

Pennsylvania Department of Corrections Basic Training 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. What characterizes inner perimeter duties during a critical incident?**
 - A. Contains the incident and minimizes the chance of spread to other areas of the facility**
 - B. Establishes a buffer zone between the incident area and the rest of the facility**
 - C. Logs all actions for later review**
 - D. Coordinates with external emergency responders**

- 2. In misconduct proceedings, what rights does an inmate have under the 14th Amendment?**
 - A. Written notice of misconduct; right to a misconduct hearing; right to call witnesses; tell their side; written statement of reasons for findings and sanctions**
 - B. Immediate dismissal**
 - C. No rights to call witnesses**
 - D. Right to a jury trial**

- 3. Which skills are emphasized in basic life support training?**
 - A. CPR/AED and scene assessment**
 - B. Wound care**
 - C. Medication administration**
 - D. Physical restraint techniques**

- 4. During the five steps of the tactical plan, what does 'mobilize' involve?**
 - A. Evacuate, notify, recall, and develop action plans**
 - B. Online coordination and digital alerts only**
 - C. Post-incident review**
 - D. Rest and reassessment**

- 5. Which outcome best describes the intended effect of after-action reviews on policies and practice?**
 - A. To assign blame to a single individual.**
 - B. To reduce transparency in reporting incidents.**
 - C. To render no changes to training.**
 - D. To learn from events and strengthen policies and practice.**

- 6. What are the most common types of diseases in a correctional facility?**
- A. Tuberculosis, MRSA, Viral hepatitis, HIV/AIDS**
 - B. HIV/AIDS only**
 - C. Malaria and dengue**
 - D. Diabetes and hypertension**
- 7. Which of the following is mandated by Pennsylvania Act 84 regarding inmate accounts?**
- A. Deduct money from an inmate's account to repay restitution, court-ordered criminal debt, and DOC or county jail debts.**
 - B. Create a savings plan for inmates with no deductions.**
 - C. Deductions are not allowed.**
 - D. Deduct funds only for court costs.**
- 8. Which behavior should you exhibit if taken hostage?**
- A. Eat and drink as much as possible when you are able to**
 - B. Ignore the hostage takers' demands**
 - C. Regain and maintain composure**
 - D. Appear unconcerned**
- 9. In fire safety, what does RACE stand for?**
- A. Respond, Alarm, Contain, Evacuate**
 - B. Rescue, Alert, Control, Evacuate**
 - C. Rescue, Alarm, Confine, Evacuate**
 - D. Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Evacuate**
- 10. Which statement best describes proper inmate transportation handoff documentation?**
- A. It is optional and can be completed later.**
 - B. It only includes the inmate's name.**
 - C. It should be done verbally only.**
 - D. It should include accurate counts, time, condition, and any incidents, and be documented for the receiving staff.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What characterizes inner perimeter duties during a critical incident?

- A. Contains the incident and minimizes the chance of spread to other areas of the facility**
- B. Establishes a buffer zone between the incident area and the rest of the facility**
- C. Logs all actions for later review**
- D. Coordinates with external emergency responders**

The main idea is to create a controlled boundary that keeps the incident area separate from the rest of the facility. This involves establishing a buffer zone around the incident so access is restricted and only authorized personnel can approach, which helps prevent spread and keeps others safe. By isolating the incident in this way, responders can work more effectively within a defined space while the rest of the facility remains protected. While logging actions and coordinating with outside responders are important parts of overall incident response, the defining duty of the inner perimeter is maintaining that buffer between the incident area and the rest of the facility.

2. In misconduct proceedings, what rights does an inmate have under the 14th Amendment?

- A. Written notice of misconduct; right to a misconduct hearing; right to call witnesses; tell their side; written statement of reasons for findings and sanctions**
- B. Immediate dismissal**
- C. No rights to call witnesses**
- D. Right to a jury trial**

Under the 14th Amendment, inmates receive due process protections in misconduct proceedings. This means they must be given notice of the charges, a hearing to contest them, an opportunity to present their side and call witnesses, and a written statement explaining the findings and the sanctions imposed. These elements ensure fairness while recognizing the security needs of the facility. The other ideas do not fit because misconduct outcomes are administrative, not criminal, so there's no automatic dismissal as a right, there isn't an absolute prohibition on calling witnesses, and there is no right to a jury trial in these internal hearings.

3. Which skills are emphasized in basic life support training?

- A. CPR/AED and scene assessment**
- B. Wound care**
- C. Medication administration**
- D. Physical restraint techniques**

Basic life support training centers on saving lives during sudden emergencies by recognizing the danger, ensuring the scene is safe, calling for help, and providing immediate care to maintain breathing and circulation until professional help arrives. The core skills are performing CPR to keep blood flowing and using an AED to help restore a usable heart rhythm. Assessing the scene is essential because it protects you and the person in distress and helps you act quickly and appropriately. Wound care, medication administration, and physical restraint techniques aren't part of the essential life support skills taught in basic life support; they belong to other areas of training or duties. That combination—CPR with an AED and scene assessment—best reflects what basic life support emphasizes.

4. During the five steps of the tactical plan, what does 'mobilize' involve?

- A. Evacuate, notify, recall, and develop action plans**
- B. Online coordination and digital alerts only**
- C. Post-incident review**
- D. Rest and reassessment**

Mobilize means activating the response and getting people, resources, and information moving to start handling the situation. It's about putting the plan into action by making sure the right people are alerted, brought to the scene or back to duty, and schooled on what needs to be done first. Evacuating if required, notifying the appropriate parties, recalling essential personnel, and developing initial action plans all happen during this step. This broad scope ensures the response can begin quickly and with clear directions. The other options miss that initiating phase. Limited online coordination and digital alerts don't capture the full, active mobilization of people and actions; post-incident review happens after the incident is over; and rest and reassessment aren't about launching the response.

