

City of DeSoto Police Officer



Entry Level Examination Study Guide



OVERVIEW

One of the first steps toward becoming a Police Officer for the City of DeSoto is taking and passing a Civil Service written examination. This examination study guide was written specifically to assist you with test preparation, with understanding the different components of the written examination, as well as providing helpful hints on test taking, and lastly, to provide you with sample exam questions.

The Entrance Exam for police officers measures the basic skills necessary to perform successfully as a police officer. The test covers four areas: (1) math skills, (2) reading comprehension skills, (3) spelling and vocabulary skills, and (4) ability to understand logical sequences.

Upon arrival to take the written test, applicants will need to allot up to three (3) hours of time for the examination. Dress appropriately and comfortably; business attire is not required. You may want to dress in layers in the event the test room is too warm or too cold.

It is important to follow oral and written instructions that are given to you prior to and during the examination. Failure to follow test day instructions can be detrimental to your final score and you could be disqualified for failure to follow instructions. It is therefore, important to ask the examination administrator for assistance if you do not understand any of the instructions. It is each test taker's responsibility to manage their time.

Scratch paper will be provided, but otherwise, examinees will not be allowed to utilize items of assistance, including, but not limited to, cell phones, PDA's, calculators, dictionaries or any other aid.

EXAM TIME LIMIT

The examination is designed to provide a maximum of three (3) hours to take the exam. Wearing a wrist watch is recommended and you should check your time often during the exam. It is in the exam taker's best interest to answer all of the questions. If you do not know the answer to a question, you should consider skipping it and return to that question later. As the exam time concludes, be sure you have answered all of the questions. If you have some extra time at the end of the exam, you should review your answers and be sure to answer any questions you skipped.

It is definitely an advantage to answer all of the exam questions. If you are not sure which answer is correct, eliminate choices you feel certain are wrong. If you can narrow the number of possible correct choices, you increase your chances of answering the question correctly.

CHEATING

Cheating on exams will not be tolerated. No exceptions. Applicants will be asked to leave the room immediately or disqualified at a later date.

GENERAL POLICIES

- Photo identification is required for testing.
- Snacks or drinks are prohibited in the testing area.
- No late arrivals. The testing room is closed when the examination begins.
- Cell phones and other electronics are not allowed in the examination room.

- Test materials are to remain within the examination room.
- Books, notes and any other test aids not approved by the examination administrator shall be removed from the room.
- Appropriate testing accommodations are available for those with documentation of special needs. If special accommodations are required, contact the City of DeSoto Human Resources Department as soon as possible.
- Individuals may not be accompanied by anyone while testing.
- Exam takers are responsible for testing and timing instructions as given by the exam administrator.
- Coats, hats, purses, book bags and other personal belongings are discouraged to in the testing room.

TIPS ON TESTING ANXIETY

Try and eat healthy meals and snacks. Avoid junk food. A good night's rest the night before is essential and an appropriate meal before the exam will help with hunger pains and noisy stomachs. It also helps to familiarize yourself with the examination site location and where the parking is. Internet maps (Google, Yahoo, MapQuest, etc.) provide a great source to pinpoint the exam location.

Most importantly don't be late for the examination. Even if you are not a typical "early arrival person," strive to be early (at least one-half hour) the day of the examination. The extra downtime before the exam may help settle testing anxiety.

DAY OF THE EXAM

Arrive at least thirty minutes early on the day of the exam. Applicants who are late will be denied permission to take the exam. It is absolutely critical to bring photo identification such as a driver's license or other official picture identification. If you fail to bring official government identification, you will not be permitted to test. Comfortable, casual attire is recommended as the written exam is designed to take up to three (3) hours. The City of DeSoto will provide all necessary supplies, such as scratch paper and pencils. You are again reminded that you are not allowed to bring in any paper, books, notes, cell phones, PDA's, other any other items of assistance.

WHAT IS ON THE EXAM

The exam consists of five (5) different types of questions:

- Reading Comprehension
- Mathematics
- Logical Sequence
- Spelling
- Vocabulary

HOW THE EXAM IS SCORED

The exam is 100 multiple choice question, with four (A, B, C, or D) possible answer choices. The exam is graded on the number of correct answers. You should not leave any answers blank. Any unanswered question is automatically counted as wrong.

This examination uses a Scan Tron answer sheet. A good tip is to erase as few times as possible; however, if it is necessary to change your answer, erase carefully and completely, and then bubble in the correct response. There should only be one answer marked for each question.

