

# Introduction

The Oregon State Police has developed this study guide to assist you in becoming familiar with material included in the Oregon State Police Entrance Examination. On exam day, you will have three hours to complete the exam.

There are a total of 110 questions on the exam.

The test covers the following subject areas:

**1. Vocabulary:** These questions test your knowledge of the most accurate definition of the word provided. There are 20 total questions in this section of the exam.

**2. Spelling:** In this section, you will be given a list of four common words and asked to identify the one misspelled word in the list. There are 20 total questions in this section of the exam.

**3. Punctuation:** These questions test your ability to use proper punctuation. You will be asked to identify the correct punctuation that should be included in a sentence or short paragraph that does not initially include any punctuation. There are 20 total questions in this section of the exam.

**4. Mathematics:** These questions test your ability to read a word problem and then demonstrate your knowledge of what basic mathematical skills are necessary to solve the problem (e.g., addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and basic algebra). There are 25 total questions in this section of the exam.

**5. Reading:** These questions test your ability to read and comprehend information. There are 25 total questions in this section of the exam.

# Test Taking Tips and Strategies

First and foremost, come to the test well-rested and prepared. Anxiety can be lessened if you spend time reviewing this study material in advance of the test.

**The following strategies may be beneficial to as you take the test.**

- Read each question carefully to ensure you understand what is being asked.
- Answer the easiest questions first. One strategy to use is to place a mark next to difficult questions and return to them later during the exam. This prevents you from devoting too much time on one question and running out of time before answering other questions for which you might receive credit.

By answering the easiest questions first, you develop confidence in your exam performance. Studies show that when you answer easier questions at the beginning of a test, you tend to perform better on more difficult questions encountered later in the test.

- Make notes as you read the test questions. Write down information you think might be important later.
- Remember you will have three hours to complete 110 test questions and should plan your time accordingly. If you don't understand a question or cannot come up with an answer, skip it and return to it after you have completed all other questions.
- If you have time, go back and check your work.

**To reduce test anxiety, try the following strategies.**

- Avoid cramming.
- Focus your attention on the here and now without worrying about the outcome of the test.
- Focus on the test itself and not others in the room.
- Don't focus on the amount of time you have left to complete the exam.
- Think positively by focusing on your knowledge rather than concentrating on what you feel you don't know.

**The following are some specific strategies for answering multiple-choice questions.**

- Survey the choices and use a process of elimination approach. Reduce the number of choices by noting those that are obviously incorrect and continue to use this process until you are left with an answer that you consider to be the most accurate.
- Check that your answers line up with the answer sheet. When looking over the test, search for questions you may have skipped and intended to go back to later.

If you skip a question without skipping it on an answer form, your answers will be thrown off and will result in the loss of points when exams are scored.

# Sample Test Questions

This sample is representative of the types of questions you may be asked on exam day. Remember, there will be more actual test questions, so you will need to plan your time accordingly.

**Vocabulary.** Select a response for the word or phrase that offers the best definition of the word.

*Example Test Question:*

**Restitution:**

- a. to restore or pay back for an injury
- b. the second time someone is institutionalized
- c. to do something for the second time
- d. to relax or take a break

The definition for restitution is **to restore or make amends**, thus a is the correct answer.

**1. Precedent:**

- a. the leader of the United States
- b. a principle or standard from the past
- c. the time before death
- d. a person who can predict the future

**2. Defense:**

- a. offering a word of praise
- b. a lawyer
- c. protection from harm
- d. an admiration of someone

**3. Forensic:**

- a. using scientific principles
- b. factual
- c. providing proof
- d. pertaining to the law or legal field

**4. Perjure:**

- a. to lie after swearing your statement is true
- b. to sustain a personal injury
- c. the questions attorneys ask prospective jurors
- d. accept something as truth

**5. Alibi:**

- a. a false claim
- b. Latin for, "in another place"
- c. request for a lawyer
- d. an assumed identity

**Spelling: Each question contains four words. For each question, select the word that is spelled incorrectly.**

*Example Test Question:*

- a. warrent*
- b. sergeant*
- c. apparent*
- d. parietal*

*The word **warrant** is misspelled, thus the appropriate answer is a.*

- 6.
  - a. fugative
  - b. animosity
  - c. paranoia
  - d. jurisprudence
  
- 7.
  - a. counterfeit
  - b. derelict
  - c. transient
  - d. bureacrat
  
- 8.
  - a. forensics
  - b. exhume
  - c. sargeant
  - d. lieutenant

9. a. cocaine  
b. impairment  
c. heroine  
d. intoxicant
10. a. conveyance  
b. weird  
c. amateur  
d. belligerant

**Punctuation. Choose the option that represents correct punctuation for the portion of the sentence that is highlighted.**

**Example Test Question:**

*The officer **yelled** **Get** over here now*

- a. *yelled get*  
b. *yelled “Get*  
c. *she, couldn’t hardly*  
d. *yelled, “Get*

*The sentence includes a direct quote, thus the correct answer is d.*

The language from the courts has **changed** <sup>(11)</sup> **its** <sup>(12)</sup> no longer applicable to this **department** <sup>(13)</sup> Therefore the manual must be updated **immediately**<sup>(14)</sup> **according** to the **major** <sup>(15)</sup>

11. a. changed?  
b. changed,  
c. changed;  
d. changed--
12. a. Its  
b. It’s  
c. Its’  
d. it’s

13. a. department.  
b. department,  
c. department--  
d. department!
14. a. immediately,” according  
b. immediately, according  
c. immediately according  
d. immediately. According
15. a. major.  
b. Major.  
c. major?  
d. Major!

