

# New South Wales Police Force Law Practice Exam (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. What theory states that every contact leaves a trace of evidence?**
  - A. Suicide risk**
  - B. Locard's Theory of Transference**
  - C. Inner perimeter theory**
  - D. Mental health assessment**
- 2. What does "goods in custody" imply in the context of stolen items?**
  - A. Possession of items with no knowledge of theft**
  - B. Knowledge of theft at the time of possession**
  - C. Items held in police custody**
  - D. Goods left unattended**
- 3. In risk assessment, which of the following is not a factor in evaluating suicide risk?**
  - A. Thoughts**
  - B. Age**
  - C. History**
  - D. Access to means**
- 4. How does public safety impact police priorities?**
  - A. It decreases officer morale**
  - B. It limits resource allocation**
  - C. It shapes their priorities**
  - D. It has no effect on operations**
- 5. In what way does public safety guide police community interactions?**
  - A. Through strict enforcement only**
  - B. By promoting transparency and dialogue**
  - C. It does not influence interactions**
  - D. Through media representation**

**6. What does negligence mean in a legal context?**

- A. Accidental harm without consequences**
- B. Failure to exercise reasonable care, causing harm**
- C. Intentional harm caused by negligence**
- D. Carelessness with no impact**

**7. What is the term for harassment that induces fear for safety or injury?**

- A. Stalking**
- B. Intimidation**
- C. Breach of AVO**
- D. Choking**

**8. What action is taken if a police officer believes a taser is necessary?**

- A. They must use it immediately**
- B. They must document the reasoning in a report**
- C. They must call for backup before proceeding**
- D. They may use it to prevent harm to themselves or others**

**9. What is the process for making a complaint against a police officer?**

- A. Lodge a complaint with the NSW Police Force or the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission**
- B. Report the incident to a local council**
- C. Contact a private lawyer for advice**
- D. Reach out to a community organization**

**10. Which assessment is focused on evaluating a person's mental health signs and symptoms?**

- A. Suicide risk analysis**
- B. Mental health assessment**
- C. De-escalation techniques**
- D. Locard's Theory of Transference**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What theory states that every contact leaves a trace of evidence?**

- A. Suicide risk**
- B. Locard's Theory of Transference**
- C. Inner perimeter theory**
- D. Mental health assessment**

The correct answer is Locard's Theory of Transference, which posits that every contact between an individual and a location, or between two individuals, results in the exchange of physical evidence. This principle is foundational in forensic science and criminal investigations, emphasizing that perpetrators of crimes will leave behind traces of their presence at the crime scene, and will also take away traces from that location. In practical terms, this means that forensic scientists can find fingerprints, hair, fibers, and other materials that serve as evidence linking the suspect to the crime scene or the victim. This theory underscores the importance of thorough crime scene investigations since every interaction could assist in reconstructing events or identifying participants. The other options presented do not pertain to the concept of evidence transfer. Suicide risk deals with mental health assessments and interventions, inner perimeter theory is related to securing crime scenes, and mental health assessment references the evaluation of an individual's psychological state, which does not involve evidence left by physical interactions.

**2. What does "goods in custody" imply in the context of stolen items?**

- A. Possession of items with no knowledge of theft**
- B. Knowledge of theft at the time of possession**
- C. Items held in police custody**
- D. Goods left unattended**

The term "goods in custody" specifically refers to the concept of possessing items that one knows to be stolen. When an individual is aware of the theft at the time they take possession of these goods, it signifies a level of culpability regarding the handling of stolen property. This understanding highlights the legal implications tied to knowingly possessing stolen items, which can attract serious criminal charges, including theft or receiving stolen property. Possessing stolen goods without knowledge of their status does not fulfill the legal criteria for awareness necessary for prosecution under theft laws; hence that context is essential in distinguishing the implications of possession. Other contexts like items in police custody or left unattended do not pertain to the concept of "goods in custody" as it relates to an individual's legal responsibility regarding stolen property.

