

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. The theory of crime that views criminals as rational actors who can choose to commit crimes is best described as:**
 - A. Rational Choice Theory**
 - B. Biological Theory**
 - C. Labeling Theory**
 - D. Conflict Theory**

- 2. Approximately how many children are abducted worldwide every year by their own parents?**
 - A. 50,000**
 - B. 100,000**
 - C. 200,000**
 - D. 400,000**

- 3. Which code denotes a request that a breathalyzer operator is required?**
 - A. 10-68**
 - B. 10-19**
 - C. 10-4**
 - D. 10-20**

- 4. In colonial policing history, which country's institutions largely shaped the policing models used in several cities, including Toronto?**
 - A. Great Britain**
 - B. Italy**
 - C. Germany**
 - D. Russia**

- 5. The statement "The two most important factors in prioritization of calls are the seriousness of the incident type and the response time to the incident" is:**
 - A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Not determinable from the information given**
 - D. Both equally important**

- 6. Two stars on insignia represent which rank?**
- A. Sergeant**
 - B. Lieutenant**
 - C. Inspector**
 - D. Captain**
- 7. Who believed that genetic inheritance and/or abnormality led to a higher risk of crime?**
- A. Lombroso**
 - B. Durkheim**
 - C. Quetelet**
 - D. Mendel**
- 8. Which statement best describes the use of police motorcycles?**
- A. They are used for highway patrols, motorcade escorts, traffic details, and responding to traffic accidents in high-traffic areas.**
 - B. They are used only for ceremonial patrols.**
 - C. They are used exclusively for off-road traffic enforcement.**
 - D. They are not suitable for congested urban environments.**
- 9. What is used in radio systems to ensure that surveillance, special enforcement activities, or tactical operations are not compromised?**
- A. Encryption**
 - B. Authentication**
 - C. Routing**
 - D. Paging**
- 10. Which criminological theory suggests that crime is shaped by factors external to the individual, including their experiences within the neighbourhood, the peer group, and the family?**
- A. Sociological**
 - B. Biological**
 - C. Psychological**
 - D. Rational Choice**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. The theory of crime that views criminals as rational actors who can choose to commit crimes is best described as:

- A. Rational Choice Theory**
- B. Biological Theory**
- C. Labeling Theory**
- D. Conflict Theory**

Criminal behavior is viewed as the result of a rational calculation by the offender. In this view, individuals weigh the potential benefits of committing a crime against the expected costs, such as the likelihood of being caught and the severity of punishment, as well as the available opportunities. If the perceived rewards exceed the risks, the crime becomes a reasonable choice; if punishment is certain, swift, and sufficiently severe, the incentive to offend diminishes. This emphasis on deliberate choice and calculation is the essence of Rational Choice Theory, a perspective rooted in the classical school of criminology that sees people as having free will to act in ways that maximize their utility. Biological theories focus on genetic, neurophysiological, or biochemical factors influencing behavior rather than deliberate decision-making. Labeling theory centers on how societal labeling and stigma can lead to continued deviance after a crime is perceived, rather than on the initial decision to offend. Conflict theory frames crime as an outcome of social and economic inequalities, with laws reflecting the interests of those in power.

2. Approximately how many children are abducted worldwide every year by their own parents?

- A. 50,000**
- B. 100,000**
- C. 200,000**
- D. 400,000**

About two hundred thousand children are abducted by a parent worldwide each year. This figure reflects the global reach of custodial interference and parental abductions, including both within-country cases and international ones, and it acknowledges that many incidents go unreported or are counted differently across systems. The number sits between smaller estimates and much larger ones because reporting practices vary, definitions differ, and some cases are resolved or reclassified before they become full abductions in official counts. In practice, the estimate around 200,000 is used as a realistic, widely cited middle ground to convey the scope to policymakers and practitioners.

3. Which code denotes a request that a breathalyzer operator is required?

- A. 10-68**
- B. 10-19**
- C. 10-4**
- D. 10-20**

When handling a DUI stop, you need a breath test to be performed by a trained operator, and the code used to signal that resource is requested is 10-68. This code specifically tells dispatch or other units that a breathalyzer operator is required, so they can send or assign the appropriate personnel to the scene. The other codes are for different purposes and don't convey the need for a breath test: 10-4 is an acknowledgment or "okay," 10-20 indicates your location, and 10-19 means you're returning to or proceeding to base. Those don't communicate the requirement for a breathalyzer operator, which is why 10-68 is the correct choice in this scenario.

4. In colonial policing history, which country's institutions largely shaped the policing models used in several cities, including Toronto?

- A. Great Britain**
- B. Italy**
- C. Germany**
- D. Russia**

Colonial policing in many parts of the world followed the administrative model of the colonizing country, and in Canada that meant British police practices. The London Metropolitan Police, established in 1829, introduced a professional, uniformed, centralized force focused on patrols, order maintenance, and civilian oversight within a legal framework grounded in common law. This approach spread to British colonies and settler cities, bringing a familiar structure: organized ranks of constables and sergeants, police commissions, standardized uniforms, and patrol-based strategies that emphasized policing by consent. Toronto's police force and other Canadian municipal bodies adopted these British-style elements, shaping how law enforcement operated in the city and province. The other options reflect different national traditions, but they did not serve as the primary blueprint for policing in Toronto or similar colonial contexts to the same extent.