**Mathematics. Select the correct answer.**

**Example Test Question:**

*Fred makes \$479 per week. What is his total salary in an average 3 month period?*

- a. \$1,437  
b. \$2,884  
c. \$5,748  
d. \$7,185

*The average month has four weeks, so to get the correct answer you must multiply \$479 (weekly salary) x 4 (weeks in a month) x 3 (total months), thus the correct answer is c.*

16. Karen bought a new car valued at \$20,000. She made a 25% down payment. Disregarding interest payments, how much would she owe each month if she agreed to pay the remainder over 72 months?
- a. \$208.33  
b. \$138.88  
c. \$333.33  
d. \$69.44

17. Five hundred and twenty (520) cars a day travel through a stop sign on Oak Street. On average, 283 go straight and 179 turn left. If the rest turn right, what percentage of drivers turns right on Oak Street?

- a. 34%
- b. 11%
- c. 14%
- d. 8%

18. Carlos makes \$3,991 per month. Her employer deducts 31% for federal taxes, 9% for state taxes, and 7% for social security? What is Carlos' monthly take-home pay?

- a. \$1,875.77
- b. \$5,866.77
- c. \$2,753.79
- d. \$2,115.23

19. Mrs. Jones gives \$680 each year to charity. She gives the United Way twice as much as The Red Cross, but only half as much as The American Heart Association. How much does she give to The American Heart Association?

- a. \$97.14
- b. \$194.28
- c. \$291.42
- d. \$388.57

20. It took John 6 hours to travel 26.2 miles on his bicycle. How long would it take him to travel 45 miles?

- a. 10.3 hours
- b. 9.49 hours
- c. 12.4 hours
- d. 11.6 hours

**Reading: Read the following passage. Use the information you learn in the article below to choose the most appropriate answers to the questions that follow the article.**

The AMBER Alert Plan is a critical missing child response program that utilizes the resources of law enforcement and media to notify the public when children are kidnapped. Statistics consistently show that time is the greatest adversary when a child is abducted.

The AMBER Alert Plan is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to disseminate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases.

Law enforcement and broadcasters use the Emergency Alert System (EAS), formerly called the Emergency Broadcast System, to air a description of the missing child and suspected abductor. This is the same concept used during severe weather emergencies. The goal of the Amber Alert is to promptly involve entire communities to assist in the search for and safe return of abducted children.

Once law enforcement has been notified about an abducted child, they must first determine if the case meets the criteria for triggering an alert. Local and state programs establish specific criteria. Oregon's criteria is listed below:

- Law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted
- The child is 17 years or younger\*
- The child may be in danger of serious bodily harm or death
- There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.
- The child's name and other critical data elements – including the child abduction (CA) and AMBER Alert (AA) flags will/have been entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system.

\*This alert system is not to be used when a child runs away or involves a custodial situation.

*-Oregon State Police Amber Alert Website (2012)*

***Example test question:***

*Which entity(ies) does The AMBER Alert Plan utilize to locate kidnapped children:*

- a. Law enforcement*
- b. Media*
- c. Public*
- d. All of the above*

*The answer is d. The first paragraph of the article states that the resources of law enforcement and media are used to notify the public when children are kidnapped. Thus, the AMBER Alert Plan uses all three entities to help locate kidnapped children.*

21. What is the main purpose of the AMBER Alert system?

- a. To notify the public of missing children
- b. To avoid future litigation
- c. To organize resources in natural disasters
- d. To notify the public when children are kidnapped

22. When is it appropriate to use the AMBER Alert system?

- a. Whenever there is a missing child
- b. Whenever a child is kidnapped
- c. Once law enforcement has confirmed the case meets the established criteria
- d. After law enforcement has confirmed a child is kidnapped/missing

23. Which law enforcement system(s) are used in conjunction with an Amber Alert?

- a. Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- b. Emergency Broadcast System
- c. National Crime Information Center (NCIC) system
- d. Both A and C

24. What is the greatest threat to child when abducted?

- a. The abductor
- b. Time
- c. Inaccurate information
- d. False Amber Alerts

25. Which statement below is NOT an Amber Alert criteria in Oregon:

- a. The child is 17 years or younger
- b. The child has been abducted by a parent in a custodial dispute
- c. The child is in serious danger
- d. Law enforcement has confirmed the child has been abducted

## **Oregon State Police Study Guide Answers**

### Vocabulary

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

### Spelling

6. A
7. D
8. C
9. B
- 10.D

### Punctuation

- 11.C
- 12.D
- 13.A
- 14.B
- 15.A

### Mathematics

- 16.A
- 17.B
- 18.D
- 19.D
- 20.A

### Reading

- 21.D
- 22.C
- 23.D
- 24.B
- 25.B

## References

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