

Special Agent Basic Training (SABT) Exam 1 - Criminal Investigations Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Table of Contents

Copyright	1
Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
How to Use This Guide	4
Questions	5
Answers	8
Explanations	10
Next Steps	15

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

- 1. Which item is identified as a common NCIS agent pitfall?**
 - A. Evidence - not following policy**
 - B. Data Backup Protocol**
 - C. Public Speaking**
 - D. Team Building Activities**
- 2. What does Article 31 of the UCMJ provide?**
 - A. It provides Miranda-like rights to suspects under the code.**
 - B. It prohibits the use of counsel in interrogations.**
 - C. It requires a grand jury for charges.**
 - D. It allows self-incrimination.**
- 3. To be assigned military defense counsel, an accused service member has to be:**
 - A. An accused service member**
 - B. A civilian attorney**
 - C. A non-accused service member**
 - D. A family member**
- 4. How many categories are in The Egregious 5?**
 - A. Four**
 - B. Five**
 - C. Six**
 - D. Seven**
- 5. How are enclosures classified?**
 - A. By dates**
 - B. By color**
 - C. By letters**
 - D. By department**
- 6. In the case categorization, which number corresponds to sex crime?**
 - A. 6**
 - B. 7**
 - C. 9**
 - D. 8**

- 7. Which statement describes a Summary Courts-Martial?**
- A. It is a true court-martial with a judge and panel.**
 - B. It involves 0 or 4 court members.**
 - C. It is not a true court-martial on the outside; max punishment up to 30 days; enlisted only; no judge or right to counsel.**
 - D. It requires a formal Article 32 pre-trial hearing.**
- 8. Testimony at Article 32 proceedings is admissible for impeachment by which parties?**
- A. Only the defense**
 - B. Only the prosecution**
 - C. Either side**
 - D. Neither side**
- 9. What term describes an inspection conducted to locate evidence of a crime?**
- A. Subterfuge**
 - B. Compliance**
 - C. Neutral inspection**
 - D. Entitlements**
- 10. The Executive Summary is a living part of the document that is updated after ROI (INTERIM) or ROI (CLOSED).**
- A. True**
 - B. False**
 - C. It is only updated at the start**
 - D. It never changes**

Answers

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

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Explanations

1. Which item is identified as a common NCIS agent pitfall?

- A. Evidence - not following policy**
- B. Data Backup Protocol**
- C. Public Speaking**
- D. Team Building Activities**

Not following policy when handling evidence directly undermines an investigation's integrity. Evidence must be collected, documented, labeled, preserved, and stored in a way that preserves its authenticity and maintains a clear chain of custody. If policy isn't followed, evidence can be contaminated, misidentified, or lost, and its admissibility in court can be jeopardized, which can collapse a case. That direct impact on admissibility and case viability is why this is the most important pitfall to recognize. Data backup protocol is about safeguarding information and preventing loss, which is a good practice rather than a pitfall. Public speaking is a skill area that can affect communication, but it doesn't inherently threaten the investigation's integrity. Team-building activities are constructive efforts to improve unit performance, not a procedural trap.

2. What does Article 31 of the UCMJ provide?

- A. It provides Miranda-like rights to suspects under the code.**
- B. It prohibits the use of counsel in interrogations.**
- C. It requires a grand jury for charges.**
- D. It allows self-incrimination.**

Article 31 is about protections during interrogation of someone subject to the UCMJ. It gives service members rights similar to the civilian Miranda warnings: they cannot be compelled to testify against themselves, and they must be informed of their rights and given the opportunity to consult with counsel, with counsel present during questioning. This focus on warning, self-incrimination protection, and the option to have a lawyer nearby is what makes it mirror Miranda-like rights within military law. The other options don't fit because Article 31 isn't about grand juries, it doesn't permit self-incrimination, and it does not bar counsel from being present during questioning; indeed, it reinforces the opposite—that counsel can be involved and that self-incrimination is protected.

3. To be assigned military defense counsel, an accused service member has to be:

- A. An accused service member**
- B. A civilian attorney**
- C. A non-accused service member**
- D. A family member**

The main idea is that defense counsel is assigned to the person who is charged in a military case. In the military justice system, the accused service member has a right to representation, and the government or the accused may appoint a defense attorney to represent that charged individual. So the requirement is that the person receiving military defense counsel is the accused service member. A civilian attorney can be appointed to represent the accused, but they remain tied to the person who is charged. A service member who is not accused, or a family member, does not receive a defense counsel assignment in the context of a specific case.

