

Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy (NVCJA) 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. Are mentally incapacitated individuals legally permitted to purchase firearms?**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Only in cases of emergency**
 - D. Yes, with restrictions**
- 2. If a convicted felon is found with a bullet during a Terry Pat down, what charge is applicable?**
 - A. Possession of a firearm**
 - B. Possession or transportation of weapons**
 - C. Concealed carry violation**
 - D. Illegal hunting**
- 3. What defines Type II of "Discharge of firearm inside or at an occupied dwelling"?**
 - A. Unlawful to shoot maliciously at any animal**
 - B. Unlawful to throw any object against a dwelling**
 - C. Unlawful to maliciously shoot or throw at an occupied building**
 - D. Unlawful to discharge a firearm towards the ground**
- 4. How is a status offense defined?**
 - A. A crime that carries a felony charge**
 - B. An act prohibited by law that isn't a crime for adults**
 - C. A behavior deemed inappropriate but not unlawful**
 - D. A criminal act that is punishable by incarceration**
- 5. What is required for a child between 0-8 years old during vehicle travel?**
 - A. Must wear a regular seat belt**
 - B. Must be properly secured in a child restraint**
 - C. Must sit in the front seat**
 - D. No requirement**

6. How are abused prescriptions typically obtained?

- A. Through healthcare providers**
- B. Online orders**
- C. Fraud or theft**
- D. Over the counter**

7. True or False: Latent fingerprints can be collected from a crime scene.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only sometimes**
- D. Depends on the surface**

8. What legal consequence could result from the act of brandishing a firearm in public?

- A. Imprisonment**
- B. Fine**
- C. Criminal charges**
- D. All of the above**

9. What charge can be brought against someone found with heroin and a firearm?

- A. Possession of a narcotic**
- B. Type II possession of firearms while in possession of certain controlled substances**
- C. Possession of drug paraphernalia**
- D. Illegal sale of narcotics**

10. What is crucial for an officer to do when engaging with an informant?

- A. Assess trustworthiness**
- B. Use a recording device**
- C. Offer monetary rewards**
- D. Create a report**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Are mentally incapacitated individuals legally permitted to purchase firearms?

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only in cases of emergency**
- D. Yes, with restrictions**

Mentally incapacitated individuals are not legally permitted to purchase firearms due to specific regulations that govern firearm ownership based on mental health status. These regulations are in place to protect both the individuals themselves and the public from potential harm. In many jurisdictions, mental incapacity can be defined by a range of mental health issues, including severe mental illnesses, cognitive disabilities, or being declared mentally incompetent by a court. When an individual is deemed mentally incapacitated, they are considered unable to responsibly handle the potential dangers associated with firearm possession. Laws typically require background checks that include mental health evaluations, and those who fall under the category of mental incapacity are generally prohibited from possessing or purchasing firearms as a precautionary measure. This reflects an understanding of the potential risks that could arise if such individuals were allowed unrestricted access to firearms.

2. If a convicted felon is found with a bullet during a Terry Pat down, what charge is applicable?

- A. Possession of a firearm**
- B. Possession or transportation of weapons**
- C. Concealed carry violation**
- D. Illegal hunting**

The applicable charge for a convicted felon found with a bullet during a Terry pat down would involve possession or transportation of weapons. This charge is appropriate because the presence of a bullet indicates a direct association with firearms, which felons are generally prohibited from possessing under federal and state laws. When a pat down reveals such an item, it suggests that the individual might be in possession of a weapon or preparing to use one, both of which are serious violations for someone with a felony conviction. Possession of a firearm as a charge would imply an actual firearm was found, which is not specified in the scenario; thus, it doesn't fit the situation where only a bullet is present. A concealed carry violation pertains specifically to having a firearm concealed in a manner that contravenes regulatory laws, which again does not apply as we aren't discussing the intent or action of carrying a firearm. Illegal hunting relates to the misuse of hunting regulations and doesn't apply in a general context of firearm possession related to the felon status. Therefore, possession or transportation of weapons is the most fitting charge in this context based on the nature of the item discovered during the interaction.

