

GPSTC Module 1 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. Paralanguage is best described as which of the following?**
 - A. Verbal content only**
 - B. Written language and sign language**
 - C. Vocal, physical and non-verbal cues**
 - D. The structure of sentences**

- 2. Which action is considered a cover and concealment tactic?**
 - A. Awareness**
 - B. Seeking cover**
 - C. Changing cover**
 - D. Firing from cover**

- 3. What best describes a verbal encounter between police and a civilian?**
 - A. Communication between police and citizens involving no coercion or detention.**
 - B. A formal arrest.**
 - C. A traffic stop with sirens on.**
 - D. A search of property.**

- 4. When actively listening, which behaviors should an officer demonstrate?**
 - A. Stay focused, be patient, be respectful, ask for clarity and moments of silence**
 - B. Speak quickly, interrupt frequently, judge motives**
 - C. Focus on personal assumptions, ignore silence**
 - D. Keep eye contact while not allowing any pauses**

- 5. Tier 3 of police-citizen contact refers to:**
 - A. A routine traffic stop with no suspicion needed**
 - B. A casual conversation with a citizen**
 - C. A full-scale arrest supported by probable cause. The 4th amendment does play a role**
 - D. A background check without consent**

- 6. Which statement describes municipal court jurisdiction?**
- A. Municipal court deals with city issues and no juries**
 - B. Municipal court handles extraditions**
 - C. Municipal court handles probate matters**
 - D. Municipal court handles civil claims up to \$20k**
- 7. Which elements affect verbal communication?**
- A. Tone, pitch, tempo and facial expressions**
 - B. Tone, pitch, volume and body language**
 - C. Volume, speed, diction and posture**
 - D. Clarity, emphasis and gaze**
- 8. Mens Rea is defined as:**
- A. The physical element of a crime**
 - B. The joint operation of act and omission**
 - C. The height of the crime**
 - D. Criminal intent**
- 9. Which of the following describes the powers of the executive branch?**
- A. Writes laws**
 - B. Enforces laws, can veto laws and appoint judges**
 - C. Interprets laws**
 - D. Creates police reports**
- 10. Who provides the primary security at elections?**
- A. County Sheriff**
 - B. City Police**
 - C. State Police**
 - D. Federal Marshals**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Paralanguage is best described as which of the following?

- A. Verbal content only
- B. Written language and sign language
- C. Vocal, physical and non-verbal cues**
- D. The structure of sentences

Paralanguage is about how something is said, not just the words themselves. It covers vocal qualities like tone, pitch, volume, tempo, rhythm, and pauses, as well as body cues such as facial expressions, gestures, posture, and eye contact. These cues convey attitude, emotion, and intent and can change the meaning of a message even when the words remain the same. It isn't the verbal content, written language, or the structure of sentences—that's more about what is being said or how it's organized. For example, telling someone "Great job" with a bright tone and a smile communicates genuine praise, while saying the same words with a flat voice and a frown can feel dismissive or sarcastic.

2. Which action is considered a cover and concealment tactic?

- A. Awareness**
- B. Seeking cover
- C. Changing cover
- D. Firing from cover

Being aware of your surroundings is the essential factor that makes cover and concealment tactics work. Awareness means actively observing threats, lines of sight, exits, and potential hiding spots. This mental state informs every decision about concealment: where you can conceal yourself, when to move, and when to hold position. Without awareness, you wouldn't know where there is cover to use or when you're about to be exposed, so you couldn't effectively employ cover and concealment. The other actions involve physically using cover or changing position—seeking cover behind an object, moving to a different cover, or engaging from behind cover. These are concrete tactics that depend on awareness to be executed safely and effectively, but awareness itself is the foundation that enables any cover or concealment move.

3. What best describes a verbal encounter between police and a civilian?

- A. Communication between police and citizens involving no coercion or detention.**
- B. A formal arrest.
- C. A traffic stop with sirens on.
- D. A search of property.

A verbal encounter without coercion or detention is a voluntary, non-coercive conversation between police and a civilian. In this situation, the civilian is free to leave, and the officer cannot compel answers or detain them. This contrasts with other scenarios where there is some form of seizure or coercion: an arrest restricts liberty, a traffic stop with sirens is a detention, and a property search involves the government seizing control of property. Therefore, the best description is a voluntary, non-coercive exchange.

4. When actively listening, which behaviors should an officer demonstrate?

- A. Stay focused, be patient, be respectful, ask for clarity and moments of silence**
- B. Speak quickly, interrupt frequently, judge motives**
- C. Focus on personal assumptions, ignore silence**
- D. Keep eye contact while not allowing any pauses**

Active listening is about accurately understanding what the speaker is conveying rather than preparing your next reply. Staying focused and patient helps you catch all details, while being respectful creates a safe space for sharing. Asking for clarity and allowing moments of silence lets you confirm understanding and uncover any misunderstandings. These behaviors build trust, reduce miscommunication, and improve the quality of information gathered. The other options miss the mark: speaking quickly and interrupting disrupt the speaker, judging motives injects bias, focusing on personal assumptions and ignoring silence distorts understanding, and rigid eye contact with no pauses can feel confrontational and shut down thoughtful communication.

