

# MISSOURI CRIMINAL LAW STATUTES PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



*Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence*



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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. Which law addresses repeated violent crimes by offenders in Missouri?**

- A. Habitual offender law
- B. Three Strikes law
- C. Felony offense law
- D. Knife crime law

**2. What does 'tampering' involve?**

- A. Changing something for its improvement
- B. Interfering improperly with an item
- C. Aiding in the preservation of an object
- D. Making authorized repairs on someone else's property

**3. When can an individual claim self-defense?**

- A. When they are the initial aggressor
- B. When they believe physical force is necessary to defend against unlawful force
- C. When they can not communicate their withdrawal
- D. Only in public places

**4. What must be true for a defense of necessity to be valid?**

- A. The danger must be created by the actor
- B. The actor must have a legal alternative
- C. The situation must involve a clear and imminent danger
- D. There must be no imminent danger

**5. What constitutes an 'attempt' in the context of committing an offense?**

- A. A person performs an act which is a substantial step towards the commission of the offense
- B. A person is merely thinking about committing a crime
- C. A person verbally expresses intent to commit a crime
- D. A person tells others about their plans to commit an offense

- 6. What does Sexual Abuse, Second Degree involve?**
- A. Engaging in sexual contact with consent
  - B. Purposely subjecting another to sexual contact without consent
  - C. Sexual advances with permission
  - D. Involuntary sexual acts
- 7. What factor differentiates First Degree from Second Degree Burglary?**
- A. Possession of a weapon during the crime
  - B. Amount of stolen property
  - C. Type of building entered
  - D. Time of the day during which the crime is committed
- 8. Under what condition is a person acting knowingly?**
- A. They are unaware of their conduct
  - B. They are aware of their conduct or the existing circumstances
  - C. They are acting out of habit
  - D. They are under extreme emotional stress
- 9. Which of the following is NOT considered robbery under Missouri law?**
- A. Using a weapon to take money from a cashier
  - B. Threatening someone to obtain their wallet
  - C. Taking a bag from someone who has dropped it
  - D. Violently pushing someone to steal their belongings
- 10. What must be established for a conviction of "second-degree murder" in Missouri?**
- A. Intent to kill without any premeditation
  - B. Accidental death with no malice
  - C. Intention to harm but not kill
  - D. Only presence at the crime scene



## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. Which law addresses repeated violent crimes by offenders in Missouri?

- A. Habitual offender law
- B. Three Strikes law**
- C. Felony offense law
- D. Knife crime law

*The Three Strikes law is specifically designed to impose harsher penalties on individuals who are convicted of multiple serious offenses, particularly violent crimes. Under this law, if a person is convicted of a third serious felony, they may face significantly increased sentences, including life imprisonment. This legislative approach aims to deter repeat offenders by emphasizing the severity of consequences for individuals who continue to engage in violent criminal behavior after previous convictions. Other options do not specifically focus on the issue of repeat violent crimes in the same way. The habitual offender law may cover repeat offenses, but the Three Strikes law is more notable for its strict guidelines concerning a series of serious violent crimes. The felony offense law deals with the classification and punishment of felony offenses generally, without the particular emphasis on repeat offenses. The knife crime law, while addressing specific violent acts involving knives, does not encompass the broader concern of repeated violent crimes.*

## 2. What does 'tampering' involve?

- A. Changing something for its improvement
- B. Interfering improperly with an item**
- C. Aiding in the preservation of an object
- D. Making authorized repairs on someone else's property

*Tampering typically refers to the act of interfering improperly with an item or object in a way that can cause damage, alteration, or disruption. This concept is often associated with criminal law, where it encompasses actions like modifying, altering, or damaging property or evidence with the intent to obstruct, conceal, or detract from its value or use. In Missouri law, tampering can relate to a variety of offenses, such as tampering with physical evidence or personal property. The emphasis is on the improper interference which implies a disregard for the rights of the rightful owner or for the lawful use of the item. Therefore, the focus is on actions that would undermine the integrity, functionality, or ownership of the item in question. The other choices reflect actions that do not align with the definition of tampering; for instance, making improvements to something or aiding in its preservation are not considered improper interference and typically involve legal or ethical conduct. Making authorized repairs, likewise, signifies permission and accountability, which are contrary to the essence of tampering.*

