

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING ACADEMY (NVCJTA) EXAM 3 PRACTICE (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE**

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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 is the definition of stress?

- A. The body's response to any threat or challenge, real or perceived.
- B. A positive mental or physical reaction to an event.
- C. A negative mental or physical reaction to an event.
- D. A temporary state of relaxation.

2. An informant in an affidavit must be:

- A. Corroborated
- B. Verified
- C. Confirmed
- D. Validated

3. The limitation on impound decisions is identified by which Virginia code section?

- A. 19.2-80.1
- B. 19.2-80.0
- C. 19.3-70.2
- D. 18.2-80.1

4. The rationale for inventories includes protecting which combination?

- A. Owners property/Claims of loss/potential danger
- B. Police budgets/Traffic tickets/Privacy
- C. Vehicle depreciation/Insurance rates/Liability
- D. Public interest/State interests/Political concerns

5. Warrants shall be issued only by a neutral magistrate after a finding of _____, based upon sworn to facts.

- A. Probable Cause
- B. Reasonable Suspicion
- C. Sufficient Evidence
- D. Credible Information

6. Imminent _____ of evidence.
- A. Seizure
 - B. Destruction
 - C. Return
 - D. Handling
7. During a search incident to arrest, the area searched is the defendant's immediate control or reach of a weapon. Which option correctly describes this scope?
- A. The entire residence
 - B. The arrestee's vehicle
 - C. The arrestee's immediate control or reach of a weapon
 - D. Only outer clothing
8. The information provided in an affidavit must be current information (not stale).
- A. Information (not stale)
 - B. Information (not verified)
 - C. Information (not dated)
 - D. Information (not reliable)
9. Consent to search one's person includes containers such as a purse or bag held by that person. This principle is established by which case?
- A. Edwards v. Commonwealth
 - B. Katz v. United States
 - C. Mapp v. Ohio
 - D. Duncan v. Louisiana
10. All impound decisions are further limited by which code and policy?
- A. 19.2-80.1
 - B. 19.2-80.2
 - C. 19.3-70.4
 - D. 18.1-50.5

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the definition of stress?

- A. The body's response to any threat or challenge, real or perceived.**
- B. A positive mental or physical reaction to an event.
- C. A negative mental or physical reaction to an event.
- D. A temporary state of relaxation.

Stress is the body's response to a threat or challenge, real or perceived. When something is faced that demands attention or action, the body activates the stress response, preparing you to cope. This involves both physiological changes—like a faster heartbeat, quicker breathing, tense muscles, and a surge of hormones such as adrenaline and cortisol—and mental shifts, such as heightened alertness and focus. Stress isn't inherently bad or good; it can be helpful (eustress) in motivating you to perform, or harmful (distress) if it's chronic. The important point is that stress refers to the body's reaction to the demand, not the event itself. The other options either describe only a positive or negative reaction, or describe relaxation, which is the opposite of stress.

2. An informant in an affidavit must be:

- A. Corroborated**
- B. Verified
- C. Confirmed
- D. Validated

Corroboration of informant information is required to establish probable cause in a warrant affidavit. In criminal procedure, tips from informants are usually treated as hearsay, so they must be supported by other independent evidence or observations to be reliable. Corroboration strengthens reliability by verifying key details through independent means—like surveillance, physical evidence at the scene, or other corroborating facts that align with what the informant reported. This independent verification helps show a fair likelihood that the described evidence or wrongdoing exists, which is why corroboration is the standard. The other terms imply direct verification by the informant itself, whereas the legal requirement is independent corroboration to support probable cause.

3. The limitation on impound decisions is identified by which Virginia code section?

- A. 19.2-80.1**
- B. 19.2-80.0
- C. 19.3-70.2
- D. 18.2-80.1

The limits on when and how an impoundment can be ordered are set in Virginia Code section 19.2-80.1. This provision directly governs impoundment decisions, outlining the conditions under which an impoundment may be used and the procedural safeguards that must accompany it. It ensures that an impoundment isn't an arbitrary action by an officer, and it typically covers aspects like the duration of the impoundment and the process for release or contesting the decision. In this way, it provides the statutory framework that limits and governs impoundment actions. The other code sections cover different topics and do not address the specific constraints tied to impoundment decisions.

4. The rationale for inventories includes protecting which combination?

A. Owners property/Claims of loss/potential danger

B. Police budgets/Traffic tickets/Privacy

C. Vehicle depreciation/Insurance rates/Liability

D. Public interest/State interests/Political concerns

Inventories are about safeguarding what comes into police custody and ensuring safety. They're performed to protect the owner's property by creating a documented record of what has been seized or found, so items aren't misplaced or stolen and can be returned to the rightful owner. They also reduce the agency's exposure to claims of loss by showing an inventory was conducted and the items were accounted for. Finally, inventories help identify items that could pose a danger to officers or the public, such as weapons or hazardous materials, allowing proper handling and removal. That combination—protecting the owner's property, addressing potential loss claims, and identifying potential dangers—best fits the purpose of inventories. The other options mix financial or political concerns that aren't the primary aims of performing an inventory.

