

# Applicant Overview, Study Guide, and Sample Test for The National Police Officer Selection Test



## Supreme Court of the United States Police

Provided By



# Supreme Court of the United States Police Applicant Overview, Study Guide, and Sample Test for the National Police Officer Selection Test

---

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Preparing for the Test</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Test Format.....	4
Examination Hints .....	4
Time Limits.....	4
Marking Your Answers .....	5
<b>Taking the Test</b> .....	<b>6</b>
Before the Test Begins.....	6
Read Instructions Carefully .....	6
Test Timing .....	6
Preparing Yourself Physically for the Test.....	7
<b>Sample Test Items</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Section I. Arithmetic .....	8
Section II. Reading Comprehension.....	10
Section III. Grammar. ....	16
Section IV. Incident Report Writing. ....	18
<b>Sample Test Answer Key</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Explanation of Arithmetic and Reading Comprehension Answers.....	22

## Introduction

---

The Supreme Court of the United States Police has made this guide available in order to provide you with study materials for the written exam. This guide will give you helpful strategies for preparing for the written exam and will provide sample questions that reflect the types of questions that will appear on the written exam.



The Supreme Court of the United States Police is a federal law enforcement agency, whose primary goal is to ensure the integrity of the Constitutional Mission of the Supreme Court of the United States by protecting the Supreme Court, the Justices, employees, guests, and visitors.

The Supreme Court Police are responsible for providing a full range of police services, to include:

- Protection of the Supreme Court Building and grounds, and persons, and property therein;
- Dignitary Protection for the Supreme Court Justices, both domestically and internationally;
- Maintain suitable order and decorum within the Supreme Court Building and grounds, to include policing demonstrations and large-scale events;
- Provide Courtroom security;
- Provide residential security for the protectees of the Supreme Court of the United States;
- Prepare numerous reports to include incident, found property, accident, and arrest reports, as well as testify in court.

Check out our website for additional information: [www.scuspd.gov](http://www.scuspd.gov)

Recruitment questions, please email: [Joinscuspd@supremecourt.gov](mailto:Joinscuspd@supremecourt.gov)

## **Preparing for the Test**

---

You will increase your chances of obtaining your best possible score if you spend a fair amount of time preparing for the test. This includes finding out as much as possible about the test ahead of time, paying proper attention to your physical well-being before the test, taking care to avoid becoming overly anxious about the test, and using a good test-taking strategy. Preparation in these areas can help you achieve your best possible score on the test.

For optimal test results, read this study guide thoroughly and answer the sample test items beginning on page 8. Make sure you read all the directions carefully and each test question completely before answering.

---

### **Test Format**

The POST is made up of four separately-timed test sections. The first three, Arithmetic, Reading Comprehension, and Grammar, use multiple-choice and True/False response formats. The fourth section, Incident Report Writing, requires you to type your answers in complete sentences in the space provided.

Though most of the questions in this test battery relate to police duty, no prior knowledge of law or law enforcement will be needed to answer the questions.

---

### **Examination Hints**

Attempt to answer every question on the test. There is no penalty for guessing because your score is based on the total number of correct answers. This means you should respond to every question, even when you are not certain of the correct answer. When you are uncertain, your answer should be your best guess, and you should then move on to the next question. You will need to balance the amount of time you spend on each question with the total amount of time allotted to take the test. If you have extra time before the end of each test section, you are allowed to check your work in that section of the test only.

---

### **Time Limits**

It is important to know the amount of time allowed for each section so you can pace yourself and not spend too much time on questions causing you problems. Remember, there is no penalty for guessing. If you find you are spending too much time on a question, you should make your best guess and move on. If you finish before the time limit for that section expires, you can go back and check your answers in the section you are working on. The number of test items and time limits for each of the sections of the test are listed below.

Section	Test	Number of Items	Test Time
I	Arithmetic	20	20 minutes
II	Reading Comprehension	25	25 minutes
III	Grammar	20	15 minutes
IV	Incident Report Writing	10	15 minutes

---

## Marking Your Answers

You will be taking this test online. It is important to follow the instructions below to ensure your answers are recorded accurately.

