

TEXAS PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR (PI) LICENSING MANAGERS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



Prepare with structure. Pass with confidence



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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. Is it legal for a private investigator to access someone's social media account without consent?**
 - A. Yes, if it is part of an investigation
 - B. No, it is illegal and a violation of privacy
 - C. Yes, if the account is public
 - D. No, unless the investigator has a court order
- 2. What information must be provided to a client after services are subcontracted to another licensee?**
 - A. The name of the sub-contractor only
 - B. The fee amount only
 - C. The name, address, and contact information of the subcontracting company
 - D. Subcontracting does not need to be disclosed
- 3. What is the minimum age requirement to apply for a Texas PI license?**
 - A. 21 years old
 - B. 25 years old
 - C. 18 years old
 - D. 16 years old
- 4. A dishonorable discharge is disqualifying for receiving a security license for what duration?**
 - A. One year
 - B. Three years
 - C. Five years
 - D. Ten years
- 5. What type of background check is required for a Texas Private Investigator license application?**
 - A. Financial history background check
 - B. Criminal history background check
 - C. Employment history background check
 - D. Credit history background check

- 6. In Texas, which activity is prohibited for private investigators?**
- A. Gathering information from public records
 - B. Conducting background checks
 - C. Making arrests
 - D. Surveillance in public places
- 7. Under what circumstances can a private investigator in Texas conduct surveillance?**
- A. Only with a warrant
 - B. When there is legal justification and consent or public interest
 - C. Whenever they deem necessary
 - D. Only on public property
- 8. When must a complaint against a licensee be filed?**
- A. Within 1 year of the violation
 - B. Within 2 years of the violation
 - C. There is no time limit on filing
 - D. Within 30 days after the violation
- 9. What is required of a private investigator involved in criminal activity during an investigation?**
- A. Ignore the activity and continue working
 - B. Report to authorities and cooperate with the legal process
 - C. Seek legal advice before taking action
 - D. Notify the client of the situation
- 10. Is a written contract always required before a licensee performs services?**
- A. Yes, it must be provided at all times
 - B. No, only after the service is completed
 - C. No, it is optional
 - D. Only when requested by the client

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Is it legal for a private investigator to access someone's social media account without consent?

- A. Yes, if it is part of an investigation
- B. No, it is illegal and a violation of privacy**
- C. Yes, if the account is public
- D. No, unless the investigator has a court order

Accessing someone's social media account without their consent is indeed illegal and constitutes a violation of privacy. This principle is grounded in privacy laws that protect individuals from unauthorized access to their personal information, including online accounts. Social media platforms have clear policies related to user privacy that prohibit unauthorized access, and violating these policies can lead to legal consequences for individuals, including private investigators. Moreover, privacy laws generally dictate that personal information cannot be obtained without proper consent from the individual involved. This reinforces the ethical responsibility of private investigators to respect the privacy rights of others, ensuring that they operate within the boundaries of the law. Therefore, it is crucial for private investigators to acquire information through legal and ethical means, maintaining the standards of their profession.

2. What information must be provided to a client after services are subcontracted to another licensee?

- A. The name of the sub-contractor only
- B. The fee amount only
- C. The name, address, and contact information of the subcontracting company**
- D. Subcontracting does not need to be disclosed

When a private investigator subcontracts services to another licensee, it is essential to provide the client with comprehensive information about the subcontractor. This includes the name, address, and contact information of the subcontracting company. Transparency in the subcontracting process builds trust and ensures that the client is fully informed about who is handling their case. By providing all of this information, the primary investigator supports the client in maintaining open lines of communication and accountability. This also enables clients to understand who is responsible for the work being carried out and facilitates any follow-up or inquiries they may have regarding the services rendered. In contrast, simply providing the name of the subcontractor without additional details could lead to confusion and limits the client's ability to reach out directly. Disclosing just the fee amount fails to provide the necessary context regarding who will execute the tasks and how they may be reached. Stating that subcontracting does not need to be disclosed would undermine the principles of ethical practice in the industry, which requires transparency and clear communication with clients.

3. What is the minimum age requirement to apply for a Texas PI license?

- A. 21 years old
- B. 25 years old
- C. 18 years old**
- D. 16 years old

In Texas, the minimum age requirement to apply for a Private Investigator license is indeed 18 years old. This standard allows individuals who are legally considered adults to pursue a career in private investigation, thereby enabling them to take on the responsibilities and legal obligations associated with such a role. This age requirement is important because private investigators often handle sensitive information and may be involved in criminal investigations, where maturity and legal accountability are essential. Being 18 years of age ensures that applicants have reached a level of maturity viewed as necessary to engage in professional and ethical conduct in the field. Other age options presented are higher than what the law stipulates, indicating that those ages are not applicable for licensing in Texas. Thus, the choice of 18 years old correctly aligns with the established legal requirements for applicants seeking a PI license in Texas.

4. A dishonorable discharge is disqualifying for receiving a security license for what duration?

- A. One year
- B. Three years
- C. Five years**
- D. Ten years

A dishonorable discharge is a serious matter in the context of obtaining a security license, as it reflects negatively on an individual's character and reliability. In Texas, a dishonorable discharge from the military leads to a disqualification period of five years. This duration is significant because it provides a substantial time frame for the individual to demonstrate any rehabilitation or improvement in their personal and professional conduct. After five years, the individual may be eligible to apply for a security license again, assuming they meet any other requirements set forth by the licensing authority. This approach aligns with broader regulatory practices that aim to ensure the integrity of individuals in positions of trust and responsibility within security roles.

