

Ontario Private Investigator Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1

Table of Contents 2

Introduction 3

How to Use This Guide 4

Questions 5

Answers 8

Explanations 10

Next Steps 15

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

- 1. Before starting an investigation to locate a suspect, what is the first step?**
 - A. Determine the urgency of the case**
 - B. Identify if the client's reasoning behind the investigation is frivolous**
 - C. Establish a perimeter for the investigation**
 - D. Request additional resources for the investigation**

- 2. What does OHRC stand for?**
 - A. Ontario Human Resources Commission**
 - B. Ontario Human Rights Code**
 - C. Operational Health Risk Compliance**
 - D. Official Humanitarian Response Consortium**

- 3. How often do private investigators need to renew their license in Ontario?**
 - A. Every year**
 - B. Every two years**
 - C. Every five years**
 - D. Every month**

- 4. What are private investigators prohibited from doing when conducting an investigation?**
 - A. Gathering evidence through interviews**
 - B. Fabricating evidence or using illegal methods**
 - C. Using surveillance techniques legally**
 - D. Collaborating with law enforcement agencies**

- 5. What is the procedure if a witness requests a correction to their statement?**
 - A. To rewrite the statement entirely**
 - B. To make verbal agreements only**
 - C. To draw a line through the item with initials**
 - D. To ignore the request**

- 6. Illustrative evidence is also known as?**
- A. Narrative evidence**
 - B. Demonstrative or documentary evidence**
 - C. Speculative evidence**
 - D. Digital evidence**
- 7. What constitutes Unsworn Evidence?**
- A. Evidence that has not been verified**
 - B. Witness does not appear to understand the nature of an oath or a solemn affirmation**
 - C. Evidence that is given without a witness present**
 - D. A confession made outside of court**
- 8. What is the purpose of surveillance?**
- A. To locate, obtain, and prevent**
 - B. To intimidate the subject**
 - C. To gather information exclusively for public dissemination**
 - D. To test surveillance equipment**
- 9. How should a private investigator document their findings?**
- A. Through unstructured notes taken during the investigation**
 - B. Through detailed, objective reports outlining observations and evidence**
 - C. By creating an informal summary for their client**
 - D. Relying solely on digital recordings of evidence**
- 10. The undercover operator should not encourage or assist in any illegal activities.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Before starting an investigation to locate a suspect, what is the first step?

A. Determine the urgency of the case

B. Identify if the client's reasoning behind the investigation is frivolous

C. Establish a perimeter for the investigation

D. Request additional resources for the investigation

The first step before starting an investigation to locate a suspect is to identify if the client's reasoning behind the investigation is frivolous. This is important because it helps ensure that the investigation is necessary and not a waste of time and resources. Option A is incorrect because while urgency is important to consider, it should not be the first step as it may cause hasty and incomplete investigations. Option C is incorrect because establishing a perimeter is part of the investigative process, but not the first step. Option D is also incorrect, as it is not necessary to request additional resources before confirming the validity of the investigation. It is important to first establish if the investigation itself is legitimate and necessary before dedicating more resources to it.

2. What does OHRC stand for?

A. Ontario Human Resources Commission

B. Ontario Human Rights Code

C. Operational Health Risk Compliance

D. Official Humanitarian Response Consortium

OHRC stands for Ontario Human Rights Code, not the other options. Option A refers to the Ontario Human Resources Commission, which is a government agency that deals with employment and labour rights in the province. Option C refers to operational health risk compliance, which is a term used in industries such as healthcare and insurance to assess and mitigate potential risks. Option D refers to the Official Humanitarian Response Consortium, which is a global alliance of humanitarian organizations working together to address emergencies and humanitarian crises. The correct answer, Option B, is the specific legal document that outlines the rights and responsibilities related to human rights in Ontario.

3. How often do private investigators need to renew their license in Ontario?

A. Every year

B. Every two years

C. Every five years

D. Every month

In Ontario, private investigators are required to renew their licenses every two years. This renewal process is crucial not only to ensure that investigators remain compliant with current laws and regulations but also to maintain a standard of professionalism and competency in the industry. The two-year renewal period allows the licensing body to evaluate the investigator's ongoing suitability for the role, which may include background checks or proofs of continuing education. This requirement is designed to protect the public and ensure that licensed private investigators are up-to-date with current practices and legal frameworks.

4. What are private investigators prohibited from doing when conducting an investigation?

- A. Gathering evidence through interviews**
- B. Fabricating evidence or using illegal methods**
- C. Using surveillance techniques legally**
- D. Collaborating with law enforcement agencies**

Private investigators are held to strict ethical and legal standards in their practice, one of which is the prohibition against fabricating evidence or employing illegal methods during investigations. This is essential to maintain the integrity of the investigative process and to ensure that any evidence gathered can be used legitimately in legal proceedings. Using fabricated evidence not only undermines the credibility of the investigator but can also result in legal consequences, including criminal charges against the investigator. Legal methods of evidence collection must be adhered to in order to protect the rights of all parties involved and to ensure that the investigator remains within the boundaries of the law. Additionally, methods that are considered illegal, such as breaking and entering, hacking into private accounts, or stalking individuals, are strictly off-limits. Maintaining ethical standards is crucial for private investigators to uphold the trust of clients and the legal system. The other choices provided are compliant with common practices in private investigation, such as gathering evidence through interviews, legally utilizing surveillance techniques, and collaborating with law enforcement, all of which are essential tools for effective investigation when done within the law.