- Make sure to click on the bubble next to the answer you are selecting.
- The first three sections of the test are in a multiple-choice format. The bubbles appear next to the test questions as shown in the example below:

1.  a.  
 b.  
 c.  
 d.  
 e.

Notice that for each number there are five bubbles labeled *a*, *b*, *c*, *d* and *e*. You will click on the bubble that corresponds to the answer you think is correct. For example, assume that for test question number 1, you feel that *b* is the correct answer. You would click on the bubble labeled *b* on your screen as shown in the example below.

1.  a.  
 b.  
 c.  
 d.  
 e.

## Taking the Test

---

This part of the POST study guide provides some common-sense advice for the day you take the test. Although these points may seem obvious, it is attention to details such as these that will increase your probability of obtaining your maximum potential score.

---

### Before the Test Begins

***This written test will be administered virtually.***

You will be given instructions regarding your username and password and the timeframe within which the test needs to be completed. **Only candidates using a desktop or laptop computer will be permitted to take the test** (using a tablet or smaller device is not allowed for test taking).

---

### Read Instructions Carefully

You will be provided with complete and detailed instructions for taking the test. Be sure that you pay close attention to these instructions. If you do not understand the directions, please contact the test administrator. It is extremely important that you completely understand the directions **before** the test begins. Once you begin section 1 of the test, respond to all questions in the section, and then move on to the next test section on your own, ensuring you read the instructions carefully before moving on to the next test section.

---

### Test Timing

Each test section will have a clock that will count down how much time you have remaining in that section and will move up and down the page with you as you scroll through the questions.

As you begin each section, make a mental note of what time it will be when the time limit for the section is up. For example, if the time limit is 15 minutes and it is currently 4:15, make a mental note that time will be up at 4:30. This will allow you to pace yourself while working through the test. Remember, your score on the test will be the total number correct. Therefore, you will want to work both quickly and accurately.

You should balance the amount of time you spend on each question. You should devote enough time to work through the question, but you should not spend too much time on any one question that is giving you difficulty. When this occurs, make your best guess and move on to the next question. If you finish before time is up, you can always go back and check the questions on which you guessed.

---

## **Preparing Yourself Physically for the Test**

- Avoid junk food and concentrate on a well-balanced diet for at least several days before the test.
- Avoid tranquilizers and stimulants, such as coffee, especially on the day of the test.
- Get a good night's sleep before the test.
- Do not drink a lot of liquids or eat a big meal before the test.
- Avoid alcohol several days prior to and especially on the day of the test.

# Sample Test Items

---

## Section I: Arithmetic

In this section of the exam you will be provided with situations that require the use of basic arithmetic. You will read each situation and solve the problem. **You are not allowed to use a calculator in this section;** you should have a piece of scratch paper handy for the test and you will be instructed to destroy that after the test.

1. Officer Johnson typically works the 9 am to 5 pm shift but Sgt Adams asked her to report for duty at 8:15 am because of a special training program. Assuming she works her entire shift, how much overtime can Officer Johnson report for that day?
  - A. 30 minutes
  - B. 45 minutes
  - C. 1 hour, 15 minutes
  - D. 1 hour, 30 minutes
  - E. 1 hour, 45 minutes

**Questions 2 and 3 are based on the following information.**

In preparing a report on a burglary at a local sporting goods store, an officer listed the following stolen items and their value.

Hunting Bow	\$1,300
Chainsaw Kit	\$1,100
Travel Tent	\$ 450
Smartwatch	\$ 375

2. What is the total value of the stolen goods?
  - A. \$2,850
  - B. \$2,925
  - C. \$3,150
  - D. \$3,225
  - E. \$3,350
  
3. What is the value of all the stolen goods EXCEPT the smartwatch?
  - A. \$2,550
  - B. \$2,850
  - C. \$2,975
  - D. \$3,000
  - E. None of the above



**Section I: Arithmetic (continued)**

4. Officer Jones rode his bike in a 3-day period for a total of 114 miles. If Officer Jones rode 47 miles on one day, how many miles did he average on each of the other days?
- A. 23.5 miles
  - B. 32 miles
  - C. 33.5 miles
  - D. 38 miles
  - E. 67 miles
5. Burglars broke into a home improvement store and stole four high-end circular saws with a total retail value of \$5,002.00. What is the average retail value of each circular saw?
- A. \$1,225.50
  - B. \$1,250.50
  - C. \$1,300.00
  - D. \$1,301.50
  - E. \$1,520.00

There are 20 questions like these in Section I of the National Police Officer Selection Test. You will have 20 minutes to answer them. Remember, your score will be based on the number of questions you answer correctly. There is no penalty for guessing, so try to answer every question.