4. How many categories are in The Egregious 5?

- A. Four
- B. Five**
- C. Six
- D. Seven

The number of categories is five because the term “The Egregious 5” itself signals a five-part grouping of serious investigation issues. In this material, the label is used to help you instantly recall five distinct areas where major mistakes tend to occur, so the test asks for the count to confirm you recognize that five-category concept. If you see any other number, it would not match the named set, which is why that option wouldn’t fit.

5. How are enclosures classified?

- A. By dates
- B. By color
- C. By letters**
- D. By department

Labeling enclosures with letters creates a simple, stable reference system for attachments. This lets you cite and locate each enclosure quickly within the main document, without tying them to dates or to a specific department, which can complicate tracking. Dates can shift with revisions, colors are arbitrary and not standardized, and department-based labeling mixes materials from different units, making retrieval more confusing. Using letters keeps references concise, unambiguous, and easy to update as materials are added or reordered.

6. In the case categorization, which number corresponds to sex crime?

- A. 6
- B. 7
- C. 9
- D. 8**

Case categorization uses a fixed code to label the primary offense in a case so investigators can sort and analyze quickly. Each offense family—such as property, violent crimes, narcotics, and sexual offenses—has its own dedicated category. When the primary offense is a sexual offense, you assign it to the category set aside for sex crimes. The other codes align with their respective offense groups, so they wouldn’t apply to a sex-crime case. This system lets you pull all sex-crime cases together for reporting and trend analysis.

7. Which statement describes a Summary Courts-Martial?

- A. It is a true court-martial with a judge and panel.
- B. It involves 0 or 4 court members.
- C. It is not a true court-martial on the outside; max punishment up to 30 days; enlisted only; no judge or right to counsel.**
- D. It requires a formal Article 32 pre-trial hearing.

Summary Courts-Martial are the simplest form of military court-martial, used for minor offenses by enlisted personnel. They are not a full court-martial with a panel of members; instead, a single commissioned officer acts as the judge in a streamlined proceeding. The punishments are restricted, with a maximum around 30 days of confinement, and the process applies only to enlisted members. It does not involve the formal Article 32 pre-trial investigation that accompanies more serious courts-martial. Because of these limitations—the non-panel format, the light punishments, and the enlisted-only scope—the description that highlights it as not a full court-martial, with a 30-day limit and enlisted eligibility, is the best fit. The other options describe features of a true court-martial or related pre-trial procedures.

8. Testimony at Article 32 proceedings is admissible for impeachment by which parties?

- A. Only the defense
- B. Only the prosecution
- C. Either side**
- D. Neither side

Impeachment hinges on credibility, and testimony given under oath at an Article 32 proceeding provides a reliable basis to challenge a witness at trial. Because that testimony is part of the official record and was given under oath, either side can reference it to show inconsistencies, shifts in memory, or bias. The point is to test whether a witness's current testimony is trustworthy, not to prove the underlying guilt of the accused. So this prior sworn Article 32 testimony is admissible for impeachment by either side, while it's not usually used as substantive evidence of guilt on its own.

9. What term describes an inspection conducted to locate evidence of a crime?

- A. Subterfuge**
- B. Compliance
- C. Neutral inspection
- D. Entitlements

An inspection conducted to locate evidence is described as a search. This is the formal act in investigations aimed at finding items connected to a crime, typically under legal authority like a warrant or an applicable exception. Subterfuge refers to deception used to obtain information, which is a tactic within investigations rather than the generic term for the act of inspecting for evidence. Compliance means following rules, neutral inspection isn't a standard term, and entitlements are rights or benefits. So the best concept is a search, but that term isn't one of the provided options.

10. The Executive Summary is a living part of the document that is updated after ROI (INTERIM) or ROI (CLOSED).

A. True

B. False

C. It is only updated at the start

D. It never changes

The main idea here is that an executive summary is a concise, decision-ready snapshot of the ROI document, not a continuously evolving section. It should reflect the report's content and conclusions, but it isn't designed to be updated after every interim or closed ROI as a routine "living" update. In practice, you revise the executive summary when the document itself is revised to incorporate new findings or outcomes. Typically this happens as part of the final version (or of a major revision), so the summary stays stable and aligned with the current content rather than being perpetually revised after each milestone. If material changes occur, the summary is updated to reflect them, but it isn't treated as an ongoing, always-changing section.

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://sabt1criminalinvest.examzify.com>

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