

New York State Police SGT Practice Exam (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. Can members engage in gambling while on duty?**
 - A. Yes, if it is a small game**
 - B. Only in private settings**
 - C. No, members cannot engage in gambling while on duty**
 - D. Only if it does not interfere with duties**

- 2. What is the appropriate way to remove a flag from service?**
 - A. Fold it and store it**
 - B. Burn it**
 - C. Dispose of it in a garbage bin**
 - D. Recycle it**

- 3. What does the Integrated Justice Portal aim to facilitate?**
 - A. Exclusive police data sharing**
 - B. Enhanced public access to crime statistics**
 - C. Integrated approach to sharing justice information**
 - D. Development of new laws**

- 4. What form is required to be filled out after using force?**
 - A. General 1**
 - B. General 2**
 - C. General 3**
 - D. General 4**

- 5. When a member is suspended, which items must they surrender to the Troop or Detail commander?**
 - A. Only their ID**
 - B. ID, shield, issued side arm, and any other weapons**
 - C. Only their issued side arm**
 - D. Only personal belongings**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a use of force case law mentioned?**
 - A. Tennessee vs Garner**
 - B. Graham vs Connor**
 - C. Miranda vs Arizona**
 - D. None of the above**

- 7. Who has the authority to authorize the use of CS chemical munitions?**
- A. A civilian supervisor**
 - B. A commissioned officer**
 - C. A team leader**
 - D. A department director**
- 8. What procedure is followed if an officer shoots at someone?**
- A. No investigation is needed**
 - B. A personnel investigation is conducted**
 - C. Immediate suspension without pay**
 - D. Counseling session required**
- 9. Under what condition can a member carry a firearm that is not issued by the division?**
- A. If it is authorized by Troop or Detail Commander**
 - B. If the firearm is registered in their personal record**
 - C. If the firearm is a personal possession**
 - D. If it is approved by a fellow officer**
- 10. What should be done with the flags during inclement weather?**
- A. Display them at half-staff**
 - B. Keep them indoors**
 - C. Allow them to fly**
 - D. No specific instructions are given**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Can members engage in gambling while on duty?

- A. Yes, if it is a small game
- B. Only in private settings
- C. No, members cannot engage in gambling while on duty**
- D. Only if it does not interfere with duties

Members cannot engage in gambling while on duty because it is against departmental policies and codes of conduct that govern professional behavior within law enforcement. Maintaining the integrity and focus of personnel is crucial, as gambling can lead to distractions and potential ethical issues. Allowing any form of gambling while on duty could compromise the standard of service expected from police officers and undermine public trust. Engaging in gambling activities, regardless of the perceived scale or setting, could divert attention away from policing duties and responsibilities. Thus, the policy dictates a clear prohibition to ensure that all officers remain fully engaged in their duties at all times.

2. What is the appropriate way to remove a flag from service?

- A. Fold it and store it
- B. Burn it**
- C. Dispose of it in a garbage bin
- D. Recycle it

The appropriate way to remove a flag from service is to burn it. This method is considered a respectful and dignified way to dispose of a flag that is no longer fit for display. The burning should be done ceremoniously, often in a dedicated ceremony, as this acknowledges the flag's symbolic importance and the values it represents. Burning allows the flag to be destroyed in a manner that honors its significance, rather than discarding it thoughtlessly. While there are various disposal methods suggested, such as folding and storing, discarding in a garbage bin, or recycling, they do not align with the traditions or protocols established for flag retirement. Folding and storing is acceptable if the flag is to be preserved, but it does not meet the criteria for properly removing a flag from service. Disposing of it in a garbage bin or recycling it fails to show the respect warranted for the flag's representation of national ideals and sacrifices made. Therefore, burning is the accepted and respectful method.

3. What does the Integrated Justice Portal aim to facilitate?

- A. Exclusive police data sharing
- B. Enhanced public access to crime statistics
- C. Integrated approach to sharing justice information**
- D. Development of new laws

The Integrated Justice Portal is designed to promote a comprehensive and cohesive framework for sharing justice information across various agencies and stakeholders within the criminal justice system. This integrated approach allows for more efficient communication and collaboration among law enforcement, correctional facilities, courts, and other relevant entities. By facilitating centralized access to information, the portal enhances data sharing related to criminal cases, offender status, and other critical judicial data, effectively breaking down silos that often hinder timely and informed decision-making. In contrast, the other options focus either on specific areas of operation, such as limited data sharing or public access to statistics, rather than embracing a comprehensive strategy for integrating all aspects of justice information. This emphasizes the importance of collaboration across the entire justice system, making the chosen answer the best reflection of the portal's goals.

4. What form is required to be filled out after using force?

- A. General 1**
- B. General 2
- C. General 3
- D. General 4

The requirement to fill out a form after using force in law enforcement is crucial for maintaining accountability and transparency. The General 1 form is specifically designed for documenting incidents where force was employed. This includes detailed descriptions of the situation, the level of force used, the rationale behind the use of force, and any resulting injuries or damages. Using this form helps ensure that actions taken by officers are thoroughly reviewed and understood within the context of department policy and legal standards. Proper documentation is essential for accountability and can serve as a resource for future training, investigations, or legal assessments. In contrast, the other forms—General 2, General 3, and General 4—serve different purposes and are related to other types of incidents or personnel matters, making them unsuitable for documenting the use of force specifically.