**3. In risk assessment, which of the following is not a factor in evaluating suicide risk?**

- A. Thoughts**
- B. Age**
- C. History**
- D. Access to means**

In evaluating suicide risk, a multitude of factors are considered to gain a comprehensive understanding of an individual's mental state and their propensity for self-harm. Age is often regarded as a significant demographic factor, but it is not inherently a direct indicator of suicide risk on its own. Thoughts refer to the individual's current mental state, particularly any suicidal ideations they may have, which are crucial in assessing immediate risk. The history of previous attempts or mental health issues is fundamental in determining someone's vulnerability, as past behaviors can be strong predictors of future risk. Access to means, such as firearms or medications, is also a critical consideration because it impacts a person's ability to act on suicidal thoughts. While age can influence vulnerability and is relevant in broader epidemiological studies examining trends in suicide rates, it does not play a direct role in evaluating the current risk of an individual. As such, it's important to focus on more immediate factors that directly reflect the person's psychological state and circumstances.

**4. How does public safety impact police priorities?**

- A. It decreases officer morale**
- B. It limits resource allocation**
- C. It shapes their priorities**
- D. It has no effect on operations**

Public safety is a fundamental aspect that significantly influences the priorities of police departments. When officers prioritize public safety, they are focusing their efforts on preventing crime, protecting community members, and ensuring a sense of security among the public. This focus often determines the resources allocated to various initiatives, such as community policing, crime prevention programs, and response times to emergencies. Moreover, when determining how to respond to specific incidents or broader trends in crime, police forces frequently assess the safety of the community they serve. For instance, if there is an increase in violent crime in a particular area, police will prioritize that area to enhance their presence and problem-solving strategies, thereby directly linking public safety concerns to their operational priorities. In contrast, while factors like morale and resource allocation are relevant to police operations, they are not the primary guiding influence in terms of setting priorities. Public safety remains at the forefront of police work, shaping strategies, tactics, and overall mission focus.

## 5. In what way does public safety guide police community interactions?

- A. Through strict enforcement only
- B. By promoting transparency and dialogue**
- C. It does not influence interactions
- D. Through media representation

Public safety is fundamentally connected to how police engage with the community, and promoting transparency and dialogue plays a pivotal role in fostering trust and cooperation. When police encourage open communication, it allows community members to voice their concerns, report issues, and seek assistance without fear of repercussion. This relationship is essential for effective policing, as it ensures that the police are not only seen as enforcers of the law but also as part of the community fabric aimed at enhancing safety for everyone. Transparency in police operations and decision-making processes helps to demystify law enforcement activities, reducing suspicion and promoting a collaborative environment. When the community feels that their police force is approachable and attentive to their needs, it is more likely to report crimes and engage in safety initiatives, which are crucial for overall public safety. This approach fosters mutual respect and understanding, leading to more effective policing and community relations. In contrast, reliance solely on strict enforcement can create barriers between the police and the community, leading to distrust and fear. While media representation can influence perceptions, it does not intrinsically guide interactions like direct communication and transparency do. Similarly, claiming that public safety does not influence interactions overlooks the fundamental role safety plays in nurturing community relationships.

## 6. What does negligence mean in a legal context?

- A. Accidental harm without consequences
- B. Failure to exercise reasonable care, causing harm**
- C. Intentional harm caused by negligence
- D. Carelessness with no impact

Negligence in a legal context is defined as the failure to exercise reasonable care, leading to unintended harm to another person. This concept revolves around the idea that individuals or entities have a duty to act with a certain level of caution and foresight. When this standard of care is not met, and as a result, someone is harmed, the party who failed in their duty may be held liable for the damages. The correct understanding emphasizes that negligence is not about intentional harm, but rather about actions or omissions that fall short of what a reasonably prudent person would do in similar circumstances, ultimately resulting in injury or damage. This is foundational in legal settings, especially in personal injury cases, where plaintiffs must demonstrate that the defendant's lack of reasonable care directly caused their injuries.

