

TSA Forensic Science 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

- 1. What does a secondary survey in a crime scene investigation aim to accomplish?**
 - A. To interview witnesses**
 - B. To ensure all evidence has been collected**
 - C. To re-evaluate the initial hypothesis**
 - D. To create a timeline of events**
- 2. How does intent differ from an accident in forensic investigations?**
 - A. Intent involves unplanned actions, while accidents are deliberate**
 - B. Intent indicates premeditated actions, while accidents occur without intention to harm**
 - C. Accidents have no legal implications, while intent does**
 - D. Intent can be proven, while accidents cannot**
- 3. Which field focuses on the evaluation of dental evidence?**
 - A. Forensic Odontology**
 - B. Forensic Entomology**
 - C. Forensic Toxicology**
 - D. Forensic Botany**
- 4. How is glass evidence analyzed in forensic science?**
 - A. By measuring its weight**
 - B. By comparing refractive indices and fracture patterns**
 - C. By observing its color**
 - D. By conducting chemical tests**
- 5. What is the primary function of an emergency medical technician (EMT)?**
 - A. Diagnosing diseases**
 - B. Providing emergency medical care**
 - C. Conducting surgeries**
 - D. Administering anesthesia**

- 6. What is the primary purpose of a forensic kit at a crime scene?**
- A. To ensure the crime scene is secured**
 - B. To facilitate the collection and preservation of physical evidence**
 - C. To provide psychological profiling of suspects**
 - D. To document witness statements**
- 7. In forensic science, what role does the study of human remains play?**
- A. To enhance psychological evaluations**
 - B. To help resolve crimes by providing information about the deceased**
 - C. To analyze environmental conditions**
 - D. To measure crime rates**
- 8. What does the term "forensic anthropology" refer to?**
- A. The study of human skeletal remains in relation to legal matters**
 - B. The analysis of blood samples for forensic purposes**
 - C. The identification of individuals using dental records**
 - D. The examination of firearms in criminal cases**
- 9. What does the use of microscopy help forensic scientists analyze?**
- A. Crime scene logistics.**
 - B. Digital data.**
 - C. Trace evidence like hair or fibers.**
 - D. The cause of death.**
- 10. Which technique is used for matching tool marks to a specific tool?**
- A. Ballistics analysis**
 - B. Tread pattern analysis**
 - C. Tool mark analysis**
 - D. Forensic linguistics**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. What does a secondary survey in a crime scene investigation aim to accomplish?

- A. To interview witnesses
- B. To ensure all evidence has been collected**
- C. To re-evaluate the initial hypothesis
- D. To create a timeline of events

The primary focus of a secondary survey in a crime scene investigation is to ensure all evidence has been collected. During this phase, investigators conduct a thorough and systematic examination of the crime scene to identify any remaining evidence that may have been overlooked during the initial survey. This includes revisiting areas where evidence may be difficult to detect or might require special techniques for collection, such as trace evidence, latent prints, or biological materials. The secondary survey also involves a detailed examination of the scene's context and the relationships between items, ensuring that investigators document everything comprehensively. This systematic approach helps to preserve the integrity of the evidence and increases the chances of uncovering critical information that could be pivotal for solving the case. Having a complete collection of evidence is foundational for subsequent analysis and legal proceedings, making the secondary survey a crucial step in the investigative process.

2. How does intent differ from an accident in forensic investigations?

- A. Intent involves unplanned actions, while accidents are deliberate
- B. Intent indicates premeditated actions, while accidents occur without intention to harm**
- C. Accidents have no legal implications, while intent does
- D. Intent can be proven, while accidents cannot

The distinction between intent and accident in forensic investigations is critical, particularly in legal contexts. Intent is characterized by premeditated actions where an individual deliberately sets out to commit a certain act, typically with the aim of causing harm or achieving a specific outcome. In scenarios of assault, murder, or other criminal activities, demonstrating intent can significantly influence legal outcomes, as it establishes the psychological state of the perpetrator at the time of the act. In contrast, accidents refer to events that occur without any intention to cause harm. They are typically unplanned and result from unforeseen circumstances, negligence, or mishaps. The focus in these instances is on the lack of intention; hence, the legal implications surrounding accidental actions differ greatly from those associated with intent. For example, someone involved in a car crash without intention to harm may face different legal charges compared to someone who deliberately caused the crash. Understanding this distinction is paramount in forensic science, as investigators must thoroughly analyze the circumstances and evidence surrounding an incident to ascertain whether it was intentional or accidental, which ultimately influences the subsequent legal processes.

