

North Carolina Correctional Officer Phase 2 Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What can be a direct result of poor stress management?**
 - A. Improved relationships**
 - B. Enhanced productivity**
 - C. Increased anxiety and depression**
 - D. Better decision-making**

- 2. What aspect is NOT typically associated with effective teams?**
 - A. Constructive criticism among members**
 - B. A clear understanding of team goals and priorities**
 - C. Hidden agendas and lack of communication**
 - D. Shared responsibility for team outcomes**

- 3. In what context is the term "preparedness" crucial for correctional officers?**
 - A. Daily schedules**
 - B. Prison climate management**
 - C. ACTION plans for emergencies**
 - D. Routine evaluations**

- 4. What types of behaviors might the Prison Emergency Response Team (PERT) be expected to handle?**
 - A. Routine administrative tasks**
 - B. Medical emergencies only**
 - C. All types of emergencies within the prison**
 - D. Only non-violent incidents**

- 5. What does a "check off" signify in a correctional context?**
 - A. A routine inspection of cells**
 - B. A protective custody death threat**
 - C. An emergency evacuation procedure**
 - D. A disciplinary report**

- 6. When should correctional officers use the amount of force deemed necessary?**
- A. When they feel threatened**
 - B. When achieving a correctional objective**
 - C. Whenever an inmate is noncompliant**
 - D. During any conflict situation**
- 7. Standard uniforms in a correctional setting typically include which of the following?**
- A. Medical staff and security officers**
 - B. Correction officers and food service officers**
 - C. Administrative staff and maintenance workers**
 - D. Case managers and trainers**
- 8. What does nonverbal communication NOT include?**
- A. Body language**
 - B. Voice pitch**
 - C. Written communication**
 - D. Posture**
- 9. What is the primary concern addressed by the North Carolina General Statute 148.20?**
- A. Excessive use of force against inmates**
 - B. Regulation of inmate rights**
 - C. Establishment of court procedures**
 - D. Prevention of gang involvement**
- 10. Which of the following numbers is favored by the 5% gang?**
- A. 3, 6, 9**
 - B. 1, 2, 3**
 - C. 5, 10, 15**
 - D. 7, 9, 4**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

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Explanations

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1. What can be a direct result of poor stress management?

- A. Improved relationships**
- B. Enhanced productivity**
- C. Increased anxiety and depression**
- D. Better decision-making**

Poor stress management can directly lead to increased anxiety and depression because when individuals fail to effectively cope with stressors, they can experience overwhelming feelings that negatively impact their mental health. Chronic stress can stimulate the body's fight-or-flight response, leading to heightened levels of anxiety and feelings of helplessness or despair. This can manifest in various ways, such as sleep disturbances, irritability, and decreased motivation, further exacerbating emotional well-being. In contrast, improved relationships, enhanced productivity, and better decision-making are typically associated with effective stress management. Managing stress appropriately can foster healthier interactions, increase focus and performance, and lead to more rational thinking and better choices. Therefore, neglecting stress management usually has detrimental effects on mental health, underscoring the importance of developing coping strategies to mitigate stress.

2. What aspect is NOT typically associated with effective teams?

- A. Constructive criticism among members**
- B. A clear understanding of team goals and priorities**
- C. Hidden agendas and lack of communication**
- D. Shared responsibility for team outcomes**

Effective teams thrive on open communication, trust, and collaboration among their members. A hallmark of successful teamwork is the absence of hidden agendas, as these can undermine trust and impede progress. When team members harbor secret motives or are not forthcoming with information, it creates an environment where goals can become misaligned, leading to conflicts and inefficiencies. In contrast, constructive criticism, a clear understanding of team goals, and shared responsibility for team outcomes are all foundational elements of effective teams. Constructive criticism fosters growth and improvement, while a clear understanding of team objectives aligns efforts towards a common purpose, enhancing motivation and direction. Shared responsibility ensures that all members are invested in the team's success, promoting accountability and collective effort. Therefore, hidden agendas and lack of communication are detrimental and not typical traits of effective teams.

