

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA (UCF) JOU3015 PRINCIPLES OF JOURNALISM FINAL PRACTICE EXAM (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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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. Cynicism, in the context of journalism, is primarily based on which of the following?**
 - A. Wealth and power
 - B. Obstinance, ignorance, and arrogance
 - C. Freedom of speech
 - D. Trust and transparency
- 2. What does the NPPA Code of Ethics emphasize regarding the representation of subjects?**
 - A. Taking photos at all costs
 - B. Being accurate and comprehensive
 - C. Only photographing public figures
 - D. Using enhancement techniques for clarity
- 3. What aspect of journalism does the SPJ Code of Ethics emphasize?**
 - A. Making as much profit as possible
 - B. Seeking truth and reporting it
 - C. Building a network of influential sources
 - D. Creating engaging headlines regardless of content
- 4. What can be a consequence of online harassment that journalists like Bozarjian might face?**
 - A. Increased popularity on social media
 - B. A more secure personal information setup
 - C. Immediate job security
 - D. Access to financial support from the company
- 5. What notable incident involved Alex Bozarjian during her reporting at a Fun Run?**
 - A. She was robbed during the event
 - B. She was slapped on the backside as a form of sexual harassment
 - C. She was praised for her outstanding coverage
 - D. She interviewed a famous athlete

- 6. What is the primary obligation of journalists when editing content?**
- A. To present the truth accurately
 - B. To create engaging headlines
 - C. To appeal to audience emotions
 - D. To manipulate images for impact
- 7. When referring to the editing of photos, what should always be preserved?**
- A. Artistic interpretation
 - B. The original context and content
 - C. Public interest
 - D. Emotional resonance
- 8. What does the term "vocal" signify in the context of ethical journalism?**
- A. Expressing opinions without facts
 - B. Speaking up for the voiceless in society
 - C. Maintaining silence on controversial topics
 - D. Staying within the constraints of institutional power
- 9. What characteristic is crucial for journalists to have when plans go awry, as exemplified by Patrick Peterson?**
- A. Grit
 - B. Luck
 - C. Wealth
 - D. Connections
- 10. What was the outcome regarding the circumstances of the death discussed in relation to the 911 call?**
- A. The cause was determined to be alcohol poisoning
 - B. The cause was clarified as sepsis
 - C. The case was ruled undetermined
 - D. The investigation was reopened

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Cynicism, in the context of journalism, is primarily based on which of the following?

- A. Wealth and power
- B. Obstinance, ignorance, and arrogance**
- C. Freedom of speech
- D. Trust and transparency

Cynicism in journalism often stems from a perspective that is shaped by obstinance, ignorance, and arrogance. This attitude can manifest when journalists or audiences approach news with skepticism towards sources, motivations, or the information presented. A cynical viewpoint can lead to a belief that media is compromised or that it serves particular interests rather than the public good. It reflects a broader cultural attitude where trust in journalists and institutions is diminished, usually as a result of past experiences where information has been misrepresented or manipulated. In this context, obstacles to understanding and engaging with news can be attributed to a lack of willingness to consider multiple viewpoints or an ignorance of the complexities involved in reporting. An arrogant stance might lead some to dismiss the opinions and expertise of journalists altogether, further entrenching their cynical outlook. The other options do not fully capture the essence of cynicism. While wealth and power can influence journalism and lead to skepticism, they represent external factors rather than the internal attitudes that define cynicism itself. Freedom of speech is a foundational principle of journalism, supporting open discourse rather than cynicism. Trust and transparency, on the other hand, are qualities that counteract cynicism, fostering a healthier relationship between journalists and their audience. Thus, obstinance, ignorance

2. What does the NPPA Code of Ethics emphasize regarding the representation of subjects?

- A. Taking photos at all costs
- B. Being accurate and comprehensive**
- C. Only photographing public figures
- D. Using enhancement techniques for clarity

