

Missouri Criminal Law Statutes Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of 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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

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- 1. How is "manslaughter" defined in Missouri statutes?**
 - A. The intentional killing of another human being**
 - B. The unlawful killing without malice aforethought**
 - C. The accidental killing with intent**
 - D. The lawful killing in self-defense**
- 2. In Missouri, what does the term "attempt" refer to in criminal law?**
 - A. Taking substantial steps towards committing a crime**
 - B. Planning a crime without taking action**
 - C. Failing to commit a crime**
 - D. Intending to commit a crime but changing one's mind**
- 3. In cases of public nuisances, what can community members do to raise awareness?**
 - A. Engage in public protests against the nuisances**
 - B. File individual complaints without involving authorities**
 - C. Contact local government to report issues**
 - D. Avoid discussing issues to prevent conflict**
- 4. Which of the following prohibits the use of necessity as a defense?**
 - A. Avoiding minor legal infractions**
 - B. Committing murder**
 - C. Engaging in personal conflicts**
 - D. Allowing others to influence a decision**
- 5. What constitutes forcible stealing according to Missouri law?**
 - A. A person uses threats of immediate physical force to take property**
 - B. A person takes property without consent but without force**
 - C. A person uses deception to acquire property**
 - D. A person takes property from an unattended vehicle**

6. What defines statutory rape in the second degree?

- A. 21 years old having sex with someone younger than 14**
- B. Sex with someone under 17 years old**
- C. Sexual activity with a partner under 18**
- D. Sexual consent that fails due to age**

7. What are "environmental crimes" in Missouri?

- A. Unintentional violations of safety regulations**
- B. Violations against laws protecting natural resources**
- C. Crimes related to corporate misconduct**
- D. Only hunting and fishing violations**

8. What does it mean to act purposely in criminal law?

- A. To cause a result by accident**
- B. To engage in conduct without intention**
- C. To have a conscious object to engage in that conduct or cause that result**
- D. To act without knowledge of the outcome**

9. Which of the following is an example of "involuntary manslaughter"?

- A. Driving under the influence and causing a fatal accident**
- B. Killing someone in a premeditated plan**
- C. Using lethal force in self-defense**
- D. Accidentally bruising a person in a fight**

10. Who qualifies as a "prohibited person" under Missouri firearm laws?

- A. Individuals with traffic violations**
- B. Individuals who are currently employed in law enforcement**
- C. Those with felony convictions or specific mental health issues**
- D. All individuals under 18 years old**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How is "manslaughter" defined in Missouri statutes?

- A. The intentional killing of another human being
- B. The unlawful killing without malice aforethought**
- C. The accidental killing with intent
- D. The lawful killing in self-defense

The definition of "manslaughter" in Missouri statutes emphasizes the aspect of an unlawful killing that occurs without malice aforethought. This means that manslaughter involves a scenario where a person causes the death of another, but it lacks the intent to kill that characterizes more serious offenses like murder. Instead, manslaughter can arise from reckless behavior or circumstances that do not meet the thresholds set for murder, illustrating the legal distinction between different levels of homicide. In contrast, the other choices reflect different concepts. The intentional killing of another human being describes murder rather than manslaughter due to the presence of intent. The accidental killing with intent does not align with the understanding of manslaughter, as intent typically refers to purposeful actions, not accidents. Finally, a lawful killing in self-defense is generally considered justifiable and would not fit under the definition of manslaughter since it involves legal protection rather than unlawful conduct. This clarification helps to solidify the understanding of manslaughter within Missouri criminal law as a critical aspect of homicide classifications.

2. In Missouri, what does the term "attempt" refer to in criminal law?

- A. Taking substantial steps towards committing a crime**
- B. Planning a crime without taking action
- C. Failing to commit a crime
- D. Intending to commit a crime but changing one's mind

In Missouri criminal law, the term "attempt" refers specifically to taking substantial steps towards committing a crime, even if the crime itself is not ultimately completed. This concept is grounded in the principle that an individual can be held legally accountable for showing intent to commit a crime through preparatory actions that demonstrate they are moving toward that criminal act. The law necessitates more than mere planning or intent; there must be an overt action that indicates the individual is on the verge of committing the offense. This ensures that individuals who actively pursue criminal activity, despite failing to complete it, can still be prosecuted to prevent potential harm to society. Therefore, the correct answer encapsulates this crucial aspect of criminal intent and action, confirming that the law recognizes the seriousness of attempted crimes. In contrast, planning a crime without taking any action does not meet the legal threshold for an attempt. Similarly, simply failing to commit a crime or intending to do so but ultimately backing out, without any substantial steps taken towards the act, does not align with the legal definition of an attempt in Missouri.

