MAJOR FIELD TEST (MFT) CRIMINAL JUSTICE 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.

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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!

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Questions

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1. Which system produced goods only for use by the prison or other government agencies?

A. Public-account system

B. Hawes-Cooper Act

C. State-use system

D. Pride Act

2. Which theoretical perspective studies social groups, social institutions, the arrangements of society, and social roles?

A. Deterrence theory

B. Chicago School

C. Sociological School

D. Social ecology

3. Under the Fifth Amendment, protection applies to statements made in which context?

A. Written communications

B. Non-testimonial communications

C. Physical evidence

D. Testimony

4. Appellate courts are defined as which type of courts?

A. Trial courts

B. Appellate courts

C. Municipal courts

D. Administrative tribunals

5. Which amendment guarantees freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition?

A. Amendment II

B. Amendment III

C. Amendment I

D. Amendment IV

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6. Which is an advantage of probation and parole?

A. Increased risk to the community

B. Provides sentencing options besides prison and probation

C. Lower cost

D. Increased social costs

7. What term refers to the facts that show that a crime has occurred, commonly described as the body of the crime?

A. Inchoate offense

B. Concurrence

C. McNaughten rule

D. Corpus delicti

8. Which term refers to physical characteristics used to identify a criminal?

A. Physiognomy

B. Atavism

C. Stigmata

D. Biometrics

9. Which statement correctly contrasts consecutive and concurrent sentences?

A. Consecutive sentences are served at the same time

B. Concurrent sentences are served after one another

C. Consecutive sentences are served one after another; concurrent are served at the same time

D. Both types are served in sequence with all other sentences

10. Rehabilitation aims to do what?

A. Punish the offender

B. Make the victim whole

C. Remove the offender from society

D. Reform the offender through treatment

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Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which system produced goods only for use by the prison or other government agencies?

A. Public-account system

B. Hawes-Cooper Act

C. State-use system

D. Pride Act

The state-use system focuses prison labor on producing goods that are intended for government use—supplied directly to state agencies and public institutions rather than sold on the open market. This setup makes the defining feature the destination of the products: they go to government buyers. The Hawes-Cooper Act is a related law about labeling and restricting interstate shipments of prison-made goods, not the procurement framework itself, so it doesn't describe a system designed for government-only use. The other terms aren't standard descriptions of prison-industry production aimed specifically at government clients.

2. Which theoretical perspective studies social groups, social institutions, the arrangements of society, and social roles?

A. Deterrence theory

B. Chicago School

C. Sociological School

D. Social ecology

The sociological perspective analyzes how social groups, institutions, the way society is organized, and the roles people occupy influence behavior. It treats crime and other actions as products of social structures and processes, not just individual choice. This view asks how family, education, religion, economy, and peer networks shape patterns of behavior across groups and over time, making it the best fit for the description. Deterrence theory focuses on punishment and the perceived risk of getting caught as the driver of behavior, not on social structure or roles. The Chicago School emphasizes urban environments and community factors, especially social disorganization and neighborhood processes, rather than broad social structures. Social ecology looks at how environmental and ecological factors interact with crime, again focusing more on place-based conditions than on social arrangements and roles at the societal level. So the sociological school best matches the idea of studying social groups, institutions, society's arrangements, and social roles.

3. Under the Fifth Amendment, protection applies to statements made in which context?

A. Written communications

B. Non-testimonial communications

C. Physical evidence

D. Testimony

The Fifth Amendment protects a person from being forced to provide information that would reveal guilt, and this protection attaches to statements that are testimonial in nature. Testimony involves communicating facts about what someone did or knows, typically spoken or written under circumstances that could incriminate them, such as during interrogation or at a trial. Because it is the communicative act itself—sharing information about one's involvement—that creates the risk of self-incrimination, this is the context where the privilege applies most clearly. Non-testimonial communications and physical evidence don't inherently involve making self-incriminating assertions, so they fall outside the primary protection in ordinary contexts.

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4. Appellate courts are defined as which type of courts?

A. Trial courts

B. Appellate courts

C. Municipal courts

D. Administrative tribunals

Appellate courts review decisions of lower courts for errors in applying the law. They focus on whether legal standards were correctly interpreted, procedures properly followed, and whether the trial record supports the outcome, rather than re prosecuting facts or taking new evidence. Based on that review, they may affirm, reverse, or remand the case for further proceedings. In many systems, appellate courts decide with fewer fact-finding duties, relying on the record and briefs, and their rulings establish legal precedent. By contrast, trial courts are where cases begin, where evidence is presented and facts are determined. Municipal courts handle local or minor offenses and civil matters within a municipality, and administrative tribunals issue decisions within regulatory agencies on specific issues.