## 3. When can an individual claim self-defense?

- A. When they are the initial aggressor
- B. When they believe physical force is necessary to defend against unlawful force**
- C. When they can not communicate their withdrawal
- D. Only in public places

*An individual can claim self-defense when they believe that physical force is necessary to defend against unlawful force. This principle is established in Missouri law, where a person is justified in using reasonable force to protect themselves from an imminent threat of harm. The requirement is that the belief in the necessity of using force must be reasonable and based on the circumstances they are facing at that moment. Self-defense does not require that an individual be in public places, nor does it require that they be unable to communicate their withdrawal from a confrontation. Additionally, being the initial aggressor typically negates a self-defense claim unless they have withdrawn from the confrontation and made it clear that they are not seeking to continue fighting. This understanding emphasizes the importance of the perceived threat and the immediacy of the danger when evaluating claims of self-defense.*

#### 4. What must be true for a defense of necessity to be valid?

- A. The danger must be created by the actor
- B. The actor must have a legal alternative
- C. The situation must involve a clear and imminent danger**
- D. There must be no imminent danger

*For a defense of necessity to be valid, it is essential that the situation involves a clear and imminent danger. This means that the threat must be immediate and unavoidable, compelling the individual to act in a way that would usually be considered illegal, in order to prevent a greater harm from occurring. The concept of necessity is predicated on the idea that the individual's actions, though unlawful, are justified under the circumstances due to the need to avert a serious threat to life or property. In legal contexts, a successful necessity defense demonstrates that the person faced a situation where the harm they sought to prevent was real and pressing, necessitating their illegal action as the only viable option to mitigate or eliminate that threat. This requirement serves to ensure that the justice system accurately differentiates between lawful self-preservation and unlawful behavior that could be interpreted as willful disregard for the law. Other potential requirements, such as having no legal alternative, are important but not as crucial as demonstrating the existence of a clear and imminent danger, which is the foundational element for the necessity defense to hold.*

#### 5. What constitutes an 'attempt' in the context of committing an offense?

- A. A person performs an act which is a substantial step towards the commission of the offense**
- B. A person is merely thinking about committing a crime
- C. A person verbally expresses intent to commit a crime
- D. A person tells others about their plans to commit an offense

*In Missouri criminal law, an 'attempt' involves a person taking substantial steps toward the commission of a crime, indicating a clear intention to complete the offense. The concept of a substantial step is essential, as it demonstrates that the individual has moved beyond mere thoughts or planning and is actively engaged in conduct that leads toward the execution of the crime. This legal understanding ensures that individuals cannot be punished for simply contemplating or discussing criminal actions without taking steps toward actually committing the crime. Thus, actions such as gathering materials, preparing tools, or taking any concrete steps that show intent to fulfill the criminal act qualify as an attempt. This classification helps to differentiate between idle fantasies and genuine efforts to engage in criminal conduct, requiring an act that demonstrates commitment rather than mere intention or discussion.*

#### 6. What does Sexual Abuse, Second Degree involve?

- A. Engaging in sexual contact with consent
- B. Purposely subjecting another to sexual contact without consent**
- C. Sexual advances with permission
- D. Involuntary sexual acts

*Sexual Abuse, Second Degree in Missouri involves purposely subjecting another person to sexual contact without their consent. This offense is focused on the violation of a person's autonomy and bodily integrity, emphasizing the lack of consent as a critical element. The law considers the perpetrator's intention in committing the act, which clearly distinguishes it from scenarios where consent is given. In this context, the implications of not having consent highlight the violation and harm caused to the victim, making it a serious criminal offense. Recognizing consent is fundamental in sexual-related offenses; therefore, when sexual contact occurs intentionally and without consent, it constitutes the core of Second Degree Sexual Abuse. This understanding is crucial in grasping the legal framework surrounding sexual offenses and the protection it seeks to afford to individuals against unwanted sexual actions.*