## **Section II: Reading Comprehension**

This section measures your ability to understand what you read. You will read passages relating to police duty and then answer questions based on these passages. **No prior knowledge of law or law enforcement will be needed to answer the questions.** All the information needed to answer the questions will be provided in the passage.

THE PASSAGES IN THIS SECTION ARE NOT INTENDED TO REPRESENT ACTUAL LAW OF ANY PARTICULAR STATE. THE PASSAGES PRESENT POTENTIAL RULES AND LAWS RELATING TO POLICE WORK.

**Three different types of questions will be asked in this section.**

- (1) True/False questions in which a statement will be given concerning a passage or sample report form. The statement will be either accurate and true based on the passage or form, or the statement will be inaccurate and false according to the passage or form.
- (2) Questions in which you will be asked to choose the correct answer according to the information presented in the passage or on a sample report form.
- (3) Questions in which you will be asked to choose the alternative that best completes the sentence. Again, answers should be based on the information in the passage or on the report form.

## Section II: Reading Comprehension (continued)

The City of Treeville tabulated its accident reports for the past ten years to determine the cause of a significant rise in vehicle accidents in recent years and to identify measures to lower this disturbing trend.

It was noted that 60% of all accidents in Treeville involved a teen driver and 35% involved senior citizens (those over 67 years of age). Approximately 75% of all traffic accidents occurred between 6 am and 6 pm. Reports show that during the last ten years, 18% of all traffic accidents resulted in a death.

Inattentive driving was the primary reason listed for traffic accidents with texting on a mobile phone (40%), using a GPS navigation system (30%), and listening to music (25%) blamed as the distraction. For traffic accidents involving fatalities, 55% involved alcohol and 70% occurred between 9 pm and 3 am.

Similar studies of other cities in the state found that one, Parkville, saw a 30% drop in traffic accidents after passing an ordinance prohibiting teens 18 years old and younger from driving a motor vehicle after 9 pm. Exceptions to this ordinance are teens returning from a school function or a job, or with a parent present in the passenger seat. Treeville is considering adopting an ordinance similar to the one in Parkville in order to reduce traffic accidents.

6. According to the passage, what percentage of traffic accidents that resulted in death occurred in Treeville over the past ten years?
  - A. 60%
  - B. 45%
  - C. 35%
  - D. 18%
  - E. That information is not stated in the passage.
  
7. According to the passage, listening to music while driving was reported as a contributor to traffic accidents.
  - A. True
  - B. False

**Section II: Reading Comprehension (continued)**

8. According to the passage, which of the following statements is accurate?
- A. Traffic accidents resulting in death usually occur at night.
  - B. Most traffic accidents occur between 2 am and 5 am.
  - C. Senior citizens account for 67% of all traffic accidents.
  - D. Traffic accidents in Treeville were reduced by 30% after the city adopted an ordinance restricting teen driving.
  - E. The primary cause of accidents involving a death was texting on a mobile phone.
9. According to the passage, which of the following teens driving a car in Parkville is in violation of their city's ordinance?
- A. 17-year-old Kelly, who is driving home from a school swim meet at 9:30 pm
  - B. 16-year-old Tatum, who at 10:00 pm, is driving home from the grocery store with a parent in the front passenger seat
  - C. 18-year-old Avery, who is driving a date home at 9:30 pm
  - D. 19-year-old Riley, who is driving home from a concert at 11:00 pm
  - E. 18-year-old Blake, who is driving home at 10:00 pm after getting off work from the ice cream store
10. According to the passage, teen drivers account for what percentage of traffic accidents in Treeville?
- A. 55%
  - B. 60%
  - C. 65%
  - D. 70%
  - E. 75%

## Section II: Reading Comprehension (continued)

**Question 11 is based on the definition below. Do not assume anything to be true that is not stated in the passage or in the question.**

Police often use informants when investigating crimes and informants are motivated to help the authorities for a variety of reasons.

