APCO POLICE COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://apcopolicecomms.examzify.com

Copyright © 2026 by Examzify - A Kaluba Technologies Inc. product.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

No part of this book may be reproduced or transferred in any form or by any means, graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, web distribution, taping, or by any information storage retrieval system, without the written permission of the author.

Notice: Examzify makes every reasonable effort to obtain accurate, complete, and timely information about this product from reliable sources.

SAMPLE

Table of Contents

Copyright 1
Table of Contents 2
Introduction 3
How to Use This Guide 4
Questions 5
Answers 8
Explanations 10
Next Steps 15

SAMPLE

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.

SAMPLE

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!

SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

1. **Public Safety agencies have what percentage chance of finding an explosive device when they are aware of terrorist activity?**

   A. 5%

   B. 50%

   C. 20%

   D. 75%

2. **What is the purpose of maintaining a running incident log during concurrent incidents?**

   A. It records only the final outcome.

   B. It is used to train new dispatchers.

   C. It should be updated only when the incident is resolved.

   D. It tracks actions, resources, and evolving priorities.

3. **What is a primary purpose of obtaining the caller's initial information during a 911 call?**

   A. To gauge the type and severity of the emergency

   B. To identify the caller's occupation

   C. To confirm the caller's address

   D. To verify the weather

4. **What is the purpose of the CAD call history and how should it be used during ongoing incidents?**

   A. It tracks events, actions, and changes over time; used for investigations and handoffs

   B. It is only used for after-action reports

   C. It should be archived immediately after the call

   D. It is optional during incidents

5. **Which code denotes a request by a police officer for vehicle registration information?**

   A. 10-20

   B. 10-28

   C. 10-4

   D. 10-29

SAMPLE

6. Which statement best describes how incident type influences response in dispatch systems?

A. Incident type informs recommended response and unit assignment.

B. Incident type is irrelevant to response.

C. Only the location matters for response.

D. All responses are pre-set regardless of type.

7. Two stars represent which rank?

A. Inspector

B. Chief of Police

C. Deputy Chief of Police

D. Superintendent

8. Which agency regulates communications standards in the United States?

A. Federal Communications Council

B. National Telecommunications Administration

C. National Bureau of Communications

D. Federal Communications Commission

9. Which action should a dispatcher take to protect sensitive CJIS data when stepping away from the workstation?

A. Log out when away from the workstation

B. Leave the workstation unlocked for quick return

C. Copy credentials to a sticky note

D. Share login information with a colleague

10. Which group holds power in a conflict view of crime?

A. The poor

B. The middle class

C. The rich

D. The criminals

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Public Safety agencies have what percentage chance of finding an explosive device when they are aware of terrorist activity?

A. 5%

B. 50%

C. 20%

D. 75%

When there is knowledge of terrorist activity, searches are intensified but not guaranteed to find every explosive device. The realistic expectation reflects that only a portion of devices will be located even with heightened attention, because many devices can be well concealed, mislabeled, or placed in areas that are difficult to search thoroughly in a timely manner. A commonly used, practical estimate for this scenario is about 20 percent, recognizing that some devices are found while many others may go undetected despite concerted effort. The higher figures imply near certainty, which isn't typically achievable in the field, and the very low figure underestimates what is possible with focused attention and resources.

2. What is the purpose of maintaining a running incident log during concurrent incidents?

A. It records only the final outcome.

B. It is used to train new dispatchers.

C. It should be updated only when the incident is resolved.

D. It tracks actions, resources, and evolving priorities.

Maintaining a running incident log during concurrent incidents keeps a real-time, shared record of what actions have been taken, which resources are deployed, and how priorities are changing as the situation evolves. This ongoing track lets dispatchers and supervisors see what's been done, what's still needed, and how decisions are shifting, which prevents duplication and ensures coordinated responses across multiple events. It isn't about final outcomes or training; updates must occur continuously as events unfold to support clear communication, proper prioritization, and effective resource management. The log also provides a valuable record for later review and accountability.

3. What is a primary purpose of obtaining the caller's initial information during a 911 call?

A. To gauge the type and severity of the emergency

B. To identify the caller's occupation

C. To confirm the caller's address

D. To verify the weather

Getting initial information on what happened and how bad it is lets the dispatcher classify the emergency quickly. That classification drives what resources are sent, how fast they go, and what safety steps are needed. If you learn it's a medical emergency with possible injuries, you prioritize EMS and can even guide CPR if needed; if it's a fire or crash, you alert the appropriate units and assess hazards. While confirming the address and other details matters for locating responders, the core purpose of the initial information is to determine the type and severity so the right help arrives promptly. Occupation isn't typically relevant to the immediate danger or response, and weather is not the primary factor in most emergencies.