3. In what context is the term "preparedness" crucial for correctional officers?

- A. Daily schedules**
- B. Prison climate management**
- C. ACTION plans for emergencies**
- D. Routine evaluations**

Preparedness is a critical aspect of a correctional officer's responsibilities, particularly regarding ACTION plans for emergencies. This term encompasses the proactive measures and strategies that correctional officers must implement to effectively respond to various crises that can arise in a correctional facility, such as natural disasters, riots, medical emergencies, or security breaches. Having well-developed ACTION plans means that correctional officers are equipped with clear procedures and protocols, which not only enhance their readiness to handle emergencies but also contribute to the overall safety and security of the facility and its inhabitants. Being prepared ensures that officers can act swiftly and effectively, reducing the potential for chaos and harm during high-stress situations. The focus on ACTION plans emphasizes that preparedness is not just about having a schedule or regulations in place but involves comprehensive training and strategic foresight to manage unexpected events. This level of preparedness is essential for maintaining order and ensuring the safety of both staff and inmates in correctional environments.

4. What types of behaviors might the Prison Emergency Response Team (PERT) be expected to handle?

- A. Routine administrative tasks**
- B. Medical emergencies only**
- C. All types of emergencies within the prison**
- D. Only non-violent incidents**

The Prison Emergency Response Team (PERT) is specifically trained to handle a wide variety of emergencies within the prison setting. This includes responding to situations that could range from riots and hostage situations to medical emergencies and other crises that threaten the safety and security of the facility. Their comprehensive training prepares them to act swiftly and effectively to stabilize critical situations, restore order, and ensure the welfare of both inmates and staff. Handling only routine administrative tasks would not align with the primary mission and expertise of PERT, as their focus is on emergency management rather than day-to-day operations. Limiting their role to only medical emergencies overlooks the full scope of their responsibilities, as they are equipped to manage various types of threats that involve both non-violent and violent incidents. Therefore, stating that they only handle non-violent incidents underrepresents their capabilities and preparedness to ensure safety in any emergency scenario.

5. What does a "check off" signify in a correctional context?

- A. A routine inspection of cells**
- B. A protective custody death threat**
- C. An emergency evacuation procedure**
- D. A disciplinary report**

In the context of corrections, a "check off" is commonly recognized as referring to a protective custody death threat. This term indicates that an inmate has been identified as a potential target for violence, either due to their status or actions while incarcerated. When such a threat is documented, it usually involves a formal process to ensure the inmate's safety, potentially leading to their placement in protective custody. This understanding is vital for correctional officers who must remain vigilant regarding inmates' safety and the dynamics that could lead to violence within the facility. Effectively recognizing and responding to signs of danger, such as a check-off, is part of maintaining security and ensuring that any threats are dealt with promptly. In contrast, the other options focus on more routine operational procedures within a correctional facility, such as inspections, emergency procedures, or disciplinary actions, which do not carry the same immediate implication of a threat to inmate safety as a check off does. These processes are essential for the overall management of a facility but do not relate to the specific concern of a high-risk inmate or the need for protective measures against potential violence.

6. When should correctional officers use the amount of force deemed necessary?

- A. When they feel threatened**
- B. When achieving a correctional objective**
- C. Whenever an inmate is noncompliant**
- D. During any conflict situation**

Using the amount of force deemed necessary is closely tied to achieving a correctional objective. This principle is rooted in the requirement for correctional officers to maintain safety, security, and order within the correctional facility. The use of force should always be proportional and justified by the goal of resolving a situation effectively while ensuring the welfare of both staff and inmates. When reframing the approach to using force, it's crucial to recognize the role of a correctional officer in de-escalating situations and managing behavior in a way that aligns with set policies and procedures. The focus on achieving a correctional objective means that any force used should be aimed at regaining control, preventing harm, or ensuring compliance with facility rules, rather than solely reacting to personal feelings of threat or discomfort. Force should be seen as a last resort, utilized when other methods, such as verbal commands or conflict resolution techniques, have failed. This justifies the application of force when necessary but also underscores the expectation that officers act within the bounds of regulation and policy geared towards maintaining institutional order and promoting rehabilitation.

