

Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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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 system established collective responsibility for maintaining local law and order?**
 - A. Tithing system.
 - B. Frank pledge system.
 - C. Patronage system.
 - D. Spoils system.

- 2. A traffic law violation for "failure to yield right of way" is categorized as what?**
 - A. Petty misdemeanor
 - B. Misdemeanor
 - C. Gross misdemeanor
 - D. City ordinance violation

- 3. A juror's total for a misdemeanor jury trial must include how many jurors?**
 - A. 8 jurors
 - B. 6 jurors
 - C. 10 jurors
 - D. 12 jurors

- 4. Which of the following is an example of empty hand hard control tactics?**
 - A. Joint manipulation
 - B. Pressure points
 - C. Blocks with hands and arms and counter strike techniques used in ground fighting
 - D. Verbal commands

- 5. How high can bumpers on pickup trucks or four-wheel drive vehicles be?**
 - A. 18 inches
 - B. 20 inches
 - C. 25 inches
 - D. 30 inches

- 6. Is robbery considered a property crime?**
- A. Yes, it is categorized as a property crime
 - B. No, it is classified as a crime against a person
 - C. Yes, it targets material possessions
 - D. No, it is a form of theft
- 7. What degree of assault is charged for demonstrable bodily harm to a firefighter during an assault?**
- A. 1st degree
 - B. 2nd degree
 - C. 3rd degree
 - D. 4th degree
- 8. What is the maximum monetary fine for a conviction of 4th degree burglary?**
- A. \$2,000
 - B. \$3,000
 - C. \$5,000
 - D. \$1,000
- 9. What is the first step in the SARA model?**
- A. Scoping
 - B. Scanning
 - C. Steering
 - D. Setting
- 10. How long is a misdemeanor punishable in jail?**
- A. 120 days and a \$1000 fine
 - B. 90 days and a \$1000 fine
 - C. 1 year and a \$1000 fine
 - D. 90 days and a \$500 fine

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What system established collective responsibility for maintaining local law and order?

A. Tithing system.

B. Frank pledge system.

C. Patronage system.

D. Spoils system.

The tithing system established collective responsibility for maintaining local law and order by organizing communities into groups of ten households, known as tithings. Each household was responsible for the behavior of its members and was expected to report any wrongdoing to the authorities, thus creating a system of mutual accountability. This structure helped ensure that conflict and crime could be managed at a local level, fostering a sense of community vigilance and cooperation in upholding the law. The other options do not pertain to the same concept of collective responsibility for local law and order. The frank pledge system, while also related to local order, is focused on different organizational structures. The patronage and spoils systems primarily refer to political practices involving the distribution of jobs and funds based on political support rather than community responsibility for law enforcement. Thus, while the tithing system effectively addresses the question's intent, the other answers apply to different aspects of government and social organization.

2. A traffic law violation for "failure to yield right of way" is categorized as what?

A. Petty misdemeanor

B. Misdemeanor

C. Gross misdemeanor

D. City ordinance violation

A traffic law violation for "failure to yield right of way" is categorized as a petty misdemeanor. This classification is important as it reflects the nature of the offense, which is typically deemed to be less serious than misdemeanors or gross misdemeanors. Petty misdemeanors in Minnesota do not carry the possibility of incarceration, although they can include fines and other penalties. The purpose of categorizing such violations in this way is to allow law enforcement to address less severe infractions without resorting to more severe legal consequences that apply to higher-level offenses. In contrast, misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors involve more serious violations that typically hold the potential for jail time or higher penalties. City ordinance violations can also apply, but a failure to yield is specifically identified under state traffic laws rather than municipal codes, reinforcing its classification as a petty misdemeanor. This classification helps both law enforcement and the public understand the legal repercussions associated with specific driving infractions, promoting safer driving behavior.

3. A juror's total for a misdemeanor jury trial must include how many jurors?

A. 8 jurors

B. 6 jurors

C. 10 jurors

D. 12 jurors

In Minnesota, a misdemeanor jury trial requires a total of 6 jurors. This is consistent with the state's laws regarding jury size for misdemeanor cases, which differentiates from felony trials, where a larger jury is typically required. The rationale behind having a smaller jury for misdemeanor trials is to expedite the judicial process for less severe offenses, allowing for more efficient use of court resources while still ensuring that the defendant receives a fair trial. This structure upholds the legal framework established for handling varying types of cases within the judicial system, ensuring appropriate representation for the specifics of each case type.

4. Which of the following is an example of empty hand hard control tactics?

- A. Joint manipulation
- B. Pressure points
- C. Blocks with hands and arms and counter strike techniques used in ground fighting**
- D. Verbal commands

Empty hand hard control tactics refer to techniques that involve physical confrontation aimed at controlling or subduing an individual without the use of weapons, focusing on direct physical engagement. The correct answer highlights blocks with hands and arms and counter strike techniques used in ground fighting. These techniques are designed to disrupt an assailant's actions while allowing the officer to maintain control over the situation. They require significant physical engagement and precision, which are essential components of hard control tactics. By employing blocks and strikes, an officer can create opportunities to subdue an aggressive individual effectively while minimizing the risk of injury to both themselves and the subject. In contrast, joint manipulation and pressure points are often categorized as a form of control, but they do not involve the same level of physical confrontation as the techniques described in the correct answer. Joint manipulation focuses on leveraging an individual's joints to control or restrain them, which may not always include the striking elements that characterize hard control tactics. Verbal commands, while a crucial aspect of law enforcement tactics, do not involve physical interaction and thus do not qualify as hard control tactics.

