

Paragon Systems Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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. Which responsibility is typically not assigned to a PSO during their service?**
 - A. Maintaining physical security**
 - B. Documenting incidents and occurrences**
 - C. Training new PSOs**
 - D. Controlling access to facilities**

- 2. What should you do before checking the data printed on a card?**
 - A. Examine the card**
 - B. Ask for the card**
 - C. Observe person**
 - D. Not the time**

- 3. Physical evidence has which two characteristics?**
 - A. Visible or invisible**
 - B. Solid or hollow**
 - C. Material or witnessed**
 - D. Hearsay or factual**

- 4. What should you do when interacting with someone suspected of having a personality disorder?**
 - A. Set up the goal of the conversation, do not let yourself be bullied or tricked, and stall or pause if necessary**
 - B. Arrest them since they will most likely commit a crime soon**
 - C. Make them leave the area to prevent them from harming you or others**
 - D. Contact the Mega-Center and FPS for guidance**

- 5. While on duty as a PSO in a federal facility, which of the following is NOT your role?**
 - A. A contract employee**
 - B. A sworn officer**
 - C. The eyes and ears of the FPS**
 - D. A presence to deter crime**

- 6. What is the recommended outdoor evacuation distance for a backpack-sized item?**
- A. 1500 feet**
 - B. 1850 feet**
 - C. 1200 feet**
 - D. 2000 feet**
- 7. Which of the following is not a main component of the FPS hand held radio?**
- A. On/Off/Volume button**
 - B. Squelch button**
 - C. Tone button**
 - D. Antenna**
- 8. Why is it important to check the functionality of seat belts during vehicle inspection?**
- A. To ensure safety of passengers**
 - B. To avoid wear and tear**
 - C. To maintain the vehicle's resale value**
 - D. To comply with external regulations**
- 9. What best describes "Active Listening" in effective communication?**
- A. It is when the PSO directs what answers are given by victims of a crisis situation.**
 - B. It is a main component of communication, emphasizing empathy and avoiding assumptions.**
 - C. It involves the PO attempting to interpret the deeper meaning of what is said.**
 - D. It simply means paying full attention to the speaker's words.**

10. What does the "I, You, We" approach in psychological first aid signify in a crisis situation?

- A. It allows the officer/PSO to assess the situation and needs of both potential victims and the officer to deescalate a Crisis**
- B. It is an approach that allows the PSO to quickly control victims of a Crisis Situation to prevent further trauma**
- C. It is an emotional support structure for PSOs who witness disturbing events**
- D. It stands for "I" am in control, "You" will be taken care of and "We" will take care of the Crisis**

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which responsibility is typically not assigned to a PSO during their service?

- A. Maintaining physical security**
- B. Documenting incidents and occurrences**
- C. Training new PSOs**
- D. Controlling access to facilities**

During their service, a Physical Security Officer (PSO) focuses primarily on the immediate security needs such as maintaining physical security, controlling access to facilities, and documenting incidents and occurrences. These responsibilities are critical to ensuring the safety and security of the environment they are tasked with monitoring. Training new PSOs is generally not a responsibility assigned to them during their service. While experienced PSOs may have the knowledge and skills to assist in the training of newcomers, this task typically falls under a different role or a designated trainer within the organization. Training new personnel requires a dedicated focus on instructional methods, policies, and the broader vision of the security operations, which is often outside the day-to-day duties of a PSO. Instead, their primary function is to ensure that established security protocols are followed and that the facility is secure.

2. What should you do before checking the data printed on a card?

- A. Examine the card**
- B. Ask for the card**
- C. Observe person**
- D. Not the time**

Before checking the data printed on a card, examining the card is essential as it allows you to verify its condition and authenticity. This step involves looking for any physical signs of tampering, wear, or damage that could indicate that the card is not legitimate. By ensuring the card is in proper form and looking for specific identifying features, such as holograms or watermarks, you can be more confident in the accuracy of the data that you are about to review. This careful examination can help prevent errors and protect sensitive information or processes associated with the card's use. While asking for the card, observing the person, or determining timing may be relevant in other contexts, they do not directly address the immediate necessity of ensuring the card's integrity before proceeding to read any data.