5. Tier 3 of police-citizen contact refers to:

- A. A routine traffic stop with no suspicion needed**
- B. A casual conversation with a citizen**
- C. A full-scale arrest supported by probable cause. The 4th amendment does play a role**
- D. A background check without consent**

Tier 3 involves taking someone into custody through an arrest that is supported by probable cause. Probable cause means there are enough facts and circumstances to lead a reasonable person to believe the suspect committed a crime. This level is where liberty is restricted through formal arrest procedures, anchored by the Fourth Amendment's protection against unreasonable seizures. The other scenarios describe less intrusive contacts: a routine traffic stop typically requires some legitimate reason and reasonable suspicion rather than no suspicion at all; a casual conversation is a voluntary, non-coercive contact; and a background check without consent is information gathering, not an arrest.

6. Which statement describes municipal court jurisdiction?

- A. Municipal court deals with city issues and no juries**
- B. Municipal court handles extraditions**
- C. Municipal court handles probate matters**
- D. Municipal court handles civil claims up to \$20k**

Municipal courts have limited jurisdiction focused on local city matters. They handle violations of city ordinances, traffic tickets, and misdemeanors that occur within city limits, and they typically decide cases without juries (a judge or magistrate conducts a bench trial). Extraditions involve moving a person between jurisdictions and are handled by state or federal courts, not municipal courts. Probate matters—those dealing with wills and estates—are handled by probate courts. Civil claims beyond small-claims thresholds are usually heard in higher courts. So, the description that a municipal court deals with city issues and generally has no juries best captures its role.

7. Which elements affect verbal communication?

- A. Tone, pitch, tempo and facial expressions
- B. Tone, pitch, volume and body language**
- C. Volume, speed, diction and posture
- D. Clarity, emphasis and gaze

Verbal communication is shaped by how we sound when we talk and by what our body signals convey. The best choice includes vocal aspects—tone, pitch, and volume—that determine mood, emphasis, and clarity of intent. Tone shows attitude, pitch adds inflection to keep speech engaging and signal questions or statements, and volume indicates emphasis and emotion. Pairing these with body language—gestures and posture—captures how messages are reinforced or changed beyond the words themselves. Together, how we sound and how we move communicate meaning effectively. Other options miss this combination. Some focus on facial expressions or gestures without capturing the essential vocal elements like tone, pitch, or volume; others emphasize speed or diction without representing the broader nonverbal signals that accompany speech; and some emphasize gaze or clarity but omit key vocal features.

8. Mens Rea is defined as:

- A. The physical element of a crime
- B. The joint operation of act and omission
- C. The height of the crime
- D. Criminal intent**

Mens rea refers to the mental state a person must have when committing a crime—the guilty mind. It means the defendant acted with intent, knowledge, or reckless disregard for the law, such as purposely planning a theft, knowing that their conduct is wrong, or acting with a gross disregard for the risk of harm. This mental element distinguishes the wrongdoing from the mere physical act; the physical part is called actus reus. The other options describe the act itself, a nonsensical phrase, or the height of the crime, none of which capture the required mental state. In legal terms, mens rea is synonymous with criminal intent.

9. Which of the following describes the powers of the executive branch?

- A. Writes laws
- B. Enforces laws, can veto laws and appoint judges**
- C. Interprets laws
- D. Creates police reports

The executive branch is responsible for enforcing laws and running the government on a day-to-day basis. Its powers include vetoing legislation, which allows the executive to reject bills passed by the legislature and require them to be reconsidered (often needing a legislative override to become law). It also has the power to appoint federal judges, subject to confirmation, shaping how laws are interpreted and applied in courts. The other options describe roles for the other branches or are not formal powers of the executive: writing laws is a legislative role, interpreting laws is a judicial role, and creating police reports describes routine law enforcement tasks rather than a constitutional power.

10. Who provides the primary security at elections?

A. County Sheriff

B. City Police

C. State Police

D. Federal Marshals

Local law enforcement is responsible for security at polling places, with the county sheriff typically providing the primary security for elections. Since elections span many polling sites across a county, the sheriff's office has the jurisdictional authority, resources, and presence needed to secure polling locations, protect voters, and safeguard ballots throughout the county. City police handle security within their municipalities, but the overarching responsibility for countywide election security rests with the sheriff. State police may offer additional support during statewide emergencies or at the request of local officials, and Federal Marshals deal with federal duties rather than the day-to-day security of elections.

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://gpstcmodule1.examzify.com>

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

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