

Texas Private Investigator (PI) Licensing Managers 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. If a request for a stay is made, what is the manager's timeline for review?**
 - A. Immediately without prior discretion.**
 - B. Within one working day of receipt.**
 - C. At the next board meeting.**
 - D. At the manager's discretion.**

- 2. What are the requirements for contracts involving unlicensed general contractors?**
 - A. They must involve licensed subcontractors and disclose licensing status**
 - B. They can proceed without any licensed parties**
 - C. They only need a verbal agreement**
 - D. They can ignore licensing rules if disclosed**

- 3. Which of the following is a requirement for obtaining a private investigator's license in Texas?**
 - A. A minimum of two years of investigative experience**
 - B. Proof of physical fitness**
 - C. Completion of a school-specific training program**
 - D. Participation in community outreach programs**

- 4. What is considered unethical behavior for private investigators?**
 - A. Building rapport with clients**
 - B. Leaking client information to unauthorized parties**
 - C. Conducting thorough background checks**
 - D. Using technology responsibly**

- 5. Which of the following is considered a disqualifying felony for ten years?**
 - A. Assault**
 - B. Burglary**
 - C. Theft under \$50**
 - D. Indecent Exposure**

- 6. Can a PI be fired for refusing to engage in unethical practices?**
- A. Yes, but they might be protected under whistleblower laws**
 - B. No, they cannot be fired**
 - C. Only if they are not a licensed PI**
 - D. Yes, without any protection**
- 7. What is the legal relevance of consent in private investigations?**
- A. Consent may determine the legality of surveillance activities**
 - B. Consent is irrelevant in any investigation**
 - C. Consent must always be documented in writing**
 - D. Consent can be assumed if not explicitly stated**
- 8. What is one condition for a person to maintain a supervisory role in the Texas Occupational Code?**
- A. Overseeing an unlimited number of companies**
 - B. Supervision of two companies and one school**
 - C. Continuous oversight of no more than three companies**
 - D. Daily monitoring for only one company**
- 9. What is the role of the Texas Private Security Board?**
- A. To provide security for Texas government buildings**
 - B. To oversee the regulation and licensing of private security professionals**
 - C. To enforce security laws in Texas**
 - D. To train private investigators**
- 10. Why is it vital for a private investigator to have a well-drafted contract?**
- A. To ensure maximum profitability.**
 - B. To protect both the investigator and client by defining terms.**
 - C. To evade legal responsibilities.**
 - D. To mislead the client about services provided.**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. If a request for a stay is made, what is the manager's timeline for review?

- A. Immediately without prior discretion.**
- B. Within one working day of receipt.**
- C. At the next board meeting.**
- D. At the manager's discretion.**

The correct answer reflects the importance of manager discretion in reviewing a request for a stay. In many operational contexts, including private investigator licensing, the timeline for action can often depend on the specific circumstances surrounding each case. When a request for a stay is made, it is essential for the manager to assess the situation and make a decision based on the particulars involved. This discretion allows the manager to take into account factors such as the urgency of the request, any potential implications for stakeholders, and the overall operational priorities. While immediate action or a defined timeline like one working day may seem efficient, they do not allow the necessary flexibility for nuanced decision-making, which is critical in fields governed by regulations and varied individual cases. The manager's discretion ensures that each request is handled thoughtfully and appropriately, rather than rushed through without careful consideration.

2. What are the requirements for contracts involving unlicensed general contractors?

- A. They must involve licensed subcontractors and disclose licensing status**
- B. They can proceed without any licensed parties**
- C. They only need a verbal agreement**
- D. They can ignore licensing rules if disclosed**

The requirements for contracts involving unlicensed general contractors emphasize the importance of accountability and consumer protection in the construction industry. It is crucial that any such contract incorporates licensed subcontractors who are officially recognized to perform the specific tasks. By doing so, this provision ensures that the work performed meets state regulations and safety standards. Additionally, disclosing the licensing status helps establish transparency and allows all parties involved to make informed decisions regarding the potential risks and accountability associated with hiring unlicensed contractors. In contrast, contracts that proceed without any licensed parties can compromise the quality and legality of the work performed. Relying solely on a verbal agreement lacks the enforceability and documentation needed in legal contexts, leaving parties vulnerable to disputes. Ignoring licensing rules only adds to the potential for fraud and substandard work, which is why the requirement to disclose licensing status is essential for maintaining integrity within the contracting process.