**7. What is the term for harassment that induces fear for safety or injury?**

- A. Stalking**
- B. Intimidation**
- C. Breach of AVO**
- D. Choking**

The term that best captures the concept of harassment that induces fear for safety or injury is intimidation. Intimidation typically involves a behavior or actions that instill fear in a person, suggesting the possibility of harm or injury, whether physical or psychological. This aligns with the legal interpretation, where the conduct aims to control or coerce an individual through the creation of an environment that is fearful or threatening. In contrast, other terms have specific definitions that do not entirely encapsulate the concept of inducing fear for safety. For example, stalking usually refers to a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention or contact that causes a person to feel fear; while closely related, it implies ongoing behavior rather than immediate fear. Breaching an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO) could also involve harassment, but it specifically relates to the violation of a legal order intended to protect a person from harassment. Choking refers to a physical act that may induce panic or fear but does not directly denote a broader pattern of intimidation. Thus, intimidation is the most appropriate term for harassment that creates fear for safety or injury.

**8. What action is taken if a police officer believes a taser is necessary?**

- A. They must use it immediately**
- B. They must document the reasoning in a report**
- C. They must call for backup before proceeding**
- D. They may use it to prevent harm to themselves or others**

When a police officer believes a taser is necessary, the action taken aligns with their mandate to ensure the safety of themselves and others. The use of a taser is categorized under force continuum, which indicates that police officers may employ it when faced with situations where there is an imminent threat of harm. This response mechanism is based on the principle of de-escalation and proportional response. The primary goal is to neutralize a threat without resorting to deadly force whenever possible. Utilizing a taser allows officers to incapacitate a potentially dangerous individual while minimizing the risk of serious injury to both the officer and the subject involved. This option is designed to provide a non-lethal alternative for control in circumstances that might otherwise escalate into more violent confrontations. The other actions listed, such as using it immediately, documenting the reasoning, or waiting for backup, do not accurately reflect the immediate discretion officers have based on the situation's exigency. The decision to intervene using a taser must balance the need for immediate action against the requirement of justified use of force. Thus, the option that emphasizes the officer's discretion to use a taser to prevent harm to themselves or others is fundamentally aligned with the appropriate law enforcement response protocols.

## 9. What is the process for making a complaint against a police officer?

- A. Lodge a complaint with the NSW Police Force or the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission**
- B. Report the incident to a local council**
- C. Contact a private lawyer for advice**
- D. Reach out to a community organization**

The correct answer is that individuals can lodge a complaint against a police officer with the NSW Police Force or the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission. This process is crucial as it provides a formal channel through which grievances can be investigated. The NSW Police Force has its internal mechanisms for handling complaints, allowing for accountability and transparency regarding police conduct. Meanwhile, the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission is an independent body that oversees the actions of police and can investigate complaints of misconduct or corruption. Lodging a complaint with these established authorities ensures that the matter is addressed properly and in line with legal standards. They have specific procedures in place to assess, investigate, and resolve complaints, thus providing the complainant with a structured approach to seeking redress. Other options such as reporting to a local council, contacting a private lawyer, or reaching out to a community organization are not the primary avenues for formal complaints against police officers. While these alternatives may provide support or guidance, they do not initiate the official complaint process necessary for addressing issues of police conduct.

## 10. Which assessment is focused on evaluating a person's mental health signs and symptoms?

- A. Suicide risk analysis**
- B. Mental health assessment**
- C. De-escalation techniques**
- D. Locard's Theory of Transference**

The focus of a mental health assessment is to evaluate a person's mental health signs and symptoms comprehensively. This process involves collecting detailed information about the individual's psychological functioning, emotional state, social behavior, and overall well-being. Through various methods, such as interviews, questionnaires, and clinical observations, mental health professionals can identify any mental health disorders, diagnose conditions, and determine the appropriate interventions or treatments needed. This assessment goes beyond singular aspects or specific circumstances; rather, it aims to provide a holistic view of the individual's mental state, ensuring that any potential issues are recognized and addressed effectively. It serves as a foundational tool for developing care plans and support mechanisms that are tailored to the individual's needs. In contrast, other options such as suicide risk analysis are part of a specific evaluation process focusing primarily on the risk of self-harm or suicide rather than an overall mental health status. De-escalation techniques relate to managing potentially volatile situations rather than assessing mental health, and Locard's Theory of Transference pertains to forensic science and criminal investigations, not mental health assessment. Thus, the primary goal of a mental health assessment makes it the correct answer.

# 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://nswpoliceforcelaw.examzify.com>**

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

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