

Tennessee Private Investigator Licensing 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 one method of using GPS technology for tracking?**
 - A. A GPS receiver that records the travels of the vehicle**
 - B. A GPS receiver that connects via Bluetooth**
 - C. A GPS device that only works indoors**
 - D. A GPS system that requires a subscription service**

- 2. What does a voicemail probe do?**
 - A. Records phone conversations**
 - B. Bypasses the ringer and goes directly to voicemail**
 - C. Hacks into voicemail accounts**
 - D. Transmits voicemail messages to emails**

- 3. What is a legal consequence a private investigator might face for mishandling evidence?**
 - A. Being awarded a commendation**
 - B. Potential loss of licensing and legal penalties**
 - C. Receiving additional funds from clients**
 - D. No consequences as long as they inform the client**

- 4. Can a felony conviction prevent someone from obtaining a private investigator license in Tennessee?**
 - A. No, it is not a consideration**
 - B. Only specific types of felonies may disqualify**
 - C. Yes, all felony convictions are disqualifying**
 - D. Only felony convictions related to theft**

- 5. Is it legal for private investigators in Tennessee to record conversations without consent?**
 - A. Yes, as long as one party knows**
 - B. No, Tennessee is a two-party consent state**
 - C. Yes, if they notify authorities**
 - D. No, it is illegal to record any conversations**

- 6. Which of the following is NOT a reason for revocation of a PI license?**
- A. Being convicted of a felony**
 - B. Committing acts of fraud or deceit**
 - C. Completing the required continuing education**
 - D. Making false reports**
- 7. What is involved in the liquidation process during bankruptcy?**
- A. One can keep all assets**
 - B. All debts are discharged without exception**
 - C. All assets, with exceptions, are disposed of, and most debts are discharged**
 - D. Only government debts are discharged**
- 8. How many days does an investigative company have to notify the commission about the death or termination of a private investigator?**
- A. 10 days**
 - B. 14 days**
 - C. 20 days**
 - D. 30 days**
- 9. Which of the following is NOT a function of cameras for private investigators?**
- A. Documenting injuries**
 - B. Providing evidence of an affair**
 - C. Repairing electronic devices**
 - D. Documenting crime scenes**
- 10. In blood spatter analysis, what aspects are evaluated to determine the circumstances of a crime?**
- A. Size, velocity, and direction of spatter**
 - B. Color and quantity of blood**
 - C. Type of weapon used**
 - D. Presence of fingerprints**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What is one method of using GPS technology for tracking?

- A. A GPS receiver that records the travels of the vehicle**
- B. A GPS receiver that connects via Bluetooth**
- C. A GPS device that only works indoors**
- D. A GPS system that requires a subscription service**

Using a GPS receiver that records the travels of a vehicle is a widely recognized method of tracking. This approach leverages a GPS device to collect data on the vehicle's location at various points during its journey, allowing for detailed tracking over time. This recorded information can be invaluable for a private investigator, as it offers insights into a subject's movements, helping to establish patterns or corroborate other data. In contrast, options that involve Bluetooth connectivity may not necessarily support continuous tracking, as Bluetooth has a limited range and typically requires a connection to another device. Similarly, a GPS device that only works indoors would not be effective for tracking vehicles outside where most travel occurs. Lastly, while a subscription service might offer benefits such as enhanced features or real-time tracking, it is not a fundamental characteristic of using GPS for tracking, making it less relevant when compared to the primary method of recording travel activities.

2. What does a voicemail probe do?

- A. Records phone conversations**
- B. Bypasses the ringer and goes directly to voicemail**
- C. Hacks into voicemail accounts**
- D. Transmits voicemail messages to emails**

A voicemail probe functions by bypassing the phone's ringer, allowing a caller to go directly to the voicemail system without the phone ringing. This can be particularly useful in investigative contexts where the intention is to leave a message discreetly or avoid alerting the individual that a call is being placed. The other options describe different functionalities that do not accurately define a voicemail probe. Recording phone conversations, hacking into voicemail accounts, or transmitting messages to emails are not essential characteristics of a voicemail probe. Such definitions are associated with other technologies or methods that focus on capturing or accessing communications rather than providing a direct path to voicemail without the ringing stage.

3. What is a legal consequence a private investigator might face for mishandling evidence?

- A. Being awarded a commendation**
- B. Potential loss of licensing and legal penalties**
- C. Receiving additional funds from clients**
- D. No consequences as long as they inform the client**

Mishandling evidence can have serious legal consequences for a private investigator. This includes potential loss of licensing, as improper handling raises questions about professionalism and adherence to legal standards. Licensing boards take evidence handling seriously, reflecting the integrity and reliability expected from investigators. In addition to losing their license, the investigator may also face legal penalties. Laws and regulations governing evidence collection and management are strict to ensure justice and protect individuals' rights. If an investigator fails to handle evidence properly, they could potentially face criminal charges depending on the jurisdiction and the nature of the mishandling. This can also lead to civil liabilities if the mishandling affects a case or causes harm to another party. Therefore, it is essential for private investigators to understand and adhere to evidence handling protocols to maintain their license and avoid any legal repercussions.

4. Can a felony conviction prevent someone from obtaining a private investigator license in Tennessee?

- A. No, it is not a consideration**
- B. Only specific types of felonies may disqualify**
- C. Yes, all felony convictions are disqualifying**
- D. Only felony convictions related to theft**

A felony conviction can influence the eligibility for obtaining a private investigator license in Tennessee, but not all felony convictions are automatically disqualifying. The state evaluates the nature of the felony and how it relates to the responsibilities and duties expected of a private investigator. Certain specific types of felonies, especially those that can be seen as directly impacting a person's ability to conduct investigations ethically and responsibly—such as those involving fraud, dishonesty, or violence—may lead to disqualification. However, there are categories of felonies that are not necessarily relevant to the role of a private investigator, where the applicant may still be considered eligible for licensing. This discernment allows for a more nuanced approach to licensing, ensuring that individuals with felony convictions that might not impair their performance or integrity as investigators can still pursue this career path.

