

Professional Security Institute 16Hr 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. How can maintenance contribute to CPTED outcomes?**
 - A. By keeping lighting, landscaping, signage, and environmental features in good repair to sustain natural surveillance and territorial cues.**
 - B. By increasing the response time to incidents.**
 - C. By limiting access to all areas.**
 - D. By reducing signage to minimal.**

- 2. Intentionally touching someone else in a non-consensual unprivileged way is known as**
 - A. Assault**
 - B. Harassment**
 - C. Battery**
 - D. Injury**

- 3. Which of the following are components of the communication process?**
 - A. Sender, message, receiver, and feedback.**
 - B. Source, channel, receiver, and noise.**
 - C. Sender, transmission, receiver and action.**
 - D. Idea, expression, delivery, and response.**

- 4. Which subjective state is commonly associated with narcotic use?**
 - A. A Feeling Of Alertness**
 - B. A Sense Of Physical Energy**
 - C. A Change In One's Awareness**
 - D. A Happy Feeling**

- 5. What do you look for in suspicious behavior from narcotic abusers?**
 - A. Behavior or symptom**
 - B. Physical appearance**
 - C. Language**
 - D. Background**

- 6. How is situational awareness defined and how can it be improved?**
- A. Relying solely on memory after a quick scan.**
 - B. Only about weather.**
 - C. Perception of environmental elements; improve by scanning, listening, staying alert, and updating intel.**
 - D. It is only relevant in armed combat situations.**
- 7. Which action aligns with a standard bomb threat response policy?**
- A. Remain calm, evacuate per procedures, coordinate with authorities, and avoid unnecessary actions.**
 - B. Run toward the source to assess the threat.**
 - C. Ignore the threat if it seems minor.**
 - D. Notify only the first supervisor.**
- 8. Public Relations is a required field for security to learn because**
- A. Security Officers should be able to speak with certainty to the public**
 - B. Public relations is optional for experienced guards**
 - C. It helps officers memorize policy manuals**
 - D. It is used to instruct staff in technical security measures**
- 9. Which sequence correctly represents the general progression in the use of force continuum?**
- A. Deadly force → control → presence.**
 - B. Verbal commands only.**
 - C. Presence and verbal commands → soft control → hard control → deadly force.**
 - D. Immediate use of force with no warnings.**
- 10. The best way to gain the respect of others is by**
- A. Being generally interested in other people**
 - B. Always agreeing with everyone**
 - C. Demanding compliance**
 - D. Showing you are in charge**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. How can maintenance contribute to CPTED outcomes?

- A. By keeping lighting, landscaping, signage, and environmental features in good repair to sustain natural surveillance and territorial cues.**
- B. By increasing the response time to incidents.**
- C. By limiting access to all areas.**
- D. By reducing signage to minimal.**

Maintenance directly supports CPTED by keeping the environment that users experience predictable and legible. When lighting, landscaping, signage, and other features stay in good repair, sightlines remain clear, dark corners are minimized, and owners' boundaries are easy to recognize. This preserves natural surveillance—people can see and be seen—reducing opportunities for illicit behavior. It also reinforces territorial cues, signaling that the space is cared for and monitored, which encourages legitimate use and deters potential offenders. Other options miss the link to upkeep. Improving response time to incidents is about after-the-fact action rather than the design and upkeep of the space. Limiting access to all areas shifts the focus to access control rather than ongoing maintenance. Reducing signage undermines communication and wayfinding, which weakens both surveillance and territorial cues.

2. Intentionally touching someone else in a non-consensual unprivileged way is known as

- A. Assault**
- B. Harassment**
- C. Battery**
- D. Injury**

Battery is the intentional touching of another person in a non-consensual and unprivileged way. This matches the description because the key element is actual physical contact that the other person did not consent to. Assault, by contrast, involves creating apprehension or the threat of such contact, not the touch itself. Harassment refers to repeated unwanted behavior that can create distress but isn't necessarily about a single act of touching. Injury means harm or damage, which can result from many actions and doesn't by itself define the act of touching someone without consent. So the act described is best identified as battery.

3. Which of the following are components of the communication process?

- A. Sender, message, receiver, and feedback.**
- B. Source, channel, receiver, and noise.**
- C. Sender, transmission, receiver and action.**
- D. Idea, expression, delivery, and response.**

Communication can be understood as a simple flow: a sender initiates, the message is transmitted, a receiver gets it, and an action or result follows. This four-part sequence captures the essential progression from who starts to what happens as a result, which is why it's the best fit here. In more detailed models you'd also see encoding/decoding, the channel or medium, noise, and feedback, but the core idea these elements emphasize is the straightforward path from initiation through transmission to the receiver and the resulting action. The other options mix in concepts like feedback, noise, or separate steps that, while important in broader theories, don't map as cleanly to the basic process described by sender, transmission, receiver, and action.

4. Which subjective state is commonly associated with narcotic use?

- A. A Feeling Of Alertness**
- B. A Sense Of Physical Energy**
- C. A Change In One's Awareness**
- D. A Happy Feeling**

Narcotics depress the central nervous system and alter perception and consciousness, so the most accurate way to describe the subjective state is a change in awareness. This means users often feel drowsy or slowed, with sensations and perceptions that are not the same as their normal state. While some may experience momentary euphoria, the hallmark is that consciousness or awareness shifts, rather than simply feeling more alert or energized. Options that describe heightened alertness or extra energy don't fit the typical narcotic effect, and while a brief happy feeling can occur, it's not the defining aspect of narcotic use.