## 7. What factor differentiates First Degree from Second Degree Burglary?

- A. Possession of a weapon during the crime
- B. Amount of stolen property
- C. Type of building entered
- D. Time of the day during which the crime is committed

*The factor that differentiates First Degree from Second Degree Burglary is primarily the possession of a weapon during the crime. In Missouri law, First Degree Burglary typically involves the entry into a building or dwelling with the intent to commit a crime therein while being armed with a deadly weapon or potentially using or threatening physical force. This elevates the severity of the crime, reflecting a greater danger to victims and law enforcement given the presence of a weapon. In contrast, Second Degree Burglary generally involves entering a building with the intent to commit a crime, but without the presence of a weapon or the use of physical force during the commission of the burglary. The absence of these escalatory factors demonstrates a distinction in the potential threat level posed by the offender, leading to differing degrees of sentencing and legal implications for the crimes committed. Thus, the presence of a weapon fundamentally alters the classification of the burglary charge in Missouri, making it a key differentiator between First and Second Degree Burglary.*

## 8. Under what condition is a person acting knowingly?

- A. They are unaware of their conduct
- B. They are aware of their conduct or the existing circumstances
- C. They are acting out of habit
- D. They are under extreme emotional stress

*A person is acting knowingly when they are aware of their conduct or the existing circumstances surrounding that conduct. This means that the individual has a conscious understanding of what they are doing, as well as an awareness of the relevant facts and context of their actions. In criminal law, this awareness distinguishes between unintentional actions and those that are carried out with knowledge of the situation, which can impact the determination of criminal liability. For example, if someone engages in conduct that is illegal but does so with a full understanding of their actions and the circumstances that make them illegal, they would be considered to be acting knowingly. This implies a level of intent or awareness that is critical in establishing culpability in criminal cases, as different levels of awareness can lead to different charges or defenses. The other options do not accurately reflect the definition of acting knowingly, as they either imply a lack of awareness or emotional distress that would not meet the legal standard for knowledge.*

**9. Which of the following is NOT considered robbery under Missouri law?**

- A. Using a weapon to take money from a cashier
- B. Threatening someone to obtain their wallet
- C. Taking a bag from someone who has dropped it**
- D. Violently pushing someone to steal their belongings

*Robbery under Missouri law involves the unlawful taking of property from a person through force, intimidation, or threat of violence. The correct answer, which states that taking a bag from someone who has dropped it is not considered robbery, aligns with this definition because it lacks the essential element of force or intimidation. For an act to qualify as robbery, there must be a direct interaction with the victim where their fear or resistance is overcome through force or the threat of it. In this scenario, simply taking a bag that has been dropped does not constitute an unlawful taking under the definitions given for robbery since the act lacks the aggressive element necessary for it to meet the criteria of robbery. It could potentially fall under theft, but without the use of force or intimidation, it does not escalate to the level of robbery. In contrast, using a weapon, threatening someone, or violently pushing someone to steal their belongings all involve elements of force or intimidation, which are critical components of robbery as outlined in Missouri law. These actions actively create fear and involve a confrontation with the victim, satisfying the requirements for robbery.*

**10. What must be established for a conviction of "second-degree murder" in Missouri?**

- A. Intent to kill without any premeditation**
- B. Accidental death with no malice
- C. Intention to harm but not kill
- D. Only presence at the crime scene

*For a conviction of second-degree murder in Missouri, it must be established that the defendant acted with the intent to kill, but without the need for premeditation. This means that the individual must have had a conscious objective to cause the death of another person, demonstrating a deliberate intention to kill. In contrast, other choices do not align with the legal definition of second-degree murder. Accidental death without malice would not satisfy the requirements for any form of murder, as there is no intent to kill involved. Similarly, having an intention to harm but not kill is inconsistent with the charge of murder, as murder requires intent specifically to cause death or substantial bodily harm. Lastly, mere presence at the crime scene does not establish culpability; involvement in the act of killing, coupled with the requisite intent, is necessary for a murder conviction. Thus, option A accurately reflects the legal requirement for second-degree murder in Missouri.*

## 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://mocriminallawstatutes.examzify.com>

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

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