3. In cases of public nuisances, what can community members do to raise awareness?

- A. Engage in public protests against the nuisances**
- B. File individual complaints without involving authorities**
- C. Contact local government to report issues**
- D. Avoid discussing issues to prevent conflict**

Community members have the authority to raise awareness about public nuisances by contacting local government to report issues. This action is particularly effective because local government entities, such as city councils or municipal offices, have the responsibility to address and rectify public nuisance complaints. When informed about such issues, these authorities can take appropriate measures to investigate and potentially resolve the problem, which can lead to a healthier community environment. Engaging with local government can also lead to organized efforts to educate the public and may prompt the development of policies or ordinances that directly address the nuisances in question. By reporting these issues, community members not only bring attention to their concerns but also engage in a constructive dialogue with decision-makers who have the power to implement change.

4. Which of the following prohibits the use of necessity as a defense?

- A. Avoiding minor legal infractions**
- B. Committing murder**
- C. Engaging in personal conflicts**
- D. Allowing others to influence a decision**

The prohibition of using necessity as a defense in the context of committing murder is based on the principles of criminal law. Necessity is a defense typically accepted in situations where a person acts to prevent a greater harm from occurring. However, the law holds that taking a human life, specifically in the act of murder, cannot be justified even if the perpetrator believes their actions are necessary to prevent a greater evil. In essence, the sanctity of life is protected under criminal law, and actions that lead to the unlawful taking of life surpass the threshold of acceptable defense based on necessity. In contrast, other elements like avoiding minor legal infractions, engaging in personal conflicts, and allowing influences in decision-making typically present scenarios where necessity can be invoked, depending on the circumstances. These contexts may allow for justifiable actions that do not involve the severe moral and legal implications associated with murder. Thus, necessity cannot serve as a valid defense against the charge of murder due to the gravity and absolute nature of the crime.

5. What constitutes forcible stealing according to Missouri law?

- A. A person uses threats of immediate physical force to take property**
- B. A person takes property without consent but without force**
- C. A person uses deception to acquire property**
- D. A person takes property from an unattended vehicle**

In Missouri law, forcible stealing is defined as taking property from another person by using threats of immediate physical force. This means that the act of stealing must involve an element of coercion, where the individual makes the victim feel they will face immediate harm if they do not comply. This definition emphasizes the use of force or the threat of force as a critical component of the crime of forcible stealing. The other choices do not align with Missouri's definition of forcible stealing. Taking property without consent but without force does not involve the necessary element of coercion. Similarly, using deception involves fraud rather than the physical force or threat of force required for forcible stealing. Lastly, taking property from an unattended vehicle does not involve a victim who is under threat, which is essential to meet the criteria for forcible stealing as outlined in Missouri statutes.

6. What defines statutory rape in the second degree?

- A. 21 years old having sex with someone younger than 14**
- B. Sex with someone under 17 years old**
- C. Sexual activity with a partner under 18**
- D. Sexual consent that fails due to age**

Statutory rape in the second degree in Missouri specifically refers to engaging in sexual intercourse with someone who is under the age of 17. This statute recognizes that minors may not have the legal capacity to consent to sexual activities, thus establishing a safeguard against adult exploitation of younger individuals. While the other choices reference age-related parameters regarding sexual activity, they do not accurately capture the legal definition outlined in Missouri law. For instance, involving a partner under 18 (mentioned in one option) does not specifically meet the legal threshold for second-degree statutory rape unless that partner is also under 17. The law is designed to protect minors specifically in context to their capability of giving informed consent, which is why the definition hinges on the age of 17. Thus, understanding these nuances is crucial in grasping the application of the law and the intent behind its creation.

