

**YARMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE OFFICER ENTRANCE EXAM
STUDY GUIDE**



Study Guide provided by Hanrahan Consulting, LLC

Examination written by Hanrahan Consulting, LLC

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TOPICS

The written examination is designed to measure your ability to perform successfully as a police officer. The examination will test critical skills needed to perform as a police officer. It consists of the following areas:

- Logic and Reasoning
- Ability to Comprehend and Follow Rules and Procedures
- Ethical Decision-making
- Ability to Communicate
- Ability to Understand and Apply the Law

EXAMINATION FORMAT

The examination will consist of multiple-choice questions. You must select the *best* answer available to each question. Because a multiple choice question often cannot include all possibilities and factors you must select the best answer of the options available to each question, not the perfect answer; particularly with the law related questions. This is a multiple-choice exam, therefore you must select the best answer of the four available options.

Example: Which of the following is a city located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts?

- a. Boston
- b. Springfield
- c. Worcester
- d. All of the above

Explanation: technically any of the above options would be a *correct* response as they are all cities located in Massachusetts. However, option D would be the *best answer* as option A is not more or less correct than option B or C.

On the following pages you will find samples questions for each topic listed above.

LOGIC AND REASONING

It is important that a police officer be able to apply logic and have good judgement and reasoning. This section of the exam is designed to measure your ability to think logically and measure your ability to apply reasoning. This section will have a variety of question types designed to test your ability to apply logic and reasoning.

SAMPLE QUESTION

The City has been experiencing a rash of vehicle thefts in the northern district, muggings in the Bellevue Square area, and burglaries in the western district. Muggings typically occur on Mondays and Fridays between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and midnight. Vehicle thefts are most common on Sundays and Tuesdays between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m. Burglaries are almost always in the early evening and they often occur on weekends. If Officer Benson wants to reduce muggings which of the following would be the best time-frame and location to focus his efforts?

- A. Mondays between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. in the northern district.
- B. Fridays between the hours of 9:00 p.m. into 1:00 a.m. on Saturday in the Bellevue Square area.
- C. Saturdays between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and midnight in the Bellevue Square area.
- D. Tuesdays between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and midnight in the western district.

Explanation: B is the best answer. Muggings occur on Mondays and Fridays in the Bellevue Square area and usually between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and midnight. Although option B is not within that exact same timeframe it is in the correct section of the city, on Fridays which is one of the more common days and although not the exact timeframe it close in timeframe to the frequency of the muggings when compared to the other options.

READING COMPREHENSION

Police officers often have to read reports, case briefs, roll call notices, and many similar documents. This section of the exam is designed to measure your ability to comprehend what you have read. You will be given a passage to read followed by a series of questions which are designed to test your ability to comprehend what you have read.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Answers questions 1-2 based on the proceeding passage:

Officers Dylan and Kapipsky were traveling down Arsenal Street in cruiser 1154, at 01:35 a.m., when Kapipsky heard a load bang. He shouted to Dylan to stop and Dylan quickly applied the brakes. The Arsenal Street area has had a large increase of gang activity and firearm violence. After bringing the vehicle to a stop both officers exited and began searching the alley ways and back yards for a sign of trouble. At 01:38 Officer Dylan contacted Sergeant Lima, who was operating cruiser 1223, and advised her that they were investigating possible shots fired.

At 01:42 a.m. Kapipsky found a spent shell of a fired bullet in the alley way off of Kent Road. This information was relayed to Sergeant Lima. At 01:44 Sergeant Lima broadcasted to all available units to set up a perimeter within a four-block radius of Kent Road. Officer Wu, who was operating an unmarked cruiser, cruiser 1345, called over the radio at 01:48 that he observed a suspect run from a back yard on Barter Road, heading west bound. Wu ordered

the man to stop but he continued. Officer Wu broadcasted the description of the suspect as a light skinned black or Hispanic male, wearing red mesh shorts, a white t-shirt with a sports emblem on the front. He stated that the suspect was at least six feet tall. Officer Dupuis was on the corner of Long Pond Road and Merrideth Street at 01:50 a.m. when he spotted a man walking quickly who matched the description given by Wu. Officer Dupuis began to run towards the man ordering him to stop when the man began to run away, heading north on Chester Street. The suspect jumped over a six foot fence on Chester Street heading towards Winter Street, where he was then tackled to the ground by Officer Wu.

