

Police Communications Operator Practice Exam (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 action constitutes criminal trespass according to the policy?**
 - A. Entering a property with permission.**
 - B. Leaving the property when asked.**
 - C. Knowingly entering or remaining unlawfully on real property after a reasonable request by the owner to leave.**
 - D. Inspecting the property from a public street.**

- 2. In police records, the term 'file stop' is best described as?**
 - A. A log of patrol routes**
 - B. Notation put in police record; file stops are confirmed by the strategic and information bureau**
 - C. A request to halt a vehicle**
 - D. An incident report filed with the court**

- 3. Which term denotes a subject or item that is wanted?**
 - A. FOOT PURSUIT**
 - B. HIT**
 - C. GOT THE EYE**
 - D. GRN**

- 4. Which scenario is categorized as a Priority 3 Call?**
 - A. An after the fact report call**
 - B. A reported loud party**
 - C. A burglary in progress**
 - D. A welfare check**

- 5. Which term describes the area around or near a location?**
 - A. License**
 - B. Surveillance**
 - C. Vicinity**
 - D. Soliciting**

- 6. Which abbreviation would indicate a police unit in Maricopa County?**
- A. S.O/M.C.S.O**
 - B. S.R.P**
 - C. S.E/C**
 - D. SEIZURE**
- 7. Which item is a traditional martial arts weapon consisting of two or three wooden sticks joined by a cord?**
- A. Sergeant**
 - B. Silhouette**
 - C. Rendezvous**
 - D. Nunchaku**
- 8. What is the practical purpose of recording the suspect's exit method (in a vehicle or on foot)?**
- A. To inform search direction**
 - B. To know how to look for the suspect**
 - C. To determine if they are armed**
 - D. To estimate the time of departure**
- 9. What does the code ONE ON ONE refer to?**
- A. On view, officer just witnessed an incident**
 - B. Leather straps used to restrain prisoners**
 - C. Suspect/Witness I.D.**
 - D. Audible alarm**
- 10. Which street is paired with 12400S?**
- A. Pecos Rd**
 - B. Baseline Rd**
 - C. Van Buren St**
 - D. Warner Rd**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which action constitutes criminal trespass according to the policy?

- A. Entering a property with permission.**
- B. Leaving the property when asked.**
- C. Knowingly entering or remaining unlawfully on real property after a reasonable request by the owner to leave.**
- D. Inspecting the property from a public street.**

Criminal trespass rests on being on someone else's real property without permission after the owner has reasonably asked you to leave. The important part is the combination: you enter or remain unlawfully, and the owner's reasonable demand to depart has been ignored. If you had permission to be there or you leave when asked, you're not committing trespass. Likewise, simply inspecting from a public street doesn't involve entering or staying on the property, so it doesn't fit the offense.

2. In police records, the term 'file stop' is best described as?

- A. A log of patrol routes**
- B. Notation put in police record; file stops are confirmed by the strategic and information bureau**
- C. A request to halt a vehicle**
- D. An incident report filed with the court**

A file stop is an administrative entry in a police record. It's a formal notation that documents that a stop occurred and is entered into the system, with the record then being verified by the appropriate bureau (in this case, the strategic and information bureau) to ensure accuracy and traceability. This description fits the idea of a record-keeping entry, rather than an operational action or a court document. It isn't simply a log of patrol routes, nor a direct field instruction to halt a vehicle, nor an incident report filed with the court.

3. Which term denotes a subject or item that is wanted?

- A. FOOT PURSUIT**
- B. HIT**
- C. GOT THE EYE**
- D. GRN**

In police communications, a "hit" is the term used for a subject or item that is wanted or has a match in a watchlist or record check. When you hear "we've got a hit," it means the search identified a person or item that's being sought—someone with an active warrant, or a stolen property match, etc. That makes it the best choice for the prompt because it directly denotes what is wanted. Foot pursuit refers to the act of chasing someone on foot, not the subject itself. "Got the eye" isn't a standard term for a wanted subject, and "GRN" isn't a commonly used descriptor for a target. So they don't convey the concept of a subject or item that is wanted the way "hit" does.

4. Which scenario is categorized as a Priority 3 Call?

- A. An after the fact report call**
- B. A reported loud party**
- C. A burglary in progress**
- D. A welfare check**

Dispatch prioritization hinges on urgency and whether there is an immediate danger or ongoing incident. Priority 3 covers non-emergency situations, especially information about an event after it has occurred that doesn't pose an immediate threat. The after-the-fact report fits this because it describes something that already happened and doesn't require instant police action. The other scenarios involve potential or ongoing risk. A burglary in progress signals an active crime with danger to people, demanding prompt response and a higher priority. A welfare check may be urgent if there's concern for someone's safety, often needing quick verification. A reported loud party could escalate into a disturbance or public safety issue, so it's typically treated as higher priority than an after-the-fact report.