5. Which outcome best describes the intended effect of after-action reviews on policies and practice?

- A. To assign blame to a single individual.**
- B. To reduce transparency in reporting incidents.**
- C. To render no changes to training.**
- D. To learn from events and strengthen policies and practice.**

After-action reviews are centered on learning and improving how things are done. They examine what happened, why it happened, and how to prevent a recurrence, with the aim of making policies, training, and day-to-day practices stronger. This learning-focused approach helps create safer, more effective operations and reduces the chances of repeating the same issues. Assigning blame to a single person goes against the constructive, system-wide perspective these reviews promote. Reducing transparency would shield lessons from being shared and applied elsewhere, undermining improvement. If no changes to training or policies followed the review, the opportunity to strengthen practice would be lost. The purpose is to learn and implement changes that reinforce better policies and practice.

6. What are the most common types of diseases in a correctional facility?

- A. Tuberculosis, MRSA, Viral hepatitis, HIV/AIDS**
- B. HIV/AIDS only**
- C. Malaria and dengue**
- D. Diabetes and hypertension**

In a correctional setting, the health risk centers on diseases that spread easily in crowded, close-contact environments. Tuberculosis stands out because it is airborne and can transmit when people share air in tightly packed spaces, making screening and prompt treatment crucial. MRSA infections are common due to skin-to-skin contact and shared facilities and equipment, so infection control and hygiene are key. Viral hepatitis and HIV/AIDS are important because they spread through blood and body fluids; programs often focus on vaccination for hepatitis B, as well as testing, counseling, and treatment access to manage these infections in the inmate population. The other options don't fit the typical disease profile in prisons: malaria and dengue are vector-borne diseases more common in specific tropical regions and not a usual concern in many correctional facilities in the U.S., while diabetes and hypertension are chronic non-infectious conditions rather than communicable diseases.

7. Which of the following is mandated by Pennsylvania Act 84 regarding inmate accounts?

- A. Deduct money from an inmate's account to repay restitution, court-ordered criminal debt, and DOC or county jail debts.**
- B. Create a savings plan for inmates with no deductions.
- C. Deductions are not allowed.
- D. Deduct funds only for court costs.

Act 84 requires money in an inmate's account to be used to repay certain obligations, including restitution to victims, court-ordered criminal debt, and debts owed to the Department of Corrections or county jails. This ensures that financial obligations are addressed even while someone is incarcerated, supporting victims and the integrity of the criminal justice process. The other options don't fit because the act does not establish a no-deduction savings plan, it does not prohibit deductions, and it doesn't limit deductions to court costs alone.

8. Which behavior should you exhibit if taken hostage?

- A. Eat and drink as much as possible when you are able to
- B. Ignore the hostage takers' demands
- C. Regain and maintain composure**
- D. Appear unconcerned

Staying calm and keeping your wits about you is the best approach because it lowers your stress response and lets you think clearly, observe what's happening, and respond deliberately rather than react impulsively. Regaining and maintaining composure helps you communicate more effectively, follow instructions safely, and avoid movements or statements that could escalate the situation. It also signals to any responders and the hostage-taker that you're cooperative, which can reduce tension and buy time for a safer resolution. Eating and drinking excessively can come across as losing control, ignoring demands offers no safety, and appearing unconcerned can be misread as defiance or indifference—any of these can raise risk. By staying composed, you maximize safety for yourself and others and support a more peaceful outcome.

9. In fire safety, what does RACE stand for?

- A. Respond, Alarm, Contain, Evacuate
- B. Rescue, Alert, Control, Evacuate
- C. Rescue, Alarm, Confine, Evacuate
- D. Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Evacuate**

The sequence outlines the fastest, safest order of actions in a fire emergency: rescue anyone in immediate danger, alert others, contain the fire to slow its spread, and evacuate to safety. Rescue first ensures people in danger get to safety if you can do so without risking yourself. Alarm comes next to notify others and summon help so occupants start moving to safety and responders can respond. Contain means isolating the fire—closing doors and shutting off potential fuel sources to limit spread and smoke spread. Evacuate is the final step, directing everyone to exit to a safe location along established routes and avoiding elevators, with reentry only when officially cleared. The wording Contain is the standard term used in fire safety training, which is why this option is the best fit. Other wordings like Respond, Alert, Control, or Confine use slightly different meanings or aren't the conventional parts of the mnemonic, so they don't match the established fire safety sequence.

10. Which statement best describes proper inmate transportation handoff documentation?

- A. It is optional and can be completed later.**
- B. It only includes the inmate's name.**
- C. It should be done verbally only.**

D. It should include accurate counts, time, condition, and any incidents, and be documented for the receiving staff.

Accurate, written handoff documentation during inmate transport ensures safety, custody integrity, and continuity of care. The best practice is to record precise counts, the exact time of handoff, the inmate's current condition, and any incidents, and provide this documentation to the receiving staff. This written record supports clear communication, helps prevent miscounts or misunderstandings, and creates an auditable trail. Verbal-only handoffs or records that include only the inmate's name fall short because they omit critical safety and care information. Optional or delayed documentation would risk gaps in accountability and the ability to verify what occurred during the transfer.

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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://padeptofcorrectionsbasictraining.examzify.com>

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

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