

# Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson 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 impact does Stevenson's advocacy have on public perception of the justice system?**
  - A. It results in more support for harsher laws.**
  - B. It increases awareness and empathy towards the wrongfully accused.**
  - C. It reinforces existing biases against marginalized groups.**
  - D. It leads to widespread acceptance of existing legal norms.**
  
- 2. In 1989, the US barred the death penalty for children under which age?**
  - A. 12**
  - B. 15**
  - C. 16**
  - D. 18**
  
- 3. What does Stevenson argue is a critical barrier to justice?**
  - A. Higher education requirements for lawyers**
  - B. Public indifference to the plight of the wrongfully convicted**
  - C. Government funding for legal aid**
  - D. Access to information about legal rights**
  
- 4. What examples does Stevenson provide to critique the juvenile justice system?**
  - A. Children's stories highlighting their successes**
  - B. Cases of children sentenced to life without parole and lack of mental health care**
  - C. Statistics showing the effectiveness of juvenile rehabilitation**
  - D. Personal accounts of judges working with juvenile offenders**
  
- 5. Who was Rhonda Morrison, and what happened to her?**
  - A. She was a teacher who helped Bryan Stevenson**
  - B. She was shot in a robbery**
  - C. She was a young girl who was shot**
  - D. She was a lawyer defending Walter McMillian**

- 6. How does "Just Mercy" depict the role of fear in the justice system?**
- A. Fear is shown as a tool for motivating legal professionals.**
  - B. Fear is a method to encourage community policing.**
  - C. Fear is a mechanism used to control and justify harsh sentences, often at the expense of fair trials.**
  - D. Fear serves to empower marginalized communities.**
- 7. How does Stevenson advocate for change within the justice system?**
- A. By calling for mandatory sentences**
  - B. By highlighting personal stories that illustrate systemic failures**
  - C. Through promoting increased funding for prisons**
  - D. By advocating only for legislative changes at the federal level**
- 8. How old was Bryan Stevenson when the narrative begins?**
- A. 18**
  - B. 21**
  - C. 23**
  - D. 25**
- 9. Where was Ian placed at Apalachee Correctional Institution?**
- A. In a rehabilitation unit**
  - B. In solitary confinement**
  - C. In a general population cell**
  - D. In a medical ward**
- 10. How does Stevenson argue that the justice system can be improved?**
- A. By increasing surveillance and law enforcement**
  - B. By incorporating more technology in trials**
  - C. Through a commitment to eliminate biases and ensure fairness**
  - D. By reforming sentencing guidelines only**

## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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1. What impact does Stevenson's advocacy have on public perception of the justice system?
  - A. It results in more support for harsher laws.
  - B. It increases awareness and empathy towards the wrongfully accused.**
  - C. It reinforces existing biases against marginalized groups.
  - D. It leads to widespread acceptance of existing legal norms.

Stevenson's advocacy significantly increases awareness and empathy toward the wrongfully accused, which is a central theme in "Just Mercy." Through his work, Stevenson brings to light the stories of individuals who have been unjustly condemned by a flawed justice system, highlighting the systemic failures and biases that contribute to their situations. His efforts encourage readers and the broader public to reconsider their views on justice and the human consequences of legal decisions. By personalizing the narratives of those affected, Stevenson fosters a deeper understanding of the complexities of wrongful convictions, leading to increased compassion for the individuals behind the statistics. This shift in perception is crucial for inspiring change in public attitudes about justice, equity, and the need for reform in the legal system. Engaging the public with these stories ultimately nurtures greater advocacy for fairness and justice, reinforcing his message that individual lives matter and deserve a fair chance.

2. In 1989, the US barred the death penalty for children under which age?
  - A. 12
  - B. 15**
  - C. 16
  - D. 18

The correct answer to the question about the age at which the US barred the death penalty for children in 1989 is 18. In that year, the Supreme Court case *Thompson v. Oklahoma* established that executing individuals who were under the age of 16 at the time of their crimes was unconstitutional. This landmark ruling emphasized that young people, particularly those under 18, possess a different moral and cognitive development compared to adults, which warrants different considerations in legal consequences. The focus on development and the recognition of children's rights are key themes that Bryan Stevenson addresses throughout "Just Mercy," highlighting the vulnerabilities of youth in the justice system and promoting the understanding that they should be treated with greater care and given opportunities for rehabilitation rather than facing the ultimate punishment.

