

MPTC Criminal Investigations 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 is a best practice when delivering a death notification?**
 - A. Delivering the news via telephone**
 - B. Discussing details with all family members**
 - C. Preparing answers in advance and delivering in a private location**
 - D. Using medical terminology to explain the death**

- 2. What is a key characteristic of the 'honeymoon' phase in the cycle of violence?**
 - A. Increased tension and conflict**
 - B. Promises from the abuser that it will never happen again**
 - C. Victim feeling empowered to make decisions**
 - D. Reconciliation without any issues**

- 3. What is a potential sign of cannabis abuse?**
 - A. Increased social interaction**
 - B. Chronic fatigue**
 - C. Better emotional health**
 - D. Heightened alertness**

- 4. Persons with a disability are defined as those between which ages?**
 - A. 16-60**
 - B. 18-59**
 - C. 20-65**
 - D. All ages**

- 5. What type of evidence is described as tangible and capable of being sensed by touch?**
 - A. Trace evidence**
 - B. Circumstantial evidence**
 - C. Physical evidence**
 - D. Documentary evidence**

- 6. Which of the following side effects can occur during hallucinogen use?**
- A. Drowsiness**
 - B. Dehydration**
 - C. Cold, clammy skin**
 - D. Rapid heartbeat**
- 7. Which of the following is the most widely used and abused CNS depressant?**
- A. Heroin**
 - B. Caffeine**
 - C. Alcohol**
 - D. Marijuana**
- 8. What is one requirement for a child to be considered habitually truant?**
- A. Failure to submit homework**
 - B. Not attending school without a valid reason for more than eight days**
 - C. Being late to class frequently**
 - D. Disobeying school staff**
- 9. What factors determine systematic searches at a crime scene?**
- A. Officer training and experience**
 - B. Weather conditions**
 - C. Circumstances and individual officer preference**
 - D. Type of crime committed**
- 10. Which statement best describes the role of the First Complaint Witness in sexual assault cases?**
- A. They can testify in court regardless of the number of people the victim told.**
 - B. They must take a written statement from the victim.**
 - C. They are only relevant if they witnessed the assault.**
 - D. They have no legal standing in court.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is a best practice when delivering a death notification?

- A. Delivering the news via telephone**
- B. Discussing details with all family members**
- C. Preparing answers in advance and delivering in a private location**
- D. Using medical terminology to explain the death**

Delivering a death notification is one of the most sensitive tasks a law enforcement or investigative professional may face. The best practice is to prepare answers in advance and deliver the news in a private location. This approach prioritizes the dignity and emotional well-being of the family receiving the news. Being well-prepared allows the person delivering the notification to convey the information clearly and compassionately, ensuring that they have considered potential questions or emotional responses that may arise. A private location provides a safe space for the family to process the information without the added pressure of public scrutiny or distraction. This environment can foster a more supportive atmosphere, allowing family members to express their grief and emotions freely. The other options lack the compassion and appropriateness necessary for delivering such difficult news. Using a telephone may not provide the personal touch that is crucial in these situations. Discussing details with all family members at once can lead to misunderstandings or heightened emotions, and using medical terminology might alienate or confuse those who are grieving. Therefore, preparing in advance and choosing the right setting is essential in ensuring the notification is handled with the care and respect it demands.

2. What is a key characteristic of the 'honeymoon' phase in the cycle of violence?

- A. Increased tension and conflict**
- B. Promises from the abuser that it will never happen again**
- C. Victim feeling empowered to make decisions**
- D. Reconciliation without any issues**

The 'honeymoon' phase in the cycle of violence is characterized by the abuser making promises that the violence will not happen again, often expressing remorse and demonstrating affection towards the victim. This phase may involve the abuser trying to win back the victim's trust by assuring them that the abuse is over and they will change. It creates a temporary sense of calm and normalcy, luring the victim into a false sense of security. During this phase, the victim may feel that the relationship is improving and may believe the abuser's commitments to stop violent behavior. This is integral to the cycle as it can create confusion, making it difficult for the victim to recognize the patterns of abuse and the underlying issues that lead to the violence returning. The other options highlight different aspects of the cycle but do not accurately represent the essence of the 'honeymoon' phase. The focus on empowerment and reconciliation without issues does not align with the manipulation and promises that typically characterize this stage, while increased tension and conflict are elements associated with the preceding phase of the cycle, not the 'honeymoon' phase itself.