The **self-aggrandizing** informant is motivated by vanity to provide information, believing it will win favorable attention from authorities.

The **mercenary** informant seeks financial gain for information.

The informant motivated by **fear** typically negotiates with authorities seeking a trade-off; that is, information for less prison time or protection of self or family members from harm.

The informant motivated by **revenge or jealousy** volunteers information due to a deep need to get even.

An informant who seeks to make amends for previous misconduct or crimes by informing on partners in past crimes is known as a **repentance** informant.

11. Officer Ashcroft is investigating the death of the owner of a clothing store and has questioned many people in the surrounding area. An informant, Carey Emerson, comes forward to tell Ashcroft that he's willing to share some credible information for the right sum of money. Emerson provides the information on the death and a suspect is apprehended. Officer Ashcroft concludes that Carey Emerson is motivated by
- A. fear
  - B. revenge
  - C. repentance
  - D. vanity
  - E. financial gain

**Section II: Reading Comprehension (continued)**

**Questions 12 and 13 are based on the incident report form and the incident description below.**

INCIDENT REPORT--POLICE DEPARTMENT					
1. ADDRESS OF INCIDENT		2. OFFENSE		3. CODE	4. DATE
5. NAME OF VICTIM: INDIVIDUAL OR BUSINESS			6. ADDRESS		PHONE
7. ASSIGNED OFFICERS/BADGE NUMBERS		8. AGE OF VICTIM	9. RACE OF VICTIM	10. VICTIM'S DATE OF BIRTH	
11. NAME OF SUSPECT			12. ADDRESS		
13. AGE	14. RACE	15. SEX	16. DATE OF BIRTH	17. HEIGHT	18. WEIGHT
19. HAIR	20. EYES	21. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION			
22. CHARGES					
23. ITEM	24. BRAND	25. SERIAL NUMBER		26. VALUE	
27. ITEM	28. BRAND	29. SERIAL NUMBER		30. VALUE	
31. ITEM	32. BRAND	33. SERIAL NUMBER		34. VALUE	
35. _____ SIGNATURE OF OFFICER/BADGE NUMBER					

At 7:00 am on Friday, April 20th, Officers Kim Steele and Sam Crawford were dispatched to a potential burglary (Code 2510) at 890 Pine Avenue. Barbara Billings, owner of Billings Fine Art, reported that her gallery had been broken into some time the night before. Ms. Billings informed the officers that she could immediately tell a \$5,000 oil painting, an antique mirror costing \$3,700, and a gold watch valued at \$1,300 were missing.

**Section II: Reading Comprehension (continued)**

Use the information on the previous page to answer questions 12-13.

12. The incident report can be fully filled out based on the information in the passage.
- A. True
  - B. False
13. According to the information in the passage, what was the value of the antique mirror?
- A. \$890
  - B. \$1,300
  - C. \$2,510
  - D. \$3,700
  - E. \$5,000

There are 25 questions like these in Section II of The National Police Officer Selection Test, and you will have 25 minutes to answer them. There is no penalty for guessing. Your score will be the percentage of problems you answer correctly. Therefore, you should try to answer each problem.

### Section III: Grammar

This section of the exam requires you to identify errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling. There are two types of questions presented in this section.

The first type presents incomplete sentences, and you are to choose the alternative that best completes the sentence. For these items, be sure to read carefully any material appearing before or after the item. The right answer may be dependent on this material.

The second type of question presents sentences that may contain a spelling error and you are to choose the alternative that contains the misspelled word.

**For questions 14-16, choose the alternative that completes the sentence correctly.**

14. The department introduced \_\_\_\_ new policy aimed at teaching proper evacuation steps during an emergency evacuation.
- A. it's          B. its'          C. its
15. Community complaints about traffic congestion \_\_\_\_ nearly tripled since the last quarter.
- A. have          B. has          C. was          D. is
16. Officers Cambron and Monroe received praise for \_\_\_\_\_ bravery and public service during a recent critical incident response.
- A. there          B. their          C. they're



### Section III: Grammar (continued)

For questions 17-18, choose the alternative that contains the misspelled word.