### 3. What does Stevenson argue is a critical barrier to justice?

- A. Higher education requirements for lawyers
- B. Public indifference to the plight of the wrongfully convicted**
- C. Government funding for legal aid
- D. Access to information about legal rights

Stevenson argues that public indifference to the plight of the wrongfully convicted is a critical barrier to justice because it allows systemic injustices to persist without challenge or accountability. When society turns a blind eye to the struggles of those who have been wrongfully accused or convicted, it creates an environment where injustice can thrive. Stevenson highlights various cases of wrongful convictions throughout "Just Mercy," illustrating how societal apathy contributes to the failures of the judicial system. This indifference often leads to a lack of advocacy for reform, as well as insufficient support for the individuals affected, thereby perpetuating a cycle of injustice. Addressing this indifference is essential for creating a more equitable and just legal system, as it calls upon individuals and communities to engage actively in the fight against wrongful convictions and to advocate for systemic change.

### 4. What examples does Stevenson provide to critique the juvenile justice system?

- A. Children's stories highlighting their successes
- B. Cases of children sentenced to life without parole and lack of mental health care**
- C. Statistics showing the effectiveness of juvenile rehabilitation
- D. Personal accounts of judges working with juvenile offenders

Bryan Stevenson critiques the juvenile justice system by highlighting the grave consequences faced by children subjected to harsh sentencing, specifically cases where young individuals are sentenced to life without parole. This stark reality illustrates the system's failure to recognize the developmental differences between children and adults. Stevenson discusses how many of these juveniles have experienced trauma, mental health issues, or lack the support necessary for rehabilitation. He emphasizes the absence of adequate mental health care and appropriate interventions for young offenders, underscoring a systemic neglect that often exacerbates their circumstances. This illumination of severe penalties applied to minors, alongside the challenges they face, forms a compelling argument against the practices of the juvenile justice system, advocating for reform and a more compassionate approach to youth.

**5. Who was Rhonda Morrison, and what happened to her?**

- A. She was a teacher who helped Bryan Stevenson**
- B. She was shot in a robbery**
- C. She was a young girl who was shot**
- D. She was a lawyer defending Walter McMillian**

Rhonda Morrison was a young woman who tragically lost her life in a violent incident. In "Just Mercy," her murder serves as a pivotal event that influences the central narrative and the wrongful conviction of Walter McMillian. Rhonda was shot during a robbery at a dry-cleaning store in Monroeville, Alabama, which led to a series of legal and ethical complications surrounding the investigation and subsequent trial of McMillian, an African American man wrongfully accused of her murder. The case highlights issues of injustice, systemic racism, and the flaws within the legal system, which Bryan Stevenson passionately addresses throughout the book. Thus, understanding who Rhonda Morrison was and the circumstances of her death is essential to grasping the broader themes Stevenson explores regarding justice and redemption.

**6. How does "Just Mercy" depict the role of fear in the justice system?**

- A. Fear is shown as a tool for motivating legal professionals.**
- B. Fear is a method to encourage community policing.**
- C. Fear is a mechanism used to control and justify harsh sentences, often at the expense of fair trials.**
- D. Fear serves to empower marginalized communities.**

The depiction of fear in "Just Mercy" emphasizes its role as a mechanism used to control and justify harsh sentences, which often undermines the principles of fair trials and justice. Throughout the book, Bryan Stevenson illustrates how fear influences the behaviors and decisions of legal professionals, judges, and even juries. This fear manifests in a variety of ways, such as the fear of violent crime prompting society to support more severe penalties and the general apprehension surrounding race and poverty that impacts the treatment of individuals in the justice system. Stevenson discusses how the threat of violence and public outcry can lead to rushed and unjust legal proceedings, ultimately resulting in disproportionately harsh sentences for marginalized individuals. This use of fear by the justice system often perpetuates inequalities and leads to a lack of genuine consideration for the individual circumstances of defendants. By highlighting these instances, "Just Mercy" critiques a broken system in which fear of crime, rather than a commitment to justice and rehabilitation, drives legal outcomes. This perspective reveals a deep connection between societal fears and the institutional practices that can lead to miscarriages of justice, making it clear that fear is not only a byproduct of the system but also a pivotal tool that shapes its operations.

