

North Carolina BLET Criminal Investigation 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. Surveillance can be categorized as:**
 - A. Open or Closed**
 - B. Visual or Audio**
 - C. Mobile or Fixed**
 - D. Direct or Indirect**
- 2. Which piece of information is critical in identifying a vehicle?**
 - A. Year of the vehicle**
 - B. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)**
 - C. Make and model**
 - D. Color and body style**
- 3. What action should an investigator take when a burglary suspect is identified?**
 - A. Check rental records**
 - B. Solicit the help of witnesses**
 - C. Check pawn shops for stolen items**
 - D. Revisit the crime scene**
- 4. Which of the following is NOT a part of a proper crime scene reconstruction?**
 - A. Photographs**
 - B. A crime scene sketch**
 - C. Witness interviews**
 - D. Field notes**
- 5. What is a common peripheral device used to input information into a computer?**
 - A. Monitor**
 - B. Printer**
 - C. Keyboard**
 - D. Speaker**

6. What should be recorded related to the crime during an investigation?

- A. Witness demographic information**
- B. Investigator's personal notes**
- C. All forms of evidence collected**
- D. Public response to the crime**

7. Which objective of surveillance can lead to a search warrant?

- A. Apprehend violators**
- B. Test informant reliability**
- C. Substantiate allegations of a criminal violation**
- D. Crime prevention**

8. What is the first responsibility of law enforcement at an environmental incident scene?

- A. To secure evidence**
- B. To prevent or mitigate environmental impact**
- C. To conduct investigations**
- D. To arrest suspects**

9. Which of the following methods is NOT used for securing a crime scene?

- A. Posting additional officers**
- B. Sending a team to the hospital**
- C. Using traffic cones or flares**
- D. Roping off the involved area**

10. What is the primary objective of a criminal investigation?

- A. To locate and apprehend the victims**
- B. To reconstruct the violation of criminal law and gather evidence**
- C. To interview suspects and witnesses**
- D. To ensure public safety and order**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Surveillance can be categorized as:

- A. Open or Closed
- B. Visual or Audio
- C. Mobile or Fixed**
- D. Direct or Indirect

Surveillance is typically categorized based on how the monitoring is conducted, and the distinction between mobile and fixed surveillance is a key identifier of operational capabilities. Mobile surveillance involves moving with or tracking subjects through various means, which allows for real-time updates and adjustments based on the subject's location and behavior. This type of surveillance is crucial for following subjects who may change locations often or engage in unpredictable actions, providing law enforcement with the flexibility needed during investigations. Fixed surveillance, on the other hand, involves monitoring a specific location or point, usually without the ability to change position frequently. This method can be effective when there is a need to observe the activities of individuals or events in a defined area where movement may not be necessary, such as watching a suspected criminal's residence or a particular location of interest. Understanding the differences between mobile and fixed surveillance is essential for investigators as each method serves unique purposes and is employed based on the context of the investigation or the behavior of the subjects being monitored.

2. Which piece of information is critical in identifying a vehicle?

- A. Year of the vehicle
- B. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)**
- C. Make and model
- D. Color and body style

The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) is critical in identifying a vehicle because it serves as a unique identifier for each individual vehicle produced. The VIN is a 17-character string that contains specific information about the vehicle, including the manufacturer, vehicle type, and individual production details. This number helps law enforcement, insurance companies, and other entities track vehicle histories, confirm ownership, and identify stolen vehicles. In cases of theft, accidents, or investigations, the VIN is the most reliable piece of information available since it is unique to each vehicle and cannot be changed without significant effort. While the year of the vehicle, make and model, as well as the color and body style, can provide useful context when identifying a vehicle, these attributes are not unique and may apply to many vehicles. Thus, they do not offer the same level of specificity and certainty as the VIN, which is an unparalleled tool in vehicle identification.

