

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY (NVCJA) PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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. What court will hear a case if a 13-year-old is charged with armed robbery?**
 - A. Adult Court
 - B. Family Court
 - C. Juvenile Domestic Relations Court
 - D. Circuit Court
- 2. What defines a civil offense?**
 - A. A criminal act against the state
 - B. A wrongful act that typically involves a lawsuit
 - C. A violation of regulatory laws
 - D. A breach of peace
- 3. How is the element of "carry on or about a person" defined?**
 - A. If it is hidden from sight
 - B. If it is accessible for use or surprise
 - C. If it is in a backpack
 - D. If it is secured in the vehicle
- 4. Will Johnny's fingerprints and photographs be destroyed within six months if he is found not guilty of rape?**
 - A. Yes, they will be destroyed
 - B. No, because rape is a violent felony
 - C. Only if a civil suit is filed
 - D. No, but they will be reviewed
- 5. What was the ruling of Prouse v. Delaware (1976) regarding police stops?**
 - A. Police can stop anyone without suspicion
 - B. Police must have reasonable suspicion to check a driver's license
 - C. Drivers must display their registration at all times
 - D. Traffic stops can happen without any reason
- 6. What is essential to do against traffic violators to ensure accountability?**
 - A. Ignore minor infractions
 - B. Take effective action
 - C. Issue warnings only
 - D. Call for higher authorities

- 7. TRUE OR FALSE: A DUI suspect in the hospital can be removed for arrest and taken before a magistrate.**
- A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Only if the suspect consents
 - D. Only if another officer is present
- 8. How does the packaging of illicit drugs often affect their identification?**
- A. Improves identification
 - B. Makes it harder to identify
 - C. Relies solely on scent
 - D. Is standardized
- 9. Which of the following is NOT an example of a non-criminal justice record used to find missing persons?**
- A. Employment records
 - B. Driving records
 - C. Social security records
 - D. Public school records
- 10. The term "brandishing" refers to what kind of behavior?**
- A. Demonstrating a firearm for safety
 - B. Displaying a firearm in public without intent to use
 - C. Raising a firearm in a threatening manner
 - D. Storing a firearm improperly

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What court will hear a case if a 13-year-old is charged with armed robbery?

- A. Adult Court
- B. Family Court
- C. Juvenile Domestic Relations Court**
- D. Circuit Court

The correct answer is Juvenile Domestic Relations Court because this court is specifically designed to handle cases involving minors, including those charged with criminal offenses like armed robbery. The juvenile justice system operates under the principle that children and adolescents have different developmental needs and should be treated differently than adults in matters of law. In this court, the focus is typically on rehabilitation rather than punishment, reflecting the understanding that young offenders can benefit from guidance and services tailored to their age and circumstances. The Juvenile Domestic Relations Court processes cases concerning children under 18 years old, ensuring that appropriate legal standards are applied that align with the welfare of the child. While other courts, such as Adult Court or Circuit Court, may handle more serious criminal cases, the unique provisions and rehabilitative approach of the Juvenile Domestic Relations Court make it the appropriate venue for juvenile offenses like armed robbery. Family Court, on the other hand, typically handles matters related to family law such as custody and divorce, rather than criminal offenses.

2. What defines a civil offense?

- A. A criminal act against the state
- B. A wrongful act that typically involves a lawsuit**
- C. A violation of regulatory laws
- D. A breach of peace

A civil offense is defined as a wrongful act that typically involves a lawsuit, where one party seeks compensation or relief from another. In civil law, disputes often revolve around obligations, property rights, contracts, or personal injuries rather than criminal charges. Unlike criminal offenses, which are prosecuted by the state and can lead to penalties such as imprisonment, civil offenses are usually addressed in a court setting through a civil lawsuit initiated by the aggrieved party seeking damages or an injunction. In this context, the other options do not accurately capture the essence of civil offenses. Criminal acts against the state are associated with criminal law, focusing on actions that threaten public safety or order. Violations of regulatory laws can sometimes lead to civil penalties, but they are part of a broader category that includes both civil and criminal infractions. A breach of peace typically refers to disturbances that may be criminal in nature and do not align with the civil framework of resolving disputes through lawsuits.

