

# Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) 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. Who typically conducts PREA investigations?**
  - A. The PREA Coordinator.**
  - B. Facility security staff only.**
  - C. Inmate witnesses.**
  - D. Investigators, with involvement from the PREA Coordinator and appropriate authorities.**
  
- 2. How should inmate privacy be protected during PREA processes?**
  - A. Publicly disclose all identifying details to ensure transparency.**
  - B. Limit information access, redact identifying details when possible, and ensure privacy during interviews and medical exams.**
  - C. Post all PREA materials online without redaction.**
  - D. Share medical information with all inmates.**
  
- 3. Which criterion would disqualify a person from employment or access to OCCD facilities?**
  - A. Has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, or other institution.**
  - B. Has been convicted of a non-sexual offense in the community.**
  - C. Has a history of frequent medical appointments.**
  - D. Has previously worked in a private company.**
  
- 4. Which element best demonstrates accountability under PREA?**
  - A. Publicizing every investigation results with names.**
  - B. Providing training once at hire and never updating.**
  - C. A sustained culture of safety, accountability, and zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment.**
  - D. Removing all volunteers from involvement.**

- 5. When should law enforcement be notified?**
- A. Never notify law enforcement during PREA investigations.**
  - B. Only if the victim requests.**
  - C. If a crime may have occurred or required by policy, to coordinate investigations and preserve evidence.**
  - D. Notify law enforcement on a random schedule.**
- 6. How is 'retaliation' defined within the PREA framework?**
- A. Any adverse action or intimidation directed at a person who reported abuse or assisted in an investigation, or who cooperates in an investigation.**
  - B. Any conflict between staff and inmates.**
  - C. A minor complaint about facility conditions.**
  - D. Any allegation that is unsubstantiated.**
- 7. How are 'sexual abuse' and 'sexual harassment' defined under PREA?**
- A. Sexual abuse includes forced or coerced sexual activity or contact.**
  - B. Sexual abuse includes forced or coerced sexual activity or contact; sexual harassment involves unwanted advances, comments, or behaviors that create a hostile environment.**
  - C. Sexual abuse is any touching, and harassment is any comment.**
  - D. Sexual harassment is allowed in certain circumstances.**
- 8. Which practice demonstrates a victim-centered approach in a PREA investigation?**
- A. Delaying interviews to collect more evidence**
  - B. Focusing only on staff statements**
  - C. Withholding interviews from victims**
  - D. Initiating promptly and interviewing victims and witnesses**

**9. What is the role of independent PREA auditors in the audit process?**

- A. To conduct only internal reviews.**
- B. To perform on-site, unannounced reviews to verify compliance and identify gaps.**
- C. To manage inmate disciplinary actions.**
- D. To set facility budgets.**

**10. To whom may staff directly report if they are uncomfortable privately reporting through the chain of command about sexual abuse/harassment?**

- A. OCCD Internal Affairs unit**
- B. Local law enforcement**
- C. The facility warden**
- D. Medical staff**

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## Answers

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. Who typically conducts PREA investigations?

- A. The PREA Coordinator.
- B. Facility security staff only.
- C. Inmate witnesses.
- D. Investigators, with involvement from the PREA Coordinator and appropriate authorities.**

The key idea is that PREA investigations are led by trained investigators who collect and preserve evidence, interview victims and witnesses, and determine if a policy or law was violated. The PREA Coordinator provides policy guidance, monitors compliance with PREA standards, and coordinates resources and protections for victims throughout the process. Involving appropriate authorities—such as local law enforcement or prosecutors—ensures that any potential criminal conduct is handled by the proper agencies and that findings meet legal requirements. This collaborative approach is necessary because investigations require specialized procedures and safeguards that go beyond what a single role, like security staff or an administrator, can provide.

## 2. How should inmate privacy be protected during PREA processes?

- A. Publicly disclose all identifying details to ensure transparency.
- B. Limit information access, redact identifying details when possible, and ensure privacy during interviews and medical exams.**
- C. Post all PREA materials online without redaction.
- D. Share medical information with all inmates.