Officer Dupuis could not get over the six-foot fence and so he ran back to his cruiser, 1344, which was parked on Long Pond Road. Officer Dylan was the second Officer to arrive on Winter Street and he helped Wu handcuff the suspect. Dylan searched the suspect and located a small silver pistol in small of the suspect's back. Sergeant Lima arrived on Winter Street and read the suspect his Miranda rights. The suspect identified himself as Freddy Strong of Chester Street. He explained that he had a valid license to carry the pistol but he ran because he did not know the man ordering him to stop was a police officer. Detective Selig arrived on scene and compared the gun in Strong's possession with the spent round found in the alley way and determined that the round was not discharged from Strong's gun. A dispatch inquiry, at 01:58 a.m. confirmed that Strong was in fact licensed to carry the firearm. He was immediately released by Sergeant Lima. The officers began searching the area for an additional 19 minutes before Sergeant Lima called off the search and cleared all units.

1. Based on the preceding passage, who was operating cruiser 1344?
 - a. Officer Kapipsky
 - b. Officer Dylan
 - c. Officer Lima
 - d. Officer Dupuis

Explanation: D is the correct answer. The first sentence of the last paragraph states that Officer Dupuis ran to his cruiser, 1344.

2. Which of the following locations was the suspect most likely subdued?
 - a. Chester Street
 - b. Merrideth Street
 - c. Long Pond Road
 - d. Main Street

Explanation: A is the correct answer. The last sentence of paragraph two states "The suspect jumped over a six foot fence on Chester Street heading towards Winter Street, where he was then tackled to the ground by Officer Wu." The suspect was on Chester Street when he was subdued by Officer Wu.

ABILITY TO COMPREHEND AND FOLLOW RULES AND PROCEDURES

Police officers must follow rules, policies, and procedures. Most police department issues policy manuals and rules and regulations setting guidelines officer must following during the performance of their duties. This section of the exam is designed to measure your ability follow rules, policies and procedures.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Commercial Building Alarm Procedure

When responding to an alarm at a commercial building the primary responding officer must take the following steps:

1. Respond to the location without delay.
2. At least three blocks from the scene, further if in a rural setting, shut off emergency lights and siren.
3. Notify dispatch that you are on scene.
4. Position yourself so that you can observe the front door and right side of the building.
5. Notify dispatch that you are on scene and in position.
6. When the back-up unit has arrived, and is positioned to observe the rear and left side of the building, notify dispatch of your observations.
7. If there is an obvious sign of a break-in, request a K9 unit.
8. If no canine is available, request two-additional units.
9. If no signs of forced entry are observed, contact a key holder to respond to the scene so that access can be gained and the building inspected.

Officer Jones is dispatched to 156 Mason Road, a four-story office building, for the report of a perimeter alarm. Officer Jones responds appropriately, arrives on scene, positions himself properly, and notifies dispatch of his location. When his back-up officer, Officer Kent, arrived they check the perimeter of the building and noticed a door on the eastside of the building open with pry marks by the lock. What is the next thing Officer Jones should do?

- a. Request a canine unit.
- b. Request two additional units.
- c. Shut off his lights and siren.
- d. Wait for back-up.

Explanation: A is the best option. If you follow the sequence of procedures, once an obvious sign of a break-in is discovered the officer should request a K9 unit.

ETHICAL DECISIONMAKING

Police officers often face ethical dilemmas. In some instances, abiding by the law may result in a guilty person going unpunished and officers may be tempted bend the rules of law in order to ensure the guilty are punished and not able to victimize again. This is a slippery slope and police officer candidates must be able to make sound ethical decisions. Officers may be tempted with gifts and free meals and similar temptations in an effort to sway the officer's decision-making or enforcement efforts. It is critical that police officer candidates have sound ethical decision-making skills. This section of the exam is designed to measure your ability to make ethical decisions.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Officer Williams is conducting a search warrant at 209 Maple Street regarding a heroin distribution ring. During the search warrant Officer Williams locates more than \$24,600 in cash. Officer Williams knows that the money was obtained by selling illicit drugs. He also knows that if he seizes the money the court will return the money to the offender because he lacks sufficient evidence that it was directly tied to selling heroin. Officer Williams knows that the offender will use the money to make bail and continue his heroin operation. More than nine teenagers have died in the city in the last three months from heroin addiction, including Officer Williams younger sister. Which of the following statements do you agree with most?

