

Louisiana State Police

Cadet Candidate

Preparation Guide

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The information within the manual was designed to help prepare you for the Louisiana State Police Cadet assessment. Please review the material within to familiarize yourself with the topics to be covered on the assessment.

Part 1: The Cadet Assessment at a Glance

The assessment is one of the first steps in a rigorous process to select applicants for the Louisiana State Police Cadet Position. It should not be viewed as an achievement test but rather as a way to measure the strengths, weaknesses, and trainability of those who take it. As a result, there will not always be a right or wrong answer to every question on the assessment.

You will have two (2) hours to complete the assessment. There will be twenty (20) questions from each content area, totaling 100 questions. The material in the manual covers the five sections on the assessment including:

Comprehending Oral Information
Visual Memory
Arithmetic Skills
Grammar Skills
Situational Judgment

Part 2: Assessment Strategies

Before the day of the assessment to reduce unnecessary stress:

Complete and submit any required documents before the day of the assessment.

Review any materials received from the LSP and confirm that you have submitted all of the necessary paperwork.

Familiarize yourself with the location in which you will take the assessment. Confirm which building and room number the assessment will be given, as well as the designated parking areas.

Be well rested. Get a good night's sleep before the assessment.

Bring the appropriate documents and materials to the assessment location. Make sure your documents are current and double-check the requirements the night before the assessment.

Be on time. Know what time the assessment starts and what time you are required to arrive. Check local weather the night before to ensure enough travel time is allowed.

Assessment-taking Strategies:

Evaluate your attitude about the exam. Stay relaxed and positive. Take slow, deep breaths if you find yourself getting anxious.

Understand the instructions before you start. Ask questions if you need clarification or if you do not have the necessary materials.

Read all of the directions before you start. Do this for each section, as the directions could change. Underline details you find important, and ask questions if you do not understand.

Read each question carefully. Choose what you feel is the best answer. There may or may not be a correct answer. If in doubt, narrow the choices down and eliminate those you feel are incorrect.

Don't get stuck on a question. Answer the question you find easy, first. Postpone the harder questions, or make a guess, mark the question, and return to it if you have time. You have two hours to complete the assessment. Budget your time wisely.

Don't over-analyze the question. These questions aren't intended to be "tricky." If a word in a question has multiple meanings, use the one most widely accepted.

Double-check your answer sheet. Try to answer all of the questions, and go back through once you are finished to make sure you have not missed a question by mistake. Remember, your first answer to the question is often the right answer, so try to review the answer sheet for mistakes instead of second guessing yourself.

Part 3: Practice Questions

You can expect similar kinds of questions presented in this preparation manual in the actual exam. The following sections are designed to provide you practice. These questions are in a multiple choice. Your task will be to read the questions carefully and select the most appropriate answer choice. In order to gain adequate benefit from these practice questions, read the instructions carefully and answer them as if you are taking the actual exam.

Section I: Comprehending Oral Information

This section is designed to assess your ability to recall information that is provided to you orally. A scenario will be read aloud to you and followed by questions pertaining to the scenario. You should try to remember as much information as possible from the scenario, paying close attention to details.

For practice, read the scenario, give yourself a few minutes, and then answer the questions without referring back to the written passage. The following is an example of the type of information that may be presented:

A police officer arrives at the scene of a traffic accident and needs to take detailed notes of the accident. The police officer begins by asking John (victim #1) and Amy (victim #2) to describe the events of the accident. John indicates that his car crashed into the Amy's car going 45 miles an hour. The accident happened in front of a local grocery store. There were 4 witnesses that confirmed that John crashed into Amy's car. John was on his way home from work, while Amy was on her way to the gym. Three news stations were on the scene to report about the accident. The reporters arrived by car and not by a news helicopter.

Choose what you feel to be the single best answer for each question. The answers are provided at the end of the section.

1. Where did the accident occur?

- a. Grocery store
- b. Hardware store
- c. Pharmacy
- d. Gas station

2. How fast was John going when the accident occurred?

- a. 65 mph
- b. 35 mph
- c. 45 mph
- d. 50 mph

3. What was the name of victim #2?

- a. Amber
- b. Amy
- c. Ashley
- d. Anna

4. Prior to the accident, John was coming home from where?

- a. Gym
- b. Grocery store
- c. News Station
- d. Work

Answer Key: 1 – a, 2 – c, 3 – b, 4 – d.

Section II: Visual Memory

This section is designed to assess your visual memory. In this section, you will be **shown an image for 10 minutes**. Your task is to look at the image carefully and **take notes** (if necessary) in order to answer the subsequent questions. The following is an example of the kind of image that will be presented in the actual exam. On the questions below the image, chose what you feel to be the single best answer. The answers are provided at the end of the section.