5. Which amendment guarantees freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition?

A. Amendment II

B. Amendment III

C. Amendment I

D. Amendment IV

The main idea here is a foundational set of individual liberties—the right to believe and express freely, to publish ideas, to gather in groups, and to petition the government. This is secured by the First Amendment, which explicitly protects religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, and bars Congress from making laws that abridge these freedoms. It creates a broad protection for personal conscience and public discourse, allowing people to practice their faith, speak openly, publish information, gather peaceably, and seek change through government channels. Think about how these freedoms play out in real life: attending a church or temple or choosing not to follow any religion, voicing opinions or criticisms, publishing articles or posts, organizing a protest or meeting, and asking the government to address grievances—all without fear of government punishment. The other amendments—such as those addressing the right to keep and bear arms, prohibiting the quartering of soldiers in homes, or guarding against unreasonable searches and seizures—protect different rights and do not enumerate these five freedoms together, which is why they don't fit the question.

6. Which is an advantage of probation and parole?

A. Increased risk to the community

B. Provides sentencing options besides prison and probation

C. Lower cost

D. Increased social costs

Community-based supervision via probation and parole is typically cheaper than confinement behind bars, which is the main advantage. Keeping offenders in the community reduces the expensive costs of incarceration—such as housing, meals, security, medical care, and staff—while still enabling supervision, compliance checks, and access to rehabilitation services. When people on probation or parole can maintain employment, they continue contributing economically and socially, which further lowers overall costs for society. The other ideas describe potential downsides or mischaracterize the purpose of these options, so they don't represent the benefit as clearly as the cost savings do.

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7. What term refers to the facts that show that a crime has occurred, commonly described as the body of the crime?

A. Inchoate offense

B. Concurrence

C. McNaughten rule

D. Corpus delicti

The key idea here is corpus delicti—the body of the crime. It means the actual facts that prove a crime occurred, not just what someone intended or planned. Corpus delicti is about concrete evidence that the offense happened, such as a victim and injury in a murder case, or property taken or damaged in a theft case. It also serves to prevent conviction based solely on a confession of intent or an unsuccessful plan without proof that the crime occurred. Inchoate offenses describe attempts or preparations to commit a crime, which focus on intent and purpose rather than the completed act. The McNaughten rule relates to insanity and inability to know right from wrong at the time of the act. Concurrence concerns the need for a specific link between mens rea and the act. Because the question asks for the term describing the facts that show a crime has occurred, corpus delicti is the best fit.

8. Which term refers to physical characteristics used to identify a criminal?

A. Physiognomy

B. Atavism

C. Stigmata

D. Biometrics

Stigmata refers to physical marks or signs that were historically used to identify someone as a criminal. In early criminology, proponents like Lombroso argued that certain bodily characteristics—visible, observable traits—could indicate criminal propensity. That idea makes stigmata the term that directly ties physical characteristics to labeling someone as a criminal, which is why it fits the question. Physiognomy, while related, is about inferring character from facial features more generally and not specifically about signs that identify a criminal. Atavism is the notion of criminals being evolutionary throwbacks, a broader biological theory rather than a descriptor of identifiable physical signs. Biometrics is the modern use of unique physical measurements to identify individuals, not to categorize criminal propensity based on signs of crime.

9. Which statement correctly contrasts consecutive and concurrent sentences?

A. Consecutive sentences are served at the same time

B. Concurrent sentences are served after one another

C. Consecutive sentences are served one after another; concurrent are served at the same time

D. Both types are served in sequence with all other sentences

Understanding how sentences are served for multiple convictions is the key idea. Consecutive sentences are served one after another; you complete one sentence before starting the next, so the total time is the sum of all sentences. Concurrent sentences are served at the same time; the sentences overlap, so you serve the length of the longest sentence. For example, with sentences of 5, 7, and 3 years, consecutive would total 15 years, while concurrent would result in 7 years. The correct statement is that consecutive sentences are served one after another and concurrent sentences are served at the same time. The other descriptions would imply overlap for consecutive or sequential timing for concurrent, which isn't how these work.

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10. Rehabilitation aims to do what?

A. Punish the offender

B. Make the victim whole

C. Remove the offender from society

D. Reform the offender through treatment

Rehabilitation focuses on changing the offender's behavior by addressing underlying causes through treatment and support programs. By providing counseling, education, substance abuse or mental health treatment, and vocational training, offenders can learn new skills and coping strategies that reduce the likelihood of repeating crimes and help them reenter society. This approach aims for long-term change in the person rather than solely imposing punishment, removing them from society, or compensating victims, which are more aligned with deterrence, incapacitation, or restorative justice.

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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://mftcrimjustice.examzify.com

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

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