5. What is the procedure if a witness requests a correction to their statement?

- A. To rewrite the statement entirely**
- B. To make verbal agreements only**
- C. To draw a line through the item with initials**
- D. To ignore the request**

When a witness requests a correction to their statement, it is important to make note of the correction and initial it. This ensures that the original statement is not altered or tampered with and that any corrections made can be traced back to the witness. Option A is incorrect because completely rewriting the statement raises questions about the accuracy and credibility of the original statement. Option B is incorrect because verbal agreements may not be accurately remembered or can be disputed later on. Option D is incorrect because ignoring the request could be seen as disregarding the witness's input and could potentially impact the validity of the statement. Drawing a line through the item with initials is the appropriate procedure to acknowledge and document any corrections made by the witness.

6. Illustrative evidence is also known as?

- A. Narrative evidence
- B. Demonstrative or documentary evidence**
- C. Speculative evidence
- D. Digital evidence

Illustrative evidence, also known as demonstrative or documentary evidence, includes any type of illustration or physical representation that portrays evidence related to the case. This type of evidence can include photographs, models, diagrams, or other visual aids that are used to help explain and clarify a particular point or argument. Option A (narrative evidence) is incorrect because this refers to written or spoken testimony from a witness. Option C (speculative evidence) is incorrect because this refers to evidence that is based on conjecture or assumption rather than concrete facts. Option D (digital evidence) is incorrect because this refers to any type of electronic data or information that is used as evidence in a case.

7. What constitutes Unsworn Evidence?

- A. Evidence that has not been verified
- B. Witness does not appear to understand the nature of an oath or a solemn affirmation**
- C. Evidence that is given without a witness present
- D. A confession made outside of court

Unsworn evidence is any evidence that has not been given under oath or as a solemn affirmation. This means that the testimony or information provided cannot be verified. Option A is incorrect because evidence can be unsworn simply by not being given under oath, not necessarily due to a lack of verification. Option C is incorrect because evidence given without a witness present can still be sworn into court, therefore making it sworn evidence. Option D is incorrect because a confession made outside of court can still be given under oath and therefore be considered sworn evidence. Choice B is the only correct option that identifies the true meaning of unsworn evidence, as it is evidence that is not backed by an oath or solemn affirmation due to the witness not understanding the significance of it.

8. What is the purpose of surveillance?

- A. To locate, obtain, and prevent**
- B. To intimidate the subject
- C. To gather information exclusively for public dissemination
- D. To test surveillance equipment

The purpose of surveillance is not simply to locate and obtain information, but also to prevent certain events or behaviors. Option A provides a more comprehensive and accurate purpose of surveillance compared to the other options. Option B refers to using surveillance as a means of intimidation, which may not be the primary purpose in all situations. Option C limits the purpose of surveillance to only gathering information for public dissemination, rather than for other purposes such as safety or security. Option D refers to using surveillance for testing equipment, which is not necessarily the main purpose of surveillance. Overall, option A most accurately explains the primary purpose of surveillance.

9. How should a private investigator document their findings?

- A. Through unstructured notes taken during the investigation
- B. Through detailed, objective reports outlining observations and evidence**
- C. By creating an informal summary for their client
- D. Relying solely on digital recordings of evidence

Documenting findings as a private investigator is essential for maintaining professionalism, ensuring accuracy, and providing a clear account of the research conducted. Detailed, objective reports that outline observations and evidence serve several critical purposes. Firstly, these reports offer a formal record of the investigation, which can be referenced in future inquiries or legal proceedings. They provide a structured approach that allows for easy navigation through the findings, which is crucial in high-stakes situations where precise details matter. Objective reporting minimizes personal bias and focuses on what was observed or gathered, ensuring that the information is credible and reliable. Additionally, having a comprehensive report fosters transparency with clients, allowing them to understand the process and the results without ambiguity. This level of detail can help clients make informed decisions based on factual data rather than subjective interpretations. While unstructured notes and informal summaries might seem convenient, they lack the systematic approach necessary for creating a professional standard of documentation. Similarly, relying solely on digital recordings does not encompass the full spectrum of evidence or findings, such as contextual details and analysis, which are critical to formulating a complete picture. Therefore, detailed, objective reports remain the best practice for documenting findings in the realm of private investigation.

10. The undercover operator should not encourage or assist in any illegal activities.

- A. True**
- B. False

The statement that an undercover operator should not encourage or assist in any illegal activities is true. Undercover operations are conducted with the primary goal of gathering evidence or intelligence in a manner that is legal and ethical. Encouraging or assisting in illegal activities not only compromises the integrity of the investigation but may also expose the undercover operator and their agency to legal consequences. In many jurisdictions, including Ontario, law enforcement and private investigators are bound by strict ethical guidelines and legal frameworks. Acting in a manner that promotes unlawful behavior goes against these principles, undermines public trust in the investigation process, and can lead to a lack of admissibility of gathered evidence in court. Therefore, it is essential for undercover operators to maintain a clear boundary, focusing solely on observing and reporting criminal activities without becoming an active participant. This ensures that their actions are legal, ethical, and aligned with the objectives of the investigation.

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://ontarioprivateinvestigatorexam.examzify.com>

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

SAMPLE