7. What are "environmental crimes" in Missouri?

- A. Unintentional violations of safety regulations**
- B. Violations against laws protecting natural resources**
- C. Crimes related to corporate misconduct**
- D. Only hunting and fishing violations**

Environmental crimes in Missouri are defined as violations against laws that protect natural resources. This includes a wide range of activities that harm the environment or violate specific regulations aimed at conserving natural resources and ensuring public health and safety. Such laws encompass illegal dumping, violations of air and water quality standards, and harm to wildlife or their habitats. The focus on laws protecting natural resources reflects the state's commitment to maintaining a balanced ecosystem and safeguarding the environment for future generations. This definition goes beyond mere accidents or unintentional actions; it captures deliberate misconduct that leads to environmental degradation. While unintentional violations and specific types of corporate misconduct are related to safety and regulatory frameworks, they do not encompass the broader scope of actions that are classified as environmental crimes. Hunting and fishing violations, while important, represent only a small subset of the overall legal framework aimed at protecting the environment rather than the full spectrum of environmental crimes covered under Missouri law.

8. What does it mean to act purposely in criminal law?

- A. To cause a result by accident**
- B. To engage in conduct without intention**
- C. To have a conscious object to engage in that conduct or cause that result**
- D. To act without knowledge of the outcome**

Acting purposely in criminal law refers to the individual's intention to engage in specific conduct or to bring about a certain result. When a person acts with purpose, they have a conscious objective or aim regarding their actions, demonstrating a deliberate intent to achieve a particular outcome. In the context of criminal law, this concept is crucial as it helps determine the level of culpability or blameworthiness of a defendant. When someone acts purposely, it indicates a higher degree of moral and legal responsibility. For instance, if someone intentionally plans and executes an act that causes harm to another person, their purposeful actions can lead to more severe legal consequences compared to actions taken without intent or knowledge. Other options do not align with the definition of acting purposely. To cause a result by accident suggests a lack of intention, while engaging in conduct without intention or acting without knowledge of the outcome fails to meet the criteria for purposeful action. These distinctions help clarify the different intentions behind various actions in the legal context.

9. Which of the following is an example of "involuntary manslaughter"?

- A. Driving under the influence and causing a fatal accident**
- B. Killing someone in a premeditated plan**
- C. Using lethal force in self-defense**
- D. Accidentally bruising a person in a fight**

Involuntary manslaughter typically occurs when a person causes the death of another unintentionally, often as a result of reckless or negligent behavior. Driving under the influence and causing a fatal accident is a clear example of this because it demonstrates a disregard for the safety of others. The act of driving while impaired indicates negligence, and if it leads to someone's death, it fits the criteria for involuntary manslaughter. The other options do not align with the definition of involuntary manslaughter. Killing someone in a premeditated plan reflects intent and is more aligned with murder. Using lethal force in self-defense indicates a justified act of self-protection, which is not a criminal act under the law. Accidentally bruising a person in a fight involves minor injury and does not rise to the level of causing death, which is a key aspect of manslaughter.

10. Who qualifies as a "prohibited person" under Missouri firearm laws?

- A. Individuals with traffic violations**
- B. Individuals who are currently employed in law enforcement**
- C. Those with felony convictions or specific mental health issues**
- D. All individuals under 18 years old**

The term "prohibited person" under Missouri firearm laws specifically refers to individuals who are barred from possessing firearms due to certain legal criteria. This includes those with felony convictions as they present an increased risk of committing further violent acts or handling firearms irresponsibly. Additionally, individuals with specific mental health issues—such as being adjudicated as mentally incompetent or having been committed to a mental health facility—are also classified as prohibited persons due to the potential danger they may pose to themselves or others when it comes to firearm possession. In contrast, the other options do not fall under the specific legal definitions that would classify someone as a prohibited person. Traffic violations do not typically restrict firearm ownership. Active law enforcement personnel are usually authorized to carry firearms as part of their professional duties, and while individuals under 18 years old may be restricted from purchasing firearms, this age restriction does not render them prohibited persons under the law; it simply reflects legal age constraints for firearm ownership.

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://mocriminallawstatutes.examzify.com>

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

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