3. Which field focuses on the evaluation of dental evidence?

- A. Forensic Odontology**
- B. Forensic Entomology**
- C. Forensic Toxicology**
- D. Forensic Botany**

Forensic odontology is the specialized field that focuses on the evaluation of dental evidence. This branch of forensic science utilizes the unique characteristics of an individual's dental records, including teeth alignment, dental work patterns, and bite marks, to assist in the identification of human remains and in legal investigations. Dental evidence can be particularly crucial in cases where other forms of identification are insufficient, such as in severely decomposed or burned bodies, where the teeth may remain intact. This field plays a significant role in mass disaster scenarios, child identification cases, and even criminal investigations where bite mark evidence is pertinent. The study of dental patterns is backed by the notion that no two individuals have identical dental records, making them highly reliable for forensic purposes. The other fields mentioned, while related to forensic science, do not specifically analyze dental evidence. Forensic entomology pertains to the study of insect evidence, typically to estimate time of death, forensic toxicology focuses on the analysis of bodily fluids for poisons and drugs, and forensic botany involves the examination of plant evidence to support criminal investigations.

4. How is glass evidence analyzed in forensic science?

- A. By measuring its weight**
- B. By comparing refractive indices and fracture patterns**
- C. By observing its color**
- D. By conducting chemical tests**

The analysis of glass evidence in forensic science primarily relies on comparing refractive indices and fracture patterns. This method is effective because glass can be a crucial piece of evidence in various investigations, particularly in cases involving break-ins, accidents, or violent crimes. Refractive index refers to how much light bends when it passes through a material, and every type of glass typically has its own unique refractive index. By measuring the refractive indices of different glass samples (for example, a piece of glass found at a crime scene and known glass from a suspect's vehicle), forensic scientists can determine if they originate from the same source. This comparison is often conducted using a technique called the Beck refractometer or other optical methods. Fracture patterns provide additional context as different types of glass have distinctive breakage characteristics. Analyzing how glass fractures can help forensic experts determine whether pieces fit together, which can corroborate or dispute a suspect's involvement in a crime. While observing color and conducting chemical tests may provide some information about glass, they are not as definitive for forensic identification as the analysis of refractive index and fracture pattern. Therefore, the combination of these two analytical techniques allows forensic experts to gather robust and scientifically valid evidence regarding the glass involved in an investigation.

5. What is the primary function of an emergency medical technician (EMT)?

- A. Diagnosing diseases**
- B. Providing emergency medical care**
- C. Conducting surgeries**
- D. Administering anesthesia**

The primary function of an emergency medical technician (EMT) is providing emergency medical care. EMTs are often the first responders in emergency situations and play a critical role in assessing patients' conditions, providing initial medical treatment, and transporting patients to medical facilities. Their training equips them with the skills to manage a variety of emergencies, including trauma, cardiac events, and respiratory issues, often delivering life-saving interventions on the scene or during transport. In contrast, diagnosing diseases, conducting surgeries, and administering anesthesia fall outside the scope of EMT responsibilities. These tasks require specialized training beyond what EMTs receive and are typically performed by healthcare professionals such as doctors or anesthesiologists. EMTs focus on stabilizing patients and ensuring they receive appropriate care as quickly as possible.

6. What is the primary purpose of a forensic kit at a crime scene?

- A. To ensure the crime scene is secured**
- B. To facilitate the collection and preservation of physical evidence**
- C. To provide psychological profiling of suspects**
- D. To document witness statements**

The primary purpose of a forensic kit at a crime scene is to facilitate the collection and preservation of physical evidence. Forensic kits are specifically designed to provide the necessary tools and materials needed to gather various types of evidence, such as biological samples, fingerprints, and trace evidence. This is crucial because the proper collection and preservation of evidence is vital for ensuring that it remains uncontaminated and can be used effectively in a legal context. Physical evidence is the backbone of forensic investigations, and without the correct tools and procedures for its collection, critical information may be lost or degraded. The items in a forensic kit, including gloves, collection containers, swabs, and evidence bags, help ensure that the evidence is handled correctly from the moment it is collected to its presentation in court. While securing the crime scene, documenting witness statements, and psychological profiling of suspects are also important aspects of a criminal investigation, they do not encapsulate the primary function of a forensic kit, which is focused on the meticulous handling of physical evidence.