5. When a member is suspended, which items must they surrender to the Troop or Detail commander?

A. Only their ID

B. ID, shield, issued side arm, and any other weapons

C. Only their issued side arm

D. Only personal belongings

When a member is suspended, it is essential for them to surrender several critical items to maintain the integrity and security of law enforcement operations. The requirement to return the ID, shield, issued side arm, and any other weapons is rooted in safety protocols and protocol compliance. Surrendering the ID ensures that the suspended member does not present themselves as an active officer, which could lead to confusion or abuse of power. The shield, which signifies authority and affiliation with the police force, must also be returned to prevent any unauthorized use. The side arm, representing a significant aspect of officer duties, must be surrendered to mitigate any potential risks associated with a suspended individual retaining weapons. Additionally, surrendering any other weapons is a precautionary measure aimed at ensuring public safety, as well as the safety of the individual themselves during the suspension period. This comprehensive return of items is crucial in upholding the discipline and standards of the police force. The combination of these elements reflects the seriousness of a suspension and the necessary steps to ensure accountability and safety within the organization.

6. Which of the following is NOT a use of force case law mentioned?

A. Tennessee vs Garner

B. Graham vs Connor

C. Miranda vs Arizona

D. None of the above

The correct answer is that Miranda vs Arizona is not a use of force case law. This case is primarily concerned with the rights of individuals in police custody, specifically the requirement for law enforcement to inform suspects of their rights to remain silent and to have an attorney present during interrogations. It established the foundational principle of Miranda rights, aiming to protect against self-incrimination and ensure informed consent during police questioning. In contrast, Tennessee vs Garner and Graham vs Connor are landmark cases in the context of use of force by law enforcement. Tennessee vs Garner established the legal standard regarding the use of deadly force, emphasizing the necessity for law enforcement officers to have probable cause that a suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to justify such force. Graham vs Connor introduced the "objective reasonableness" standard for evaluating excessive use of force, assessing the actions of police officers based on the perspective of a reasonable officer in the same situation. Understanding the specific legal context of these cases clarifies their relevance to police practices regarding the use of force, making it clear why Miranda vs Arizona stands apart as not fitting within that category.

7. Who has the authority to authorize the use of CS chemical munitions?

- A. A civilian supervisor**
- B. A commissioned officer**
- C. A team leader**
- D. A department director**

The authority to authorize the use of CS chemical munitions typically lies with a commissioned officer. This is because commissioned officers possess the requisite training, authority, and responsibility to make critical operational decisions regarding the use of force and safety protocols, particularly in high-stakes scenarios. The use of chemical munitions requires careful consideration of the potential impact on both the suspects and bystanders, as well as adherence to departmental policies and legal guidelines. Commissioned officers have a comprehensive understanding of the laws governing the use of force and are expected to exercise sound judgment in their deployment. They also have the authority to coordinate with other units and ensure that the use of such munitions is justified and necessary for achieving operational objectives while minimizing risk to innocent individuals. In contrast, other roles such as civilian supervisors, team leaders, or department directors may not have the same level of authority or specific training pertaining to the use of chemical munitions, making it essential that this responsibility is vested in those trained and authorized to make such critical determinations.

8. What procedure is followed if an officer shoots at someone?

- A. No investigation is needed**
- B. A personnel investigation is conducted**
- C. Immediate suspension without pay**
- D. Counseling session required**

When an officer discharges their weapon at an individual, a personnel investigation is essential. This procedure is critical to ensure accountability, transparency, and to uphold the integrity of the police force. The investigation typically involves gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and reviewing the circumstances surrounding the incident. This thorough process is necessary to determine if the shooting was justified or if it violated department policies or laws. Agencies have established protocols to protect both the public and the officers, ensuring that any use of force is scrutinized appropriately to maintain public trust and uphold the law. The other options, such as no investigation, immediate suspension without pay, or counseling, do not align with the standard procedures in place for handling such serious incidents. They overlook the necessity of an objective evaluation of the situation and can lead to misunderstandings or incorrect conclusions about the use of force.

9. Under what condition can a member carry a firearm that is not issued by the division?

- A. If it is authorized by Troop or Detail Commander**
- B. If the firearm is registered in their personal record**
- C. If the firearm is a personal possession**
- D. If it is approved by a fellow officer**

A member may carry a firearm that is not issued by the division if it has been authorized by a Troop or Detail Commander. This process ensures that the firearm meets the necessary requirements for safety and suitability for duty. The command structure is critical in maintaining operational integrity and accountability within the police force, as it allows for oversight and assurance that all carried weapons adhere to departmental policy. While other factors, such as personal registration or ownership of a firearm, may be relevant in private contexts, they do not apply to the context of carrying a firearm in an official capacity as a member of the division. Additionally, approval by a fellow officer does not provide the same level of authority and oversight as that provided by a Troop or Detail Commander. Therefore, the authorization from a higher command is essential for ensuring that an officer is carrying a firearm that aligns with departmental standards and operational protocols.

10. What should be done with the flags during inclement weather?

- A. Display them at half-staff**
- B. Keep them indoors**
- C. Allow them to fly**
- D. No specific instructions are given**

Keeping flags indoors during inclement weather is the appropriate action to prevent damage and ensure they remain in good condition. Flags can become tattered or degraded when exposed to harsh conditions such as strong winds, rain, snow, or ice. By keeping them indoors during such weather, you are taking steps to preserve their integrity and maintain the respect they deserve as national symbols. In more severe circumstances, such as storms or heavy snowfall, it's especially important to protect flags, as these conditions can lead to significant wear and tear. While there are protocols for displaying flags in other settings, such as at half-staff as a sign of mourning, these do not apply during adverse weather conditions. The directive to keep flags indoors helps ensure that they are treated with the respect and care that they symbolize.

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://nystatepoliciesgt.examzify.com>

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

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