5. Warrants shall be issued only by a neutral magistrate after a finding of _____, based upon sworn to facts.

A. Probable Cause

B. Reasonable Suspicion

C. Sufficient Evidence

D. Credible Information

Probable cause. For a warrant to be issued, a neutral magistrate must find there is probable cause—a fair probability that evidence or contraband will be found in the place to be searched—based on facts sworn under oath. The sworn facts are typically presented in an affidavit, which binds the officer to truthfulness and gives the magistrate the information needed to judge whether a search is justified. This standard sits above mere suspicion. Reasonable suspicion can justify brief detentions or stops, but it isn't enough to authorize a search. The idea of "sufficient evidence" or "credible information" isn't the formal threshold for issuing a warrant; the decisive standard is probable cause, evaluated through the totality of the circumstances, including the reliability of sources and corroborating corroboration. So, the warrant process relies on a careful, sworn presentation of facts that create a reasonable basis to believe evidence will be found in the specified location, ensuring searches are grounded in constitutional protections.

6. Imminent _____ of evidence.

A. Seizure

B. Destruction

C. Return

D. Handling

Exigent circumstances focus on immediate actions to preserve evidence when waiting for a warrant could lead to its loss. Filling in the blank with destruction fits because the urgency comes from the risk that the evidence will be destroyed if police delay. This is a classic justification for warrantless action to seize or search, aimed at preventing loss of probative material. The other words describe actions or outcomes that aren't the immediate threat addressed by this doctrine—destruction specifically captures the danger that prompts urgent police intervention, whereas seizure, return, or handling don't convey that looming risk in the same way.

7. During a search incident to arrest, the area searched is the defendant's immediate control or reach of a weapon. Which option correctly describes this scope?

- A. The entire residence
- B. The arrestee's vehicle
- C. The arrestee's immediate control or reach of a weapon**
- D. Only outer clothing

The key idea is that a search incident to arrest is limited to what the arrestee can immediately control or reach. This rule, from Chimel, lets officers search the arrestee and the area within the arrestee's reach to find weapons and prevent destruction of evidence. So the scope includes items the arrestee could grab or access at that moment, such as pockets, clothing, or other objects within arm's reach, and areas from which a weapon could be obtained. It does not authorize a blanket search of an entire residence or automatically expand to every part of a vehicle unless the arrestee is near or within the vehicle at the time and other conditions are met. Outer clothing alone is too narrow for the general SITA scope. Therefore, describing the scope as the arrestee's immediate control or reach of a weapon best captures the rule.

8. The information provided in an affidavit must be current information (not stale).

- A. Information (not stale)**
- B. Information (not verified)
- C. Information (not dated)
- D. Information (not reliable)

Currency of the information is essential in an affidavit. The statements need to reflect the situation as it exists now or as recently as possible, so the facts are accurate and relevant when the affidavit is used. If information becomes stale, circumstances may have changed, making the affidavit misleading or unreliable. Other aspects like verification, dating, or reliability are important in different contexts, but they do not address the time-sensitivity of the facts. A statement can be verified or credible yet still be outdated, which is why not-stale information best fits the requirement.

9. Consent to search one's person includes containers such as a purse or bag held by that person. This principle is established by which case?

- A. Edwards v. Commonwealth**
- B. Katz v. United States
- C. Mapp v. Ohio
- D. Duncan v. Louisiana

Consent to search one's person includes the items a person is carrying. This is about how far a voluntary search can extend when someone agrees to be searched. Edwards v. Commonwealth supports the idea that when a person consents to a search of themselves, the authority to search extends to containers in their possession, such as a purse or bag, because those belongings are under the person's control and could reasonably hold the items police are seeking. That makes it the best answer here, since it directly addresses the scope of consent to include personal containers. The other cases don't address this specific point. Katz v. United States deals with privacy expectations under the Fourth Amendment, Mapp v. Ohio concerns the exclusionary rule applying to state prosecutions, and Duncan v. Louisiana concerns the right to a jury trial.

10. All impound decisions are further limited by which code and policy?

A. 19.2-80.1

B. 19.2-80.2

C. 19.3-70.4

D. 18.1-50.5

Impound decisions must follow statutory authority and agency policy. In Virginia, the limit on how and when an impoundment can be ordered is set by the code, with 19.2-80.1 providing the specific provisions that govern impoundment—who can order it, the conditions that justify it, and the required procedures. Agency policy then translates that statute into everyday practice, detailing step-by-step how to document the impound, handle notices, storage, and release. The other code options do not provide the same targeted impoundment framework, so they don't constrain impound decisions in the same way. Therefore, the limiting code and policy for all impound decisions is 19.2-80.1.

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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://nvcjta3.examzify.com>

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

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