3. How is the element of "carry on or about a person" defined?

- A. If it is hidden from sight
- B. If it is accessible for use or surprise**
- C. If it is in a backpack
- D. If it is secured in the vehicle

The element of "carry on or about a person" is defined as having an item accessible for use or surprise. This definition emphasizes that the item must be within a person's immediate control or reach, indicating the possibility of quick access. This concept is crucial in law enforcement and legal contexts, particularly regarding weapons or contraband, as it directly relates to the ability to utilize the item without significant delay. The accessibility aspect is important because it reflects a person's intent or capability to use the item in a moment of need, which can have legal ramifications, especially in situations involving self-defense or criminal activity. Thus, defining it this way provides clarity in understanding personal liability and the implications of possessing certain items in various situations. In contrast, the other definitions do not encompass the full concept of "carry on or about a person." Simply being hidden from sight does not accurately reflect accessibility or intent. Being in a backpack may not necessarily establish immediate control, as the item could be out of reach. Finally, having an item secured in a vehicle does not satisfy the requirement of being on one's person or readily accessible in a manner that suggests potential use or immediate accessibility.

4. Will Johnny's fingerprints and photographs be destroyed within six months if he is found not guilty of rape?

- A. Yes, they will be destroyed
- B. No, because rape is a violent felony**
- C. Only if a civil suit is filed
- D. No, but they will be reviewed

In many jurisdictions, the handling of fingerprints and photographs taken during the arrest process can vary based on the nature of the offense. In this case, since Johnny was accused of rape, which is classified as a violent felony, it is common for the records to be retained for a longer period of time even if he is found not guilty. This retention can be based on the severity of the crime and the potential for it to impact any future law enforcement or criminal justice inquiries. The policies on the destruction of records may also consider the implications related to violent crimes, public safety, and statistics on recidivism. In jurisdictions where rape is marked as a serious crime, it is more likely for the fingerprints and photographs to be kept beyond a typical timeframe like six months, particularly in an effort to maintain a comprehensive record of individuals involved in serious offenses. Therefore, the correct choice regarding the retention of Johnny's fingerprints and photographs is that they will not be destroyed within six months due to the classification of rape as a violent felony. This reflects the legal practices and principles in place concerning serious offenses in criminal justice.

5. What was the ruling of *Prouse v. Delaware* (1976) regarding police stops?

- A. Police can stop anyone without suspicion
- B. Police must have reasonable suspicion to check a driver's license**
- C. Drivers must display their registration at all times
- D. Traffic stops can happen without any reason

The ruling in Prouse v. Delaware established that police officers are required to have reasonable suspicion before stopping a vehicle to check a driver's license and registration. This decision is rooted in the protection of Fourth Amendment rights, which guard against unreasonable searches and seizures. The Supreme Court emphasized that random stops without any basis of suspicion would be unconstitutional, as they infringe upon individuals' rights to privacy and freedom from arbitrary interference. Reasonable suspicion involves having a particularized and objective basis for suspecting a person of criminal activity, which ensures that law enforcement actions are grounded in facts rather than mere hunches or generalized fears. This ruling thus reinforces the necessity for police to balance their law enforcement duties with respect for constitutional protections.

6. What is essential to do against traffic violators to ensure accountability?

- A. Ignore minor infractions
- B. Take effective action**
- C. Issue warnings only
- D. Call for higher authorities

Ensuring accountability against traffic violators is fundamentally about taking effective action. This involves a systematic approach where law enforcement or relevant authorities actively enforce traffic laws to promote safety and order on the road. When effective action is taken, it can include issuing citations, conducting traffic stops, and implementing educational initiatives to inform the public about safe driving practices. This proactive stance helps to deter future violations and reinforces the importance of obeying traffic laws. By taking effective action, authorities send a message that adherence to traffic regulations is vital for the safety of all road users. This contributes to creating an environment where responsible driving is the norm, ultimately leading to a decrease in accidents and traffic-related issues. In contrast, ignoring minor infractions or only issuing warnings could lead to a culture of negligence, where violators feel emboldened to continue unsafe behaviors without fear of consequences. Similarly, relying solely on calling for higher authorities may not address immediate violations and can delay necessary interventions. Therefore, taking decisive and effective action is crucial for maintaining accountability among traffic violators.