7. Standard uniforms in a correctional setting typically include which of the following?

- A. Medical staff and security officers**
- B. Correction officers and food service officers**
- C. Administrative staff and maintenance workers**
- D. Case managers and trainers**

Standard uniforms in a correctional setting are typically worn by correction officers and food service officers. Correction officers require uniforms to ensure a clear identification of their role within the facility and to maintain authority and control when interacting with inmates. The uniform helps to establish the presence of security personnel, which is crucial for maintaining order and discipline within the environment. Food service officers also wear uniforms as part of their duties, allowing for easy identification among staff and ensuring hygiene standards are met in food preparation areas. The uniform can include elements that reflect the specific job roles and responsibilities of these officers, as well as adherence to safety protocols within the facility. Uniforms are not standard for administrative staff and maintenance workers, case managers, or trainers, as their roles may not require the same level of identification and interaction with inmates. This distinction emphasizes the importance of uniformity in roles directly tied to security and inmate management in a correctional setting.

8. What does nonverbal communication NOT include?

- A. Body language**
- B. Voice pitch**
- C. Written communication**
- D. Posture**

Nonverbal communication encompasses various forms of expression that do not involve spoken or written words. This includes body language, which refers to gestures, facial expressions, and movements that convey messages. Voice pitch, while related to spoken communication, also plays a significant role in nonverbal cues, as it can convey emotions and attitudes. Posture is another critical aspect of nonverbal communication, as it reflects confidence, openness, and other feelings. Written communication, on the other hand, relies on text and symbols to convey meaning, which distinctly separates it from nonverbal methods. While written communication can express thoughts and ideas, it does not involve physical gestures, facial expressions, or vocal tones, which are essential components of nonverbal interaction. This distinction helps clarify why written communication is not considered a part of nonverbal communication.

9. What is the primary concern addressed by the North Carolina General Statute 148.20?

- A. Excessive use of force against inmates**
- B. Regulation of inmate rights**
- C. Establishment of court procedures**
- D. Prevention of gang involvement**

The primary concern addressed by North Carolina General Statute 148-20 focuses on the use of excessive force against inmates. This statute is part of a broader legislative framework aiming to ensure the humane treatment of individuals incarcerated within the correctional system. Specifically, it seeks to establish clear guidelines and accountability for correctional officers regarding the appropriate use of force, emphasizing that any use of force must be justified, necessary, and proportional to the situation at hand. In relation to the other choices, regulation of inmate rights, establishment of court procedures, and prevention of gang involvement are important topics within the correctional system but do not directly capture the core focus of General Statute 148-20. While inmate rights are certainly protected under various laws, including other statutes, the explicit concern of this particular statute centers around the conduct of correctional officers and the prevention of abusive practices within correctional facilities. Therefore, it highlights the state's commitment to safeguarding inmates from potential harm caused by those responsible for their care and custody.

10. Which of the following numbers is favored by the 5% gang?

- A. 3, 6, 9**
- B. 1, 2, 3**
- C. 5, 10, 15**
- D. 7, 9, 4**

The 5% gang, known for its affiliation with certain numbers, often emphasizes the number 7, which aligns with the belief system and structure of the gang. This gang also highlights the number 9, which is often connected to notions of enlightenment or spiritual significance in their particular ideology. Additionally, the number 4 can represent strength or stability within their symbolism. The choice containing these numbers—7, 9, and 4—matches the key numerics the 5% gang values. Therefore, this option embodies the detailed associations and significance that these numbers hold within the gang's philosophy, making it the favored choice. In contrast, the other options include numbers that do not hold the same level of significance to the 5% gang's beliefs or ideologies, which makes them less relevant in this context. Understanding the specific numbers that gangs associate with can provide insight into their cultural and operational frameworks.