

MAINE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY (MCJA) PHASE 2 PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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 should police officers utilize in low light conditions during an unknown risk stop?**
 - A. Flashing lights
 - B. All forward-facing lighting to illuminate the suspect vehicle
 - C. Sound signals
 - D. Spotlights only
- 2. Which of the following is NOT one of the situational use of force options?**
 - A. Officer presence
 - B. Strikes
 - C. Verbal command
 - D. Surveillance techniques
- 3. What is one possible outcome for departmental discipline in unreasonable use of force cases?**
 - A. Expansion of officer rights
 - B. Decertification of officers
 - C. Increased budget allocation
 - D. Immediate promotion
- 4. What is required to perform an "automobile exception" search?**
 - A. Presence of a witness
 - B. Probable cause to believe the vehicle contains contraband
 - C. Owner must be present
 - D. Search warrant must be obtained first
- 5. Which situation might be subject to administrative court intervention?**
 - A. A violent confrontation at a bar
 - B. Licensing violations of a liquor store
 - C. A driver caught intoxicated
 - D. An unruly patron at a nightclub

- 6. Identify two recommended positions for a patrol unit during an unknown risk stop.**
- A. Front and rear positioning
 - B. Offset positioning and left angle positioning
 - C. Direct approach and encirclement
 - D. Right angle and backup positioning
- 7. Under what scenario is deadly force permitted according to Tennessee v. Garner?**
- A. To prevent double jeopardy
 - B. When a suspect appears non-threatening
 - C. To prevent escape of a fleeing suspect posing significant threat
 - D. When authorized by a senior officer
- 8. What are some common symptoms of operating under the influence (OUI)?**
- A. Bloodshot eyes
 - B. Fumbling fingers
 - C. Alcohol containers and soiled clothing
 - D. All of the above
- 9. What is the first phase of OUI enforcement?**
- A. Pre-arrest screening
 - B. Personal contact
 - C. Vehicle in motion
 - D. Final assessment
- 10. What does reasonable articulable suspicion allow law enforcement to do?**
- A. Conduct a full search of a vehicle
 - B. Make a lawful 4th amendment seizure by stopping a vehicle
 - C. Arrest individuals without a warrant
 - D. Perform random checks on all vehicles

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What should police officers utilize in low light conditions during an unknown risk stop?

- A. Flashing lights
- B. All forward-facing lighting to illuminate the suspect vehicle**
- C. Sound signals
- D. Spotlights only

In low light conditions during an unknown risk stop, utilizing all forward-facing lighting to illuminate the suspect vehicle is essential for several reasons. First, this method increases visibility for both the officer and the occupants of the vehicle, helping to ensure that any potential risks or indicators of threat are clearly visible. Adequate illumination gives the officer the ability to assess the situation more effectively, observe the behavior of the occupants, and identify any possible hazards that may not be visible without proper lighting. Using all forward-facing lights can also enhance safety by signaling to the driver that they should remain in their vehicle and comply with the officer's commands. This approach contributes to a safer interaction by reducing the uncertainty in a potentially dangerous situation. Other options such as using only flashing lights or spotlights may not provide comprehensive illumination needed for thorough assessment and could create blind spots. Sound signals may alert the suspect but do not assist in visual assessment, which is crucial during an unknown risk stop. Thus, the choice to use all forward-facing lighting is the most effective strategy in enhancing both safety and situational awareness in low light conditions.

2. Which of the following is NOT one of the situational use of force options?

- A. Officer presence
- B. Strikes
- C. Verbal command
- D. Surveillance techniques**

The situational use of force options refer to various methods that law enforcement officers are trained to use when responding to different scenarios, with the goal of controlling a situation safely and effectively. Each of the first three options—officer presence, strikes, and verbal commands—are recognized tactical responses within law enforcement where the level of force or interaction escalates depending on the circumstances encountered. Officer presence involves simply being there in uniform, which can often deter criminal activity or defuse a potentially volatile situation. Strikes refer to physical interventions that may be necessary to control a suspect who is resisting arrest or poses a threat. Verbal commands are used to issue clear instructions to individuals, allowing officers to manage situations and promote compliance without the need for physical force. Surveillance techniques, on the other hand, are not a form of force but rather a method of observation and intelligence gathering. They do not involve direct engagement with individuals and therefore do not fit into the category of use of force options, which focus on active responses to situations involving potential threats or conflicts. Thus, this differentiates surveillance techniques from the options that do pertain to direct forms of force or intervention, making it the correct response to identify as not being one of the situational use of force options.