3. Physical evidence has which two characteristics?

- A. Visible or invisible**
- B. Solid or hollow**
- C. Material or witnessed**
- D. Hearsay or factual**

Physical evidence is classified as either visible or invisible based on its characteristics. This categorization is important in various contexts, such as forensic science and legal proceedings. Visible evidence can be seen directly, such as fingerprints, hair, or bloodstains at a crime scene. Invisible evidence, on the other hand, may not be immediately detectable by the naked eye but can be revealed through scientific techniques, like chemical analysis or forensic testing. The focus on the distinction between visible and invisible highlights the versatility of physical evidence in investigations. It underscores the importance of employing various methods to uncover and analyze evidence that may not be readily apparent. Understanding that physical evidence can possess these characteristics enables investigators to approach cases comprehensively, utilizing both direct sight and advanced technology.

4. What should you do when interacting with someone suspected of having a personality disorder?

- A. Set up the goal of the conversation, do not let yourself be bullied or tricked, and stall or pause if necessary**
- B. Arrest them since they will most likely commit a crime soon**
- C. Make them leave the area to prevent them from harming you or others**
- D. Contact the Mega-Center and FPS for guidance**

When interacting with someone suspected of having a personality disorder, it is crucial to approach the situation with care and understanding. Setting up the goal of the conversation allows you to maintain a clear purpose and helps you navigate the interaction effectively. By not allowing yourself to be bullied or tricked, you demonstrate assertiveness, which is essential when dealing with individuals who may have difficulty regulating their behavior or emotions. Pausing or stalling during the conversation can provide you with the necessary time to assess the situation, gather your thoughts, and formulate an appropriate response, reducing the potential for conflict or escalation. The other choices might seem like overreactions or misinterpretations of the situation. For instance, arresting someone preemptively because they may commit a crime soon does not build a constructive interaction and may lead to unnecessary escalation. Making someone leave the area could provoke further hostility, and it may not be warranted unless there is immediate danger. Contacting a specialized authority like the Mega-Center or FPS may be helpful in severe situations but is not the first step in every encounter. Overall, option A addresses the need for a thoughtful and strategic approach when engaging with someone who may have a personality disorder, ensuring safety and effective communication.

5. While on duty as a PSO in a federal facility, which of the following is NOT your role?

- A. A contract employee**
- B. A sworn officer**
- C. The eyes and ears of the FPS**
- D. A presence to deter crime**

The role of a Protective Security Officer (PSO) in a federal facility primarily involves being a presence to deter crime, serving as the eyes and ears of the Federal Protective Service (FPS), and generally providing security measures to protect the facility. A sworn officer typically has additional legal authority, such as the ability to make arrests and carry firearms, which distinguishes them from a PSO. The PSO does not have the same legal powers or responsibilities as sworn law enforcement personnel; rather, they operate under guidelines and protocols established for security personnel without the authority granted by sworn status. Thus, identifying the role of PSO accurately excludes the designation of sworn officer. This understanding underscores the nature of the PSO's function, aligning it with preventive measures rather than enforcement actions typical of sworn law enforcement.

6. What is the recommended outdoor evacuation distance for a backpack-sized item?

- A. 1500 feet**
- B. 1850 feet**
- C. 1200 feet**
- D. 2000 feet**

When it comes to outdoor evacuation distances for a backpack-sized item, the recommended distance of 1850 feet is based on safety protocols and guidelines designed to minimize potential risks associated with hazardous materials or situations. This distance allows for a significant buffer zone, ensuring that individuals are far enough away to avoid exposure to any dangerous elements that may be released from the item. The 1850-foot distance balances the need for safety with practical considerations, as it provides enough space for first responders to assess the situation without endangering the public. Such guidelines are critical in emergency response situations, where understanding the appropriate distance can affect the safety of the evacuation process and the effectiveness of the response. Therefore, this distance not only follows established safety practices but also reflects a careful consideration of the potential hazards associated with the contents of a backpack-sized item.