PLEASE NOTE
• Use only a no. 2 pencil.
• Example: (A) ● (C) (D)
• Erase changes COMPLETELY.

As stated above, if you do not know the answer to a question, you should consider skipping it and return to that question later. As the exam time concludes, be sure you have answered all of the questions. It is better to guess at an answer than to leave it blank. If you have some extra time at the end of the exam, you should review your answers and be sure to answer any questions you skipped.

Each correct response will receive one point. The highest possible raw score is 100. Applicants must make a minimum of 70% to successfully pass the examination.

Math Skills

In the math portion of the exam, examinees are provided with situations that require the use of basic arithmetic. Examinees will be required to read a word problem, apply the appropriate arithmetic operations, and then select the correct multiple-choice answer.

Sample questions

1. Following the arrest of three drug dealers, police officers took cash from the arrested persons in the following bill amounts:

	<u>100's</u>	<u>50's</u>	<u>20's</u>
Johnson	20	2	10
Reed	50		
Thompson	10	10	50

How much cash did the officers retrieve from suspect Johnson?

- A. \$2,300
 B. \$2,500
 C. \$5,000
 D. \$9,800
2. Bail for Mr. Anderson was set at \$25,000. In order to be released, he must pay 10% of this in cash. How much must Mr. Anderson pay?
- A. \$25
 B. \$250
 C. \$2,050
 D. \$2,500
3. A car skidded 8 feet, 11 inches before coming to a complete stop. The accident report must list the distance in inches only. What distance should be entered on the report?
- A. 12
 B. 88
 C. 107
 D. 132
4. An appliance store is burglarized and 21 clock radios with a total value of \$1050 are stolen. What is the average value of the radios?
- A. \$21,575
 B. \$50.00
 C. \$105.50
 D. \$22,050

Math Skills (continued)

5. On Thursday, Officer Faber worked the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift. At 10:55 p.m. he was called to the scene of an accident where he remained until 1:30 a.m. How long past his regular shift did Officer Faber work?

_____ A. 2 hours 30 minutes
_____ B. 1 hour 10 minutes
_____ C. 2 hours 15 minutes
_____ D. 3 hours 25 minutes

6. A police officer is called to an accident scene across town from his present location. If he has to travel three miles on Navarro Road, thirteen miles on Route 66, and 14 miles on Interstate 45, assuming that he is traveling 60 mph, how long will it take to arrive at the accident scene?

_____ A. 15 minutes
_____ B. 1 hour
_____ C. 20 minutes
_____ D. 30 minutes

7. $8\frac{1}{3} - 5\frac{5}{6} = X$. Which of the following equals X?

_____ A. $2\frac{1}{2}$
_____ B. $4\frac{1}{4}$
_____ C. $4\frac{1}{6}$
_____ D. $2\frac{1}{3}$

8. $5 \times \frac{1}{2} \times \frac{5}{7} = X$. Which of the following equals X?

_____ A. $3\frac{2}{7}$
_____ B. $2\frac{1}{4}$
_____ C. $1\frac{11}{14}$
_____ D. $5\frac{3}{7}$

9. Calculate the following equation: Eight vehicles set out to drive to a destination that is 50 miles away. Only seven vehicles complete the trip and the eighth vehicle only completed 50% of the journey. What are the total miles that all eight vehicles drove?

_____ A. 375
_____ B. 225
_____ C. 900
_____ D. 450

Reading Comprehension Skills

In the reading comprehension portion of the exam, examinees will read passages relating to police duty and will 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 the exam are not intended to represent actual law. The passages present potential rules and laws relating to police work.

Sample questions

Read the sample passage below and then answer the sample questions. An example of each type of question is provided.

Questions 1-3 are based on the following passage:

Every inmate entering the jail must be considered a potential carrier of disease and contraband. In order to protect visitors, employees and inmates of the jail, a thorough search of each inmate must be conducted. This search should be performed after booking but before the person has had an opportunity to enter the cell area.

1. According to the sample passage, which of the following is the search specifically designed to protect?

 A. inmates
 B. Visitors
 C. Employees
 D. All of the above are correct.
2. According to the sample passage, who of the following is a potential carrier of disease and contraband?

 A. Inmates entering the jail
 B. Visitors
 C. Employees
 D. All of the above are correct.
3. According to the passage, a search should be conducted:

 A. Immediately after the person has entered the cell area.
 B. After an inmate enters the holding cell.
 C. After an inmate has been booked.
 D. Immediately, upon an inmate's arrival to the jail.