3. What is one possible outcome for departmental discipline in unreasonable use of force cases?

- A. Expansion of officer rights
- B. Decertification of officers**
- C. Increased budget allocation
- D. Immediate promotion

Decertification of officers in cases of unreasonable use of force is a significant outcome because it serves as a critical mechanism for maintaining accountability and integrity within law enforcement agencies. When an officer is decertified, they lose their license to operate as a law enforcement officer, which typically means they cannot serve in any police capacity. This action is often taken when an officer has violated established standards of conduct or engaged in actions that undermine public trust, such as the unreasonable use of force. The aim is to ensure that only qualified and responsible individuals are entrusted with the authority that comes with law enforcement positions. This outcome underscores the seriousness with which departments treat allegations of excessive force, reinforcing the expectation that officers uphold high ethical and professional standards. By decertifying officers who have demonstrated a pattern of unreasonable force, departments can work towards restoring community trust and preventing future incidents of misconduct. This outcome also reflects broader efforts to reform policing practices and enhance accountability mechanisms in light of increasing scrutiny on police behavior.

4. What is required to perform an "automobile exception" search?

- A. Presence of a witness
- B. Probable cause to believe the vehicle contains contraband**
- C. Owner must be present
- D. Search warrant must be obtained first

The "automobile exception" allows law enforcement officers to conduct a warrantless search of a vehicle if they have probable cause to believe that the vehicle contains evidence of a crime or contraband. This legal principle is rooted in the understanding that vehicles are inherently mobile, which can make obtaining a warrant impractical. When officers establish probable cause—meaning they have sufficient facts and evidence to reasonably believe that contraband is present—they can search the vehicle without needing to wait for a search warrant. This exception is crucial for effective law enforcement, allowing officers to act swiftly if they suspect illegal activity. The other options do not fulfill the requirements for conducting a warrantless search under the automobile exception. The presence of a witness is not necessary, and the owner's presence does not influence the validity of the probable cause. Furthermore, while obtaining a search warrant is generally preferred and may be required in other contexts, the automobile exception specifically allows for searches without one, provided probable cause is demonstrated.

5. Which situation might be subject to administrative court intervention?

- A. A violent confrontation at a bar
- B. Licensing violations of a liquor store**
- C. A driver caught intoxicated
- D. An unruly patron at a nightclub

Licensing violations of a liquor store are a prime example of a situation that can warrant administrative court intervention. Administrative courts review cases involving regulatory compliance and ensure that businesses adhere to the laws governing their operations. In this context, a liquor store has specific licensing requirements they must follow, which include adherence to regulations surrounding the sale of alcohol, health standards, and operational hours. When violations occur, such as selling alcohol without a proper license, over-serving patrons, or failing to meet health codes, administrative actions may be taken against the establishment. These proceedings often aim to enforce compliance rather than impose criminal penalties, resulting in potential fines, the revocation or suspension of the liquor license, or other administrative remedies designed to ensure public safety and uphold regulatory standards. In contrast, the other situations presented involve direct criminal behavior or public disturbances that are typically handled within the criminal justice system rather than through administrative courts. For example, violent confrontations, intoxicated driving, and unruly patrons usually invoke criminal laws and law enforcement response rather than administrative review.

6. Identify two recommended positions for a patrol unit during an unknown risk stop.

- A. Front and rear positioning
- B. Offset positioning and left angle positioning**
- C. Direct approach and encirclement
- D. Right angle and backup positioning

Offset positioning and left angle positioning are recommended for a patrol unit during an unknown risk stop because they enhance officer safety while maintaining visibility and control of the situation. Offset positioning allows the officer to position their vehicle at an angle to create a barrier between themselves and the suspect's vehicle, which can help to minimize exposure to potential threats. This position also allows the officer to have a clear line of sight to observe the driver's actions inside the vehicle. Left angle positioning provides an additional layer of protection and enables the officer to cover more ground with their field of vision. By positioning their vehicle at a left angle to the suspect's vehicle, the officer maintains a tactical advantage to monitor any sudden movements or potential escape routes. These positioning strategies are critical during unknown risk stops as they prioritize the safety of the officer and facilitate effective communication and control of the situation. Other positioning options may not provide the same level of safety or visibility during these unpredictable encounters.