3. Which of the following is a requirement for obtaining a private investigator's license in Texas?

- A. A minimum of two years of investigative experience**
- B. Proof of physical fitness**
- C. Completion of a school-specific training program**
- D. Participation in community outreach programs**

In Texas, one of the key requirements for obtaining a private investigator's license is to demonstrate a minimum of two years of investigative experience. This experience ensures that the individual possesses the necessary skills and knowledge essential for conducting effective investigations. Having a solid foundation in investigative techniques, report writing, and understanding legal principles is critical for a private investigator, as they often deal with sensitive information and situations. While other options may represent valuable skills or community responsibilities, they are not formal requirements outlined by the Texas Department of Public Safety for licensure. Specifically, proof of physical fitness and completion of a school-specific training program are not mandated for licensing. Likewise, participation in community outreach programs, while beneficial for establishing a good reputation and operational effectiveness, does not satisfy the experiential criteria required to obtain a private investigator's license in Texas. The emphasis on relevant investigative experience serves to protect the public by ensuring that licensed individuals are adequately prepared for the challenges they will face in the field.

4. What is considered unethical behavior for private investigators?

- A. Building rapport with clients**
- B. Leaking client information to unauthorized parties**
- C. Conducting thorough background checks**
- D. Using technology responsibly**

Leaking client information to unauthorized parties is recognized as unethical behavior for private investigators because it directly violates the trust that clients place in PIs. Confidentiality is a cornerstone of the private investigation profession. Clients often share sensitive information that must be protected to uphold the ethical standards and legal obligations of the profession. Unauthorized disclosure of this information can lead to significant harm to individuals and any investigations, as well as legal repercussions for the investigator, including the potential for losing their license. Other options, such as building rapport with clients, conducting thorough background checks, and using technology responsibly, are all integral aspects of a private investigator's work and contribute to effective and ethical practices. These behaviors foster trust, ensure proper investigative procedures, and maintain respect for privacy and legal standards.

5. Which of the following is considered a disqualifying felony for ten years?

- A. Assault**
- B. Burglary**
- C. Theft under \$50**
- D. Indecent Exposure**

Burglary is classified as a disqualifying felony for a duration of ten years in the context of Texas private investigator licensing. This classification is significant because it affects an individual's eligibility for obtaining a private investigator license. Burglary often involves entering a structure unlawfully with the intent to commit a crime, which is considered a serious offense that can raise concerns about the individual's trustworthiness and judgment. The other offenses listed do not carry the same disqualifying status for private investigator licensing in Texas. Assault may vary in classification but does not have a standardized ten-year disqualification specifically for licensing. Theft under \$50 is typically categorized as a misdemeanor rather than a felony, and indecent exposure, while it can be considered a serious offense, does not fall under the ten-year disqualification category pertaining specifically to private investigator licenses. Understanding these classifications helps ensure that individuals seeking licensure are vetted appropriately based on their criminal history.

6. Can a PI be fired for refusing to engage in unethical practices?

- A. Yes, but they might be protected under whistleblower laws**
- B. No, they cannot be fired**
- C. Only if they are not a licensed PI**
- D. Yes, without any protection**

A private investigator (PI) can indeed be fired for refusing to engage in unethical practices, but they may have some protection under whistleblower laws. Whistleblower laws are designed to protect employees who report unethical or illegal activities within their organizations. If a PI refuses to participate in unethical conduct and subsequently faces termination, they might be able to assert a claim under these laws, provided that their refusal is reported in good faith and pertains to violations of the law or public safety. This legal protection serves to encourage individuals to maintain integrity and report wrongdoing without fear of retaliation. The application of these laws can vary by jurisdiction, but many places, including Texas, have statutes aimed at shielding employees from repercussions when they act as whistleblowers. In contrast, the other options do not accurately capture the legal landscape surrounding workplace retaliation. It is a complex issue, and while a licensed PI also typically has professional ethics they must adhere to, their employment may still be contingent on the preferences of their employer. However, the possibility of protection under whistleblower laws provides a crucial safeguard for individuals who uphold ethical standards in their professional conduct.