5. How many people were present in the picture?

- a. Eight
- b. Nine
- c. Ten
- d. Eleven

6. Which vehicle was badly damaged in the road accident?

- a. A truck
- b. A car
- c. A motorcycle
- d. A recreational vehicle (RV)

7. What is the color of the car that is on the other side of the road?

- a. Red
- b. White
- c. Black
- d. Grey

Answer Key: 5 – d, 6 – b, 7 – c.

Section III: Arithmetic Skills

This section is designed to assess your analytical ability. The questions presented will require you to conduct simple arithmetic operations (e.g., addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentage, etc.). Please read each of the following practice questions carefully and select what you feel is the single best answer. The answers are provided at the end of the section.

8. The odometer on a squad car shows that it has been driven a total of 786 miles in the last one week. How many miles the car has been driven on an average per day?

- a. 157.20 miles
- b. 112.29 miles
- c. 131.00 miles
- d. 109.71 miles

9. If $x - 7 = 22$. What is x ?

- a. 32
- b. 29
- c. 15
- d. 23

10. Bail for Mr. Potts was set at \$15,000. In order to be released, he must pay 15% of it in cash. How much should Mr. Potts pay?

- a. \$2,050
- b. \$225
- c. \$2,250
- d. \$250

11. Trooper Jackson works from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays. One of the Fridays, he was called to arrive at a crime scene at 2:35 p.m. and he stayed at the scene until 5:45 p.m. How long past regular shift did Trooper Jackson work?

- a. 120 minutes
- b. 190 minutes
- c. 165 minutes
- d. 70 minutes

Answer Key: 8 – b, 9 – b, 10 – c, 11– c.

Section IV: Grammar Skills

This section is designed to evaluate your ability to read and understand written language. In this section, you will be asked to answer questions based on the rules of English grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. Please read each of the following practice questions carefully and select what you feel is the single best answer. The answers are provided at the end of the section.

12. The agency _____ an annual statistical summary report based on records taken from Internal Affairs investigations.

- a. complies
- b. compiles
- c. compels
- d. none of the above

13. During the court hearing, the judge ruled the suspect was innocent. The suspect subsequently went home. What does the word subsequently mean?

- a. before
- b. stayed
- c. afterward
- d. never

14. Because the police officer was running out of time, he had to abbreviate his reports. What is a synonym for abbreviate?

- a. shorten
- b. abject
- c. abate
- d. abase

**15. Choose the word that is spelled incorrectly in the following sentence:
Fifteen suspects were brought in for questioning.**

- a. questioning
- b. Fifteen
- c. broght
- d. suspects

Answer Key: 12 – b, 13 – c, 14 – a, 15 – c

Section V: Situational Judgment

In this section, you will be presented with several scenarios designed to evaluate your ability to successfully evaluate a situation and choose appropriate actions. These scenarios represent situations that you may experience at work. Each scenario has four response options. Your task is to read each scenario carefully and rank the options from most to least appropriate. The answers are provided at the end of each question.

16. While on duty, Trooper Edwards finds a purse that had been left on a park bench. There is no one around who seems to be the owner. Trooper Edwards opens the purse to check for identification, and finds \$10,000 in cash inside. Trooper Edwards should:

- a. Leave the purse on the bench and walk away. The owner will come back for it.
- b. File a report about the purse and its entire contents, and lock the purse up in the evidence locker until someone comes to claim it.
- c. Remove and keep the cash, then file a report (without mentioning said cash) and lock the purse up in the evidence locker.
- d. Remove and keep the cash, and then leave the purse and its remaining contents on the bench where he found it.

Ranked Answer Key:

(1) Most appropriate response: b File a report about the purse and its entire contents, and lock the purse up in the evidence locker until someone comes to claim it.

(2) a. Leave the purse on the bench and walk away. The owner will come back for it.

(3) d. Remove and keep the cash, and then leave the purse and its remaining contents on the bench where he found it.

(4) Least appropriate response: c. Remove and keep the cash, then file a report (without mentioning said cash) and lock the purse up in the evidence locker.

17. You have been on the job for two months and are enjoying working for the LSP. You notice that Jon, a cadet who started at the same time, is having trouble getting his paperwork in on time. You overhear some superiors expressing their frustration in the bathroom. What course of action do you take?

a. Do nothing.

b. Approach Jon and tell him to “get his act together.”

c. Ask Jon if he needs help, expressing concern.

d. Tell Jon what you heard and let him deal with it.

Ranked Answer Key:

(1) Most appropriate response: c. Ask Jon if he needs help, expressing concern.

(2) b. Approach Jon and tell him to “get his act together.”

(3) a. Do nothing.

(4) Least appropriate response: d. Tell Jon what you heard and let him deal with it.