7. Under what scenario is deadly force permitted according to Tennessee v. Garner?

- A. To prevent double jeopardy
- B. When a suspect appears non-threatening
- C. To prevent escape of a fleeing suspect posing significant threat**
- D. When authorized by a senior officer

In the case of Tennessee v. Garner, the Supreme Court ruled that law enforcement officers may use deadly force to prevent the escape of a fleeing suspect when the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others. This ruling emphasizes the necessity for an imminent threat to justify the use of such extreme measures. In this context, "significant threat" refers to a reasonable belief that the suspect, if not apprehended, poses a danger to the public or to the officer's safety. The decision underscores that the mere act of fleeing does not automatically justify deadly force; the officer must assess the situation and evaluate the level of threat presented by the suspect. By establishing this criterion, the ruling aims to balance the need for effective law enforcement with the protection of individual constitutional rights, ensuring that deadly force is not used indiscriminately. This is why the correct answer highlights the circumstances under which deadly force is justifiable, focusing on the perceived threat rather than on other factors that do not pertain to immediate danger.

8. What are some common symptoms of operating under the influence (OUI)?

- A. Bloodshot eyes
- B. Fumbling fingers
- C. Alcohol containers and soiled clothing
- D. All of the above**

Operating under the influence (OUI) encompasses a range of observable symptoms that indicate a driver's impairment due to alcohol or drugs. Bloodshot eyes are a common indicator, as they often result from the use of alcohol, which can cause blood vessels in the eyes to dilate. Fumbling fingers or difficulties with fine motor skills can also occur since substances can impair coordination and motor functions, making it challenging for an individual to handle objects or perform tasks that require dexterity. Additionally, the presence of alcohol containers and soiled clothing may suggest a lack of care or control associated with impaired judgment that often accompanies substance use. The combination of all these symptoms reflects the multifaceted impact of OUI on an individual's physical and behavioral state. Recognizing these signs can assist law enforcement officials and the community in identifying potentially impaired drivers and promoting road safety.

9. What is the first phase of OUI enforcement?

- A. Pre-arrest screening
- B. Personal contact
- C. Vehicle in motion**
- D. Final assessment

The initial phase of OUI (Operating Under the Influence) enforcement is focused on observing the vehicle in motion. This phase involves law enforcement officers monitoring driving behaviors that may indicate impairment, such as erratic lane changes, sudden stops, or swerving. During this stage, officers gather crucial evidence through their observations of how the vehicle is being operated, which sets the foundation for further investigation. If a driver's behavior suggests they may be under the influence, it legitimizes the officer's decision to initiate a traffic stop and proceed to the next steps of enforcement, such as personal contact and field sobriety tests. This phase is essential as it helps to establish reasonable suspicion necessary to engage with the driver and evaluate their state of sobriety further.

10. What does reasonable articulable suspicion allow law enforcement to do?

- A. Conduct a full search of a vehicle
- B. Make a lawful 4th amendment seizure by stopping a vehicle**
- C. Arrest individuals without a warrant
- D. Perform random checks on all vehicles

Reasonable articulable suspicion is a legal standard used in law enforcement that allows officers to stop and briefly detain a person or a vehicle for investigative purposes based on specific and articulable facts. This standard is less than the probable cause required for an arrest but greater than a mere hunch. When law enforcement establishes reasonable articulable suspicion, it enables them to conduct a lawful seizure under the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable searches and seizures. In practice, this means that if an officer observes behavior or circumstances that lead them to believe that criminal activity may be afoot, they have the authority to stop a vehicle to investigate further. This could involve asking for the driver's license, registration, and insurance, as well as questioning the driver about their activities. In contrast, conducting a full search of a vehicle or making an arrest without a warrant necessitates higher standards of probable cause, which is not met simply by having reasonable articulable suspicion. Additionally, random checks on all vehicles are typically not permissible under the Fourth Amendment without specific criteria being met. Hence, the correct answer about what reasonable articulable suspicion allows law enforcement to do is to make a lawful Fourth Amendment seizure by stopping a vehicle.

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://mcjaphase2.examzify.com>

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

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