17. Handcuffs may be used to restrain individuals in temporary custody as long as it is reasonably necessary.

*Which word in the sentence above is misspelled?*

- A. reasonably
  - B. handcuffs
  - C. restrain
  - D. temporary
  - E. None of the above
18. Officers monitoring a public gathering or crowd should contact a supervisor if it extends beyond one hour.

*Which word in the sentence above is misspelled?*

- A. supervisor
- B. public
- C. gathering
- D. beyond
- E. None of the above

There are 20 questions in Section III of The National Police Officer Selection Test. You will have 15 minutes to answer them. There is no penalty for guessing. Your score is based on the number of questions answered correctly, so try to answer each question.

## Section IV: Incident Report Writing

Section IV tests your writing skills. On the following page is a completed sample incident report form. Use the information contained on the form to answer the questions that follow. You should type your answers in the spaces provided. All your answers must contain the correct information and be written in complete sentences. The sentences must be grammatically correct and all words should be spelled correctly.

Read the sample question and answer below.

### SAMPLE QUESTION

*What is the victim's date of birth?*

### EXAMPLE OF A CORRECT ANSWER

*The victim's date of birth is August 5.*

---

Note that the answer above contains the correct information, is a complete sentence and the grammar and spelling are correct.

### EXAMPLES OF INCORRECT OR INCOMPLETE ANSWERS

*August 5*

---

The answer above is not a complete sentence.

*Victim's date of birth is August 5.*

---

The answer above is not grammatically correct. The word "the" is missing.

*The victim's date of berth is August 5.*

---

In the above answer, birth is spelled incorrectly.

**Section IV: Incident Report Writing (continued)**

**Questions 19-23 are based on the completed incident report form below. Read the report carefully before you answer the questions on the next page.**

INCIDENT REPORT--POLICE DEPARTMENT					
1. ADDRESS OF INCIDENT		2. OFFENSE		3. CODE	4. DATE
64 E. Main Street		Robbery		13R-211	Aug 8, 2025
5. NAME OF VICTIM: INDIVIDUAL OR BUSINESS			6. ADDRESS		PHONE
Taylor Parker			3071 S. Oak Lane		388-4160
7. ASSIGNED OFFICERS/BADGE NUMBERS		8. AGE OF VICTIM	9. RACE OF VICTIM	10. VICTIM'S DATE OF BIRTH	
Russ Carter #924 Ellis Kennedy #731		47	White	2/20/78	
11. NAME OF SUSPECT			12. ADDRESS		
Dillon Fox			2538 Grove Avenue		
13. AGE	14. RACE	15. SEX	16. DATE OF BIRTH	17. HEIGHT	18. WEIGHT
34	White	Male	5/19/91	5'9"	190 lbs.
19. HAIR	20. EYES	21. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION			
Blonde	Green	Wearing gray joggers, black sweatshirt			
22. CHARGES					
Robbery					
23. ITEM	24. BRAND	25. SERIAL NUMBER		26. VALUE	
Cash				\$150.00	
27. ITEM	28. BRAND	29. SERIAL NUMBER		30. VALUE	
Wedding band				\$400.00	
31. ITEM	32. BRAND	33. SERIAL NUMBER		34. VALUE	
Cell phone	Apple	A-9738X426		\$900.00	
35. <u>Russ Carter #924</u> SIGNATURE OF OFFICER/BADGE NUMBER					

**Section IV: Incident Report Writing (continued)**

***Use the information from the completed incident report form on the previous page to answer questions 19-23.***

19. Where does the victim live?

---

---

20. What is the name of the suspect?

---

---

21. With what is the suspect charged?

---

---

22. How old is the victim?

---

---

23. What is the value of the stolen wedding band?

---

---

There are 10 questions in Section IV of the test and you will have 15 minutes to work on them. To receive maximum credit, answers must contain the correct information, be complete sentences, contain no misspelled words, and be grammatically correct.

# Sample Test Answer Key

---

A more detailed explanation of the arithmetic and reading comprehension answers is provided on the following pages.

