

PY103.16 Physical Security 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. Which of the following is a valid approach to respond to a fixed screening alarm?**
 - A. Using portable screening equipment**
 - B. Hand Screening**
 - C. Manual Search**
 - D. Monitor closed circuit television (CCTV)**

- 2. Which of the following is a common indicator of suspicious behavior in a workplace security context?**
 - A. Loitering near entry points**
 - B. Assisting others with their tasks**
 - C. Attempting to bypass security controls**
 - D. Unusual familiarity with security procedures**

- 3. Which option is NOT a listed use of military working dogs by security force members?**
 - A. Assist in law enforcement**
 - B. Assist in detecting explosives**
 - C. Assist in confrontation management**
 - D. Patrol in open areas with security personnel**

- 4. What is the meaning of crash rating for barriers?**
 - A. The color coding of barriers to indicate hazard level.**
 - B. The decorative features included in barrier design.**
 - C. The ability to withstand impact from a vehicle up to a specified speed and mass.**
 - D. The maintenance schedule for crash-rated barriers.**

- 5. What is an appropriate response when fixed screening equipment sets off an alarm?**
 - A. Using portable screening equipment**
 - B. Hand Screening**
 - C. Manual Search**
 - D. Monitor CCTV**

- 6. _____ employs various layers of complementary security controls because different assets require differing levels of protection.**
- A. Security-in-depth**
 - B. Layered defense**
 - C. Access control**
 - D. Risk management**
- 7. Surface lighting is used to display a silhouette of any person passing between the light source and the building or to show the contrast of a person inside the building.**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. Not Applicable**
 - D. Sometimes**
- 8. What is tailgating and how can it be mitigated?**
- A. Unauthorized person follows an authorized person; mitigations include turnstiles, mantraps, policy, escorting.**
 - B. A security breach where an intruder follows another into a secure area; mitigations include turnstiles, mantraps, policy, escorting.**
 - C. A type of vehicle breach at perimeter.**
 - D. A method of digital authentication.**
- 9. Conveyor belt style x-ray machines are classified as which type of screening equipment?**
- A. Portable**
 - B. Mobile**
 - C. Fixed**
 - D. Handheld**
- 10. What method of security lighting uses lights slightly inside a security perimeter and directed outward?**
- A. Glare projection**
 - B. Flood lighting**
 - C. Backlighting**
 - D. Spotlighting**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is a valid approach to respond to a fixed screening alarm?

- A. Using portable screening equipment**
- B. Hand Screening**
- C. Manual Search**
- D. Monitor closed circuit television (CCTV)**

Responding to a fixed screening alarm requires a controlled, physical verification to determine what triggered the alarm. A manual search provides the systematic process for inspecting the person and their belongings, using approved procedures, to locate any concealed item and to clear the alarm if nothing prohibited is found. This approach is thorough and actionable, covering both the search of clothing and bags and any necessary follow-up actions to ensure safety and proper handling of evidence. Hand screening is a component of the manual search—the hands-on checking of pockets, clothing, and belongings—but the term manual search refers to the full set of procedures, not just a single technique. Portable screening equipment and CCTV serve supportive roles. Portable screening devices aren't the primary response to a fixed alarm at that checkpoint, since they don't directly resolve what caused the alarm. CCTV provides situational awareness and can guide where to search, but it cannot physically locate concealed items or clear the alarm on its own.

2. Which of the following is a common indicator of suspicious behavior in a workplace security context?

- A. Loitering near entry points**
- B. Assisting others with their tasks**
- C. Attempting to bypass security controls**
- D. Unusual familiarity with security procedures**

Understanding how people interact with security controls helps you spot genuine risk. A person who tries to bypass security measures is showing a deliberate intent to defeat the system and gain unauthorized access. That direct action to defeat controls is the clearest, most actionable indicator of suspicious behavior in a workplace, because it signals an attempt to overstep rules rather than a benign or ambiguous situation. Loitering near entry points can raise a concern but isn't necessarily malicious. Helping others with tasks is typically normal behavior. Being unusually familiar with security procedures might raise a flag in some cases, but it doesn't by itself prove an intent to cause harm. The act of attempting to bypass controls stands out as a purposeful attempt to defeat security, making it the best indicator among the options.

3. Which option is NOT a listed use of military working dogs by security force members?

- A. Assist in law enforcement**
- B. Assist in detecting explosives**
- C. Assist in confrontation management**
- D. Patrol in open areas with security personnel**

Military working dogs are trained to extend security forces' capabilities by using their senses and behavioral skills. They assist in law enforcement by locating suspects, performing searches, and supporting apprehensions, which helps officers work more efficiently and safely. Their explosive detection capability is a fundamental tool for preventing incidents and safeguarding people and facilities. In confrontation management, a dog's presence and trained responses help deter aggression and give handlers safer ways to control volatile situations without immediate force. Patrolling in open areas with security personnel isn't described as a distinct, listed use of these dogs in the typical training materials, even though dogs may accompany patrols; it's not treated as a separate listed function like detection or confrontation management.

