

Professional Legal Training Course (PLTC) Criminal Procedure 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. What is the standard for police to establish probable cause?**
 - A. It must be based on a hunch or instinct**
 - B. It must be based on reasonable belief supported by facts**
 - C. It must be strictly based on eyewitness accounts**
 - D. It can include societal perceptions of crime prevalence**
- 2. What is a "hybrid offense"?**
 - A. An offense that can only be prosecuted as an indictable offense**
 - B. An offense that can be prosecuted as either summary conviction or indictable depending on the Crown's discretion**
 - C. An offense that has no legal defenses available**
 - D. An offense that exclusively applies to corporate crimes**
- 3. What are the major types of mens rea?**
 - A. Judgment, recklessness, and intent**
 - B. Intent, knowledge, recklessness, and negligence**
 - C. Deliberation, thoughtfulness, and ignorance**
 - D. Awareness, denial, and decision-making**
- 4. What does the term "remand" refer to in criminal procedure?**
 - A. Acquitting an accused due to lack of evidence**
 - B. Holding an accused in custody before trial**
 - C. Releasing an accused on personal recognizance**
 - D. Convicting an accused without a trial**
- 5. When is the Jailer required to apply for detention review?**
 - A. After 30 days in custody**
 - B. After 90 days in custody**
 - C. After 180 days in custody**
 - D. After trial has concluded**

6. What is required for the procedure of a bail review?

- A. Only a letter from the accused**
- B. Two clear days' notice to the Crown**
- C. A financial deposit from the accused**
- D. Witness testimonies supporting bail**

7. What does the felony-murder rule stipulate regarding deaths occurring during the commission of a felony?

- A. Only the person who commits the murder can be charged**
- B. All individuals involved in the felony can be charged with murder**
- C. Only the principal offender in the felony is liable for murder**
- D. Death must be intentional for murder charges to apply**

8. Which of the following is NOT a type of plea a defendant can enter?

- A. Guilty**
- B. Not guilty**
- C. No contest**
- D. Meritorious**

9. What factors can influence a judge's sentencing decision?

- A. Public opinion on crime**
- B. The media coverage of the trial**
- C. The severity of the offense and the offender's record**
- D. The socioeconomic status of the offender**

10. What must happen after an arraignment hearing?

- A. The matter must be elevated to the Supreme Court**
- B. The hearing date is confirmed by appearance in court**
- C. The accused is automatically released**
- D. The judge declares a mistrial**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is the standard for police to establish probable cause?

- A. It must be based on a hunch or instinct
- B. It must be based on reasonable belief supported by facts**
- C. It must be strictly based on eyewitness accounts
- D. It can include societal perceptions of crime prevalence

The standard for police to establish probable cause is that it must be based on a reasonable belief supported by facts. This requirement ensures that there is a factual basis backing the police decision to take certain actions, such as obtaining a warrant or making an arrest. Probable cause is not an unquantifiable intuition or a mere hunch; instead, it is grounded in the totality of the circumstances, including observable facts, the reliability of informants, and the nature of the evidence available. This standard is crucial in balancing law enforcement's ability to prevent and respond to crime with the protection of individual rights against unreasonable searches and seizures, as articulated in the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It is intended to provide a reasonable, logical foundation for law enforcement actions, ensuring oversight and accountability within the justice system.

2. What is a "hybrid offense"?

- A. An offense that can only be prosecuted as an indictable offense
- B. An offense that can be prosecuted as either summary conviction or indictable depending on the Crown's discretion**
- C. An offense that has no legal defenses available
- D. An offense that exclusively applies to corporate crimes

A "hybrid offense" refers to a type of criminal offense that can be prosecuted in two different ways, depending on the discretion of the Crown. In this context, it can be classified as either a summary conviction offense or an indictable offense. This flexibility allows the Crown to choose the most appropriate method of prosecution based on factors such as the severity of the crime, the circumstances of the case, or the defendant's criminal history. This classification is significant in the legal system because it provides the Crown with the ability to prioritize resources and make prosecutorial decisions that best fit the nature of the offense and its impact on the community. Hybrid offenses are common in many legal systems, allowing for a balance between serious and less serious offenses while also considering the rights of the accused.

