

# Illinois Police State Certification SLEA Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Under what circumstance can a police officer use deadly force?**
  - A. When the suspect is fleeing**
  - B. When the officer feels threatened**
  - C. When protecting themselves or others from imminent harm**
  - D. When making an arrest**
- 2. What must police officers do if a suspect requests an attorney during questioning?**
  - A. Continue questioning without the attorney present**
  - B. Stop questioning until the attorney arrives**
  - C. Consult their supervisor for instructions**
  - D. Provide a list of available attorneys**
- 3. Who typically handles death investigations in law enforcement?**
  - A. Patrol officers**
  - B. Civilian investigators**
  - C. Detectives**
  - D. Coroners**
- 4. What is the term for secondhand testimony that is generally inadmissible in court?**
  - A. Testimonial Evidence**
  - B. Hearsay**
  - C. Direct Testimony**
  - D. Opinion Evidence**
- 5. Who is responsible for notifying another jurisdiction of a crime?**
  - A. The crime victim**
  - B. The police officer on scene**
  - C. Telecommunications / dispatch**
  - D. The local district attorney**

- 6. What constitutes a force likely to cause death or great bodily harm?**
- A. Baton headstrike**
  - B. Warning shots**
  - C. Hitting head on pavement**
  - D. Both a and c**
- 7. What are limitations of evidence photography in investigations?**
- A. Limited by skill of the photographer**
  - B. Distance and lack of depth**
  - C. Weather conditions**
  - D. Lighting conditions only**
- 8. During a traffic investigation, what should a responding officer search for specifically?**
- A. Vehicle registration**
  - B. Area of impact**
  - C. Driver's license**
  - D. Witnesses**
- 9. \_\_\_\_\_ is limited to location, size, and shape of an object.**
- A. Search warrant**
  - B. Arrest warrant**
  - C. Subpoena**
  - D. Search consent**
- 10. How is legitimacy in law enforcement often reflected in the community?**
- A. Through public meetings and forums**
  - B. Via compliance with established laws**
  - C. Through law enforcement promotions and campaigns**
  - D. By community policing efforts**

## **Answers**

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1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. C
6. D
7. B
8. B
9. A
10. B

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Under what circumstance can a police officer use deadly force?**

- A. When the suspect is fleeing**
- B. When the officer feels threatened**
- C. When protecting themselves or others from imminent harm**
- D. When making an arrest**

The use of deadly force by a police officer is justified primarily under circumstances where the officer is protecting themselves or others from imminent harm. This principle is grounded in law enforcement policies and use-of-force guidelines, which state that deadly force is permissible when there is a reasonable belief that an individual poses an immediate threat of serious injury or death to the officer or others present. This justification is essential in ensuring that officers can take necessary actions to prevent loss of life or severe injury. The concept of "imminent harm" refers to an immediate threat, which requires the officer to respond quickly and decisively to protect themselves or others. It's important to note that the threshold for what constitutes "imminent harm" can vary based on the specific circumstances an officer faces, but the focus is always on protecting life. In comparison, fleeing suspects (as mentioned in another choice) do not justify the use of deadly force unless they also pose an immediate threat. Feeling threatened alone does not meet the stringent requirements for using deadly force unless it correlates with an imminent risk of harm. Additionally, making an arrest does not, in itself, authorize the use of deadly force unless the situation escalates to a level of imminent danger.

**2. What must police officers do if a suspect requests an attorney during questioning?**

- A. Continue questioning without the attorney present**
- B. Stop questioning until the attorney arrives**
- C. Consult their supervisor for instructions**
- D. Provide a list of available attorneys**

When a suspect requests an attorney during questioning, police officers must cease all interrogation until the attorney is present. This requirement stems from the Miranda rights, which inform a suspect of their right to counsel. The presence of an attorney ensures that the suspect can adequately understand and navigate the legal process, protecting their right against self-incrimination. Stopping questioning upholds the suspect's rights under the Fifth Amendment, which is designed to prevent coercive interrogations and safeguard individuals from being compelled to provide self-incriminating information without legal representation. Therefore, until the attorney is present to advise the suspect, police officers are not permitted to continue the questioning.