7. In forensic science, what role does the study of human remains play?

- A. To enhance psychological evaluations**
- B. To help resolve crimes by providing information about the deceased**
- C. To analyze environmental conditions**
- D. To measure crime rates**

The study of human remains plays a critical role in forensic science primarily by providing valuable information about the deceased, which is essential for resolving crimes. Analyzing human remains can yield crucial data such as the cause and manner of death, identification of the individual, and details related to the circumstances surrounding their demise. Forensic anthropologists and pathologists can examine skeletal remains or soft tissues to determine factors like age, sex, ancestry, and even the presence of trauma or disease. This information can help law enforcement agencies to piece together the events leading to a person's death, establish timelines, and identify potential suspects or motives. The other options do not directly relate to the core functions of forensic science concerning human remains. While psychological evaluations and crime rates might contribute to broader crime-solving efforts, they do not specifically utilize the analysis of human remains. Similarly, while understanding environmental conditions can be important in some forensic contexts, it does not focus on what the study of human remains specifically offers in the investigation of crimes.

8. What does the term "forensic anthropology" refer to?

- A. The study of human skeletal remains in relation to legal matters**
- B. The analysis of blood samples for forensic purposes**
- C. The identification of individuals using dental records**
- D. The examination of firearms in criminal cases**

The term "forensic anthropology" specifically refers to the study of human skeletal remains in relation to legal matters. Forensic anthropologists apply their knowledge of human anatomy and osteology to assist in legal investigations, primarily focusing on the recovery, analysis, and identification of skeletal remains. This field is crucial in cases involving unidentified remains, mass disasters, or suspicious deaths where determining the identity of the deceased and understanding the circumstances surrounding their death is vital. The practice involves not only identifying the age, sex, ancestry, and stature of individuals based on their skeletal features but also assessing trauma or pathology that may have relevance to legal cases. The expertise of forensic anthropologists can be instrumental in both criminal investigations and in providing evidence in court. This discipline stands apart from other forensic sciences that focus on different types of biological or physical evidence, emphasizing the importance of human skeletal analysis uniquely suited to forensic contexts.

9. What does the use of microscopy help forensic scientists analyze?

- A. Crime scene logistics.**
- B. Digital data.**
- C. Trace evidence like hair or fibers.**
- D. The cause of death.**

Microscopy is a powerful tool in forensic science that allows scientists to visualize and analyze small or trace evidence that may not be visible to the naked eye. This technique is particularly important for examining trace evidence such as hair, fibers, and other small particles collected at crime scenes. The ability to magnify and closely inspect samples enables forensic scientists to identify key characteristics that can link evidence to a suspect or victim. For instance, by examining the structure of a hair under a microscope, forensic experts can determine its origin, whether it is human or animal, and sometimes even the specific individual it came from if nuclear DNA is present. Furthermore, microscopy can reveal details such as color, texture, and even the presence of substances that can assist in identifying the type of fiber or particle. This information is crucial in building a case and can provide significant evidence during investigations and court proceedings. In contrast, while topics like crime scene logistics, digital data, and the cause of death are important in forensic investigations, they do not primarily rely on microscopy for analysis. Crime scene logistics involves the management of the scene rather than microscopic details, digital data pertains to electronic evidence not requiring physical analysis through microscopy, and determining the cause of death typically involves forensic autopsies and pathology rather than microscopic

10. Which technique is used for matching tool marks to a specific tool?

- A. Ballistics analysis**
- B. Tread pattern analysis**
- C. Tool mark analysis**
- D. Forensic linguistics**

Tool mark analysis is a forensic technique used specifically to identify and match tool marks to a particular tool. This process involves examining the unique patterns and striations left on a surface when a tool comes into contact with it. Each tool can produce distinct marks due to factors such as wear, manufacturing imperfections, and maintenance, making the analysis highly specific. In tool mark analysis, forensic experts utilize microscopic examination to compare the tool marks found at a crime scene with the marks produced by known tools. This can help determine if a specific tool was used in the commission of a crime, thus providing valuable evidence in criminal investigations. The other options pertain to different forensic disciplines. Ballistics analysis relates to firearms and ammunition, tread pattern analysis focuses on shoe or tire impressions, and forensic linguistics studies language use in legal contexts. While all are valid forensic techniques, only tool mark analysis is designed for matching marks created by tools.

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://tsaforensicscience.examzify.com>

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