence is important during the investigation, the final survey is specifically about confirming that all evidence has been gathered rather than seeking out additional new evidence. Reviewing findings with experts is part of the overall investigative process but occurs at different stages, often after the local collection and before trial preparations. Similarly, summarizing the investigation in a report is typically completed after the evidence collection is finalized, serving as documentation rather than a focus of the survey itself.

### 3. What is the primary function of a suspect interview in an investigation?

- A. To obtain a confession**
- B. To understand the suspect's perspective and gather information**
- C. To intimidate the suspect into silence**
- D. To analyze suspect's body language for deception**

The primary function of a suspect interview in an investigation is to understand the suspect's perspective and gather information. This approach allows investigators to obtain a comprehensive view of the events surrounding a crime and the suspect's involvement. Conducting the interview with an aim to gather insights helps build a clearer timeline, identify potential witnesses, and unearth additional details that may assist in the investigation. By fostering an environment where the suspect feels comfortable sharing information, investigators can encourage the suspect to provide their account of events. This can sometimes lead to the collection of significant details that might not be captured by other means. Engaging in a dialogue also opens the door for investigators to assess the suspect's credibility and motives, which are crucial for piecing together the narrative of the incident. While obtaining a confession might be a goal in some contexts, it is not the primary function of the interview. Intimidation of a suspect could lead to unreliable information or silence, which would hinder the investigation rather than advance it. Additionally, although analyzing body language can provide insights, it should not be the focus of the interview. Instead, understanding the suspect's perspective and gathering their narrative remains the cornerstone of the investigative interview process.

### 4. What type of photography is included in non-forensic applications?

- A. Infrared camera usage**
- B. Surveillance via drone cameras**
- C. Forensic victim analysis**
- D. Accident reconstruction**

Surveillance via drone cameras represents a non-forensic application of photography due to its use in monitoring and gathering information from a distance rather than the investigation of specific criminal incidents. Drones can be utilized in various contexts, such as capturing aerial images for infrastructure inspections, environmental monitoring, or even media production, all of which fall outside the typical realm of forensic photography that is specifically focused on documenting crime scenes or evidence. In contrast, infrared camera usage, forensic victim analysis, and accident reconstruction are all closely associated with forensic applications. Infrared cameras are often employed in forensic settings to reveal evidence that is not visible to the naked eye, such as heat signatures. Forensic victim analysis involves the documentation of crime scene details to support investigations and legal processes. Accident reconstruction utilizes photography to analyze and understand the events leading up to a collision, heavily involving forensic techniques to assess the evidence accurately. Thus, these activities serve a specialized forensic purpose, distinguishing them from drone surveillance used in broader contexts.

## 5. What role does victimology play in criminal investigation?

- A. It focuses solely on the criminal's behavior
- B. It helps understand the impact of crime on victims**
- C. It determines the punishment for the offender
- D. It is irrelevant to the investigation process

Victimology plays a crucial role in criminal investigation by aiding investigators in understanding the experiences and impact of crime on victims. This area of study focuses on the victims of crime, including their behaviors, relationships, and circumstances at the time of the crime, which can provide valuable insights for investigators. By understanding the victim's perspective and the effects of the crime on them, investigators can develop a more comprehensive picture of the incident. This knowledge can help in identifying possible motives, understanding the context of the crime, and uncovering evidence that might otherwise be overlooked. Moreover, victimology can inform strategies for victim support and prevention, ultimately contributing to more effective crime-solving and justice outcomes. The other options do not accurately reflect the significance of victimology in the context of criminal investigations. Focusing solely on the criminal's behavior neglects the important dynamics between victims and offenders. While determining punishment is relevant to the justice process, it is primarily a function of the judicial system rather than the investigative phase. Lastly, victimology is far from irrelevant; it is a vital component that enhances the overall understanding of criminal behavior and the criminal justice system's response.

## 6. What are "victim rights laws" designed to do?

- A. Protect the interests of the accused
- B. Protect and inform victims during the justice process**
- C. Streamline the court process
- D. Reduce the number of victim reports

Victim rights laws are specifically designed to safeguard and inform victims throughout the criminal justice process. This framework aims to ensure that victims have a voice in the legal proceedings that affect them, providing them with information about their rights, the status of the case, and the resources available to them. These laws often include provisions for victims to be present during court proceedings, to be notified of critical developments in their cases, and to receive support services. This approach underscores the importance of acknowledging the impact of crime on victims and seeks to address their concerns. Victim rights laws can empower individuals by giving them the ability to participate more fully in the justice process, which is a significant shift from traditional views that often centered solely on the rights of the defendant. Such laws are essential for promoting a more balanced justice system where victims are treated with dignity and respect, and their needs are considered during proceedings.