### **3. Who typically handles death investigations in law enforcement?**

- A. Patrol officers**
- B. Civilian investigators**
- C. Detectives**
- D. Coroners**

Detectives typically handle death investigations in law enforcement due to their specialized training and experience in investigative techniques. Their primary role is to gather evidence, interview witnesses, and piece together the circumstances surrounding a death. They are equipped to analyze complex scenarios that often accompany suspicious or unexplained deaths, ensuring a thorough examination of potential homicide, suicide, or accidental death cases. Detectives work closely with other entities, such as forensic teams and medical examiners, to establish the facts necessary for a comprehensive investigation. This collaborative approach is critical as it allows for the accumulation of different types of evidence and insights, which are key to solving cases effectively. Their investigative skills and authority enable them to develop leads and follow up on tips, which are essential for progressing in death investigations. While patrol officers can initially respond to the scene of a death and ensure safety and security, their primary function is not to investigate the circumstances in detail. Civilian investigators might assist in some contexts but typically lack the formal training and authority that detectives possess. Coroners are responsible for determining the cause and manner of death in cases they investigate but do not conduct the investigative work that detectives do. Detectives play a pivotal role by navigating the complexities of the investigation process, making them essential in handling death cases within

### **4. What is the term for secondhand testimony that is generally inadmissible in court?**

- A. Testimonial Evidence**
- B. Hearsay**
- C. Direct Testimony**
- D. Opinion Evidence**

The term for secondhand testimony that is generally inadmissible in court is hearsay. Hearsay occurs when a witness relates what another person said outside of the court context, rather than providing firsthand evidence of what they personally experienced or observed. The primary reason hearsay is not typically allowed in court is that it lacks reliability; the original speaker is not present to testify, which prevents the opposing party from cross-examining them about the statement's context, intent, and any potential biases. Understanding hearsay is critical within the field of law enforcement and courtroom procedures, as it highlights the importance of direct, personal observations and evidence in establishing facts during legal proceedings. By recognizing hearsay, legal professionals can ensure that only reliable and credible evidence is presented in court, thereby upholding the standards of justice and due process.

**5. Who is responsible for notifying another jurisdiction of a crime?**

- A. The crime victim**
- B. The police officer on scene**
- C. Telecommunications / dispatch**
- D. The local district attorney**

The correct answer is telecommunications or dispatch because they serve as the critical link between various law enforcement agencies and ensure that information is communicated quickly and accurately. When a crime occurs, the officer on the scene may report the incident via radio or other communication methods directly to dispatch. Dispatchers are trained to relay this information to the appropriate responding units and other jurisdictions as needed, especially if the crime has implications that extend beyond their local area. Notifying other jurisdictions is vital for effective law enforcement, as it allows for coordinated responses and helps prevent further criminal activity. Dispatch is usually equipped with the necessary systems to relay information efficiently, ensuring that neighboring law enforcement agencies are informed and can take action if required. While the crime victim may report the crime, it is typically the responsibility of law enforcement and communication personnel to disseminate that information properly. Similarly, although officers on scene have critical information about the crime, they may not have the authority or the resources to communicate with other jurisdictions directly without going through dispatch. The local district attorney is involved in the prosecution of crimes but does not play a role in initial notifications of criminal activity to law enforcement agencies.

**6. What constitutes a force likely to cause death or great bodily harm?**

- A. Baton headstrike**
- B. Warning shots**
- C. Hitting head on pavement**
- D. Both a and c**

A force that is likely to cause death or great bodily harm includes actions that have a high potential for severe injury or lethal outcomes. Both a baton headstrike and hitting someone's head on the pavement are examples where the application of force poses a significant risk of serious injury or death. A baton headstrike is categorized as a potentially lethal use of force, as striking someone in the head with a baton can lead to traumatic brain injury or other serious injuries. Similarly, when an individual hits their head on the pavement, the risk of life-threatening injuries such as skull fractures or concussions increases drastically. On the other hand, warning shots do not constitute a force likely to cause death or great bodily harm since their intent is not to injure but rather to deter or signal a warning. The use of warning shots typically aims to avoid confrontations rather than escalate into a situation where serious injuries would occur. Thus, both the actions of using a baton in such a manner and causing a person to strike their head against a hard surface fit the criteria for being considered as use of force likely to cause severe bodily harm or death.