7. Which of the following is not a main component of the FPS hand held radio?

- A. On/Off/Volume button**
- B. Squelch button**
- C. Tone button**
- D. Antenna**

The tone button is not considered a main component of the FPS handheld radio. Handheld radios commonly include essential components vital for their basic operation and functionality, such as an on/off/volume button, which controls power and sound levels; a squelch button, which eliminates background noise; and an antenna, which is crucial for receiving and transmitting signals effectively. While tone features can enhance communication or alert functions, they are typically not classified as fundamental components necessary for the device's core operation. Therefore, identifying the tone button as the correct answer highlights an understanding of the basic structural and functional elements of handheld radios.

8. Why is it important to check the functionality of seat belts during vehicle inspection?

- A. To ensure safety of passengers**
- B. To avoid wear and tear**
- C. To maintain the vehicle's resale value**
- D. To comply with external regulations**

Checking the functionality of seat belts during vehicle inspection is crucial primarily because it ensures the safety of passengers. Seat belts are one of the most effective safety features in vehicles, significantly reducing the risk of injury or fatality in the event of an accident. Properly functioning seat belts restrain occupants during sudden stops or collisions, helping to prevent ejection from the vehicle and minimizing the impact forces experienced by passengers. Ensuring that seat belts are in good working order directly contributes to the overall safety of the vehicle, making it vital for drivers and passengers alike to perform regular checks on these restraints. This focus on safety is the fundamental reason for inspecting seat belts, as it aligns with the overarching goal of ensuring that all occupants can travel in the vehicle with the protection that seat belts provide. While avoiding wear and tear, maintaining resale value, and complying with regulations are important aspects of vehicle ownership and operation, they are secondary to the primary objective of ensuring passenger safety through functional seat belts.

9. What best describes "Active Listening" in effective communication?

- A. It is when the PSO directs what answers are given by victims of a crisis situation.**
- B. It is a main component of communication, emphasizing empathy and avoiding assumptions.**
- C. It involves the PO attempting to interpret the deeper meaning of what is said.**
- D. It simply means paying full attention to the speaker's words.**

"Active Listening" is best described as a key component of communication that emphasizes empathy and the importance of understanding the speaker's message without making assumptions. This approach requires listeners to engage fully with the speaker, reflecting on what is being said and showing genuine interest in their feelings and perspectives. It involves not just hearing the words but interpreting the emotional and contextual nuances behind them. This deep level of engagement helps to build trust and rapport, which are crucial during effective communication, particularly in sensitive situations such as crisis scenarios. It encourages open dialogue and fosters a supportive environment where individuals feel heard and valued. The focus on empathy means that active listeners are more likely to respond thoughtfully and constructively, enhancing the overall quality of the communication exchange. The other options may touch on aspects of communication but do not encompass the holistic and empathetic nature of active listening as described.

10. What does the "I, You, We" approach in psychological first aid signify in a crisis situation?

- A. It allows the officer/PSO to assess the situation and needs of both potential victims and the officer to deescalate a Crisis**
- B. It is an approach that allows the PSO to quickly control victims of a Crisis Situation to prevent further trauma**
- C. It is an emotional support structure for PSOs who witness disturbing events**
- D. It stands for "I" am in control, "You" will be taken care of and "We" will take care of the Crisis**

The "I, You, We" approach in psychological first aid is an essential framework used to navigate crisis situations effectively. This model emphasizes the importance of both assessing the situation and addressing the needs of individuals involved, making it a valuable tool for officers and public safety officers (PSOs) in crisis management. By applying this approach, the officer or PSO actively acknowledges their role ("I") in guiding the situation. They then focus on the needs and concerns of the individuals affected ("You"), which fosters an environment of trust and support for the victims. Finally, the collective aspect ("We") encourages collaboration among the officer and those involved to manage the crisis together, ensuring that everyone can contribute to the resolution process. This approach is about understanding and responding appropriately to the emotional and psychological state of both potential victims and the responder, which is crucial for effective de-escalation. It enables a compassionate and proactive response, ultimately aiming to minimize distress and facilitate recovery during challenging times.

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://paragonsys.examzify.com>

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

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