**7. How does Stevenson advocate for change within the justice system?**

**A. By calling for mandatory sentences**

**B. By highlighting personal stories that illustrate systemic failures**

**C. Through promoting increased funding for prisons**

**D. By advocating only for legislative changes at the federal level**

Stevenson advocates for change within the justice system primarily by highlighting personal stories that illustrate systemic failures. This approach is powerful as it personalizes the abstract issues surrounding injustice, making them more relatable and urgent. By sharing the narratives of individuals who have suffered due to racial biases, wrongful convictions, and inequitable treatment, Stevenson effectively underscores the human impact of these systemic issues. This storytelling method not only fosters empathy among readers and listeners but also inspires them to question and challenge systemic injustices. It illuminates the real-life consequences of policy decisions and encourages a broader conversation about reform. Through personal stories, Stevenson emphasizes that the flaws in the justice system are not merely statistics, but rather relate to real lives affected by these injustices, thereby motivating calls for change.

**8. How old was Bryan Stevenson when the narrative begins?**

**A. 18**

**B. 21**

**C. 23**

**D. 25**

The narrative of "Just Mercy" begins when Bryan Stevenson is 23 years old. This age is significant as it marks the early stage of his career as a lawyer and his initial experiences confronting the challenges within the criminal justice system. At this age, Stevenson is driven by a strong sense of justice and committed to advocating for marginalized individuals, particularly those on death row. His youthful determination sets the stage for the profound work he does throughout the book, illustrating the complexities and injustices he navigates as he strives to make a difference in the lives of those who have been wronged by the system.

**9. Where was Ian placed at Apalachee Correctional Institution?**

- A. In a rehabilitation unit**
- B. In solitary confinement**
- C. In a general population cell**
- D. In a medical ward**

Ian was placed in solitary confinement at Apalachee Correctional Institution, a decision that reflects the severe and often inhumane conditions faced by individuals in the criminal justice system, particularly for those with psychological issues or special needs. The use of solitary confinement raises significant concerns, particularly as it can exacerbate mental health conditions and isolate individuals from necessary support systems and rehabilitation opportunities. The context of Ian's placement is crucial in understanding the broader themes of the book, particularly the treatment of vulnerable populations within the justice system. Stevenson highlights how solitary confinement can be a form of punishment that disallows meaningful interaction and can lead to further deterioration of a person's mental health. This placement speaks to systemic issues within correctional institutions, where the focus may often be on punishment rather than rehabilitation, reflecting a troubling reality for many individuals like Ian.

**10. How does Stevenson argue that the justice system can be improved?**

- A. By increasing surveillance and law enforcement**
- B. By incorporating more technology in trials**
- C. Through a commitment to eliminate biases and ensure fairness**
- D. By reforming sentencing guidelines only**

Stevenson argues that improving the justice system requires a fundamental commitment to eliminating biases and ensuring fairness throughout the entire system. He emphasizes that systemic issues, such as racial inequities and socioeconomic disparities, must be addressed to create a just environment for all individuals. His focus on reform stems from a deep understanding that the current systems often fail the most vulnerable populations, particularly those marginalized by race and poverty. By advocating for a reformation based on equity and fairness, Stevenson highlights the need for systemic changes that prioritize human dignity and justice rather than punitive measures alone. This approach suggests that addressing underlying prejudices and reforming policies to create a more inclusive and just society is crucial for meaningful improvement in the legal system.

## 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://justmercy.examzify.com>**

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

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