7. What is the legal relevance of consent in private investigations?

- A. Consent may determine the legality of surveillance activities**
- B. Consent is irrelevant in any investigation**
- C. Consent must always be documented in writing**
- D. Consent can be assumed if not explicitly stated**

Consent plays a critical role in establishing the legality of surveillance activities conducted by private investigators. When a private investigator engages in surveillance, the legitimacy of that surveillance can hinge on whether consent has been obtained from the individuals being observed. This is important because, in many jurisdictions, including Texas, there are specific laws that protect individuals' rights to privacy. If a person has given consent, it typically means they have waived that right to some extent and the investigator's actions can be deemed lawful. Obtaining consent is especially pertinent when the investigation involves potentially invasive methods, such as audio or video recording, as these often require explicit permission to avoid legal repercussions. Moreover, failing to acquire consent can lead to serious liabilities for the investigator and their firm, including civil lawsuits and penalties. The other options present misunderstandings about the significance of consent in private investigations. Not recognizing consent's importance, dismissing the need for documentation, or assuming it can be implied without explicit discussion undermines the legal framework under which private investigators operate and could put them at risk of legal challenges.

8. What is one condition for a person to maintain a supervisory role in the Texas Occupational Code?

- A. Overseeing an unlimited number of companies**
- B. Supervision of two companies and one school**
- C. Continuous oversight of no more than three companies**
- D. Daily monitoring for only one company**

To maintain a supervisory role under the Texas Occupational Code, one important condition is that the individual must provide continuous oversight of no more than three companies. This requirement ensures that the supervisor can manage their responsibilities effectively and maintain a high level of oversight and accountability for each company they supervise. Having the ability to monitor only a limited number of companies promotes thorough and attentive supervision, which is crucial in the private investigation field, where the nature of the work often requires significant attention to detail, ethical considerations, and compliance with regulations. In contrast, overseeing an unlimited number of companies would dilute the supervisor's effectiveness, and managing more than three could lead to inadequate oversight. Similarly, supervising two companies and one school does not align with the specific stipulation of limiting to three companies, and daily monitoring for only one company does not offer a supervisory role over multiple entities, which would not reflect the broad oversight intended by the policy. Thus, continuous oversight of no more than three companies is established as the correct condition for maintaining a supervisory role.

9. What is the role of the Texas Private Security Board?

- A. To provide security for Texas government buildings
- B. To oversee the regulation and licensing of private security professionals**
- C. To enforce security laws in Texas
- D. To train private investigators

The Texas Private Security Board plays a vital role in overseeing the regulation and licensing of private security professionals within the state. This includes establishing the necessary standards and requirements for individuals who wish to work in private security, which encompasses a range of occupations such as private investigators, security guards, and alarm system installers. By managing the licensing process, the board ensures that only qualified and vetted individuals are allowed to operate in the field, thereby enhancing the overall quality of services provided and ensuring compliance with state laws. This regulatory function is crucial for maintaining public trust in private security entities and for protecting the interests of both consumers and professionals within the industry. Tasks such as providing security for government buildings or training private investigators may be carried out by various organizations or agencies, but they do not fall under the purview of the Texas Private Security Board. Similarly, while enforcing security laws is essential, it is not the board's primary responsibility; instead, it focuses on the licensing and regulatory aspects of security professionals in Texas.

10. Why is it vital for a private investigator to have a well-drafted contract?

- A. To ensure maximum profitability.
- B. To protect both the investigator and client by defining terms.**
- C. To evade legal responsibilities.
- D. To mislead the client about services provided.

A well-drafted contract is crucial for private investigators because it serves to protect both the investigator and the client by clearly defining the terms of their agreement. This document outlines the scope of services, the expectations of both parties, the payment structure, confidentiality clauses, and the duration of the engagement. By specifying these terms, the contract helps to minimize misunderstandings and disputes that could arise during or after the services are rendered. It establishes a legal framework for the relationship, ensuring that both parties are aware of their rights and obligations. This mutual protection fosters trust and professionalism, which are essential in the investigative field. In addition, a clearly defined contract can serve as an important document in the event of legal disputes, outlining how the investigator is to conduct their business and what the client can expect. This not only enhances the integrity of the private investigation profession but also contributes to better client satisfaction.

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://txpilicensingmanagers.examzify.com>

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

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