FORENSICS – CRIME SCENE PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE)

STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

VISIT US ONLINE FOR THE FULL VERSION STUDY GUIDE

https://forensicscrimescene.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. Describe the standard sequence of operations for processing a crime scene from arrival to release.

A. Safety assessment; scene isolation; documentation; evidence search; collection/packaging; transport to lab; analysis; reconstruction; final reporting.

B. Safety assessment; scene isolation; documentation; evidence search; transport to lab; collection/packaging; analysis; reconstruction; final reporting.

C. Safety assessment; scene isolation; documentation; evidence search; collection/packaging; transport to lab; analysis; reconstruction; final reporting.

D. Safety assessment; scene isolation; documentation; evidence search; collection/packaging; transportation to lab; analysis; reconstruction; final reporting.

2. Which workflow principle helps prevent cross-contamination by limiting movement through the scene?

A. One-way workflow

B. Two-way workflow

C. Circular workflow

D. Random workflow

3. What is the first action in a Walk Through at a crime scene?

A. Interviews witnesses.

B. Preliminary scene survey.

C. Final sketching.

D. Criminal profiling.

4. Which statement describes videography at a crime scene?

A. Done without verbal commentary except for factual info such as date and time

B. Video should include a running commentary detailing every action

C. Video should capture only general areas

D. Video should be edited after the fact

5. What term describes evidence that links to a single person?

A. Marker

B. Class

C. Individual

D. Locard Exchange

SAMPLE

6. What does the term forensic image refer to in digital investigations?

A. A bit-for-bit copy of a storage device created for analysis while preserving the original.

B. A text summary of the device's contents.

C. A screen capture from the device.

D. A backup created for user convenience.

7. Example: finding a suspect's gun at a crime scene is _____ evidence that the suspect was there.

A. Physical

B. Trace

C. Biological

D. Class

8. Which is a common forensic application of isotope ratio mass spectrometry?

A. Sourcing drugs or determining geographic origin of materials.

B. Dating bones beyond radiocarbon dating.

C. Sequencing DNA from hair.

D. Classifying soil color.

9. What is the difference between presumptive (screening) tests and confirmatory tests in forensic biology?

A. Confirmatory tests provide definitive identification using validated methods; presumptive tests indicate possible presence.

B. Presumptive tests indicate possible presence; confirmatory tests provide definitive identification using validated methods.

C. Presumptive tests identify the exact substance; confirmatory tests identify the sample source.

D. Both tests yield the same information; no difference.

10. Define chain of custody and explain why breaks can render evidence inadmissible.

A. The chain of custody is a log of all lab tests performed.

B. Documentation of every person who handled evidence; breaks can undermine integrity and admissibility.

C. A list of suspects in a case that handles the evidence.

D. A procedure to determine the time of death.

SAMPLE

Answers

SAMPLE

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

SAMPLE

Explanations

SAMPLE

1. Describe the standard sequence of operations for processing a crime scene from arrival to release.

A. Safety assessment; scene isolation; documentation; evidence search; collection/packaging; transport to lab; analysis; reconstruction; final reporting.

B. Safety assessment; scene isolation; documentation; evidence search; transport to lab; collection/packaging; analysis; reconstruction; final reporting.

C. Safety assessment; scene isolation; documentation; evidence search; collection/packaging; transport to lab; analysis; reconstruction; final reporting.

D. Safety assessment; scene isolation; documentation; evidence search; collection/packaging; transportation to lab; analysis; reconstruction; final reporting.

The sequence tested is about preserving evidence and maintaining a clear chain of custody as you move from arrival to releasing the scene. After arriving, you perform a safety check and isolate the scene to prevent contamination. You document the initial conditions—photos, sketches, notes—so you have a reliable record of the scene before anything is disturbed. Then you conduct an evidence search to identify items that may be evidentiary. Only after you've identified potential evidence do you collect and package it properly, using appropriate containers, seals, and labeling to keep it tamper-evident and to prevent cross-contamination. Once packaged, the evidence is transported to the laboratory for analysis. After analysis, investigators work through reconstruction and then prepare final reporting. The reason this order is correct is that packaging before transportation protects the integrity of the evidence and establishes a solid chain of custody; moving something to transport before packaging risks loss, contamination, or tampering and undermines accountability.

