

# Oklahoma Police Academy Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. What type of evidence should be prioritized during crime scene processing?**
  - A. Testimonies from witnesses**
  - B. Evidence that can easily deteriorate**
  - C. Photographs taken of the scene**
  - D. Items that are large and cumbersome**
- 2. What type of statute mandates assessments in domestic violence cases in Oklahoma?**
  - A. Mandatory criminal conduct**
  - B. Preventative enforcement**
  - C. Accountability statute**
  - D. Statutory requirement**
- 3. What is the minimum distance to position your patrol car behind a violator's vehicle during a traffic stop in an unknown situation?**
  - A. 10 ft**
  - B. 15 ft**
  - C. 20 ft**
  - D. 25 ft**
- 4. What legal doctrine holds an employing agency liable for the actions of its peace officers?**
  - A. Vicarious liability**
  - B. Respondeat superior**
  - C. Civil liability**
  - D. Negligence**
- 5. What should a police officer say to a victim of domestic abuse?**
  - A. You should leave this situation immediately**
  - B. I am afraid for your safety. It will only get worse. You don't deserve to be abused**
  - C. You need to forgive your partner**
  - D. It is best to stay quiet about this**

- 6. What size of shot is most commonly used by law enforcement in Oklahoma?**
- A. Dummy shot**
  - B. 00 Buckshot**
  - C. Birdshot**
  - D. Number 8 shot**
- 7. What percentage of a police officer's time is spent maintaining order or providing unrelated services?**
- A. 40%-60%**
  - B. 50%-70%**
  - C. 70%-90%**
  - D. 80%-100%**
- 8. What does the golden rule of pursuits state?**
- A. The pursuit should always continue**
  - B. Terminate when it becomes a hazard to the public**
  - C. public safety does not apply during pursuits**
  - D. Pursuits must be approved by a supervisor**
- 9. Which factors determine how often a handgun should be cleaned?**
- A. Cost of ammunition**
  - B. Frequency of use**
  - C. Emotional state**
  - D. Atmospheric conditions**
- 10. What is the primary focus of traffic laws for law enforcement?**
- A. Regulating pedestrian movement**
  - B. Ensuring vehicle registration accuracy**
  - C. Facilitating safe conduct on roadways**
  - D. Promoting fuel efficiency**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. What type of evidence should be prioritized during crime scene processing?**

- A. Testimonies from witnesses**
- B. Evidence that can easily deteriorate**
- C. Photographs taken of the scene**
- D. Items that are large and cumbersome**

Prioritizing evidence that can easily deteriorate is crucial during crime scene processing for several reasons. Deteriorating evidence, such as biological materials, fluids, or certain types of drugs, can lose their integrity and become unusable if not collected and preserved quickly. This category of evidence often includes items that can decompose, evaporate, or otherwise change state due to environmental factors. Forensic investigators focus on preserving this type of evidence first to ensure that it can be analyzed effectively later. This practice helps maintain the validity of the evidence in court and supports the overall integrity of the investigation. On the other hand, while testimonies and photographs also serve critical functions, they do not face the same immediate risk of degradation that deteriorating physical evidence does. Large items, while important, are generally manageable in terms of timing and processing unless they directly relate to the immediate integrity of the case. Thus, quickly securing and properly handling deteriorating evidence is a priority in crime scene investigations.

**2. What type of statute mandates assessments in domestic violence cases in Oklahoma?**

- A. Mandatory criminal conduct**
- B. Preventative enforcement**
- C. Accountability statute**
- D. Statutory requirement**

The correct response pertains to a statutory requirement established within Oklahoma law, which specifies that assessments must be conducted in domestic violence cases. Statutory requirements are formal laws enacted by the legislative body that set out obligations or actions that must be completed in specific circumstances, such as mandatory assessments for domestic violence. This legal framework is designed to ensure that all domestic violence incidents are handled with a consistent level of scrutiny and support, emphasizing the need for assessment to understand the circumstances and provide the necessary intervention. This focus on assessments is vital for various reasons, including the evaluation of the victim's safety, the offender's risk level, and the potential need for rehabilitation services. Statutory mandates ensure that law enforcement agencies and judicial processes take domestic violence seriously, leading to appropriate responses to protect victims and hold offenders accountable.