3. What is a potential sign of cannabis abuse?

- A. Increased social interaction
- B. Chronic fatigue**
- C. Better emotional health
- D. Heightened alertness

Chronic fatigue is a potential sign of cannabis abuse because prolonged and heavy use of cannabis can disrupt normal sleep patterns and lead to lethargy. Users may find themselves experiencing a lack of energy or motivation, which can affect their day-to-day activities and responsibilities. This fatigue is often linked to the depressant effects of the substance, which can reduce overall energy levels and contribute to feelings of tiredness or exhaustion. In contrast, increased social interaction and better emotional health would generally be seen as positive effects and not indicative of abuse. Heightened alertness is also a response that might be associated with lower-level, occasional use rather than an indicator of abuse, which tends to manifest as a negative impact on overall well-being.

4. Persons with a disability are defined as those between which ages?

- A. 16-60
- B. 18-59**
- C. 20-65
- D. All ages

The definition of persons with a disability often aligns with specific guidelines or regulations based on context, such as legal or social service frameworks. In this case, option B, which specifies the age range of 18-59, is often used in various statistical and governmental contexts to categorize individuals with disabilities during a phase of life when they are more likely to interact with various programs and services designed to support their needs. This age range is significant as it allows for a focused demographic that is typically in a transitional phase of life, such as moving from adolescence into adulthood, and may require different support services as they navigate employment, education, and social integration. In many jurisdictions, defining disabilities within this age range helps target resources, policies, and advocacy efforts to assist these individuals more efficiently. Other options, while they may suggest valid age ranges, do not align with the common definitions used in applicable legislation or agencies focusing on disability support. For example, a broader age range such as "All ages" may not typically apply when discussing targeted support or programs that focus on specific life stages.

5. What type of evidence is described as tangible and capable of being sensed by touch?

- A. Trace evidence**
- B. Circumstantial evidence**
- C. Physical evidence**
- D. Documentary evidence**

Physical evidence is classified as tangible and can be directly perceived through our senses, particularly touch. This type of evidence includes objects or materials that can be collected and examined in a forensic context, such as fingerprints, blood samples, firearms, and other items that can physically contribute to an investigation. The tangible nature of physical evidence makes it crucial in criminal investigations as it can provide direct connections to an event, person, or crime scene. For instance, physical evidence can be crucial in establishing links between individuals and crime scenes through items they may have left behind or interacted with. The reliability and objectivity of physical evidence also make it a key component in court proceedings, as it provides a concrete basis for arguments rather than relying solely on testimony or inference. In contrast, trace evidence refers to small, often microscopic materials that may be transferred during a crime, circumstantial evidence involves indirect evidence that suggests a fact but doesn't prove it outright, and documentary evidence includes written or recorded materials relevant to a case. These other types of evidence, while certainly important, do not have the same tangible qualities that define physical evidence.

6. Which of the following side effects can occur during hallucinogen use?

- A. Drowsiness**
- B. Dehydration**
- C. Cold, clammy skin**
- D. Rapid heartbeat**

During hallucinogen use, one of the notable side effects can indeed be dehydration. Hallucinogens, such as LSD or psilocybin, can lead to physical symptoms that affect the body's hydration levels. The intense sensory experiences and altered perceptions may result in a reduced awareness of bodily needs, including the need for fluids. Additionally, individuals might experience increased energy or activity levels, which can further contribute to dehydration, especially if they are in an environment that encourages physical exertion or if they neglect to drink water. This effect contrasts with other potential side effects of hallucinogens. For instance, drowsiness is less common because many hallucinogens tend to induce heightened alertness or an 'activated' state rather than sedation. Cold, clammy skin may indicate other medical issues or different types of substance use rather than hallucinogen intoxication. Rapid heartbeat can occur in response to various stimuli and might be more accurately associated with anxiety or panic, frequently reported phenomena during hallucinogen use, but it isn't a direct effect of the drug itself like dehydration is. Thus, dehydration stands out as a clear possibility for someone using hallucinogens.

