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## PRACTICE QUESTIONS

CA BUREAU OF SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

# HRX6UXEE

CA Private Investigator Licensing Examination

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

# Before you begin

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## What this is

9 practice questions for CA BUREAU OF SECURITY AND INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES HRX6UXEE , 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, HRX6UXEE
- the question number
- the email address on your order

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

**QUESTION 1**

SINGLE CHOICE

Under the California Business and Professions Code, which of the following best describes who is considered to be 'engaged in the business' of a private investigator?

- ☐ A Any individual who has ever performed an investigation, regardless of whether compensation was received.
- ☒ B Any person who, for any consideration, performs investigative services as part of his or her regular business activities.
- ☐ C Only persons who hold a current PI license and operate under a fictitious business name.
- ☐ D Only persons who advertise private investigator services in a telephone directory.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Business and Professions Code §7521 defines engaging in the business of a private investigator as performing investigative services for any consideration, including advertising or holding oneself out as being in that business. Option B is the correct statutory description. The other choices incorrectly narrow or broaden the definition in ways not supported by the code.

**QUESTION 2**

SINGLE CHOICE

An employee of a licensed private investigator in California performs investigative work as part of his regular job duties. What licensing requirement applies to this employee?

- ☐ A The employee must obtain his own individual private investigator license.
- ☒ B The employee must be registered with the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services.
- ☐ C No license is required because only the employer must be licensed.
- ☐ D The employee must obtain a concealed firearm permit before performing any investigative work.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Under California law, employees of a licensed PI who perform investigative services must be registered with the Bureau of Security and Investigative Services (BSIS). The employer (the PI or PI company) holds the license, but each individual performing investigative work must be registered. Option C is incorrect because registration is required, and the other options describe requirements that do not apply in this scenario.

**QUESTION 3**

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following individuals is statutorily exempt from private investigator licensing requirements?

- ☐ A A full-time insurance claims adjuster who investigates insurance fraud claims.
- ☒ B A licensed attorney conducting investigations in connection with legal services he provides.
- ☐ C A freelance journalist who gathers information for a news publication.
- ☐ D An out-of-state private investigator conducting a single surveillance job in California.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Business and Professions Code §7521.2 exempts attorneys at law from PI licensing when performing investigations incidental to the practice of law. Insurance claims adjusters are generally not exempt for fraud investigations, journalists are generally not exempt for hire, and out-of-state PIs performing work in California must comply with California licensing rules.

**QUESTION 4**

SINGLE CHOICE

A licensed California private investigator may carry a firearm in the course of his work only if he:

- ☒ A Has completed a Bureau-approved firearms training course and obtained the required firearm permit from the Bureau.
- ☐ B Possesses a valid concealed carry weapon (CCW) permit issued by any California county sheriff.
- ☐ C Is employed by a law enforcement agency on a part-time basis.
- ☐ D Has registered the firearm with the California Department of Justice.

**ANSWER A**

**WHY** California requires private investigators who carry a firearm to complete a specified Bureau-approved training course and obtain a firearms permit (formerly 'guard card' firearm endorsement / PI firearm permit) issued by BSIS. A CCW permit alone is not sufficient for a PI acting in that capacity, and the other options are not the controlling requirements.

**QUESTION 5**

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following surveillance activities is a licensed California private investigator legally permitted to perform without violating state privacy laws?

- ☒ **A** Using a telephoto lens to photograph a subject from a public sidewalk where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy.
- ☐ **B** Installing a hidden camera in a private bedroom to record activities for a domestic case.
- ☐ **C** Recording a private conversation to which the investigator is not a party without consent of any party.
- ☐ **D** Placing a GPS tracking device on a vehicle parked inside a private, locked residential garage.

**ANSWER A**

**WHY** Photography or video recording from a place where the subject has no reasonable expectation of privacy (such as a public sidewalk) is generally lawful. Hidden cameras in private areas such as bedrooms, two-party-consent audio recording violations, and GPS tracking on property where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy can each violate California law (including Penal Code provisions on privacy and wiretapping).

**QUESTION 6**

SINGLE CHOICE

When a licensed California private investigator changes his or her business or residence address, the licensee must notify the Bureau within what time period?

- ☒ **A** Within 30 days of the change.
- ☐ **B** Within 10 days of the change.
- ☐ **C** Within 90 days of the change.
- ☐ **D** Only at the time of license renewal.

**ANSWER A**

**WHY** BSIS regulations require licensees to report changes of address (business or residence) to the Bureau within 30 days. Reporting only at renewal or at 90 days does not satisfy this ongoing duty, and 10 days is not the statutory/regulatory timeframe for this category of change.

**QUESTION 7**

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following actions by a licensed private investigator would most clearly constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the Bureau?

- ☐ A Accepting an investigative case that conflicts with a current client's existing matter.
- ☒ B Failing to maintain required investigative records for the period mandated by law.
- ☐ C Refusing to disclose client confidences when asked by another PI.
- ☐ D Using a subcontracted fellow PI who also holds a current BSIS registration.

**ANSWER B**

**WHY** Failure to maintain required investigative records for the statutorily required retention period is a violation of BSIS regulations and grounds for discipline. Conflict-of-interest management, confidentiality, and using properly registered subcontractors are addressed by professional standards but are not in themselves the clear disciplinary violation described here.

**QUESTION 8**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are required for a California private investigator to lawfully carry a firearm while on duty? (Choose two.)

- ☒ A Completion of a Bureau-approved firearms training course.
- ☒ B A current BSIS-issued private investigator firearm permit.
- ☐ C A signed authorization letter from every client for whom the investigator works armed assignments.
- ☐ D A valid California Concealed Carry Weapon (CCW) permit issued by a local sheriff or chief of police.

**ANSWER A - B**

**WHY** A PI must complete a Bureau-approved training course AND obtain the BSIS-issued firearm permit before carrying a firearm on duty. A CCW permit alone is not sufficient, and a per-client authorization letter is not a substitute for the statutory training and permit requirements.

**QUESTION 9**

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which of the following are categories of persons generally required to be licensed by, or registered with, the California Bureau of Security and Investigative Services? (Choose two.)

- ☐ **A** Proprietary private security officers employed solely in-house by a single employer to protect that employer's property.
- ☒ **B** Licensed private investigators operating as sole proprietors.
- ☐ **C** Volunteer neighborhood watch coordinators who perform no paid investigative services.
- ☒ **D** Employees of a licensed private investigator who perform investigative work.

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**ANSWER B - D**

**WHY** Sole-proprietor private investigators must be licensed by BSIS, and employees performing investigative work for a licensed PI must be registered with BSIS. In-house proprietary security officers who only protect their employer's property are generally regulated differently (security guard registration), and unpaid volunteers performing no paid investigative services are not in the licensed/registered categories here.