5. What do you look for in suspicious behavior from narcotic abusers?

- A. Behavior or symptom**
- B. Physical appearance**
- C. Language**
- D. Background**

You look for behavior or symptoms because these are the clearest, real-time indicators of impairment or intoxication. Suspicious narcotic use tends to show up as observable actions or physical signs—things like unusual agitation or calm, rapid mood swings, evasive or secretive behavior, inconsistent or disjointed statements, slowed reactions, or impaired coordination. These cues reflect how the substance is affecting the person right now and help you assess risk and decide on appropriate steps. Physical appearance can hint at drug use but isn't reliable on its own—people can look normal or fit a stereotype for many reasons. Language can reveal distress or deception but doesn't prove drug involvement by itself. Background information isn't a dependable predictor of current intoxication. The emphasis is on what you can directly observe in behavior and symptoms in the moment.

6. How is situational awareness defined and how can it be improved?

- A. Relying solely on memory after a quick scan.**
- B. Only about weather.**
- C. Perception of environmental elements; improve by scanning, listening, staying alert, and updating intel.**
- D. It is only relevant in armed combat situations.**

Situational awareness is about perceiving environmental elements, understanding their meaning in the current context, and anticipating how things may change so you can respond effectively. It's best improved by actively scanning the surroundings, listening to what's happening, staying alert for new or changing cues, and continually updating your understanding as new information comes in. This ongoing cycle of observe, interpret, and project helps you recognize potential threats or opportunities early and act accordingly. Relying on memory after a quick scan misses current details and can lead to outdated judgments. Focusing only on weather narrows awareness to a single factor rather than the full environment. And situational awareness isn't limited to armed combat; it applies to any situation where staying informed about surroundings matters.

7. Which action aligns with a standard bomb threat response policy?

- A. Remain calm, evacuate per procedures, coordinate with authorities, and avoid unnecessary actions.**
- B. Run toward the source to assess the threat.**
- C. Ignore the threat if it seems minor.**
- D. Notify only the first supervisor.**

Proper bomb threat response centers on protecting lives through calm, orderly evacuation and prompt coordination with authorities. Remaining calm helps you think clearly, follow procedures, and guide others without panic. Evacuation per procedures ensures people use designated routes, reach safe muster points, and are accounted for, which reduces exposure and helps responders know who may still be in danger. Coordinating with authorities brings in professional assessment and incident command, enabling the right safety measures, evacuation decisions, and reunification processes. Avoiding unnecessary actions prevents escalating risk or stepping into unapproved activities, such as attempting to locate a device or performing unverified searches, which can put everyone in greater danger. The other approaches undermine safety: rushing toward the threat increases personal risk; ignoring it leaves people vulnerable; and notifying only one supervisor delays a unified, coordinated response.

8. Public Relations is a required field for security to learn because

- A. Security Officers should be able to speak with certainty to the public**
- B. Public relations is optional for experienced guards**
- C. It helps officers memorize policy manuals**
- D. It is used to instruct staff in technical security measures**

Effective public-facing communication is essential in security. Officers are often the first point of contact with the public, clients, and visitors, so conveying information clearly, calmly, and with the right tone helps maintain safety, set expectations, and build trust. The ability to speak with certainty to the public reflects how well a security professional can communicate under pressure, project credibility, and reassure people, which are core aspects of public relations in a security role. The other ideas don't fit because public relations is not about being optional for experienced guards; it's a standard part of professional conduct for anyone in the role. It isn't primarily about memorizing policy manuals; while knowledge matters, the emphasis is on how you communicate to external audiences. And it isn't about instructing staff in technical security measures; those tasks belong to internal security training and operations, not outward-facing communication.

9. Which sequence correctly represents the general progression in the use of force continuum?

A. Deadly force → control → presence.

B. Verbal commands only.

C. Presence and verbal commands → soft control → hard control → deadly force.

D. Immediate use of force with no warnings.

The use-of-force continuum is a stepwise approach that guides how a responder should escalate or de-escalate force to match the threat. It starts with non-physical presence to deter and establish authority, followed by verbal commands to gain compliance. If those fail, the next step is soft control—hands-on, non-damaging techniques to gain control with minimal harm. If necessary, it moves to hard control—more assertive tactics to restrain or subdue. Only when there is a clear and imminent threat or resistance that cannot be managed by lighter means is deadly force considered as a last resort. This progression is why the correct sequence includes presence and verbal commands first, then soft control, then hard control, and finally deadly force. Other options skip or jump past essential steps, such as relying on verbal commands alone or resorting to immediate deadly force without attempting de-escalation and lesser-intermediate options, which contradicts the principle of using the minimum force necessary.

10. The best way to gain the respect of others is by

A. Being generally interested in other people

B. Always agreeing with everyone

C. Demanding compliance

D. Showing you are in charge

Showing genuine interest in others is the best way to gain respect because respect grows from trust, and trust comes from feeling heard and valued. When you actively listen, ask thoughtful questions, remember details about people, and respond with empathy, others sense that you care about their perspectives and concerns. This kind of listening and acknowledgment invites collaboration, reduces conflicts, and makes people more willing to follow your lead because they feel respected rather than controlled. In security settings, this approach strengthens teamwork, improves incident coordination, and fosters a culture where people speak up and contribute, which is far more influential than simply trying to appear in charge. Other approaches fall short because they rely on surface signals rather than genuine engagement: always agreeing with everyone can feel inauthentic and undermine credibility; demanding compliance creates fear rather than trust; and merely showing you are in charge can come across as domineering unless paired with real regard for others. Practical steps include asking for others' input, reflecting back what you hear to confirm understanding, acknowledging contributions, and following through on what you commit to.

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://professionalsecinstitute16hr.examzify.com>

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

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