3. What defines Type II of "Discharge of firearm inside or at an occupied dwelling"?

- A. Unlawful to shoot maliciously at any animal
- B. Unlawful to throw any object against a dwelling
- C. Unlawful to maliciously shoot or throw at an occupied building**
- D. Unlawful to discharge a firearm towards the ground

Type II of "Discharge of firearm inside or at an occupied dwelling" is characterized by the unlawful act of maliciously shooting or throwing something at an occupied building. This definition emphasizes the intentional aspect of the action, marking it as a serious offense due to the potential harm to individuals inside that dwelling. The malicious intent is a crucial component, as it distinguishes this act from accidental discharges or benign actions. Furthermore, the focus on an occupied building highlights the increased risk to life and safety, making such actions particularly egregious in the eyes of the law. In this context, the other choices do not specifically align with the definition of Type II. For instance, simply shooting at an animal or throwing any object against a dwelling does not capture the specific intention behind the malicious act described in the correct choice. Additionally, discharging a firearm towards the ground does not involve the direct targeting of an occupied dwelling and thus falls outside the scope of this particular type. This understanding is essential for recognizing the legal implications immediately related to firearm discharges in urban environments.

4. How is a status offense defined?

- A. A crime that carries a felony charge
- B. An act prohibited by law that isn't a crime for adults**
- C. A behavior deemed inappropriate but not unlawful
- D. A criminal act that is punishable by incarceration

A status offense is defined as an act that is prohibited by law but is not considered a criminal offense for adults. This means that the behavior could be legal for an adult but is classified as an offense when committed by a minor. Examples of status offenses include truancy, curfew violations, and underage drinking. The reasoning behind this classification is based on the idea that certain behaviors are deemed inappropriate for minors due to their age and developmental stage, even though those same behaviors may not carry the same legal consequences if performed by an adult. This distinction is essential in the juvenile justice system, which aims to address the behaviors of youth in a way that promotes rehabilitation rather than punishment.

5. What is required for a child between 0-8 years old during vehicle travel?

- A. Must wear a regular seat belt
- B. Must be properly secured in a child restraint**
- C. Must sit in the front seat
- D. No requirement

The requirement for a child between 0-8 years old during vehicle travel is that they must be properly secured in a child restraint. This is based on safety laws aimed at protecting young passengers who are particularly vulnerable in the event of an accident. Child restraints, which include car seats and booster seats, are designed to provide the necessary support and protection for children, ensuring that they are safely restrained to reduce the risk of injury. Regular seat belts are typically designed for adult passengers and might not adequately secure a child, leading to a higher chance of injury during a crash. Additionally, placing a young child in the front seat poses significant risks due to airbag deployment and the potential for accidents. Lastly, stating there is no requirement contradicts established laws that mandate appropriate child restraint systems for safety. Thus, the option highlighting the necessity of a child restraint aligns with national safety standards and practices in child passenger safety.

6. How are abused prescriptions typically obtained?

- A. Through healthcare providers
- B. Online orders
- C. Fraud or theft**
- D. Over the counter

Abused prescriptions are often obtained through methods that involve deceit or illegal activities, which is why obtaining them through fraud or theft is a common avenue. Individuals may forge prescriptions, manipulate healthcare providers, or steal prescription pads to secure access to controlled substances. This not only represents a violation of law but also poses significant risks to public health due to the potential for addiction and misuse of these medications. In contrast, the other options suggest more legitimate methods of acquiring prescriptions. Obtaining them through healthcare providers is a standard and lawful process when prescribed legitimately for medical needs. Online orders may seem like a plausible option, but they are often tightly controlled and monitored, making them less common in legitimate contexts; moreover, not all online services are reputable. Over-the-counter medications, meanwhile, do not require a prescription at all and thus wouldn't fit the context of prescription abuse. Therefore, fraud or theft stands out as a method specifically associated with the abuse of prescriptions.