The NPPA Code of Ethics emphasizes the importance of being accurate and comprehensive in the representation of subjects. This principle underscores the responsibility of photographers and visual journalists to portray their subjects truthfully and with integrity. Accuracy ensures that the context is not distorted and that the subjects are represented in a manner that reflects the reality of the situation. Comprehensive representation also involves capturing the nuances and complexities of subjects, rather than oversimplifying or misinterpreting their experiences. This ethical guideline serves to build trust with the audience and fosters a journalistic standard that respects the dignity of individuals being photographed. Other options do not align with the core values outlined in the NPPA Code of Ethics. Taking photos at all costs could lead to ethical breaches, such as intruding on privacy or safety. Similarly, only photographing public figures neglects the importance of documenting a diverse range of subjects, which diminishes the richness of storytelling. Lastly, while enhancement techniques can be useful, the focus should be on ensuring that any alterations maintain the truthfulness of the representation rather than serve as a means to manipulate or mislead the audience.

3. What aspect of journalism does the SPJ Code of Ethics emphasize?

- A. Making as much profit as possible
- B. Seeking truth and reporting it**
- C. Building a network of influential sources
- D. Creating engaging headlines regardless of content

The emphasis on seeking truth and reporting it is a foundational principle outlined in the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Code of Ethics. This principle underscores the journalist's responsibility to gather, verify, and present information accurately and honestly. It reflects the commitment to serving the public interest by providing reliable, well-researched, and factual reporting that informs the audience. This approach aligns with the essential role of journalism in a democratic society, where informed citizens are crucial for responsible participation. By prioritizing truth, journalists uphold the integrity of their profession and foster trust with their audiences. This ethical imperative encourages journalists to avoid sensationalism, misrepresentation, and conflicts of interest, which can undermine their credibility and the public's trust in the news media.

4. What can be a consequence of online harassment that journalists like Bozarjian might face?

- A. Increased popularity on social media
- B. A more secure personal information setup**
- C. Immediate job security
- D. Access to financial support from the company

The consequence of online harassment for journalists often manifests as a significant risk to their overall safety and security. One plausible outcome of experiencing such harassment could involve heightened concerns for personal security, which may lead journalists to implement more robust security measures for their personal information. This can include steps like enhancing privacy settings on social media accounts, utilizing secure communication channels, and even taking physical security precautions. In contrast, the other outcomes generally represent more positive or stable aspects of a journalist's career or online presence that do not typically result from online harassment. Increased popularity on social media may occur for some, but it often comes with drawbacks, such as increased scrutiny or further harassment rather than being a direct consequence. Immediate job security is unlikely because harassment can lead to job stress, a hostile work environment, or even job loss. Lastly, access to financial support from the company is not a standard response to harassment; companies may offer support in terms of counseling or legal assistance but are often not in a position to provide direct financial assistance as a reaction to such situations.

5. What notable incident involved Alex Bozarjian during her reporting at a Fun Run?

- A. She was robbed during the event
- B. She was slapped on the backside as a form of sexual harassment**
- C. She was praised for her outstanding coverage
- D. She interviewed a famous athlete

The incident involving Alex Bozarjian at a Fun Run gained significant media attention primarily because she experienced an inappropriate act of sexual harassment when a participant slapped her on the backside while she was live on air. This moment highlights the critical issues surrounding harassment in journalism, especially during live reporting, and sparked a broader conversation about the treatment of women in the workplace. The event not only shed light on the challenges female journalists face but also prompted discussions about the need for respect and professionalism in public spaces, including sports events. Bozarjian's response to the incident further propelled the dialogue around these important societal issues, as she used her platform to advocate for change.