2. Which workflow principle helps prevent cross-contamination by limiting movement through the scene?

A. One-way workflow

B. Two-way workflow

C. Circular workflow

D. Random workflow

Limiting movement through a scene to a single, forward direction prevents contaminants from moving from dirty areas into clean areas. This unidirectional workflow directs investigators to start in the cleanest zones, don PPE, and progress toward the more contaminated areas without reversing course. By keeping a planned route and maintaining distinct zones (clean, buffer, hot) and dedicated or decontaminated equipment as you advance, the risk of cross-contamination drops and the integrity of evidence is preserved. Back-and-forth or looping movement can drag fibers, dust, or biological material into places that should remain uncontaminated, and it makes it harder to document the true locations and conditions of evidence. Other movement patterns either encourage backtracking or chaotic flow, which increases the chance of transferring contaminants and disturbing evidence.

SAMPLE

3. What is the first action in a Walk Through at a crime scene?

A. Interviews witnesses.

B. Preliminary scene survey.

C. Final sketching.

D. Criminal profiling.

The walk-through begins with a preliminary scene survey. This quick, broad look focuses on understanding the overall layout of the area, identifying boundaries, entry and exit points, lighting conditions, hazards, and the locations of major features that could hold evidence. By surveying first, investigators build a mental map of the scene and determine how evidence is likely distributed, which informs where and how to document, photograph, and later collect items. This initial survey sets up the rest of the process: once the scene is understood in broad terms, you can plan precise documentation, establish search patterns, and decide what needs to be photographed or sketched. Interviews with witnesses or suspects, final sketches, and deeper analyses come after the scene's basic layout and conditions are noted. Criminal profiling, while part of some investigations, is not a step in the walk-through itself.

4. Which statement describes videography at a crime scene?

A. Done without verbal commentary except for factual info such as date and time

B. Video should include a running commentary detailing every action

C. Video should capture only general areas

D. Video should be edited after the fact

In crime-scene videography, the goal is to create a neutral, verifiable record of what is found and seen. The footage should be filmed without narration, using only factual details like the date, time, scene identifiers, and basic descriptions of what is being documented. This keeps the video objective and free from opinions or interpretations that could bias later review or mislead anyone examining the evidence. Verbal commentary can introduce subjective views about what's happening, which might be misinterpreted or questioned in court. By sticking to objective metadata and clear visuals, the footage remains a trusted part of the evidence, able to stand up to scrutiny and be replayed by investigators, analysts, and jurors without introduced bias. The other approaches have practical drawbacks. Narrating every action can cloud judgment and imply conclusions that aren't proven. Limiting the recording to general areas can leave out critical details and items that could be important later. Editing after the fact alters the original record and can undermine chain of custody and evidentiary integrity.

5. What term describes evidence that links to a single person?

A. Marker

B. Class

C. Individual

D. Locard Exchange

Individual evidence is any evidence that can be linked to a single person or source. Its value comes from distinctive characteristics that allow a direct association with one individual—examples include a fingerprint, DNA profile, or a highly unique tool mark. These traits are rare enough that they point to a specific person rather than a group. In contrast, class evidence points to a group rather than a unique source—for instance, blood type, shoe size, or generic fiber type—so it narrows the possibilities to a category but not to a single individual. The Locard Exchange Principle describes how contact between objects results in transfer of material, which explains why evidence can move between people and places, but it's a guiding concept rather than a type of evidence that links to a person. The term marker isn't used here to describe evidence that identifies a single individual.

SAMPLE

6. What does the term forensic image refer to in digital investigations?

A. A bit-for-bit copy of a storage device created for analysis while preserving the original.

B. A text summary of the device's contents.

C. A screen capture from the device.

D. A backup created for user convenience.

A forensic image is a precise, bit-for-bit duplicate of a storage device created for analysis while preserving the original. It captures every bit, including hidden sectors, slack space, and deleted data, so nothing relevant is missed. The process uses write blockers and cryptographic hashes to prove the image is an exact copy and has not been altered. This allows investigators to analyze in a controlled environment while keeping the original evidence intact for court and for proper chain-of-custody documentation. A text summary, a screen capture, or a user-oriented backup do not provide this complete, forensically sound duplicate.