- A. Officer Williams should follow department protocol and submit the money into evidence even if the court is likely to return it to the offender.
- B. Officer Williams should take the money and donate it to the local addiction clinic which is under funded and working hard to reduce drug overdose deaths.
- C. Officer Williams should keep the money as retribution for the loss of his sister.
- D. Officer Williams should distribute the money equally among the nine victims families.

Explanation: A is the best answer. Even though the money may be returned to the offender Officer Williams must obey the law and refrain from taking law into his own hands.

ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE

Police officers must be able to communicate with a wide range of people. They must be capable of passing on information to other police officers, their superior officers and members of the community. The officer also must be capable of understanding terms. Police officers must write reports, document crimes scenes and similar documentation. This section of the exam is designed to measure your ability communicate, including written communication.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Officer Johnson is preparing a report on a drug overdose that he responded to. The report will include the following sentences. (These sentences are NOT listed in the correct order.)

1. When I arrived on scene, a witness waived me down and pointed toward a man, later identified as John Kelly, lying on the ground by a parked Ford Focus sedan.
2. I administered one dose of Narcan into his nose and Kelly immediately began to wake up.
3. I was dispatched to 19 Main Street, the Underwood Apartments, for a report of a medical emergency.
4. It was later learned that the Ford was registered to Kelly.
5. I assessed Kelly and noted that he was breathing and had a pulse but was unresponsive.

The most logical order for the above sentences to appear in the report is:

- a. 1, 4, 3, 2, 5.
- b. 3, 5, 2, 1, 4.
- c. 5, 3, 1, 2, 4.
- d. 3, 1, 4, 5, 2.

Explanation: D is the best answer. The officer would typically be dispatched before arriving at a location so sentence 3 would be the first sentence, leaving option B or D as the only viable options. After being dispatched the officer would have to arrive before taking any action making sentence 1 the best option as the second sentence in the paragraph and making option D the best answer.

ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND AND APPLY THE LAW

Police officers are law enforcement officers. They must have the ability to understand and apply complex laws. This section of the exam is designed to measure your ability to comprehend and apply the law. Typically, you will be given a fictitious law and then a series of questions designed to test your understanding and application of the law.

SAMPLE QUESTION

RETAIL RECEIPT LAW

It is unlawful for a person to utilize a retail receipt to defraud a retailer, or to possess a retail receipt with the intent to defraud a retailer. A retailer is in the business of selling retail goods in a retail establishment. If the value of the retailer's loss is more than \$100, or if the person falsely signs the name of another attesting to the authenticity of the receipt the crime shall be a felony. If the value of the retailer's loss is \$100 or less or does not involve the person falsely signing the name of another the crime shall be a misdemeanor offense. If the person attempts to utilize a retail receipt to obtain anything of value but is unsuccessful the crime shall be a misdemeanor.

Which of the following individuals committed a felony offense?

- a. Tommy utilized a retail receipt to return a stolen DVD player to Dick's Department store. He received \$100.00 in cash from the retailer by falsely using the receipt for the item he did not actually purchase. Tommy did not sign anything.
- b. Jan falsely used a retail receipt to obtain \$65.00 from Walman's Department store. She falsely signed her sister's name on the receipt during the transaction attesting to the authenticity of the return.
- c. Steve attempted to obtain \$230.65 by falsely using a retail receipt at Torgat Department store but the clerk caught on to the scheme and denied the transaction.
- d. Lenny falsely utilized a retail receipt to defraud his neighbor, Steve, of \$325.00. Lenny sold Steve his snow blower worth only \$275.00 but he showed him a false retail receipt claiming that he paid more than \$900.00 for the snow blower.

Explanation: B is the best answer. The crime becomes a felony when more than \$100 is stolen or if the offender falsely signs someone's name. Jan falsely signed her sister's name making it a felony.