## 7. What does the acronym RICO stand for?

- A. Racketeer Influenced and Criminal Operations Act.
- B. Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.**
- C. Regulating Illegal Commerce Organizations Act.
- D. Rights of Individuals in Criminal Operations Act.

The acronym RICO stands for "Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act." This federal law, enacted in 1970, is designed to combat organized crime by allowing for the prosecution of individuals and organizations involved in a pattern of racketeering activities. It provides law enforcement agencies with the tools to target not only the individuals directly involved in criminal activities but also the larger criminal organizations that facilitate these actions. The law enables prosecutors to pursue charges for a range of offenses that are related to organized crime, including drug trafficking, money laundering, and various forms of fraud. Additionally, RICO allows for civil suits and the possibility of significant penalties, making it a powerful tool for dismantling organized crime networks. Understanding the purpose and scope of RICO is essential for anyone studying criminal investigation, as it plays a crucial role in tackling organized crime comprehensively.

## 8. What is the first step when approaching a crime scene?

- A. Interview witnesses
- B. Secure the scene**
- C. Call for backup
- D. Document surroundings

Securing the scene is a critical first step when approaching a crime scene because it ensures that the area remains undisturbed and protects potential evidence from being contaminated or altered. By establishing a perimeter and controlling access to the scene, investigators can maintain the integrity of physical evidence, which is vital for the investigation. This step also provides safety for both the personnel involved and the public, preventing anyone from inadvertently interfering with the scene. After the scene is secured, additional steps such as documenting the surroundings, interviewing witnesses, and calling for backup can be effectively carried out, but those actions rely on the prior establishment of a secure environment. Thus, securing the scene forms the foundation upon which a successful investigation is built.

## 9. Who is credited with the first formal use of the term "Detective"?

- A. Edgar Allan Poe
- B. Francis Galton
- C. Francois Vidocq**
- D. John F. Kennedy

The correct answer is credited to Francois Vidocq, who is recognized as a significant figure in the history of detective work and investigative practices. Vidocq was a former criminal turned detective in France during the early 19th century, and he is often considered a pioneer in the field of criminal investigation. He founded the *Sûreté Nationale*, which was one of the first police organizations in the world and is credited with establishing many modern investigative techniques. Vidocq's work emphasized the importance of investigating crimes by collecting evidence and utilizing reasoning and deduction, which laid the groundwork for modern detective work. His contributions also included formalizing the role of a detective as someone who investigates crimes rather than merely enforcing laws. This marked a shift in how law enforcement approached crime, moving towards more analytical and methodical methods of investigation. Other individuals mentioned, such as Edgar Allan Poe and Francis Galton, contributed to the literature and principles surrounding detective work, but it was Vidocq who formally established the role and coined the term in a way that is recognized in the context of criminal investigation. John F. Kennedy's relevance in this context is unrelated, as he was primarily known as a political leader rather than as a figure in criminal investigation.

## 10. What is a key principle of the Pinkerton Code regarding dealings with clients?

- A. Accept bribes to secure information
- B. Never compromise with criminals**
- C. Work exclusively in high-profile cases
- D. Charge high fees regardless of client knowledge

The key principle of the Pinkerton Code regarding dealings with clients emphasizes the importance of not compromising with criminals. This principle reflects the commitment to ethical standards and integrity in investigative practices. By refusing to negotiate or collaborate with individuals engaged in criminal activities, investigators uphold the law and their professional responsibilities. This approach not only preserves the integrity of the investigative process but also builds trust with the community and other law enforcement entities. Maintaining a clear moral stance against compromise helps ensure that justice is served effectively and that criminal behavior is not inadvertently endorsed or facilitated by those tasked with enforcing the law. Other choices lack ethical consideration or prioritize financial gain or status over integrity, contrasting sharply with the core values represented by the Pinkerton Code.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://fundamentalcriminalinvest.examzify.com>**

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

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