

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE WRITTEN EXAM**

There is not anything specifically designed for studying for our written exam. It is a general knowledge exam which covers the areas of spelling, vocabulary, language skills, reasoning ability, spatial reasoning, math reasoning, computing speeds, measuring drugs, and observation and memorization. There are companies who have developed study guides to help people study and prepare for the ASVAB, GED, SAT, Police Officer Exam, and Civil Service Exam, which one can purchase at bookstores or checkout from their local library. These books do not address our written exam, but they may help one become a better test taker.

The questions in the written exam are presented in a multiple-choice format including 100 questions. You will have two (2) hours to complete the written exam and should select an answer for each question. The written exam is pass/fail. In order to pass you must have 70% or higher.

## **GENERAL TIPS ON ANSWERING MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

A multiple-choice question is usually designed in one of three forms: (1) it states a question for you to answer, (2) it asks you to choose the correct answer from a list of statements, or (3) it asks you to complete an incomplete statement. For each question, several possible answer choices will be listed. You are to select the one choice that best answers the question, is most nearly correct or best completes the statement.

Your score on the multiple-choice test will be based on the total number of questions that you answer correctly. Therefore, it is to your advantage to answer every question, even if you are not sure which answer is the correct answer. However, be sure that you mark only one answer for each question; if you mark more than one answer, that question will be recorded as incorrect.

Tips on Answering Multiple-Choice Questions:

1. Read the entire question carefully and try to answer it without referring to the answer choices. This way, you may be less confused than if you read the possible answer choices first.
2. Always read all of the possible answer alternatives carefully before jumping to the conclusion that a particular one must be the best.
3. Use the process of elimination if the correct answer does not immediately occur to you. Eliminate obviously wrong answers and narrow your choice to the ones that directly answer the question. Then select the answer that is most nearly correct or best answers the question.

4. The following clues may help you select the correct answer:
  - a. Determine the best answer using only the information supplied in the question, without making unwarranted assumptions. The correct answer is the one that works best for the situation described.
  - b. If more than one choice seems to answer the question correctly, see if one of the answer choices is "all of the above". Since there can only be one right answer, if two answers seem to be equally correct then the right answer may be "all of the above".
  - c. Be sure to choose an answer that is directly related to the question being asked. Do not select an answer choice even if it is a true or correct statement by itself, unless it specifically answers the question being asked.
  - d. The correct answer is the choice that contains the most exact or most complete information in response to the question. Some answer choices may be correct or true in part, but are less exact or less complete than the "best" choice. An answer choice that is only partially correct, partially true or true only under certain conditions should be considered an incorrect choice.
5. Don't skip around. Skipping around in the test wastes time since you will have to spend time searching for the skipped questions later. A better approach is to try your best to answer each question in order.
6. Generally, first answer choices are more often correct than not. There is evidence to suggest that test-takers more frequently change right answers to wrong ones than wrong answers to right ones. Don't race through the questions. If you take time to think through each question, your initial answer will usually be the correct one. Although there are always exceptions to this rule, the best approach is to carefully answer each question the *first* time you go through the test and change only those answers that are clearly incorrect if you have time later.
7. Don't linger over questions you cannot answer. If you cannot decide on an answer choice, make your best guess and move on. However, if you must guess, try to eliminate as many clearly wrong choices as you can in order to make your guess from as few choices as possible. Elimination of additional answer choices further increases your chances of guessing the correct answer.
8. Rely on your knowledge and don't look for patterns in the letters of the answer choices (A, B, C, D, E).

The written exam includes spelling, vocabulary, language skills, reasoning ability, special reasoning, math reasoning, computing speeds, measuring drugs and questions from study material that you will be given immediately prior to the written exam. Below are examples of the types of questions that you can expect to see on the actual exam.

**Spelling** (Select the word that is spelled incorrectly.)

- a. priviledge
- b. vacuum
- c. occurrence
- d. all are correct

correct answer is (a)

- a. especially
- b. inadvertent
- c. nauseous
- d. all are correct

correct answer is (d)

**Vocabulary** (Select the word or phrase that gives the best definition.)

fervid

- a. spirited; ardent
- b. a person, idea, or object serving as protection
- c. depressed; without hope or possibility of consolation
- d. no longer productive; hence, lacking in or, worn out

correct answer is (a)

copious

- a. to give up completely
- b. plentiful
- c. incurring public disgrace
- d. gentle; polite

correct answer is (b)

**Language Skills** (Select the best response/revision to the sentence provided.)

Last night the weather forecaster announced that this is the most rainy season the area has had in the past decade.

- a. this is the most rainy season the
- b. this has been the most rainy season the
- c. this is the rainiest season the
- d. this is noted as the most rainy season the
- e. this was the most rainy season the

correct answer is (c)

Has any of the witnesses been sworn in yet?

- a. Has any of the
- b. Is any of the
- c. Will any of the
- d. Are any of the
- e. Have any of the

correct answer is (e)

**Reasoning Ability**

Four witnesses saw a man committing a crime. By the time the police arrived the man had fled the scene. Below are the descriptions of the man as given by the witnesses. Which one is most probably the correct one?

- a. blond hair, brown eyes, about 5 feet 10 inches, wearing a blue jacket
- b. blond hair, blue eyes, about 5 feet 11 inches, wearing a blue jacket
- c. blond hair, brown eyes, about 5 feet 9 inches, wearing a red jacket
- d. blond hair, brown eyes, about 5 feet 5 inches, wearing a blue jacket

correct answer is (a)

Four women were given raises from the company they worked for. Mary's raise was larger than Megan's. Hannah's raise was less than Mary's, but larger than Beth's. Which woman received the largest raise?

- a. Megan
- b. Hannah
- c. Beth
- d. Mary

correct answer is (d)

## Spatial Reasoning

You will be given a highway map and you must answer questions based on the map and information given.

## Math Reasoning

The roadway you are patrolling has a speed limit of 55 miles per hour. A car passes you at an estimated speed of 68 miles per hour. How many miles per hour above the speed limit is the car traveling?

- a. 11 miles per hour
- b. 12 miles per hour
- c. 13 miles per hour
- d. 14 miles per hour
- e. none of the above

correct answer is (c)

If a gas tank in a patrol car holds 17.5 gallons, and premium-grade gasoline costs \$1.48 per gallon, how much will it cost to fill the tank (assuming that the tank is half-empty)?

- a. \$11.10
- b. \$11.95
- c. \$12.90
- d. \$12.95
- e. \$25.90

correct answer is (d)

## Computing Speeds

The formula for computing speed is: rate of speed (R) is equal to distance (D) divided by time (T) or  $R=D/T$ .

## Measuring Drugs

A drug dealer had sacks that hold 18 pounds of cocaine, how many sacks are needed to hold 40 kilograms? (kilogram = 2.25 pounds)

- a. 8
- b. 1
- c. 20
- d. 5
- e. 45

correct answer is (d)

During a drug raid officers seized 78 marijuana plants. If the street value of marijuana is \$175 per ounce and the plants averaged one pound of processed marijuana per plant, what is the street value of the marijuana seized?

- a. \$ 13,650.00
- b. \$ 2,800.00
- c. \$ 1,248.00
- d. \$163,800.00
- e. \$218,400.00

correct answer is (e)

## Study Guide

You will be given a study guide to study for 20 minutes prior to the written exam. The study guide contains written text and photographs containing statistical information. The questions related to the study guide are designed to test your ability to read and retain information, observe people and situations, and to remember details.