3. What are the major types of mens rea?

- A. Judgment, recklessness, and intent
- B. Intent, knowledge, recklessness, and negligence**
- C. Deliberation, thoughtfulness, and ignorance
- D. Awareness, denial, and decision-making

The correct answer identifies the major types of mens rea, which are essential for determining a defendant's mental state at the time of committing a criminal act. These elements are critical in establishing culpability in criminal law. Intent refers to the purpose behind a person's actions and indicates a deliberate decision to bring about a specific result. Knowledge involves a person being aware that their conduct will likely result in a particular outcome. Recklessness denotes a conscious disregard of a substantial and unjustifiable risk that a harmful consequence will occur. Negligence, on the other hand, reflects a failure to be aware of a substantial risk that constitutes a deviation from the standard of care a reasonable person would observe, resulting in unintended harm. Understanding these categories is fundamental in criminal procedure as they influence the severity of charges and the appropriate defenses available. Each type of mens rea contributes to the evaluation of whether an accused acted with the necessary mental state to be found guilty of a particular crime, thus underscoring the significance of intent, knowledge, recklessness, and negligence in legal contexts.

4. What does the term "remand" refer to in criminal procedure?

- A. Acquitting an accused due to lack of evidence
- B. Holding an accused in custody before trial**
- C. Releasing an accused on personal recognizance
- D. Convicting an accused without a trial

In the context of criminal procedure, the term "remand" specifically refers to the act of holding an accused person in custody before their trial begins. This may occur when a judge determines that the accused poses a flight risk or a danger to the community, and the accused is required to remain in detention until their trial date. Remand serves as a way to ensure that the legal process can proceed without the risks associated with releasing the accused. The other options illustrate different legal outcomes or procedures that do not align with the definition of remand. For instance, acquitting an accused due to lack of evidence involves a finding of not guilty and is a final determination in a case, which is distinct from the pre-trial holding aspect of remand. Releasing an accused on personal recognizance entails permitting them to remain free without bail under the condition that they will return for court appearances, again not fitting the definition of remand. Lastly, convicting an accused without a trial implies a resolution that bypasses the trial process, which also does not relate to the pre-trial context associated with remanding an individual.

5. When is the Jailer required to apply for detention review?

- A. After 30 days in custody
- B. After 90 days in custody**
- C. After 180 days in custody
- D. After trial has concluded

The requirement for the Jailer to apply for detention review is anchored in legal standards designed to ensure that individuals in custody are not held for prolonged periods without a review of the necessity of their detention. In many jurisdictions, a significant timeframe that triggers a mandatory review of detention status is typically set at 90 days. This 90-day mark is a critical juncture in the detention process, as it ensures a balance between the need for public safety and the rights of the detained individuals. It provides an avenue for the court to reassess the circumstances surrounding the detention and determine whether sufficient grounds still exist to continue holding the individual. When detention lasts beyond this period without review, it may raise concerns about the legality and appropriateness of the ongoing detention. Therefore, the 90-day requirement is a crucial component of safeguarding due process and encouraging timely judicial oversight in the detention process. While the other options may suggest different timeframes, the specific legal framework mandates the 90-day timeline for a detention review, making this the correct and most applicable answer.

6. What is required for the procedure of a bail review?

- A. Only a letter from the accused
- B. Two clear days' notice to the Crown**
- C. A financial deposit from the accused
- D. Witness testimonies supporting bail

The requirement for a bail review includes providing two clear days' notice to the Crown. This notice is essential as it allows the prosecution adequate time to prepare and respond to the bail application. Bail reviews are significant events in the criminal justice process, and the Crown has the right to present its arguments regarding the appropriateness of releasing the accused on bail. The two-day notice period ensures that both parties have the opportunity to thoroughly prepare their positions, which is crucial for a fair and just bail determination. The other options do not fulfill the legal requirements for a bail review. A letter from the accused alone would not suffice, as the process involves more than simply notifying the Crown. A financial deposit or witness testimonies might be pertinent to the bail conditions but are not procedural requirements for initiating a bail review.