3. What action should an investigator take when a burglary suspect is identified?

- A. Check rental records**
- B. Solicit the help of witnesses**
- C. Check pawn shops for stolen items**
- D. Revisit the crime scene**

When a burglary suspect is identified, one critical action an investigator should take is to check pawn shops for stolen items. This is because stolen goods from burglaries are often sold to pawn shops, making them a valuable resource for recovering property and obtaining evidence against the suspect. Investigators can work with pawn shop owners to trace items back to the original owner or to link the suspect to the crime. This approach helps to build a stronger case by not only potentially recovering stolen items but also providing evidence of the suspect's involvement in the burglary if stolen property is found in their possession. This connection can enhance the likelihood of successful prosecution. The other actions, such as checking rental records, soliciting the help of witnesses, or revisiting the crime scene, while important in the broader investigation context, may not directly yield immediate evidence of the suspect's involvement as effectively as examining pawn shops for stolen merchandise.

4. Which of the following is NOT a part of a proper crime scene reconstruction?

- A. Photographs**
- B. A crime scene sketch**
- C. Witness interviews**
- D. Field notes**

In the context of crime scene reconstruction, the process typically involves gathering and analyzing all relevant physical evidence to create a comprehensive understanding of the events that transpired during a crime. Each of the elements that contribute to this reconstruction plays a crucial role. Photographs serve as visual documentation of the scene, capturing the layout and any items of interest, which can be pivotal during analysis and for presenting evidence in court. A crime scene sketch is essential as it provides a drawn representation of the scene, marking locations of evidence, points of interest, and physical features that are critical for understanding the spatial relationships within the scene. Field notes are equally important, as they contain detailed observations recorded by the investigator at the scene. These notes help to track findings, thoughts, and methodologies that can inform the reconstruction process. While witness interviews can provide valuable insight into the circumstances surrounding a crime and may offer perspectives that assist investigators, they are not technically a part of the physical crime scene reconstruction itself. Instead, witness statements are used more as supplementary information to support the findings from the physical evidence and documentation collected at the scene. Thus, they do not directly contribute to the reconstruction in the same manner as photographs, sketches, and field notes.

5. What is a common peripheral device used to input information into a computer?

- A. Monitor**
- B. Printer**
- C. Keyboard**
- D. Speaker**

A keyboard is a common peripheral device used to input information into a computer because it allows users to enter text, commands, and other data directly into the system. Keyboards contain various keys that correspond to letters, numbers, and functions, making them essential for tasks such as typing documents, entering data into forms, and executing commands. They facilitate communication between the user and the computer, acting as the primary means of input for most computing tasks. In contrast, monitors, printers, and speakers do not serve as input devices. Monitors display information processed by the computer, printers produce hard copies of documents and images created by the computer, and speakers output audio signals generated by the computer. Each of these peripherals plays a crucial role in the overall functionality of a computer system, but they do not contribute to the input of information.

6. What should be recorded related to the crime during an investigation?

- A. Witness demographic information**
- B. Investigator's personal notes**
- C. All forms of evidence collected**
- D. Public response to the crime**

Recording all forms of evidence collected during a crime investigation is essential for several reasons. Evidence serves as the backbone of the investigation and is crucial for establishing the facts surrounding a case. This can include physical evidence like fingerprints, DNA, and weapons, as well as documentary evidence such as photographs, videos, and written statements from witnesses or suspects. Collecting and meticulously documenting evidence ensures its integrity and chain of custody, which is vital if the case goes to court. Any failure to properly record evidence could lead to loss of admissibility in court or even wrongful convictions. Thus, accurately capturing all evidence is a critical step in conducting thorough and effective investigations, which is why this option is the most appropriate choice.