**3. What is the minimum distance to position your patrol car behind a violator's vehicle during a traffic stop in an unknown situation?**

- A. 10 ft
- B. 15 ft**
- C. 20 ft
- D. 25 ft

The correct distance to position your patrol car behind a violator's vehicle during a traffic stop in an unknown situation is 15 feet. This distance is recommended to maintain a balance between ensuring officer safety and effectively managing the traffic stop. Positioning the patrol car at this distance provides a buffer zone, which allows the officer to have a clear view of the interior of the violator's vehicle while also providing sufficient space in case the situation escalates. It minimizes the risk of being caught in the line of fire if there is unexpected aggression from the driver or passengers. Additionally, this distance can help in protecting the patrol vehicle itself from potential collisions caused by other vehicles that may not be paying attention, thereby adding another layer of safety for the officer conducting the stop. Being too close may limit the officer's reaction time and visibility, which can be critical in handling unpredictable circumstances.

**4. What legal doctrine holds an employing agency liable for the actions of its peace officers?**

- A. Vicarious liability
- B. Respondeat superior**
- C. Civil liability
- D. Negligence

The legal doctrine that holds an employing agency liable for the actions of its peace officers is known as respondeat superior. This principle establishes that an employer can be held responsible for the actions of its employees when those actions occur in the course of their employment. In the context of law enforcement, when a police officer engages in conduct that is within the scope of their official duties, the agency that employs that officer may face liability for any resulting harm or damages. This doctrine is essential because it encourages employing agencies to ensure their officers are properly trained and supervised, highlighting the responsibility of organizations to maintain standards that prevent misconduct. Although other terms like vicarious liability and civil liability relate to the overarching theme of organizational accountability, respondeat superior explicitly describes the employer-employee relationship in terms of liability for actions taken while on duty. Negligence relates to the failure to exercise appropriate care, but does not directly address the employer's liability in the same way as respondeat superior does.

5. What should a police officer say to a victim of domestic abuse?
- A. You should leave this situation immediately
  - B. I am afraid for your safety. It will only get worse. You don't deserve to be abused**
  - C. You need to forgive your partner
  - D. It is best to stay quiet about this

The response that emphasizes the victim's safety and acknowledges the severity of the situation is the most appropriate. By saying, "I am afraid for your safety. It will only get worse. You don't deserve to be abused," the officer is offering both empathy and validation to the victim. This approach is crucial because it reinforces the victim's feelings and experiences, helping them to understand that what they are facing is serious and unacceptable. This response also opens the door for further dialogue, ensuring the victim knows that they are not alone and that there is support available. It is important for officers to communicate in a way that encourages victims to feel safe and supported, rather than judged or pressured. The focus on the victim's rights and well-being is fundamental in building trust and helping them consider the next steps toward safety and recovery.

6. What size of shot is most commonly used by law enforcement in Oklahoma?
- A. Dummy shot
  - B. 00 Buckshot**
  - C. Birdshot
  - D. Number 8 shot

The most commonly used shot by law enforcement in Oklahoma is 00 Buckshot. This choice is prevalent due to its effectiveness in various law enforcement scenarios, particularly in situations requiring home defense or close-quarters engagement. The 00 Buckshot, comprising larger pellets, provides a significant stopping power while also being manageable in terms of recoil for officers to handle in high-stress situations. Additionally, the design and composition of 00 Buckshot allow for effective dispersion while maintaining the ability to incapacitate a target quickly and efficiently. In contrast, the other types of shot serve different purposes. Dummy shot is used primarily for training scenarios where no projectile is needed, birdshot is generally suited for hunting smaller game due to its smaller pellets and wider spread, and Number 8 shot is often used in sports shooting and also for small game hunting. These shots do not provide the same level of effectiveness or stopping power needed in law enforcement situations, making 00 Buckshot the most suitable option for their requirements.