5. How high can bumpers on pickup trucks or four-wheel drive vehicles be?

- A. 18 inches
- B. 20 inches
- C. 25 inches**
- D. 30 inches

Bumpers on pickup trucks or four-wheel drive vehicles can be a maximum height of 25 inches. This regulation is important as it aims to ensure safety and functionality on the road. The specified height limit for bumpers is a safety measure to reduce the risk of injury in collisions and to maintain standardization across vehicles. This height is designed to provide proper energy absorption and alignment with standard vehicle frame designs, contributing to reducing damage and improving the effectiveness of safety mechanisms during accidents. Understanding this height limitation is essential for law enforcement personnel, as it allows them to assess vehicle compliance with state regulations, maintain road safety, and ensure that vehicles are equipped with proper safety features to protect both occupants and pedestrians.

6. Is robbery considered a property crime?

- A. Yes, it is categorized as a property crime
- B. No, it is classified as a crime against a person**
- C. Yes, it targets material possessions
- D. No, it is a form of theft

Robbery is classified as a crime against a person because it typically involves the use of force or intimidation to take property from an individual. This distinguishes it from property crimes, which generally do not involve direct confrontation with a victim and primarily target the property itself, rather than the individual. In robbery, the offender threatens or uses violence against a person to accomplish the theft, highlighting the direct threat to personal safety and well-being. This direct interaction and the element of force or intimidation mean that robbery is treated distinctly within the criminal justice system, emphasizing its impact on victims beyond just the loss of property.

7. What degree of assault is charged for demonstrable bodily harm to a firefighter during an assault?

- A. 1st degree
- B. 2nd degree
- C. 3rd degree
- D. 4th degree**

In the context of Minnesota law, when an individual causes demonstrable bodily harm to a firefighter during an assault, the charge typically falls under 4th degree assault. This degree of assault specifically addresses cases where the victim is a peace officer or firefighter, or if the assault involves the use of any dangerous weapon or the infliction of bodily harm. The distinction here is important as different degrees of assault carry varying penalties and definitions based on the severity of the harm caused, the identity of the victim, and the circumstances surrounding the incident. In Minnesota, the 4th degree assault is categorized as the least serious level when serious bodily harm is not inflicted, but it acknowledges the protection of public safety personnel, like firefighters, who are performing their duties. Consequently, while the physical act may not result in serious harm, the recognition of the victim's role as a firefighter elevates the seriousness of the crime, even when the harm is demonstrable but not extensive, leading to this particular classification.

8. What is the maximum monetary fine for a conviction of 4th degree burglary?

- A. \$2,000
- B. \$3,000**
- C. \$5,000
- D. \$1,000

The maximum monetary fine for a conviction of 4th degree burglary is indeed \$3,000. In Minnesota, the classification of offenses ranges from petty misdemeanors to felonies, with specific penalties for each classification. Fourth degree burglary is typically categorized as a gross misdemeanor, which allows for substantial fines. According to Minnesota statutes related to gross misdemeanors, the fine can reach up to \$3,000. This aligns with the legal framework that reflects the seriousness of the offense, considering the potential for harm and the need for deterrence. Understanding these classifications and their implications is crucial for law enforcement and legal professionals as they navigate the legal consequences associated with different types of crimes.

9. What is the first step in the SARA model?

- A. Scoping
- B. Scanning**
- C. Steering
- D. Setting

The SARA model is a problem-solving process used in community policing that stands for Scanning, Analysis, Response, and Assessment. The first step, scanning, involves identifying and prioritizing potential problems within the community. This phase requires law enforcement and community members to work together to recognize issues that are significant enough to warrant a closer look. During the scanning phase, officers gather information about crime patterns, community concerns, and the underlying conditions contributing to those issues. By effectively identifying problems, police departments can focus their efforts and resources on areas that will have the greatest impact on community safety and quality of life. This step sets the foundation for the subsequent phases of the SARA model, where deeper analysis occurs, and strategic responses are developed. Understanding the importance of scanning helps law enforcement agencies engage with the community more effectively, as prioritizing the right problems can lead to better outcomes in crime prevention and community relations.

10. How long is a misdemeanor punishable in jail?

- A. 120 days and a \$1000 fine
- B. 90 days and a \$1000 fine**
- C. 1 year and a \$1000 fine
- D. 90 days and a \$500 fine

A misdemeanor is classified as a less severe offense than a felony, and its penalties vary depending on the jurisdiction. In Minnesota, the maximum penalty for a misdemeanor includes up to 90 days in jail. Additionally, while a fine can be imposed, the maximum fine for misdemeanors can reach up to \$1,000. This means that, specifically in Minnesota, the statute establishes a standard of 90 days as the maximum incarceration time for misdemeanor offenses, making that the correct context for the question at hand. The inclusion of the fine emphasizes the financial penalties that may accompany a misdemeanor conviction, but the critical point revolves around the jail time limit.

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://minnesotapost.examzify.com>

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

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