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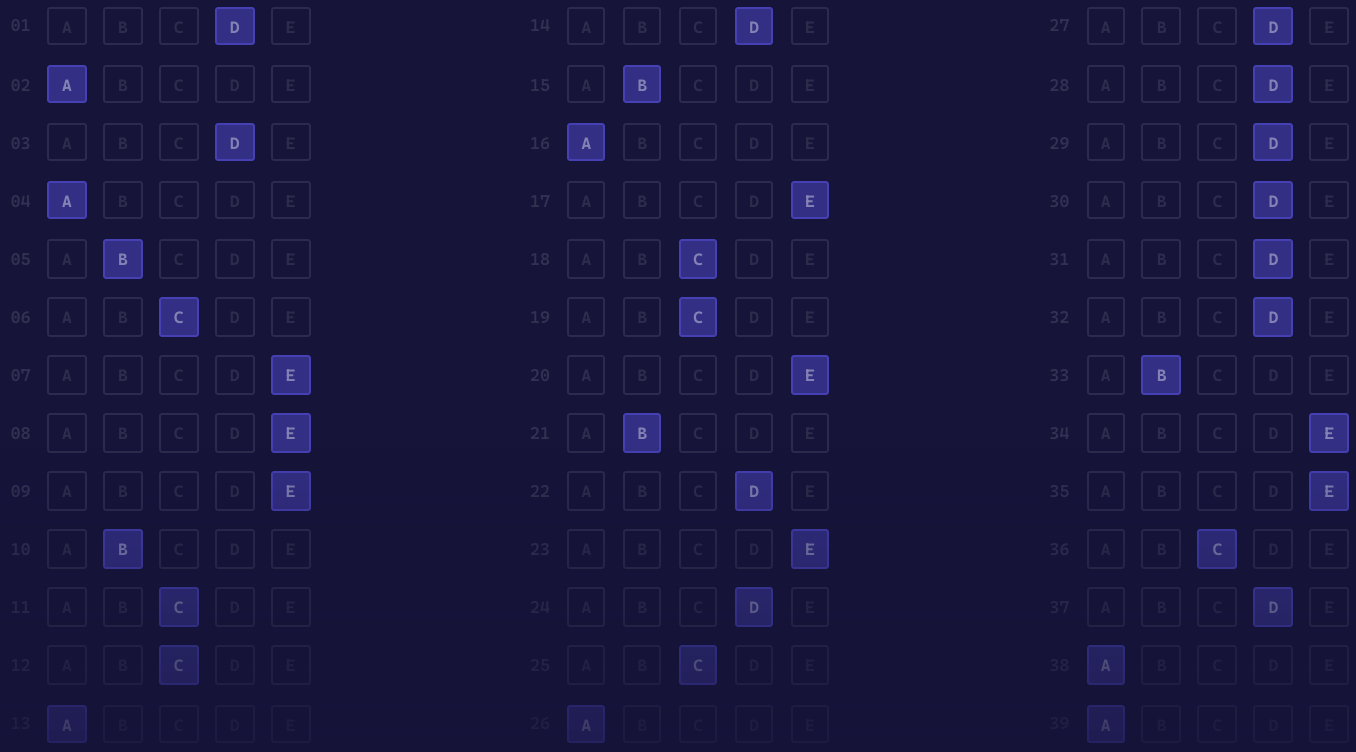

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

ALABAMA PRIVATE INVESTIGATION BOARD

SBFGKZAY

AL Private Investigator Examination

EDITION	QUESTIONS	ISSUED
Demo	9	September 4, 2026

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Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for ALABAMA PRIVATE INVESTIGATION BOARD `SBFGKZAY`, each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, `SBFGKZAY`
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

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QUESTION 1 SINGLE CHOICE

Under Alabama law, which state agency is responsible for licensing and regulating private investigators in the state?

A Alabama Department of Public Safety

B **Alabama Private Investigation Board**

C Alabama Security Regulatory Commission

D Alabama Attorney General's Office

ANSWER **B**

WHY Private investigators in Alabama are licensed and regulated by the Alabama Private Investigation Board (APIB), which is established under the Alabama Private Investigation Act (Code of Alabama § 34-25B-1 et seq.). The Board sets licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and enforces the standards governing the profession.

QUESTION 2 SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is a general eligibility requirement for obtaining a private investigator license in Alabama?