7. Which of the following is the most widely used and abused CNS depressant?

- A. Heroin**
- B. Caffeine**
- C. Alcohol**
- D. Marijuana**

The most widely used and abused CNS (central nervous system) depressant is alcohol. Alcohol acts as a depressant by inhibiting the function of the CNS, leading to effects such as decreased anxiety, impaired motor function, and reduced inhibitions. This can also result in drowsiness and sedation, especially at higher doses. Given its legal status and widespread availability, alcohol consumption is prevalent across many demographics. In contrast, while heroin is indeed a potent CNS depressant, it is less commonly used compared to alcohol, primarily due to its status as an illegal substance with significant stigma and risk associated with its use. Caffeine is a stimulant, which actively increases alertness and energy rather than causing sedation or depressant effects. Marijuana, often debated in legal and social contexts, is generally classified as a hallucinogen or can have both stimulant and depressant effects depending on the strain and dosage, but it does not rival alcohol in terms of widespread use and abuse as a depressant. Therefore, alcohol is the clear choice as the most prevalent CNS depressant in terms of both use and abuse.

8. What is one requirement for a child to be considered habitually truant?

- A. Failure to submit homework**
- B. Not attending school without a valid reason for more than eight days**
- C. Being late to class frequently**
- D. Disobeying school staff**

For a child to be classified as habitually truant, one of the key requirements is the absence from school without a valid excuse for a specific number of days, which is often defined by state laws or educational policies. In many jurisdictions, an absence of more than eight days without a valid reason fits this definition. This criterion is established to identify students who are consistently not attending school and may need additional support or interventions to ensure they receive the education required. The other options do not meet the criteria for habitual truancy, as they do not pertain to actual school attendance in a way that directly impacts educational rights and responsibilities. Failure to submit homework, frequent lateness, and disobeying school staff may reflect behavioral issues or academic struggles but do not directly classify a child as habitually truant.

9. What factors determine systematic searches at a crime scene?

- A. Officer training and experience**
- B. Weather conditions**
- C. Circumstances and individual officer preference**
- D. Type of crime committed**

The correct answer reflects that systematic searches at a crime scene are primarily influenced by the circumstances surrounding the case and the individual preferences of the officer conducting the investigation. Each crime scene is unique, and the factors involved can include the nature of the crime, the evidence expected to be found, and the layout of the location. This context shapes how an officer approaches the search, including deciding on the search method (e.g., grid, spiral, zone) that will be most effective. Additionally, officer preference can also come into play, as different officers may have varying levels of comfort and familiarity with specific techniques or strategies based on their training and experience. These personal inclinations can influence the thoroughness and appropriateness of the search method utilized. While other factors like officer training and experience, weather conditions, and the type of crime committed can indeed play a role in shaping aspects of a search, they do not fully capture the overarching influence of circumstances and individual decision-making on the systematic approach taken at a scene. Therefore, the complement of the situation and personal methodology stands as the most defining elements of how systematic searches are conducted.

10. Which statement best describes the role of the First Complaint Witness in sexual assault cases?

- A. They can testify in court regardless of the number of people the victim told.**
- B. They must take a written statement from the victim.**
- C. They are only relevant if they witnessed the assault.**
- D. They have no legal standing in court.**

The statement that best describes the role of the First Complaint Witness in sexual assault cases is that they can testify in court regardless of the number of people the victim told. This is important because the First Complaint Witness is the first person to whom the victim reported the assault, and their testimony can provide critical context about the victim's account, corroborate the victim's claims, and support the timeline of events. Their role is significant in establishing the victim's credibility and in showing that the victim reported the incident shortly after it occurred, which addresses key issues in sexual assault cases regarding delays in reporting. While the number of other individuals the victim may have mentioned the assault to can be relevant to the case, it does not disqualify the First Complaint Witness from providing testimony. Their firsthand account can be crucial in persuading the court of the victim's experience and state of mind. The responsibilities relating to taking a written statement or witnessing the assault itself do not directly define the capabilities of the First Complaint Witness, nor does legal standing become irrelevant in this context.

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://mptccriminalinvest.examzify.com>

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

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