7. What does the felony-murder rule stipulate regarding deaths occurring during the commission of a felony?

- A. Only the person who commits the murder can be charged
- B. All individuals involved in the felony can be charged with murder**
- C. Only the principal offender in the felony is liable for murder
- D. Death must be intentional for murder charges to apply

The felony-murder rule stipulates that all individuals involved in the commission of a felony can be charged with murder if a death occurs during that felony, even if they did not directly cause the death or intend to kill. This rule is based on the principle that those who participate in a dangerous crime should be held accountable for any foreseeable outcomes of that criminal conduct, including death. For example, if a group of individuals commits a robbery and one of them unintentionally kills someone during the process, all participants in the robbery can be charged with murder under the felony-murder rule. This reflects the understanding that engaging in a felony inherently carries significant risks and consequences, and thus all parties involved are responsible for the actions that ensue from that joint enterprise. This principle addresses the collective liability of all participants in the felony, regardless of their individual roles or intentions with respect to the murder, establishing a broader standard of accountability in the context of serious crimes.

8. Which of the following is NOT a type of plea a defendant can enter?

- A. Guilty
- B. Not guilty
- C. No contest
- D. Meritorious**

The term "meritorious" does not refer to an accepted type of plea a defendant can enter in the criminal justice system. Instead, the commonly recognized pleas include "guilty," where the defendant admits to the crime; "not guilty," where the defendant denies the charges and seeks a trial; and "no contest," which means the defendant does not contest the charges but does not admit guilt. The absence of "meritorious" as an official plea reflects the legal structure surrounding pleas, which are designed to categorize a defendant's response to the charges rather than evaluating the merits of the case itself. This structure is important for ensuring that defendants can clearly express their positions regarding the criminal charges they face.

9. What factors can influence a judge's sentencing decision?

- A. Public opinion on crime**
- B. The media coverage of the trial**
- C. The severity of the offense and the offender's record**
- D. The socioeconomic status of the offender**

The severity of the offense and the offender's record are two critical factors that a judge considers when making sentencing decisions. The severity of the offense reflects the seriousness of the crime committed, which can suggest an appropriate level of punishment. For instance, more serious offenses, such as violent crimes, typically carry heavier sentences compared to less severe crimes, such as misdemeanors. Additionally, the offender's record, including prior convictions and general criminal history, can significantly influence the judge's decision. A defendant with a long history of offenses may be deemed more likely to re-offend, warranting a harsher sentence to protect public safety and deter future criminal behavior. Conversely, a first-time offender might receive a more lenient sentence, especially if the current offense is not severe. In essence, these two factors—severity of the crime and the individual's past behavior—give judges a structured framework within which to impose sentences that are proportional to both the nature of the crime and the individual circumstances of the offender.

10. What must happen after an arraignment hearing?

- A. The matter must be elevated to the Supreme Court**
- B. The hearing date is confirmed by appearance in court**
- C. The accused is automatically released**
- D. The judge declares a mistrial**

After an arraignment hearing, it's essential for the hearing date to be confirmed by the defendant's appearance in court. The arraignment is a crucial step in the criminal process, where the accused is formally charged and enters a plea. Following this, the court typically sets a date for future proceedings, such as a pre-trial or trial. The confirmation of this date ensures that all parties involved—including the defendant, legal representation, and the prosecution—are aware of when to return to court for the next steps in the judicial process. In contrast to this, the other options do not accurately reflect standard protocol following an arraignment. Elevating the matter to the Supreme Court does not happen at this stage; most cases are addressed in lower courts unless specific legal grounds warrant further action. Automatic release of the accused does not occur simply because of an arraignment; bail conditions or custody may still need to be considered based on the nature of the charges and the risks involved. Finally, declaring a mistrial is unrelated to the arraignment process and typically arises from issues during a trial itself, not during the preliminary steps of charging an individual.

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://pltccriminalprocedure.examzify.com>

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

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