A Holding a four-year college degree in criminal justice

B **Being at least 21 years of age and a U.S. citizen or legal resident**

C Having prior employment with a federal law enforcement agency

D Owning a licensed private investigation agency at the time of application

ANSWER **B**

WHY Alabama's Private Investigation Act sets baseline eligibility requirements including minimum age (21) and U.S. citizenship or lawful presence in the country, along with good moral character and other qualifications. A specific degree or federal law enforcement background is not required for a standard private investigator license.

QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

When a private investigator in Alabama discovers information suggesting an ongoing felony during the course of an investigation, what is the appropriate professional action?

A Document the information in the case file but take no further action

B Report the information directly to law enforcement authorities

C Sell the information to a news outlet for compensation

D Continue the investigation until the client authorizes disclosure

ANSWER B

WHY Licensed private investigators are ethically and, in many circumstances, legally obligated to report credible information about ongoing felonies to law enforcement. Withholding such information to protect a client's interests is not permitted, and investigators must prioritize public safety and legal compliance over client confidentiality in these situations.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is a permissible surveillance activity for a licensed Alabama private investigator?

A Trespassing on private property to install a GPS tracking device

B Recording a conversation in which the investigator is a party without notifying the other party

C Conducting overt visual surveillance from a public place

D Seizing a suspect's mail from a private mailbox

ANSWER C

WHY Overt visual surveillance conducted from a location where the investigator has a legal right to be, such as a public place, is a lawful and standard investigative technique. Trespassing to place a GPS device, intercepting mail, and unauthorized recording of conversations violate state and federal privacy laws.

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QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

Under Alabama law, it is unlawful for a private investigator to represent themselves as which of the following?

A A licensed private investigator

B An employee of a licensed investigative agency

C A law enforcement officer or other public official

D A contract worker performing surveillance services

ANSWER C

WHY A private investigator may not falsely represent themselves as a law enforcement officer or other public official. Doing so is a violation of the Alabama Private Investigation Act and can also constitute a criminal offense under laws prohibiting impersonation of public officials.

QUESTION 6 SINGLE CHOICE

Why is maintaining a clear chain of custody important for evidence collected during a private investigation?

A It eliminates the need for investigator licensing

B It ensures the evidence can be admitted in court by proving it has not been tampered with

C It allows the investigator to sell the evidence to third parties

D It is only required when evidence will be used in federal court

ANSWER B

WHY A properly documented chain of custody establishes that evidence has been continuously controlled and protected from tampering, contamination, or substitution from the time it was collected until it is presented. This is essential for the evidence to be deemed admissible and credible in court proceedings. Chain of custody applies regardless of the court in which the evidence may be introduced.

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QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

When accepting a case, a client asks a private investigator to follow and photograph a former business partner without any legitimate civil, criminal, or insurance purpose. What is the most appropriate response?

A Accept the case and conduct the surveillance as requested

B Decline the case because it appears to constitute harassment or an invasion of privacy

C Accept the case but do not document any findings

D Accept the case and pass it to an unlicensed assistant to perform the surveillance

ANSWER B

WHY Investigators must decline work that would constitute unlawful harassment, stalking, or an unjustified invasion of privacy. Conducting surveillance without a legitimate investigative purpose exposes both the investigator and client to civil and criminal liability and violates the professional and ethical standards of the profession. Passing work to unlicensed individuals also violates licensing laws.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

Under federal law, which of the following actions is generally prohibited when conducting a telephone investigation?

A Calling a publicly listed business number during business hours

B Recording a call with one party's consent where state law permits

C Wiretapping a telephone without the consent of at least one party in a one-party-consent jurisdiction

D Leaving a callback number on an answering machine

ANSWER C

WHY Federally, the Wiretap Act (18 U.S.C. § 2511) prohibits the interception of oral, wire, or electronic communications without the consent of at least one party, subject to state law variations. Investigators must understand both federal requirements and the specific consent rule of the jurisdiction in which they are operating before recording any telephone conversation. Calling a business, leaving a message, and one-party-consent recording are generally lawful.

QUESTION 9 SINGLE CHOICE

Under Alabama Administrative Code, what is the minimum age required for an individual to be eligible to apply for a private investigator license?

A 18 years of age

B 19 years of age

C 21 years of age

D 25 years of age

ANSWER C

WHY Alabama Administrative Code r. 770-X-1-.04 sets the minimum age for licensure as a private investigator at 21 years. Applicants must also meet other requirements such as being a U.S. citizen, a resident of Alabama, and of good moral character, but the minimum age requirement is 21.

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