Section I	1.	B	45 minutes
	2.	D	\$3,225
	3.	B	\$2,850
	4.	C	33.50 miles
	5.	B	\$1,250.50

---

Section II	6.	D	18%
	7.	A	True
	8.	A	Traffic accidents resulting in death usually occur at night.
	9.	C	18-year-old Avery, who is driving a date home at 9:30 pm
	10.	B	60%
	11.	E	financial gain
	12.	B	False
	13.	D	\$3,700

---

Section III	14.	C	its
	15.	A	have
	16.	B	their
	17.	D	temporary– the correct spelling is <i>temporary</i>
	18.	E	None of the above

---

Section IV	19.	The victim lives at 3071 S. Oak Lane.
	20.	The suspect's name is Dillon Fox.
	21.	The suspect is charged with robbery.
	22.	The victim is 47 years old.
	23.	The value of the wedding band is \$400.

Note: The correct answers in Section IV may be written in several formats. For example, the answer to #20 can also be written as, *The name of the suspect is Dillon Fox.* As long as the answer contains accurate information, is written in a complete sentence, contains no misspellings and is grammatically correct, the response will be counted as correct.

## Explanation of Arithmetic and Reading Comprehension Answers

### Section I: Arithmetic

**Question 1: B** If Officer Johnson arrives at work at 8:15 am, she is arriving 45 minutes before her normal start time, which is the amount of overtime she can report for that day.

**Question 2: D**  $1,300 + 1,100 + 450 + 375 = 3,225$

**Question 3: B** Subtract 375 (the value of the smartwatch) from the total amount calculated in Question #2:  $3,225 - 375 = 2,850$

**Question 4: C** First, subtract 47 from 114 to determine how many miles Officer Jones drove in the remaining 2 days.  $114 - 47 = 67$ . Second, divide 67 by 2 to figure out the average number of miles the officer drove each of the 2 days.  $67 \div 2 = 33.50$ .

**Question 5: B** Divide the total retail value of the circular saws (5,002) by the number of circular saws stolen (4) to determine the average retail value of each circular saw:  $5,002 \div 4 = 1,250.50$

### Section II: Reading Comprehension

Question 6: D As stated in the passage: *Reports show that during the last ten years, 18% of all traffic accidents resulted in a death.*

Question 7: A This statement is true because the passage states: *Inattentive driving was the primary reason listed for traffic accidents with texting on a mobile phone (40%), using a GPS navigation system (30%), and **listening to music (25%) blamed as the distraction.***

**Question 8: A** is the correct answer because the passage states: *For traffic accidents involving fatalities, **55% involved alcohol and 70% occurred between 9 pm and 3 am.*** **B** is incorrect because the passage states: *Approximately 75% of all traffic accidents occurred **between 6 am and 6 pm.*** **C** is incorrect because the passage states: *It was noted that **60%** of all accidents in Treeville involved a teen driver...* **D** is incorrect because it was the town of **Parkville**, not Treeville, that reduced its accident rate by limiting teen driving hours. **E** is incorrect because, although texting on a mobile phone is mentioned in the passage as a cause of inattentive driving, alcohol was mentioned for *accidents involving fatalities* (see sentence cited for Answer A).

## Explanation of Arithmetic and Reading Comprehension Answers (continued)

### Section II: Reading Comprehension (continued)

**Question 9: C** Kelly (A) is not in violation of the ordinance because a school swim meet is a school function and therefore qualifies as an exception. Tatum (B) is not in violation because a parent is in the passenger seat. Avery (C) is in violation of the ordinance because an 18-year-old may not drive after 9 pm and none of the exceptions noted in the passage apply. Riley (D) is not in violation of the ordinance because a 19-year-old may drive after 9 pm. Blake (E) is not in violation of the ordinance because returning from a job (working at an ice cream store) qualifies as an exception to the ordinance.

**Question 10: B** As stated in the passage, *It was noted that 60% of all accidents in Treeville involved a teen driver and **35% involved senior citizens** (those over 67 years of age).*

**Question 11: E** Carey Emerson said that for the right sum of money, a form of financial gain, he was willing to share some credible information.

**Question 12: B** The incident report cannot be filled out completely because information, such as a suspect's name and description, is not provided in the passage.

**Question 13: D** As stated in the passage, *Ms. Billings informed the officers that she could immediately tell a **\$3,700 antique mirror was missing**.*