**7. What percentage of a police officer's time is spent maintaining order or providing unrelated services?**

- A. 40%-60%**
- B. 50%-70%**
- C. 70%-90%**
- D. 80%-100%**

The correct choice indicates that a significant portion of a police officer's time, typically between 70% to 90%, is dedicated to maintaining order and providing various services that may not directly involve crime prevention or enforcement. This reflects the reality of police work, where officers engage in a wide array of activities that contribute to community safety and order beyond just responding to crimes. Maintaining order involves proactive engagement with the community, managing public interactions, conducting traffic control, and addressing community concerns. Additionally, police officers often provide services such as assisting individuals in crisis, helping with community events, and interacting with local organizations. These tasks are vital for building trust within the community and ensuring public safety, which extends beyond the narrow focus of criminal activity. This percentage emphasizes the integral role police officers play within their communities, highlighting the balance they must maintain between law enforcement duties and community service. Understanding this distribution of time helps inform expectations of police work and the broad scope of their responsibilities in fostering community relations.

**8. What does the golden rule of pursuits state?**

- A. The pursuit should always continue**
- B. Terminate when it becomes a hazard to the public**
- C. public safety does not apply during pursuits**
- D. Pursuits must be approved by a supervisor**

The golden rule of pursuits emphasizes the paramount importance of public safety during police chases. It states that a pursuit should be terminated when it poses a hazard to the public. This principle acknowledges that while apprehending a suspect is important, the risk to innocent civilians and other road users must take precedence. In high-speed chases, the potential for accidents, injuries, and loss of life increases significantly, not only for the individuals involved in the pursuit but also for bystanders. Therefore, officers are trained to continuously assess the dynamics of the pursuit and discontinue it if there are indications that public safety is compromised. This approach ensures that law enforcement prioritizes the well-being of the community, aligning with ethical standards and responsible policing practices. It underscores the idea that not every pursuit is worth the potential danger it might bring.

**9. Which factors determine how often a handgun should be cleaned?**

- A. Cost of ammunition**
- B. Frequency of use**
- C. Emotional state**
- D. Atmospheric conditions**

The frequency of use is a key factor in determining how often a handgun should be cleaned. Regular use of a firearm can lead to the accumulation of residue from gunpowder, lead, and plastic fouling from ammunition. As a handgun is fired, carbon buildup and lubrication breakdown can affect its performance and longevity. Therefore, the more frequently a handgun is used, the more often it needs to be cleaned to ensure reliability, accuracy, and safe operation. A cleaning regimen that aligns with the usage frequency helps to maintain the firearm in optimal working condition. Other factors related to cleaning frequency, although not chosen in this instance, such as atmospheric conditions can influence how much dirt and debris might get into the ammunition or the mechanism, but it is primarily the frequency of use that dictates maintenance needs. Emotions and ammunition costs have less direct relevance to the mechanical performance and maintenance of a handgun.

**10. What is the primary focus of traffic laws for law enforcement?**

- A. Regulating pedestrian movement**
- B. Ensuring vehicle registration accuracy**
- C. Facilitating safe conduct on roadways**
- D. Promoting fuel efficiency**

The primary focus of traffic laws for law enforcement is to facilitate safe conduct on roadways. Traffic laws are designed to maintain order and safety for all users of the road, including drivers, passengers, pedestrians, and cyclists. They establish rules for how vehicles should operate, the responsibilities of those behind the wheel, and the expected behavior of pedestrians, all aimed at reducing accidents and enhancing overall safety on the roads. By enforcing these laws, law enforcement helps to ensure that drivers adhere to speed limits, traffic signals, and other regulations that protect both drivers and pedestrians. This overarching goal of safety is what motivates traffic enforcement practices and policies across jurisdictions.