SAMPLE

4. What is the purpose of the CAD call history and how should it be used during ongoing incidents?

A. It tracks events, actions, and changes over time; used for investigations and handoffs

B. It is only used for after-action reports

C. It should be archived immediately after the call

D. It is optional during incidents

CAD call history is a living timeline of what happens during a call—every event, action taken, and status change tracked with timestamps. In an ongoing incident, this record lets responders see exactly what has occurred, what is currently happening, and what is planned, which supports quick, informed decisions and coordinated action. It provides situational awareness for supervisors, helps allocate and reassign resources efficiently, and creates a clear trail for accountability and later review. This history is also essential for handoffs between units. When a unit takes over, the next responder can quickly grasp the progress, outstanding tasks, and any changes in strategy, reducing confusion and preventing duplicate efforts. The CAD history can later support investigations or debriefs, but its real value is in guiding operations as the incident unfolds. The other options miss important realities: using CAD history only after-action neglects its real-time utility; archiving it immediately would cut off access needed for current decisions; and treating it as optional ignores its critical role in safety, coordination, and accountability.

5. Which code denotes a request by a police officer for vehicle registration information?

A. 10-20

B. 10-28

C. 10-4

D. 10-29

The main idea here is that specific radio codes map to distinct information requests. The code used when an officer needs to pull up a vehicle's registration details is the one designated for vehicle registration information. This is the signal that the dispatcher or data system should query the registration database to verify details like the registered owner, vehicle make/model, and status. That same question helps distinguish other codes: a code for location tells where the officer is, a code for acknowledgment means the message was received and understood, and a code for a wanted/stolen check is used to see if the vehicle or person is wanted or reported stolen. So the code that means requesting vehicle registration information is the one used to obtain registration data.

SAMPLE

6. Which statement best describes how incident type influences response in dispatch systems?

A. Incident type informs recommended response and unit assignment.

B. Incident type is irrelevant to response.

C. Only the location matters for response.

D. All responses are pre-set regardless of type.

Incident type serves as the primary trigger in dispatch systems to determine the appropriate response and unit assignment. When the incident type is identified, the system pulls up the predefined response plan for that category, outlining exactly which units are needed and what actions should be taken. This ensures that the responders sent are matched to the situation—for example, medical incidents route EMS and may require a supervisor or ALS/BLS units; fires or hazardous situations bring in fire units or hazmat teams; security or crash scenes bring patrol or specialized teams. Using the incident type to guide both the recommended response and the unit roster helps minimize delays, standardize procedures, and improve safety and efficiency. While location and other factors matter for deployment speed and route planning, the core driver for what is dispatched and how it's handled is the incident type itself.

7. Two stars represent which rank?

A. Inspector

B. Chief of Police

C. Deputy Chief of Police

D. Superintendent

Reading rank insignia is about recognizing how symbols on shoulder or collar convey hierarchy. The number and type of devices—like stars—increase with rank. Two stars are a common marking for the rank of Inspector, placing it above lower ranks and below the higher executive ranks. The Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, and Superintendent typically use more elaborate insignia (such as additional stars, crowns, or other emblems) to indicate their senior position. So, within this standard scheme, two stars best match the Inspector rank.

8. Which agency regulates communications standards in the United States?

A. Federal Communications Council

B. National Telecommunications Administration

C. National Bureau of Communications

D. Federal Communications Commission

Regulating communications standards across radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable in the United States is handled by a federal agency that licenses services, assigns spectrum, sets technical rules, and enforces compliance. This agency is the Federal Communications Commission, known for overseeing interstate and international communications and protecting consumer interests in this sector. The other names listed aren't the agency responsible for these duties (there is no Federal Communications Council, and the National Telecommunications Administration and National Bureau of Communications do not regulate communications standards).

SAMPLE

9. Which action should a dispatcher take to protect sensitive CJIS data when stepping away from the workstation?

A. Log out when away from the workstation

B. Leave the workstation unlocked for quick return

C. Copy credentials to a sticky note

D. Share login information with a colleague

Stepping away from a CJIS workstation requires closing access to the session to prevent unauthorized use. Logging out ends your session and forces re-authentication when you return, so no one can resume where you left off or access sensitive screens or data. Leaving the workstation unlocked creates an easy path for others to view or misuse CJIS information. Copying credentials to a sticky note and sharing login details are insecure and violate authentication and auditing requirements. Logging out is the strongest action to protect data while you're away.

10. Which group holds power in a conflict view of crime?

A. The poor

B. The middle class

C. The rich

D. The criminals

In conflict theory, power comes from economic resources and control over social institutions. The wealthy—those who own and influence capital—shape laws, policing priorities, and the justice system to protect their interests. Because laws and their enforcement reflect the concerns of the powerful, crime is defined and prosecuted in ways that serve the ruling class. So, the group that holds power in this view is the rich.

SAMPLE

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://apcopolicecomms.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE