

Police Communication Procedures 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. Wade and MacPherson discuss which topic as part of call taking duties?**
 - A. Call Taking Duties**
 - B. Patrol Procedures**
 - C. Evidence Collection**
 - D. Incident Command**

- 2. A telecommunicator should handle all reports or missing persons equally, without considering circumstances.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Sometimes**
 - D. Never**

- 3. The two most important factors in prioritizing calls are the seriousness of the incident type and their response time.**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Not sure**
 - D. Both**

- 4. IPAWS is described as a modernized and integrated system of national alert and warning infrastructure. True or False?**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Not sure**
 - D. Not applicable**

- 5. Aviation units have three main functions. Which of these is not one of those functions?**
 - A. Community policing events**
 - B. Traffic control**
 - C. Search and rescue**
 - D. Surveillance**

- 6. The technique known as stacking is used by CAD systems to sort priority calls.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Not applicable**
 - D. Sometimes**
- 7. Which sequence best describes a typical law enforcement response?**
- A. Dispatch, arriving on scene, making reasonable inquiries, determining enforcement action**
 - B. Dispatch, securing the scene, interviewing suspects, completing paperwork**
 - C. Arrive first, dispatch, question witnesses, issue citations**
 - D. Notify supervisor, respond, arrest, report**
- 8. Which rank is associated with two stars on the insignia in the material?**
- A. Lieutenant**
 - B. Captain**
 - C. Inspector**
 - D. Sergeant**
- 9. Which authors are associated with the concept of differential opportunity structures leading to crime?**
- A. Cloward and Ohlin**
 - B. Wade and MacPherson**
 - C. Durkheim**
 - D. Merton**
- 10. What rank is the highest in the Canadian Police Organization?**
- A. Commissioner**
 - B. Chief of Police**
 - C. Superintendent**
 - D. Deputy Chief**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Wade and MacPherson discuss which topic as part of call taking duties?

- A. Call Taking Duties**
- B. Patrol Procedures**
- C. Evidence Collection**
- D. Incident Command**

The focus here is how information is handled during the call-taking process. Wade and MacPherson discuss the duties involved when a dispatcher takes a call: actively listening to the caller, clarifying details, and capturing essential information (nature of the incident, location, contact details, time), assessing priority, and entering the data to initiate the right response. This emphasis on gathering and processing information to start an appropriate dispatch is why the described topic is the best fit. Patrol procedures relate to actions in the field after a call is dispatched, not the call-taking step itself. Evidence collection deals with securing and analyzing physical clues at a scene, which occurs after officers arrive. Incident command concerns the on-scene management structure for major events, not the initial call-handling process.

2. A telecommunicator should handle all reports or missing persons equally, without considering circumstances.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Sometimes**
- D. Never**

Prioritization and risk assessment guide how a telecommunicator handles reports. Not every incident has the same urgency; some cases pose immediate danger or time sensitivity, while others are less urgent. Telecommunicators follow policies that require gathering essential details, evaluating risk, and assigning priority so that high-risk scenarios are dispatched promptly and lower-risk reports receive appropriate attention without delaying critical responses. Missing persons are triaged using risk factors such as age, health, vulnerability, the circumstances around the disappearance, and potential danger to the person. This approach ensures resources go where they're most needed and safety is maximized. Treating all reports as equal could delay life-saving actions and misallocate limited resources, making the statement false.

3. The two most important factors in prioritizing calls are the seriousness of the incident type and their response time.

A. True

B. False

C. Not sure

D. Both

Prioritizing calls is driven by risk and immediacy, not by just two factors. The most important drivers are danger to life and safety and how immediate the threat is, but you also weigh other elements like the number of people at risk, presence of weapons or ongoing criminal activity, scene safety for responders, and resource availability. A situation labeled as highly serious but not time-sensitive may not demand the fastest response, while a less dramatic incident with an imminent threat to life requires urgent dispatch. Because of these nuances, priority is determined through a dynamic risk assessment that considers multiple factors, not solely the incident's seriousness and an assumed response time. This broader framework helps ensure that the most dangerous and time-critical situations receive attention first, while safely managing limited resources.

4. IPAWS is described as a modernized and integrated system of national alert and warning infrastructure. True or False?

A. True

B. False

C. Not sure

D. Not applicable

IPAWS is a modern, integrated approach to delivering public alerts and warnings. It was developed to unify and upgrade how authorities issue warnings, bringing together federal, state, local, and tribal agencies so that messages can reach people quickly through multiple channels, such as the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts. This description matches the purpose and design of IPAWS, so describing it as modernized and integrated is correct. If someone wonders about alternatives, those options don't reflect IPAWS' actual role or usage in public warning systems.