5. The statement "The two most important factors in prioritization of calls are the seriousness of the incident type and the response time to the incident" is:

A. True

B. False

C. Not determinable from the information given

D. Both equally important

Prioritization in dispatch is a risk-based process. The central goal is to protect life and safety by judging how urgent a call truly is and what the scene might become, not just how serious the incident sounds or how fast you think you should respond. The description of an incident helps gauge risk, but it doesn't capture all the factors that determine urgency. Immediate threats, potential for escalation, number of people at risk, whether weapons are involved, the need for medical aid, and whether specialized units are required all shape priority. Resource availability, current incidents, and the practicality of a safe, effective response also influence what gets dispatched first. So, focusing only on the seriousness of the incident type and a target response time misses the broader risk assessment that guides real prioritization.

6. Two stars on insignia represent which rank?

A. Sergeant

B. Lieutenant

C. Inspector

D. Captain

Insignia use symbols to quickly show a officer's rank, with the number and type of symbols handpicked for each rank in a given force. In this system, two stars are assigned to the rank of Inspector, signaling a level above Sergeant but below higher ranks that use more stars or different symbols. Two stars don't fit Sergeant, which is typically shown with chevrons or stripes rather than stars. Lieutenant and Captain are usually represented with different patterns (often different counts of stars or other devices), so they wouldn't be indicated by exactly two stars in this scheme. Therefore, two stars best identify the Inspector rank in this insignia setup.

7. Who believed that genetic inheritance and/or abnormality led to a higher risk of crime?

- A. Lombroso**
- B. Durkheim**
- C. Quetelet**
- D. Mendel**

The idea tested is that criminality can be tied to biology—that inherited traits or physical abnormalities can increase the likelihood of crime. Cesare Lombroso is the figure most associated with this view. He argued that some people are “born criminals,” proof of atavism, meaning their biology carries inherited predispositions toward disruptive behavior. He even linked certain physical traits or anomalies to this criminal potential, suggesting that crime risk arises from inherited, biological differences rather than social factors alone. This is why it’s the best answer: it directly asserts that genetic inheritance and abnormality influence crime risk, which is the essence of Lombroso’s theory. In contrast, Durkheim viewed crime as a social fact reflecting how society is organized; Quetelet emphasized social and demographic factors in crime rates; and Mendel, while foundational to genetics, did not apply inheritance to criminal behavior.

8. Which statement best describes the use of police motorcycles?

- A. They are used for highway patrols, motorcade escorts, traffic details, and responding to traffic accidents in high-traffic areas.**
- B. They are used only for ceremonial patrols.**
- C. They are used exclusively for off-road traffic enforcement.**
- D. They are not suitable for congested urban environments.**

The use of police motorcycles is defined by mobility and rapid response in traffic-rich environments. Their design lets officers maneuver through dense traffic, cover large areas quickly, and perform roles that patrol cars can’t as easily handle. In highway patrol, motorcycles can keep pace with fast-moving traffic, monitor speeds, and reach incidents promptly. For motorcade escorts, they provide a leading presence and manage intersections and traffic flow to ensure safe passage. In traffic details, officers on motorcycles can observe and enforce from unique angles, set up blocking or diversions efficiently, and move through congested lanes to check compliance. When crashes occur in heavy traffic, a motorcycle unit can arrive rapidly to secure the scene, direct vehicles, and coordinate with other responders, helping to minimize secondary incidents. Ceremonial patrols may occur, but restricting use to ceremonies would ignore the broad, practical roles motorcycles fill. Being exclusive to off-road patrols isn’t accurate, since these bikes are built for on-road, pavement-based policing and are most effective in streets and highways. And saying they aren’t suitable for congested urban environments isn’t correct—their agility and ability to navigate tight spaces in cities make them especially valuable there.

9. What is used in radio systems to ensure that surveillance, special enforcement activities, or tactical operations are not compromised?

- A. Encryption**
- B. Authentication**
- C. Routing**
- D. Paging**

Protecting the content of radio communications from interception is the essential idea. Encryption scrambles messages using a cryptographic key so only devices with the correct key can decode them. This keeps surveillance, special enforcement activities, and tactical operations from being understood by unauthorized listeners. Authentication focuses on verifying who is communicating to prevent impersonation, but it doesn't by itself hide the message content. Routing and paging determine where and how messages go or are alerted, not the secrecy of the payload. So encryption is the mechanism that prevents the communications from being compromised.

10. Which criminological theory suggests that crime is shaped by factors external to the individual, including their experiences within the neighbourhood, the peer group, and the family?

- A. Sociological**
- B. Biological**
- C. Psychological**
- D. Rational Choice**

Crime being shaped by experiences within the neighbourhood, the peer group, and the family points to a social context driving behavior. This is the sociological view in criminology, which considers how social structure, institutions, and learned behaviors through interaction influence offending. The environment can affect crime through factors like neighbourhood conditions, norms transmitted by peers, and family socialization, shaping opportunities, motivations, and the acceptability of crime. Biological theories focus on genetics or physical factors that predispose someone to offend, rather than the outside social world. Psychological theories look at internal processes—personality, mental health, and cognition—inside the individual. Rational Choice treats crime as a conscious decision based on weighing costs and benefits by the individual, emphasizing personal calculation rather than broad social influences.

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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