4. What is the meaning of crash rating for barriers?

- A. The color coding of barriers to indicate hazard level.**
- B. The decorative features included in barrier design.**
- C. The ability to withstand impact from a vehicle up to a specified speed and mass.**
- D. The maintenance schedule for crash-rated barriers.**

Crash rating for barriers describes how a barrier performs in a vehicle impact. It indicates the barrier's ability to withstand an impact from a vehicle of a specified mass traveling at a defined speed and still contain or redirect the vehicle safely, reducing risk to the protected area. This rating comes from standardized crash tests that simulate real-world crashes and determine whether the barrier meets the required performance. The rating helps engineers select barriers appropriate for the site's traffic conditions and vehicle types. It isn't about color coding, decorative features, or a maintenance schedule, which don't measure crash performance.

5. What is an appropriate response when fixed screening equipment sets off an alarm?

- A. Using portable screening equipment**
- B. Hand Screening**
- C. Manual Search**
- D. Monitor CCTV**

When fixed screening equipment alarms, the next step is a manual search. These devices are excellent at flagging that something requires attention, but they can't identify the exact item or assess its threat level. A trained security officer performs a controlled, hands-on inspection of the person and their belongings to locate the source of the alarm, determine if it's legitimate, and decide the appropriate action—such as removing the item, conducting further screening, or denying entry. This approach directly addresses the detected risk and helps clear legitimate travelers quickly, while ensuring safety and proper procedure. Relying on portable screening equipment doesn't resolve what triggered the alarm, and monitoring CCTV alone doesn't physically verify or locate the item. Hand screening can be part of the process, but the essential action is the manual search that physically confirms what caused the alarm and guides the next steps.

6. _____ employs various layers of complementary security controls because different assets require differing levels of protection.

- A. Security-in-depth**
- B. Layered defense**
- C. Access control**
- D. Risk management**

Security-in-depth means protecting assets by placing multiple, complementary security controls at different layers so that no single failure leads to a breach. Different assets carry different risk and impact, so relying on one control isn't enough; layering defenses—physical barriers, access controls, monitoring, procedures—creates resilience: if one layer is bypassed, others still stand ready to deter, detect, or delay an attack. This exact description matches using several layers of protection to suit varying asset protection needs. Layered defense is similar in idea but the established term that captures this approach most precisely is security-in-depth. Access control refers to a specific type of control for who can access resources, not the multi-layered strategy itself, and risk management is the broader process of evaluating and prioritizing risks rather than detailing layered protections.

7. Surface lighting is used to display a silhouette of any person passing between the light source and the building or to show the contrast of a person inside the building.

A. True

B. False

C. Not Applicable

D. Sometimes

Surface lighting relies on a bright light on the exterior surface and a darker area in front of it, so when someone passes between the light and the wall, their body blocks the light and appears as a clear silhouette on the facade. This backlit silhouette is easy to detect and helps security personnel and cameras notice movement. The same principle can apply with interior activity: if interior lighting creates a contrast against the outside, a person inside can show up as a distinct shape or shadow through the window, making their presence noticeable. In short, backlighting to create silhouettes and contrast is exactly how surface lighting functions in this context.

8. What is tailgating and how can it be mitigated?

A. Unauthorized person follows an authorized person; mitigations include turnstiles, mantraps, policy, escorting.

B. A security breach where an intruder follows another into a secure area; mitigations include turnstiles, mantraps, policy, escorting.

C. A type of vehicle breach at perimeter.

D. A method of digital authentication.

Tailgating is when an unauthorized person follows an authorized individual through an access point into a restricted area. This happens because the system relies on the person's credential or presence, and the door or entry can be used by more than one person or kept open. To prevent it, implement controls that enforce single-person passage per authentication: turnstiles or mantraps ensure only the person presenting a valid credential gets through, and doors should be monitored so they aren't propped open. A clear security policy, plus escorting of visitors or unknown individuals when required, reinforces that others cannot enter simply by walking in behind someone. Training staff to challenge or report tailgating and to avoid holding doors for others also helps reduce risk. This concept is about the entry behavior itself, not a vehicle breach or a digital authentication method, which is why the described mitigations fit best.

9. Conveyor belt style x-ray machines are classified as which type of screening equipment?

- A. Portable**
- B. Mobile**
- C. Fixed**
- D. Handheld**

Screening equipment are categorized by how they are deployed. Conveyor belt style x-ray machines sit in a fixed location at the security checkpoint and are built into the surrounding setup so items move through a stationary scan chamber. That permanence and integration with the infrastructure is what makes them fixed screening equipment. They differ from handheld devices, which are small and carried by an operator; from portable units that can be moved but aren't part of a permanent installation; and from mobile systems, which operate on wheels or mounted on a vehicle.

10. What method of security lighting uses lights slightly inside a security perimeter and directed outward?

- A. Glare projection**
- B. Flood lighting**
- C. Backlighting**
- D. Spotlighting**

The idea being tested is how the placement and direction of lighting affects visibility at a security perimeter. When lights are placed just inside the perimeter and aimed outward, they create glare that projects toward the outside. This outward glare serves as a deterrent by making the boundary zone bright for anyone approaching, while also highlighting movement near the boundary from inside the protected area. The result is that intruders see a bright, glare-filled boundary and guards or cameras can more easily notice silhouettes and movement against the contrasting exterior darkness. This approach differs from other lighting methods: flood lighting covers large outdoor areas with broad illumination, often positioned to light the exterior but not specifically designed to push glare outward from inside; backlighting lights a subject from behind to reveal their silhouette, which is about identifying a person rather than creating outward glare at the boundary; spotlighting focuses a narrow beam on a specific area or object, not on creating a glare field around the perimeter.

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://py10316.examzify.com>

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

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