Reading Comprehension Skills (continued)

Questions 4-6 are based on the following passage:

Steve Lombardi, owner of Handyman Supplies at 1510 N. Nancy Bell Road, Houston, Texas called 9-1-1 at 1600 hours, Friday, July 1 to report that his store had been burglarized that evening. Officers Taylor Brown and Mike Grayson arrived at the store at 1610 hours. to investigate the incident. Officer Grayson and Officer Brown noticed a green Chevrolet Malibu driving slowly from the area as they arrived, a yellow Ford truck parked out front of the business, and a red Oldsmobile Delta 88 in the driveway across the street. Mr. Lombardi reported that four high end drills, five hammers, and \$198.64 from the cash register were missing. Mr. Lombardi found three impact wrenches, eight boxes of nails, and five tool boxes that were just inside the back door that the thieves apparently did not have time to come back and get.

4. Which of the following vehicles were the suspects positively identified to be in?

- A. Yellow Ford truck
- B. Red Oldsmobile Delta 88
- C. Green Chevrolet Malibu
- D. None of the above are correct.

5. The incident was reported to police on which of the following dates:

- A. Thursday, July 15
- B. Friday, July 1
- C. Friday, July 21
- D. Wednesday, July 11

6. How many total tools were stolen from the store?

- A. Three
- B. \$198.64
- C. Nine
- D. Sixteen

Language Skills (Vocabulary & Spelling)

In the language skills portion of the exam, examinees are required 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 the examinee must choose the alternative that best completes the sentence. The second type presents sentences that contain a spelling error and the examinee must choose the alternative that contains the misspelled word.

Sample questions

1. In the past year, the police department handled thousands of calls for service. During that time, Officer Ryan _____ over 1,800.

____ A. received
____ B. recieved
____ C. receved
____ D. recievd
2. During an 8 hour shift, Dispatcher Jones's stats indicated that she made five personal phone _____.

____ A. call's
____ B. calls
____ C. calls'
____ D. None of the above are correct.
3. All police officers really must have high regard for their own personal appearance because police officers are public figures and are being observed by a perponderance of people on their beat. Which word in the above sentence is misspelled?

____ A. perponderance
____ B. observed
____ C. because
____ D. appearance
4. Officer Mike Berman and his partner Officer Steve Bush searched the suspect and found eight _____ in the suspect's back pocket.

____ A. knives
____ B. knives
____ C. knife
____ D. knife's
5. During _____ time on the road, police patrol unit #20984 was an excellent running vehicle and in fact, lasted for over 113,498 miles.

____ A. its
____ B. it's
____ C. it'es
____ D. it

Logical Sequence (Logical Reasoning) Skills

In the logical sequence skills portion of the exam, examinees will be provided with different series of letters, words, symbols, events, etc. This section tests examinee's ability to think logically and analytically. Examinees are required to assemble the data in a logical or meaningful order.

Sample questions

1. Arrange the following words in a meaningful order:

1. Death 2. Marriage 3. Education 4. Birth 5 Funeral

- A. 5,1,2,3,4
- B. 4,2,3,1,5
- C. 4,3,2,5,1
- D. 4,3,2,1,5

2. Arrange the following words in a meaningful order:

1. House 2. Street 3. Room 4. County 5. City

- A. 3,2,1,4,5
- B. 3,1,4,2,5
- C. 3,1,2,4,5
- D. 3,1,2,5,4

3. What number should come next?

42, 40, 36, 30, 22, _

- A. 8
- B. 16
- C. 10
- D. 12

4. What is the missing letter in this series?

Q P ___ N M

- A. Q
- B. O
- C. R
- D. S

Entrance Exam Study Guide Answer Key

Math Skills

- #1 A
- #2 D
- #3 C
- #4 B
- #5 A
- #6 D
- #7 A
- #8 C
- #9 A

Reading Comprehension Skills

- #1 D
- #2 A
- #3 C
- #4 D
- #5 B
- #6 C

Language Skills

- #1 A
- #2 B
- #3 A
- #4 B
- #5 A

Logical Sequence (Logical Reasoning) Skills

- #1 D (First of all a person is born (birth), then takes an education, after is married, then dies (death), and then a funeral.)
- #2 D (Someone lives in a room, in a house, on a street, in a city, in a county)
- #3 D ($42-2=40$; $40-4=36$, $36-6=30$, $30-8=22$, $22-10=12$)
- #4 B (Reverse order of alphabet. M-N-O-P-Q in reverse)