7. TRUE OR FALSE: A DUI suspect in the hospital can be removed for arrest and taken before a magistrate.

- A. True
- B. False**
- C. Only if the suspect consents
- D. Only if another officer is present

The assertion that a DUI suspect in the hospital cannot be removed for arrest and taken before a magistrate is based on legal principles regarding the rights and welfare of individuals in medical care. When a person is hospitalized, their health and well-being take precedence, especially if they are incapacitated or undergoing treatment. In such circumstances, law enforcement must balance their duty to enforce laws against the need to ensure that the suspect receives appropriate medical care. If a suspect is in a condition that requires hospitalization, this generally limits law enforcement's ability to transport them for an arrest or court appearance until they are medically stable. There are also legal safeguards designed to protect individuals' rights in medical settings, ensuring that they are not unduly subjected to legal processes that may impede their health treatment. Factors like consent or the presence of another officer, while they might affect certain circumstances under which someone could be taken into custody, do not override the fundamental considerations regarding the suspect's immediate medical needs. Therefore, the correct answer is that a DUI suspect in the hospital cannot be removed for arrest and taken before a magistrate.

8. How does the packaging of illicit drugs often affect their identification?

- A. Improves identification
- B. Makes it harder to identify**
- C. Relies solely on scent
- D. Is standardized

The packaging of illicit drugs can significantly complicate identification due to various factors involved in how drugs are concealed and presented. Drug traffickers often use distinctive packaging to disguise substances, making it difficult for law enforcement and forensic experts to recognize the drugs visually. The materials used for packaging, such as opaque bags, foil wraps, or unusual containers, can obscure the characteristics of the substance inside. Additionally, unique branding or labeling may be employed, creating confusion and requiring a more thorough analysis to determine the drug's identity. This deliberate obfuscation is a strategy used by drug dealers to evade detection and complicate law enforcement efforts, emphasizing the challenges analysts face in their attempts to identify and quantify illicit substances accurately. Thus, the intricate nature of how drugs are packaged plays a crucial role in hampering straightforward identification efforts, requiring advanced methods and techniques to uncover the true nature of the contents.

9. Which of the following is NOT an example of a non-criminal justice record used to find missing persons?

- A. Employment records
- B. Driving records**
- C. Social security records
- D. Public school records

Driving records are indeed used primarily within the realm of criminal justice for licensing, traffic violations, and vehicle registrations, which makes them less relevant as a non-criminal justice record in the context of finding missing persons. Non-criminal justice records typically refer to information that is not directly tied to criminal activity or law enforcement, yet can provide valuable insights into a person's whereabouts or status.

Employment records, social security records, and public school records all fit this category since they provide information about a person's life circumstances, obligations, or historical presence that may assist in locating them without directly involving criminal justice processes. These records can reveal employment history, educational backgrounds, or other social connections that might indicate where a person was last seen or where they may be located now. Therefore, the distinction lies in the primary usage of the records in relation to criminal justice.

10. The term "brandishing" refers to what kind of behavior?

- A. Demonstrating a firearm for safety
- B. Displaying a firearm in public without intent to use
- C. Raising a firearm in a threatening manner**
- D. Storing a firearm improperly

The term "brandishing" specifically refers to the act of raising or waving a firearm in a threatening manner. This behavior typically conveys an intention to intimidate or threaten others, regardless of whether the individual has the intention to actually use the firearm. It is important to understand that brandishing can escalate situations and is considered a criminal act in many jurisdictions, as it instills fear in others and can lead to potentially dangerous confrontations. The other behaviors described, such as demonstrating a firearm for safety, displaying a firearm in public without intent to use, or storing a firearm improperly, do not capture the essential aggressive and threatening nature of brandishing. These actions may involve various legal implications and responsibilities, but they do not align with the specific definition of brandishing a weapon.

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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