Protecting privacy during PREA processes means handling personal information with strict confidentiality and using safeguards that minimize exposure. The best approach is to limit who can access information, redact identifying details whenever possible, and ensure interviews and medical examinations occur in private, secure settings. This protects victims and staff from unnecessary disclosure, reduces risk of retaliation or stigma, and supports honest reporting by making people feel safe. Disclosing identifying details publicly or posting materials online without redaction would expose individuals and compromise safety. Sharing medical information with all inmates violates medical privacy and can lead to discrimination or retaliation. Keeping information on a need-to-know basis with proper redaction and private handling aligns with PREA's emphasis on confidentiality and safety.

**3. Which criterion would disqualify a person from employment or access to OCCD facilities?**

- A. Has engaged in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, or other institution.**
- B. Has been convicted of a non-sexual offense in the community.**
- C. Has a history of frequent medical appointments.**
- D. Has previously worked in a private company.**

The main idea here is a safety standard used in PREA: if a person has engaged in sexual abuse within a confinement setting, that history disqualifies them from employment or access to OCCD facilities. This criterion directly addresses risk to residents and staff, helping ensure the protective environment PREA aims to establish. Engaging in sexual abuse in a prison, jail, lockup, community confinement facility, or other institution demonstrates a pattern of harmful behavior in settings with vulnerable populations. Excluding someone with that history helps prevent potential harm and reinforces accountability and safety within the facility. The other options don't indicate sexual abuse within a confinement context, so they don't meet this disqualifying criterion. A non-sexual offense, regardless of where it occurred, medical appointment history, or having worked in a private company do not reflect the same risk to inmate or resident safety that PREA targets.

**4. Which element best demonstrates accountability under PREA?**

- A. Publicizing every investigation results with names.**
- B. Providing training once at hire and never updating.**
- C. A sustained culture of safety, accountability, and zero tolerance for sexual abuse and harassment.**
- D. Removing all volunteers from involvement.**

Accountability under PREA is shown when an organization embeds safety and responsibility into every level, not just in isolated actions. The best choice reflects an ongoing, organization-wide commitment to a culture where abuse is not tolerated and staff are consistently held to clear standards, with leadership modeling this stance, regular training, open reporting, and transparent consequences for violations. This sustained culture ensures prevention and response become part of daily operations, supervision, and monitoring, rather than a one-time effort. Publicizing every investigation with names undermines privacy and due process. Training only at hire and never updating leaves staff unprepared for new challenges. Removing all volunteers doesn't by itself demonstrate accountability or establish the continual safeguarding framework that PREA envisions.

## 5. When should law enforcement be notified?

- A. Never notify law enforcement during PREA investigations.
- B. Only if the victim requests.
- C. If a crime may have occurred or required by policy, to coordinate investigations and preserve evidence.**
- D. Notify law enforcement on a random schedule.

Notifying law enforcement is part of handling possible criminal activity under PREA. The best practice is to alert law enforcement when there is a reasonable belief that a crime may have occurred or when policy requires it. This ensures the investigation can proceed promptly and that evidence is preserved and handled properly, including securing the scene, maintaining chain of custody for forensic evidence, and coordinating interviews and witness collection. Waiting for a victim's request or notifying on a random schedule can delay the investigation and risk evidence being lost or tainted. So, notify when a crime may have occurred or when policy requires it, to support a thorough, coordinated investigation and protect evidence.

## 6. How is 'retaliation' defined within the PREA framework?

- A. Any adverse action or intimidation directed at a person who reported abuse or assisted in an investigation, or who cooperates in an investigation.**
- B. Any conflict between staff and inmates.
- C. A minor complaint about facility conditions.
- D. Any allegation that is unsubstantiated.

Retaliation under PREA means any adverse action or intimidation directed at a person who reported abuse, assisted in an investigation, or cooperates in an investigation. The emphasis is on protecting those who come forward or help, so that reporting and participation in investigations isn't deterred by threats, harassment, or punitive treatment. This definition captures the protective intent of PREA—safeguarding reporters and witnesses from measures that would discourage future reporting. Other scenarios described don't fit retaliation as PREA defines it: a general conflict between staff and inmates isn't tied to reporting or investigation participation; a minor facility-condition complaint isn't about reprisal for reporting; and an unsubstantiated allegation concerns the outcome of a report rather than the retaliatory actions against the reporter or helper.