7. True or False: Latent fingerprints can be collected from a crime scene.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Only sometimes**
- D. Depends on the surface**

Latent fingerprints can indeed be collected from crime scenes, making the answer true. Latent fingerprints are those that are not visible to the naked eye and are created when the natural oils and moisture from a person's skin are transferred to a surface. These prints can be found on a variety of surfaces, including glass, metal, and plastics. Police procedures often involve using specialized techniques to visualize and collect these prints, such as powder dusting or chemical methods that react with the components of the fingerprint. The ability to successfully collect latent prints is an essential part of forensic investigations, as they can provide critical evidence linking a suspect to a crime scene. Other options may imply limitations based on surface type, but the core principle remains that latent fingerprints are a viable form of evidence that can be collected across numerous scenarios when correct techniques are applied.

8. What legal consequence could result from the act of brandishing a firearm in public?

- A. Imprisonment**
- B. Fine**
- C. Criminal charges**
- D. All of the above**

The act of brandishing a firearm in public can lead to multiple legal consequences, which is why the correct answer encompasses all of the listed options. Imprisonment may be a possible outcome, especially if the act is classified as a felony or if it occurs in certain jurisdictions with strict gun laws that consider brandishing a serious offense. Legal systems often take the public display of a firearm seriously, given that it can induce panic or fear among bystanders. Fines can also be imposed as a penalty for brandishing. Many jurisdictions have established fines that serve as a deterrent for such behavior, ensuring that individuals understand the seriousness of improperly displaying a firearm in a public setting. Criminal charges are likely to arise from the act of brandishing a firearm, which can vary in severity based on the specific circumstances of the incident, the individual's past criminal history, and the intentions perceived by law enforcement. Charges can range from a misdemeanor to more serious felony charges, depending on the situation. Thus, the comprehensive nature of legal repercussions for brandishing a firearm in public justifies the choice that all mentioned consequences could occur.

9. What charge can be brought against someone found with heroin and a firearm?

- A. Possession of a narcotic**
- B. Type II possession of firearms while in possession of certain controlled substances**
- C. Possession of drug paraphernalia**
- D. Illegal sale of narcotics**

The charge of Type II possession of firearms while in possession of certain controlled substances is applicable in this scenario because it specifically addresses the legality of firearm possession in conjunction with controlled substances. In many jurisdictions, laws have been established that restrict firearm ownership for individuals who are found illegally possessing drugs, particularly serious narcotics like heroin. The presence of both heroin and a firearm signifies a violation of these laws, which categorize the offense based on the combination of drugs and firearms. The other options, while related to drug offenses or firearm offenses, do not specifically cover the combination situation that exists when someone possesses both heroin and a firearm. For example, possession of a narcotic focuses solely on the drug aspect, while possession of drug paraphernalia pertains to items used for drug consumption or distribution, rather than the legal issues surrounding firearms. Lastly, the illegal sale of narcotics targets distribution rather than possession. Therefore, the charge of Type II possession effectively encapsulates the legal concerns that arise when these two elements are found together.

10. What is crucial for an officer to do when engaging with an informant?

- A. Assess trustworthiness**
- B. Use a recording device**
- C. Offer monetary rewards**
- D. Create a report**

Assessing the trustworthiness of an informant is crucial for an officer engaging with them because the reliability of the information provided is foundational to the integrity of any investigation. An informant, regardless of their background or motives, may have varying degrees of credibility. By conducting a thorough assessment of their trustworthiness, the officer can determine whether to proceed with the information, how to corroborate it, and how much weight to give it in the context of their operational decisions. This process typically involves evaluating the informant's past reliability, motives for providing information, and the consistency of their statements. Gathering this insight helps prevent the potential risks associated with acting on false or misleading information, which could derail an investigation or result in legal issues. In contrast, while using a recording device, offering monetary rewards, and creating a report are also important aspects of handling informants, they do not hold the same foundational importance as assessing trustworthiness. Without establishing reliability, the effectiveness of these other actions may be significantly diminished.

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://nvcja.examzify.com>

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

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