5. Is it legal for private investigators in Tennessee to record conversations without consent?

- A. Yes, as long as one party knows**
- B. No, Tennessee is a two-party consent state**
- C. Yes, if they notify authorities**
- D. No, it is illegal to record any conversations**

In Tennessee, recording a private conversation without everyone's permission is illegal because the state requires consent from all parties to a confidential communication before any interception or recording. This all-party consent rule means a private investigator must obtain clear, informed permission from every participant in the conversation before making a recording. Without that, the recording could violate the wiretap statute and expose the investigator to criminal and civil liability. There are narrow exceptions, such as recordings with a proper court order or in circumstances where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy, but these aren't the typical route for standard investigations. So, no—recording a conversation without consent is not legal in Tennessee.

6. Which of the following is NOT a reason for revocation of a PI license?

- A. Being convicted of a felony**
- B. Committing acts of fraud or deceit**
- C. Completing the required continuing education**
- D. Making false reports**

Completing the required continuing education is not a reason for the revocation of a private investigator's license. In fact, continuing education is typically a requirement to maintain a license and demonstrate ongoing competency in the field. This ensures that private investigators are up-to-date with the latest laws, techniques, and ethical practices relevant to their profession. On the other hand, reasons such as being convicted of a felony, committing acts of fraud or deceit, and making false reports are serious violations that can undermine the trust and integrity necessary for a private investigator. Such actions reflect poorly on an investigator's ability to conduct their work ethically and legally, making them valid grounds for revocation of a license. Maintaining professional standards is critical in the field, and as such, the completion of required education reinforces compliance rather than detracts from it.

7. What is involved in the liquidation process during bankruptcy?

- A. One can keep all assets**
- B. All debts are discharged without exception**
- C. All assets, with exceptions, are disposed of, and most debts are discharged**
- D. Only government debts are discharged**

The liquidation process during bankruptcy, particularly under Chapter 7, involves the sale of the debtor's non-exempt assets to pay off creditors. This means that most assets, with specific exemptions (like necessary personal items and some equity in a home), are evaluated and sold. The proceeds from this sale are then used to pay off outstanding debts, allowing for a fresh start for the individual or business. Additionally, during this process, most remaining debts are discharged, meaning they are legally eliminated and the debtor is no longer responsible for paying them. This is advantageous for those who have fallen into significant financial trouble, as it alleviates their burden of unmanageable debts. The other choices reflect misunderstandings of the process. The first option suggests that one can keep all assets, which misrepresents the core function of liquidation; only exempt assets are retained. The second option implies that all debts are discharged without exception, which is misleading since certain debts, such as taxes and student loans, are typically not eligible for discharge. The last option incorrectly states that only government debts are discharged, which does not encompass the full scope of how liquidation works in bankruptcy.

8. How many days does an investigative company have to notify the commission about the death or termination of a private investigator?

- A. 10 days**
- B. 14 days**
- C. 20 days**
- D. 30 days**

An investigative company is required to notify the commission within 14 days about the death or termination of a private investigator. This time frame is established to ensure that the commission is promptly informed of significant changes within licensed investigative firms, thereby maintaining updated records and regulatory oversight. Timeliness in communication helps to ensure that all operational and licensure statuses are accurate, which is essential for upholding the integrity of private investigations in Tennessee. While other time frames may seem reasonable, the specific requirement of 14 days is established to balance the need for prompt reporting with the operational realities faced by investigative companies.

9. Which of the following is NOT a function of cameras for private investigators?

- A. Documenting injuries**
- B. Providing evidence of an affair**
- C. Repairing electronic devices**
- D. Documenting crime scenes**

Cameras serve a vital role in the work of private investigators, primarily used to gather visual evidence for various situations. They are instrumental in documenting injuries, providing evidence of infidelity, and recording crime scenes. Each of these uses supports an investigator's need to collect and present evidence in a clear, objective manner. In contrast, repairing electronic devices is not a function associated with cameras. This task falls outside the realm of what cameras are designed to do. Instead, cameras focus entirely on capturing images and video related to investigations. Thus, choosing this option highlights a clear understanding of the specific roles and limitations of equipment used by private investigators.

10. In blood spatter analysis, what aspects are evaluated to determine the circumstances of a crime?

- A. Size, velocity, and direction of spatter**
- B. Color and quantity of blood**
- C. Type of weapon used**
- D. Presence of fingerprints**

In blood spatter analysis, evaluating the size, velocity, and direction of spatter is crucial because these factors provide essential insights into the circumstances surrounding a crime scene. The size of the blood droplets can indicate the force with which the blood was expelled. Larger droplets typically suggest a high-velocity impact, such as a gunshot, while smaller droplets may indicate less forceful actions, like someone dripping blood. The velocity of the spatter relates directly to how the blood was dispersed, whether from a high-energy impact or a more gentle release. Additionally, the direction of the spatter can help determine the position of the victim and assailant at the time of the injury, allowing investigators to reconstruct the events that transpired during the crime. The combination of these evaluations helps forensic analysts create a more accurate picture of the incident, which is vital for case investigations. Understanding these dynamics is fundamental in criminal investigations, particularly when determining the sequence of events and the mechanics of injury. The other options, while they may have relevance in a broader criminal investigation, do not specifically address the core aspects that blood spatter analysis focuses on.

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://tennessee-privateinvestigator.examzify.com>

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

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