**7. How are 'sexual abuse' and 'sexual harassment' defined under PREA?**

- A. Sexual abuse includes forced or coerced sexual activity or contact.**
- B. Sexual abuse includes forced or coerced sexual activity or contact; sexual harassment involves unwanted advances, comments, or behaviors that create a hostile environment.**
- C. Sexual abuse is any touching, and harassment is any comment.**
- D. Sexual harassment is allowed in certain circumstances.**

The main idea here is distinguishing between actual sexual abuse and sexual harassment as defined by PREA. PREA treats sexual abuse as an act that involves force, threat, coercion, or otherwise non-consent in sexual activity or contact. In other words, it's about the presence of coercion in a sexual act. Sexual harassment, on the other hand, refers to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or nonverbal conduct of a sexual nature that creates a hostile, threatening, or intimidating environment. It can occur even without any physical contact, focusing on the unwelcome nature of the conduct and its impact on the person. So, the best answer aligns with these distinctions: sexual abuse includes forced or coerced sexual activity or contact; sexual harassment involves unwanted advances, comments, or behaviors that create a hostile environment. The other options either oversimplify abuse to any touching, or wrongly state that harassment is permissible under certain circumstances.

**8. Which practice demonstrates a victim-centered approach in a PREA investigation?**

- A. Delaying interviews to collect more evidence**
- B. Focusing only on staff statements**
- C. Withholding interviews from victims**
- D. Initiating promptly and interviewing victims and witnesses**

A victim-centered approach in PREA investigations centers on the survivor's safety, dignity, and active participation, using trauma-informed practices that minimize re-traumatization. Initiating interviews promptly and interviewing both victims and witnesses demonstrates this approach because it validates the survivor's account as essential, helps gather accurate information when memory is freshest, and supports timely safety planning and resource access. It also reinforces fairness and transparency, showing that the process respects the victim's voice and choices. Delaying interviews can increase distress, risk memory inaccuracy, and undermine trust. Focusing only on staff statements ignores the survivor's perspective and can bias the investigation. Withholding interviews from victims denies them a voice and a chance to participate in the process.

**9. What is the role of independent PREA auditors in the audit process?**

- A. To conduct only internal reviews.**
- B. To perform on-site, unannounced reviews to verify compliance and identify gaps.**
- C. To manage inmate disciplinary actions.**
- D. To set facility budgets.**

Independent PREA auditors act as objective external verifiers who confirm how a facility actually operates against PREA standards. They conduct on-site, unannounced reviews to assess compliance and to identify gaps in policies, procedures, training, reporting, and safety practices. The unannounced aspect ensures the audit captures real, day-to-day operations rather than rehearsed routines, while the on-site inspection allows auditors to observe conditions, interactions, and records firsthand. The result is a formal audit report that documents findings and requires a corrective action plan to address any deficiencies. This role is distinct from internal reviews, disciplinary decisions, or budgeting, which are not part of the auditor's responsibilities.

**10. To whom may staff directly report if they are uncomfortable privately reporting through the chain of command about sexual abuse/harassment?**

- A. OCCD Internal Affairs unit**
- B. Local law enforcement**
- C. The facility warden**
- D. Medical staff**

When addressing PREA concerns, there are confidential paths for reporting that bypass the regular chain of command if someone feels uncomfortable doing so. The internal affairs unit within the agency is the designated channel for staff to report misconduct by other staff, including sexual abuse or harassment, without going through their immediate supervisors first. This unit is built to handle investigations independently, protect the reporter from retaliation, and ensure the complaint is reviewed fairly. So, reporting directly to the internal affairs team is the best fit because it provides an impartial avenue specifically for staff concerns and suspected misconduct. Reporting to local law enforcement may occur if criminal activity is involved, but internal affairs is the appropriate immediate channel for internal staff reports. Reporting to the facility warden would still involve the chain of command, and medical staff are not the appropriate body to conduct or receive workplace allegations of abuse.

# 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://prea.examzify.com>**

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

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