5. What type of background check is required for a Texas Private Investigator license application?

- A. Financial history background check
- B. Criminal history background check**
- C. Employment history background check
- D. Credit history background check

For a Texas Private Investigator license application, a criminal history background check is required. This type of check is crucial because it assesses an individual's prior criminal behavior that could impact their suitability for conducting investigations. The state's licensing authority wants to ensure that applicants have a clean record regarding serious offenses, which is essential for maintaining the integrity and trustworthiness of private investigators. While other types of background checks, such as financial, employment, or credit history checks, may provide valuable insights into an applicant's overall background, they do not address the immediate concern of potential criminal conduct. Therefore, the emphasis on a criminal history check aligns with the regulatory goal of ensuring that licensed private investigators meet ethical and legal standards essential for the profession.

6. In Texas, which activity is prohibited for private investigators?

- A. Gathering information from public records
- B. Conducting background checks
- C. Making arrests**
- D. Surveillance in public places

In Texas, private investigators are prohibited from making arrests as they do not have law enforcement authority. The role of a private investigator is primarily to conduct investigations and gather information for clients, typically in civil matters, without the power to enforce laws or detain individuals. While private investigators can conduct background checks, gather information from public records, and perform surveillance in public places, making arrests is reserved for certified law enforcement personnel who have received specific training and are authorized to uphold the law. This distinction is critical because it ensures that the investigative process remains separate from law enforcement activities, maintaining a clear boundary of authority and responsibility. The prohibition against arresting prevents potential misuse of power and protects the rights of individuals being investigated.

7. Under what circumstances can a private investigator in Texas conduct surveillance?

- A. Only with a warrant
- B. When there is legal justification and consent or public interest**
- C. Whenever they deem necessary
- D. Only on public property

A private investigator in Texas can conduct surveillance primarily when there is legal justification combined with consent or a valid public interest. This means that if they have obtained permission from the individual they are observing, or if the surveillance is deemed necessary for a matter of public concern (such as investigating potential criminal activity or fraud), then it is permissible. This principle ensures that private investigators operate within legal and ethical boundaries, respecting individuals' privacy rights while still fulfilling their professional duties. The requirement for legal justification helps to prevent invasive or unlawful surveillance practices that could infringe on personal privacy. The other options do not encompass the full legal framework that governs surveillance activities for private investigators in Texas. While warrants are applicable in certain investigative scenarios, they are not an absolute requirement for all types of surveillance by private investigators. Conducting surveillance solely on public property may limit the scope and effectiveness of an investigation, and acting solely on personal discretion without any legal basis undermines the ethical standards of the profession.

8. When must a complaint against a licensee be filed?

- A. Within 1 year of the violation
- B. Within 2 years of the violation**
- C. There is no time limit on filing
- D. Within 30 days after the violation

Filing a complaint against a licensee is governed by specific timeframes to ensure timely grievance resolution and uphold professional accountability. In Texas, the requirement to file a complaint within 2 years of the violation is significant for several reasons. It balances the need for complainants to gather enough evidence and document their concerns, while also ensuring that the integrity of the investigation process is maintained by addressing issues that are still relatively recent. This time limit is advantageous because it helps keep records and incidents relevant and manageable for regulatory authorities. Issues reported after an extended period could become more difficult to substantiate, leading to challenges in investigating and resolving the complaint effectively. Therefore, requiring complaints to be filed within 2 years ensures that there is a clear and structured process for monitoring the conduct of licensees, fostering a sense of responsibility among professionals in the field. Thus, the option stating that a complaint must be filed within 2 years of the violation aligns with both legal standards and best practices in licensing oversight.

9. What is required of a private investigator involved in criminal activity during an investigation?

- A. Ignore the activity and continue working
- B. Report to authorities and cooperate with the legal process**
- C. Seek legal advice before taking action
- D. Notify the client of the situation

A private investigator involved in criminal activity during an investigation is required to report to authorities and cooperate with the legal process. This obligation stems from ethical standards and legal responsibilities that govern private investigators. Engaging in criminal activity contradicts the very nature of their role, which is to gather information in a lawful and ethical manner. When a private investigator becomes aware of criminal activity, they have a duty to act in accordance with the law rather than ignore it or participate in any illegal actions. By reporting the criminal activity, the investigator not only fulfills their legal obligations but also upholds professional integrity and accountability. This action helps ensure that justice is served and can prevent further wrongdoing. Moreover, cooperating with authorities is crucial in maintaining the credibility of private investigators and the entire investigative profession. In contrast, ignoring the criminal activity can lead to complicity in that behavior, undermining the investigator's role and potentially leading to legal repercussions for both the investigator and their clients. Seeking legal advice may be prudent in some situations, but the primary responsibility remains to report such activities to the authorities. Notifying the client may not be advisable, especially if it risks obstructing an investigation or compromising evidence.

10. Is a written contract always required before a licensee performs services?

- A. Yes, it must be provided at all times
- B. No, only after the service is completed**
- C. No, it is optional
- D. Only when requested by the client

A licensee is generally not required to have a written contract before performing services, which makes the assertion that it is necessary only after the service is completed accurate. In many cases, a verbal agreement may suffice initially, although having a formal written contract is recommended for clarity and to outline the terms of the engagement. This approach allows flexibility in the operational processes of private investigators. A written contract becomes essential particularly in complex or long-term engagements or when the client specifically requests one to protect both parties involved. However, the law does not mandate that a contract be in place before any work begins, highlighting the importance of understanding the conditions under which a written agreement becomes necessary.

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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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