6. What is the primary obligation of journalists when editing content?

- A. To present the truth accurately**
- B. To create engaging headlines
- C. To appeal to audience emotions
- D. To manipulate images for impact

The primary obligation of journalists when editing content is to present the truth accurately. This responsibility is rooted in the ethical foundations of journalism, which emphasize the importance of factual reporting and the need to uphold integrity in the information presented to the public. Accuracy is vital not only for maintaining the trust of the audience but also for ensuring that the information communicated can withstand scrutiny and serve the public good. By prioritizing truthfulness, journalists help to inform democratic processes, promote accountability, and foster an informed society. While creating engaging headlines and appealing to audience emotions can be aspects of effective journalism, they should not overshadow the fundamental commitment to truth. Similarly, manipulating images for impact diverges from ethical journalism practices, as it can lead to misinformation and a distortion of reality. Hence, presenting the truth accurately is the cornerstone that guides all other journalistic efforts.

7. When referring to the editing of photos, what should always be preserved?

- A. Artistic interpretation
- B. The original context and content**
- C. Public interest
- D. Emotional resonance

Preserving the original context and content in photo editing is crucial because it ensures the integrity and truthfulness of the image being presented. Journalism places a high value on accuracy and honesty, and altering a photograph in a way that misrepresents what it depicts can mislead the audience and undermine trust. The essence of photojournalism is to document reality accurately; thus, modifying key elements of an image can distort the viewer's understanding of the event or subject being captured. In this context, artistic interpretation, while valuable in other forms of photography, may lead to subjective changes that do not align with factual representation. Public interest might reflect the motivation behind sharing a photo but does not impact the duty to maintain context and content. Emotional resonance can enhance the impact of a photograph, yet it should not come at the expense of factual accuracy. Therefore, the preservation of the original context and content is paramount in ensuring that images serve their intended purpose of truthful communication.

8. What does the term "vocal" signify in the context of ethical journalism?

- A. Expressing opinions without facts
- B. Speaking up for the voiceless in society**
- C. Maintaining silence on controversial topics
- D. Staying within the constraints of institutional power

In the context of ethical journalism, the term "vocal" signifies the role journalists play in advocating for individuals and groups who lack a platform to express their own views or experiences. This reflects a commitment to social justice and fairness in reporting, where journalists seek to amplify the voices of marginalized or disenfranchised communities. By doing so, ethical journalists contribute to a more informed public by bringing attention to issues that may otherwise go unreported, thereby fostering greater understanding and dialogue within society. This notion of being "vocal" aligns with the responsibilities of journalists to hold power accountable and ensure that diverse perspectives are represented in the media narrative. By focusing on the stories of those without a voice, journalists can influence public opinion and contribute to positive social change.

9. What characteristic is crucial for journalists to have when plans go awry, as exemplified by Patrick Peterson?

- A. Grit**
- B. Luck
- C. Wealth
- D. Connections

Grit is essential for journalists, especially when faced with unexpected challenges or setbacks, as it embodies perseverance, resilience, and a steadfast spirit in the pursuit of truth and storytelling. In the context of Patrick Peterson, having grit means that journalists are equipped to navigate difficult situations and remain committed to their task, even when things do not go as planned. This characteristic allows them to push through obstacles, adapt to changing circumstances, and continue working toward their goals despite facing adversity. Grit is what helps them maintain focus and determination, ultimately leading to successful reporting and impactful journalism, even in tough scenarios.

10. What was the outcome regarding the circumstances of the death discussed in relation to the 911 call?

- A. The cause was determined to be alcohol poisoning
- B. The cause was clarified as sepsis**
- C. The case was ruled undetermined
- D. The investigation was reopened

The correct answer highlights that the circumstances of the death were clarified as sepsis. Sepsis is a serious medical condition that arises when the body's response to an infection injures its tissues and organs. Identifying the cause of death as sepsis underscores the importance of understanding the medical factors involved in fatalities, particularly in contexts where emergency responses, such as a 911 call, are critiqued. This outcome could indicate a greater focus on medical emergencies and the significance of timely intervention in cases involving infections. Establishing sepsis as the cause helps to provide clarity in the investigation, illustrating the complexities involved in determining how and why certain medical emergencies escalate to life-threatening situations. Further, this completion of the investigative process can lead to crucial insights for health practitioners and emergency services, emphasizing the need for swift action in similar future cases.

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:

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

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