7. Which objective of surveillance can lead to a search warrant?

- A. Apprehend violators**
- B. Test informant reliability**
- C. Substantiate allegations of a criminal violation**
- D. Crime prevention**

The objective of surveillance that can lead to a search warrant is substantiating allegations of a criminal violation. This process involves gathering evidence through observation that supports suspicions or claims regarding illegal activities. By accumulating sufficient credible evidence, law enforcement can establish probable cause, which is a crucial requirement for obtaining a search warrant. When surveillance is conducted with the goal of corroborating allegations, it often includes documenting specific behaviors, activities, or interactions that can demonstrate criminal wrongdoing. This collected evidence can then be presented to a judge or magistrate, who must determine whether there is a reasonable basis to issue a search warrant. Hence, this objective is directly linked to the legal requirement of probable cause needed for securing a search warrant. Other objectives, while important in law enforcement, do not serve the same purpose in terms of establishing a legal basis for conducting a search.

8. What is the first responsibility of law enforcement at an environmental incident scene?

- A. To secure evidence**
- B. To prevent or mitigate environmental impact**
- C. To conduct investigations**
- D. To arrest suspects**

The first responsibility of law enforcement at an environmental incident scene is to prevent or mitigate environmental impact. This priority is rooted in the need to protect public health and the environment from immediate threats resulting from the incident. By focusing on prevention and mitigation, law enforcement can help limit the extent of damage caused by hazardous materials, spills, or other environmental hazards. Taking swift action to control the situation is vital, as the longer pollutants or hazardous substances are left unchecked, the greater the potential for widespread harm to the ecosystem and human populations. Once the immediate danger is addressed, attention can then turn to other priorities such as securing evidence, conducting thorough investigations, and apprehending suspects, if applicable. However, if the environmental impact is not addressed first, any evidence collected or actions taken later may be less effective or even irrelevant in the context of environmental preservation and public safety.

9. Which of the following methods is NOT used for securing a crime scene?

- A. Posting additional officers**
- B. Sending a team to the hospital**
- C. Using traffic cones or flares**
- D. Roping off the involved area**

Sending a team to the hospital is not a method used for securing a crime scene. Securing a crime scene typically involves preventing unauthorized access to the area where the crime occurred, ensuring that evidence is preserved and protected from contamination or alteration. Methods such as posting additional officers help to control the scene by monitoring access and maintaining order. Using traffic cones or flares and roping off the involved area also contribute to delineating the boundaries of the crime scene, making it visually clear to the public and other responders where the secured area lies. In contrast, dispatching a team to the hospital is more relevant to responding to victims of the crime rather than securing the physical crime scene itself. This action does not directly address the need to control or protect the scene where evidence may be present. The focus of securing a crime scene is on preventing access and preserving evidence, which makes the other options valid methods for this purpose.

10. What is the primary objective of a criminal investigation?

- A. To locate and apprehend the victims**
- B. To reconstruct the violation of criminal law and gather evidence**
- C. To interview suspects and witnesses**
- D. To ensure public safety and order**

The primary objective of a criminal investigation is to reconstruct the violation of criminal law and gather evidence. This process involves systematically examining the circumstances surrounding a crime to establish what occurred, how it occurred, and who is responsible. Through various investigative techniques such as collecting physical evidence, reviewing documentation, and analyzing crime scenes, law enforcement seeks to piece together information that confirms the commission of a crime and supports the prosecution of the offender. Reconstructing the violation requires a thorough understanding of the facts surrounding the crime, including motives, methods, and opportunities. Gathering evidence is essential as it forms the foundation for potential charges and trial proceedings. Without solid evidence, it becomes challenging to hold perpetrators accountable in a court of law. In contrast, the other options, although relevant to aspects of investigations or law enforcement duties, do not represent the core objective of a criminal investigation itself. For example, locating and apprehending victims is not a central concern since victims are generally not the target of investigation but rather witnesses or persons affected by the crime. Interviewing suspects and witnesses is a crucial tactic within an investigation, but it is a means to achieve the broader goal of establishing a factual basis for the crime. Ensuring public safety and order is an ongoing responsibility of law enforcement but not the

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://ncbletcriminalinvestigation.examzify.com>

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

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