5. Aviation units have three main functions. Which of these is not one of those functions?

A. Community policing events

B. Traffic control

C. Search and rescue

D. Surveillance

Aviation units serve as force multipliers for ground operations with three primary capabilities: surveillance from the air to monitor large areas, track suspects, and gather information; search and rescue to quickly cover large or hard-to-reach areas and locate missing persons or provide emergency support; and traffic control to coordinate incidents, manage airspace, and relay real-time information to ground units during pursuits or major events. Community policing events, while valuable, are not a primary aviation mission; they fall under broader community outreach and on-the-ground patrol activities rather than air-supported operations. Therefore, that option is not one of the aviation unit's main functions.

6. The technique known as stacking is used by CAD systems to sort priority calls.

- A. True**
- B. False**
- C. Not applicable**
- D. Sometimes**

Stacking places incoming calls into a priority-ordered queue in the CAD dispatch system so that the most urgent incidents are at the top and addressed first. As each call arrives, a priority level is assigned and the call is stacked accordingly, ensuring that high-priority events (like active crimes or medical crises) are dispatched before routine reports. The dispatcher then pulls calls from the top of the stack, which streamlines resource allocation and speeds up critical responses. While some systems can adjust priorities as new information comes in, the fundamental idea is sorting by priority to manage workload efficiently, which is why this statement is true.

7. Which sequence best describes a typical law enforcement response?

- A. Dispatch, arriving on scene, making reasonable inquiries, determining enforcement action**
- B. Dispatch, securing the scene, interviewing suspects, completing paperwork**
- C. Arrive first, dispatch, question witnesses, issue citations**
- D. Notify supervisor, respond, arrest, report**

The main idea is the typical flow of a patrol response: a call is received (dispatch), units are notified and travel to the scene, once there they secure the area and assess safety, then investigators gather facts by talking with victims, witnesses, and anyone involved while observing the scene, and finally decide what enforcement action is appropriate (warnings, citations, arrests) and document what happened. This sequence best mirrors real-world practice: you can't act until you're notified, you need a safe, controlled scene to collect accurate information, and you base your enforcement decision on what you've learned. The other options mix up the order or omit key information like gathering facts before choosing actions.

8. Which rank is associated with two stars on the insignia in the material?

- A. Lieutenant**
- B. Captain**
- C. Inspector**
- D. Sergeant**

Insignia design uses the number of stars to indicate rank. In the material you're studying, two stars on the insignia correspond to the rank of Inspector, which is why that option is the correct mapping. This visual cue lets you quickly identify an officer's level of authority, especially when multiple ranks appear together. The other ranks are depicted with different insignia in this material, so two stars don't represent them. Keep in mind that insignia schemes vary by agency, so this two-star mapping is specific to the material you're using.

9. Which authors are associated with the concept of differential opportunity structures leading to crime?

- A. Cloward and Ohlin**
- B. Wade and MacPherson**
- C. Durkheim**
- D. Merton**

The idea being tested is that crime arises not just from a person's motivation or strain, but from the particular set of opportunities available to them in their environment. Cloward and Ohlin argued that different neighborhoods don't offer the same chances to pursue criminal activity or to stay on legitimate paths. When legitimate options are scarce, the kinds of illegitimate chances that exist shape the type of delinquency that develops. They describe three possible routes, depending on which illegitimate opportunities are accessible: a criminal subculture where organized crime provides a career path; a conflict subculture that values violence as a means of gaining status in unstable, disorganized areas; and a retreatist subculture where individuals withdraw into drug use or other escapes because both legitimate and illegitimate routes are blocked. This framework shows how the social organization of crime opportunity itself influences delinquent behavior. While Durkheim focuses on how society maintains cohesion or breaks down (anomie), and Merton explains strain as a motivation to deviate without detailing different opportunity patterns, Cloward and Ohlin specifically link the presence and type of opportunities to the emergence of distinct delinquent paths. The other names listed are not associated with this differential opportunity concept.

10. What rank is the highest in the Canadian Police Organization?

- A. Commissioner**
- B. Chief of Police**
- C. Superintendent**
- D. Deputy Chief**

In Canadian policing, the highest rank isn't the same across every organization. The top position depends on the force. For national and provincial police services, the head is typically a Commissioner. Municipal police forces usually have a Chief of Police as the top officer. So among the given options, Commissioner sits at the highest level in the usual hierarchy, with Chief of Police being the top rank in municipal forces, and Deputy Chief and Superintendent ranking just below the top tier. This is why Commissioner is the best answer here—the title represents the highest command in the most widespread internal police leadership structure in Canada.

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://policecommprocedures.examzify.com>

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

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