7. Example: finding a suspect's gun at a crime scene is _____ evidence that the suspect was there.

A. Physical

B. Trace

C. Biological

D. Class

This question tests how we classify evidence by what it shows about a crime scene and the people involved. Trace evidence refers to small, transferable materials that create a link between a person and a location or object through contact. When a suspect's gun is found at the scene, it can establish that there was interaction or presence at the scene—linking the person to the location through transfer or possession. That link is the hallmark of trace evidence: it points to involvement or presence rather than being merely a large, direct object or something that already narrows down to a broad group. Biological evidence would involve living material (like blood or saliva), which isn't the case here. Class evidence would only narrow things to a group (for example, a type of gun) without tying it to a specific person. Physical evidence is the actual object itself, but the way this item is framed—its role in establishing a connection to the scene—aligns with trace evidence in this context. So the best fit is trace.

8. Which is a common forensic application of isotope ratio mass spectrometry?

A. Sourcing drugs or determining geographic origin of materials.

B. Dating bones beyond radiocarbon dating.

C. Sequencing DNA from hair.

D. Classifying soil color.

Isotope ratio mass spectrometry analyzes the relative amounts of stable isotopes in a material, creating a signature that reflects where and how the material formed. Different geographic regions and production processes imprint distinct isotope patterns on substances like drugs or their inputs, due to variations in geology, climate, water, and biological factors. By comparing a sample's isotope ratios to reference signatures, investigators can infer its geographic origin or source—making sourcing drugs or determining geographic origin a common forensic use. Other options rely on methods that IRMS isn't designed for: dating bones beyond radiocarbon dating uses other dating techniques, sequencing DNA from hair requires molecular genetics, and classifying soil color is a visual or instrumental assessment not based on isotope ratios.

SAMPLE

9. What is the difference between presumptive (screening) tests and confirmatory tests in forensic biology?

A. Confirmatory tests provide definitive identification using validated methods; presumptive tests indicate possible presence.

B. Presumptive tests indicate possible presence; confirmatory tests provide definitive identification using validated methods.

C. Presumptive tests identify the exact substance; confirmatory tests identify the sample source.

D. Both tests yield the same information; no difference.

In forensic biology, screening (presumptive) tests are designed to quickly flag samples that might contain a substance. They're typically sensitive and fast, but not highly specific, so a positive result only suggests possible presence rather than a definite identification. Because of cross-reactivity and potential interferences, these tests can give false positives and are not used alone to make a final determination. Confirmatory tests, on the other hand, use validated, highly specific methods with reference standards to establish the exact identity of the substance. They provide definitive identification and are the tests relied on for official reporting. This is why a presumptive result is usually followed by a confirmatory test to confirm what is truly present. For examples, presumptive tests might include simple color changes or broad spectroscopic cues indicating a possible substance, while confirmatory tests would be techniques like GC-MS or LC-MS, which match the sample to known standards and provide a confirmed identification.

10. Define chain of custody and explain why breaks can render evidence inadmissible.

A. The chain of custody is a log of all lab tests performed.

B. Documentation of every person who handled evidence; breaks can undermine integrity and admissibility.

C. A list of suspects in a case that handles the evidence.

D. A procedure to determine the time of death.

Chain of custody is the documented, unbroken record of every person who has handled and moved evidence from collection to court. It shows where the item has been, how it was stored, and who accessed it at each step, so the item presented in court is demonstrably the same one that was collected and has not been altered or substituted. When the chain is broken—missing logs, unsealed containers, transfers not recorded—the integrity of the evidence is called into question. Without a continuous trail, there's a risk of tampering, contamination, or substitution, and the court may doubt that the evidence is genuinely what it is claimed to be. Because admissibility hinges on proving the evidence is credible and unchanged, breaks in the chain can render it inadmissible or diminish its weight in the case. For example, if a sealed evidence container is opened without proper documentation and later re-sealed, with no record of who opened it or when, the court cannot reliably confirm that the contents are the original item collected at the scene. This is why maintaining a complete chain of custody is essential.

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://forensicscrimescene.examzify.com

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

SAMPLE