**7. What are limitations of evidence photography in investigations?**

- A. Limited by skill of the photographer**
- B. Distance and lack of depth**
- C. Weather conditions**
- D. Lighting conditions only**

The correct answer highlights that evidence photography is constrained by distance and lack of depth. When capturing images, the size of the subject and the distance from the camera can significantly affect the outcome. If a photograph is taken from too far away, important details may not be visible or may be lost, making it difficult for investigators to analyze the scene accurately. Additionally, the depth of field, which determines how much of the scene is in focus, can limit the clarity of important evidence when capturing larger scenes or intricate details. This limitation is particularly critical in crime scene investigations where the context provided by the background can be as important as the subject itself. In contrast, while the skill of the photographer, weather, and lighting conditions can also affect the quality of images, they are not inherent limitations of the medium these factors present challenges that can often be mitigated through careful planning and equipment choices. Emphasizing distance and depth draws attention to fundamental aspects of evidence photography that directly impact the effectiveness and reliability of captured images in the context of an investigation.

**8. During a traffic investigation, what should a responding officer search for specifically?**

- A. Vehicle registration**
- B. Area of impact**
- C. Driver's license**
- D. Witnesses**

During a traffic investigation, focusing on the area of impact is crucial for several reasons. The area of impact provides vital information about the circumstances of the collision, such as the point of initial contact between vehicles, the direction of travel of each vehicle, and the severity of the crash. Analyzing the area of impact allows officers to recreate the sequence of events that led to the collision, which is necessary for accurate reporting and potential legal proceedings. Additionally, understanding the area of impact helps determine factors like speed, angle of collision, and possible violations of traffic laws. This information is essential not only for the immediate investigation but also for ensuring that proper conclusions can be drawn regarding liability and future preventative measures. Identifying patterns or hazards in the area may also contribute to public safety improvements. While vehicle registration, driver's licenses, and witnesses are all important aspects of a traffic investigation, they do not provide the same foundational insight into the crash dynamics as the area of impact does. The physical evidence at the impact site is often the best indicator of how the accident occurred, making it the primary focus for a thorough investigation.

9. \_\_\_\_\_ is limited to location, size, and shape of an object.

**A. Search warrant**

**B. Arrest warrant**

**C. Subpoena**

**D. Search consent**

A search warrant is a legal document that authorizes law enforcement officers to search a specific location for particular items or evidence related to a crime. Its limitations are defined by the particulars of the property to be searched, as well as the items sought. This means that the search warrant must explicitly detail the location where the search will occur, the size of the area that will be searched, and the shape or boundaries of that area. This specificity is crucial to protect individuals' Fourth Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures, ensuring that searches are not conducted blindly or beyond what is authorized. The warrant must be based on probable cause and is generally supported by an affidavit that outlines the evidence justifying the need for the search. This focused scope helps maintain the balance between effective law enforcement and safeguarding civil liberties. In contrast, an arrest warrant pertains to detaining a person accused of a crime, a subpoena is a legal order requiring a person to testify or produce documents, and search consent refers to the voluntary agreement given by a person to allow law enforcement to conduct a search without a warrant. These concepts do not share the same focus on the physical parameters of the object involved as specifically defined in a search warrant.

10. How is legitimacy in law enforcement often reflected in the community?

**A. Through public meetings and forums**

**B. Via compliance with established laws**

**C. Through law enforcement promotions and campaigns**

**D. By community policing efforts**

Legitimacy in law enforcement is often reflected through compliance with established laws. When a police department and its officers are seen adhering to the laws they enforce, it fosters a sense of trust and respect within the community. Compliance ensures that the community feels that law enforcement operates fairly and without bias, which is essential for maintaining public confidence in police authority. When citizens believe that the laws are applied justly, they are more likely to cooperate with law enforcement and support their efforts, ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of policing in the community. While public meetings and forums, law enforcement promotions and campaigns, and community policing efforts all contribute in different ways to the perception of legitimacy, they are more indirect methods. These initiatives can help improve relationships between law enforcement and community members but do not, by themselves, guarantee that the laws are followed fairly or that officers are held accountable for their actions. The direct link between the adherence to laws and the perception of legitimacy in law enforcement underscores the foundational role of lawful behavior in building trust and cooperation.