

National Police Officer Selection Test (POST)

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

The National Police Officer Selection Test will test four primary cognitive skills critical to successfully learning and performing of the police officer's job. This test, along with other factors, such as your application form, an oral interview, complete background investigation, and a medical evaluation, will assist us in assessing your ability to successfully perform the work required for this position.

All materials (pencils and scratch paper included) will be provided to you when you report for the examination. No calculators are permitted within the test room.

The components of the National Police Officer Selection Test (POST) are:

- 1. Arithmetic:** This section of the exam tests a candidate's ability to perform simple arithmetic, such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. This section presents scenarios related to law enforcement, but does not require previous law enforcement experience to answer. **(Time: 20 minutes)**

Example: An appliance store is burglarized and 21 Compact Disc Players with a total value of \$1,050 are stolen. What is the average value of the Compact Disc Players?

- a. \$10.50
- b. \$50.00
- c. \$55.00
- d. \$105.50
- e. \$22,050

The correct answer is **b**.

Example: If a gas tank in a police 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. \$12.95
- d. \$25.90
- e. \$12.90

The correct answer is **c**.

2. **Reading Comprehension:** This section of the exam tests a candidate's ability to understand written words, as well as the ideas and concepts associated with them. Information is presented in a law enforcement context without requiring previous knowledge of law enforcement to answer questions. **(Time: 25 minutes)**

Example: Although the detectives do not have a suspect, evidence from the crime scene suggests several possibilities. The direct route of the burglar indicates that the perpetrator most likely knew the inside of the home fairly well. He passed up the camera and VCR in the living room and the Gucci tennis bracelet and silver jewelry lying on the dresser in the bedroom. No steps were wasted.

The fact that the burglar was able to deactivate the elaborate alarm system suggests that the burglar may be a career criminal. The fact that the burglar took only the real emeralds and left the "paste" seems to indicate that he or she is a gemstone expert. The Cedar Insurance Company (CIC) insured the emeralds for \$100,000.00. They were taken from the safe that is hidden behind a picture in the bathroom.

The emeralds were insured by the Cedar Insurance Company for which amount?

- a. \$100,000
- b. \$50,000
- c. \$10,000
- d. \$5,000
- e. \$1,000

The correct answer is **a**.

Example: Over 100,000 Germans migrated to the English colonies in North America. Most of them settled in Pennsylvania. Others settled in New York, Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia. They formed the largest non-English-speaking community in colonial North America.

During the 1600's and 1700's, wars ravaged Germany. Marching armies trampled down fields of grain, stole cattle, and burned down farmsteads. In their wake, famines spread over the land. Taxes, levied to pay for the war, added to the people's plight.

Religious disputes also drove people to leave their homes. In Europe, the rulers chose what church they wanted in their lands. Many pious Germans of strong convictions found this hard to bear. North America, especially Pennsylvania, offered them religious freedom.

During the Colonial Period, which language was the second most used language by Colonists?

- a. English
- b. Russian
- c. German
- d. Spanish

The correct answer is **c**.

3. **Grammar:** This section of the exam tests a candidate's ability to spell and use grammar and punctuation correctly. This section requires candidates to correctly complete sentences and identify misspelled words. **(Time: 15 minutes)**

Example: The clerk at the store confirmed Tuesday that John Exit resides at 1111 Cedar Lane, One Town, Maryland.

Which word in the sentence above is misspelled?

- a. store
- b. confirmed
- c. Tuesday
- d. Resides
- e. All of the above.

The correct answer is c. (Tuesday). The correct spelling is **Tuesday**.

Example: The warden went to the crime scene to _____ how the crime was committed.

- a. sea for herself
- b. sea four herself
- c. see for herself
- d. see for herselfe
- e. see fore herselfe

The correct answer is c.

4. **Report Writing:** This section of the exam tests a candidate's ability to produce complete sentences with correct spelling, grammar and punctuation. The section requires writing answers based on an incident report form. Answers to the questions should be written in complete sentences with correct grammar and spelling. **(Time: 15 minutes)**

Incident Report Form			
1. Address of Incident <i>11 E. Grenville</i>	2. Offense <i>Armed Robbery</i>	3. Code <i>AF-100</i>	5. Date <i>Oct 17, 2001</i>
5. Name of Victim <i>Jose Cortes</i>	6. Address <i>15 W. Grenville</i>	Phone <i>781-2301</i>	
7. ASSIGNED OFFICERS/BADGE NUMBERS <i>Doee John #1234</i>	8. AGE OF VICTIM <i>25</i>	9. RACE OF VICTIM <i>African American</i>	10. VICTIM'S DATE OF BIRTH <i>2/18/76</i>
11. Name of Suspect <i>Unknown</i>	12. Address <i>Unknown</i>		

13. Age <i>19</i>	14. Race <i>White</i>	15. Sex <i>Male</i>	16. Date of Birth <i>unknown</i>	17. Height <i>5'5"</i>	18. Weight <i>145</i>
19. Hair <i>Brown</i>	20. Eyes <i>Brown</i>	21. Physical Description <i>Wearing blue pants, red shirt</i>			
22. Charges <i>Robbery</i>					
23. Item <i>Cash</i>	24. Brand	25. Serial Number		26. Value <i>\$125.00</i>	
27. Item <i>Jewelry</i>	28. Brand	29. Serial Number		30. Value <i>\$350.00</i>	
31. Item	32. Brand	33. Serial Number		34. Value	
<i>John Paul Jones #5555</i> 35. Signature of Officer/Badge Number					

Example: What items were stolen from the victim?

Cash and Jewelry were stolen from the victim.

Example: Where does the victim reside?

The victim resides at 15 W. Greenville.

After all testing is completed, tests will be scored within **1 -2 weeks**. Scores will be made available at that time. More information concerning scoring will be provided to you at the test site.

Please note that test scores will be used as one indicator of your suitability for the job. A score of **85** is required to advance to the next phase of the application process. Candidates, who complete the examination, will be referred in score order to the Authority's Police Department for oral interviews and background screening.