5. Which term describes the area around or near a location?

- A. License**
- B. Surveillance**
- C. Vicinity**
- D. Soliciting**

The area around or near a location is described by the term vicinity. In police communications, saying something is in the vicinity of a place signals nearby proximity without fixing an exact address, which is useful when you want responders to search the surrounding area or consider nearby streets and blocks. It conveys general closeness and helps coordinate a response when the precise location isn't necessary or known. License refers to permission to do something, not to geography. Surveillance means watching or monitoring, which is a distinct activity. Soliciting is asking for business or donations, not describing location. So, vicinity is the best fit because it specifically denotes the surrounding area around a location.

6. Which abbreviation would indicate a police unit in Maricopa County?

- A. S.O./M.C.S.O**
- B. S.R.P**
- C. S.E/C**
- D. SEIZURE**

Understanding agency abbreviations is key: the prefix S.O. stands for Sheriff's Office, an agency that operates at the county level. When you see S.O./M.C.S.O, it signals the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, the county's police unit. That makes it the only option that clearly identifies a county Sheriff's Office in Maricopa County. The other forms don't designate a county police unit: one isn't a recognized county agency prefix, another isn't a standard jurisdiction tag, and SEIZURE is simply a legal term describing confiscation, not an agency. So, the form that includes S.O. and the county identifier best indicates a police unit in Maricopa County.

7. Which item is a traditional martial arts weapon consisting of two or three wooden sticks joined by a cord?

- A. Sergeant**
- B. Silhouette**
- C. Rendezvous**
- D. Nunchaku**

This item tests your ability to identify a traditional martial arts weapon by its physical description. A weapon made of two or three wooden sticks joined by a cord is the nunchaku. Its characteristic setup—two short wooden sticks linked by a rope or chain—allows rapid spinning and swinging, a hallmark of this Okinawan weapon used in karate and kobudo. The other terms don't describe weapons: a sergeant is a military rank, a silhouette is simply an outline or shape, and rendezvous means a meeting. So the item that matches the description of two or three wooden sticks tied together is the nunchaku.

8. What is the practical purpose of recording the suspect's exit method (in a vehicle or on foot)?

- A. To inform search direction**
- B. To know how to look for the suspect**
- C. To determine if they are armed**
- D. To estimate the time of departure**

When someone exits a scene, the way they leave immediately guides how you search. Knowing whether they pulled away in a vehicle or fled on foot sets the initial search perimeter and points of focus. If they left by car, you can map likely routes, travel directions, and times, which helps you predict where they might be headed and where to position roadblocks, surveillance, or patrols. If they went on foot, you consider possible paths given the terrain, obstacles, and distance to cover, so you can deploy foot units to likely corridors, transit hubs, stairwells, alleys, or nearby exit points. Recording the exit method turns information into action, making the search targeted and efficient rather than speculative. It's about knowing how to look for the suspect, using the exit details to shape where and how you search, who you interview along probable routes, and how you coordinate follow-up.

9. What does the code ONE ON ONE refer to?

- A. On view, officer just witnessed an incident**
- B. Leather straps used to restrain prisoners**
- C. Suspect/Witness I.D.**
- D. Audible alarm**

The main idea here is understanding how police radio codes compress meaning into short phrases so responders can communicate quickly. ONE ON ONE is used to indicate Suspect/Witness I.D.—it signals the need to verify or obtain the identity of a person involved, such as confirming who a suspect or witness is, or arranging a one-on-one identification check. This makes sense because identifying the person involved is a distinct, common operation separate from noting that an incident was witnessed on view, describing restraints, or sounding an alarm. In practice, you'd hear it when the priority is to confirm who the individual is, not to report an event, apply equipment, or trigger alarms. Remember that codes can vary by agency, but in this context ONE ON ONE maps to Suspect/Witness I.D.

10. Which street is paired with 12400S?

- A. Pecos Rd**
- B. Baseline Rd**
- C. Van Buren St**
- D. Warner Rd**

This question tests how to read a city's block-numbering and directional grid. In many grids, the number (12,400) along with a directional suffix (S for south) tells you how far south of the baseline or central line you are, and the cross street at that location is the paired street on the map. For this city's grid, the 12,400 block to the south aligns with Warner Rd, so that street is the correct pairing. The other streets would correspond to different blocks or different directional segments on the same grid, and wouldn't match the 12,400S location. If you have a grid map, you can verify by tracing from Baseline Rd southward and locating where the 12,400 block sits, which will line up with Warner Rd.

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://policecommsop.examzify.com>

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

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