



# Texas Department of Public Safety

## TROOPER-TRAINEE EXAM PREPARATION GUIDE



Courtesy of The Texas Department of Public Safety Recruiting Office

TR-155 (Rev. 02/07)

# ADAPTABILITY

Some jobs require figuring—such as adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing, while others require writing reports or answering letters, and still other jobs can be done well by people who are not particularly apt with figures or words.

Do your best on this, but do not worry about it. Remember that you may be well qualified for certain jobs that require training or skills different from those covered in their test. You have only one (1) hour and thirty (30) minutes to complete this exam.

Circle the word that means the same or about the same as the underlined word.

1. Corroborated the statement
  - a. confirmed
  - b. negated
  - c. denied
  - d. challenged
  
2. Ambiguous questions
  - a. meaningless
  - b. difficult
  - c. simple
  - d. vague

Circle the word that best describes the meaning of the underlined word in the sentence.

3. Though she was distraught over the disappearance of her child, the woman was calm enough to give the officer her description.
  - a. punished
  - b. distracted
  - c. composed
  - d. anguished
  
4. The unrepentant criminal expressed no remorse for his actions.
  - a. sympathy
  - b. regret
  - c. reward
  - d. complacency

Circle the word that best completes the sentence.

5. Professor Washington was a very \_\_\_\_\_ man known for his reputation as a scholar.
  - a. stubborn
  - b. erudite
  - c. illiterate
  - d. disciplined
  
6. His \_\_\_\_\_ was demonstrated by his willingness to donate large amounts of money to worthy causes.
  - a. honesty
  - b. loyalty
  - c. selfishness
  - d. altruism

**Circle the word that means the same or nearly the same as the underlined word.**

7. convivial company  
a. lively  
b. dull  
c. tiresome  
d. dreary
8. conspicuous behavior  
a. secret  
b. notable  
c. visible  
d. boorish
9. meticulous record-keeping  
a. dishonest  
b. casual  
c. painstaking  
d. careless
10. superficial wounds  
a. life-threatening  
b. bloody  
c. severe  
d. shallow
11. impulsive actions  
a. cautious  
b. imprudent  
c. courageous  
d. cowardly

**You will find word problems using fractions, decimals, and percentages in this chapter. For now, practice using the translation table on problems that just require you to work with basic arithmetic.**

- \_\_\_ 12. Joan went shopping with \$100 and returned home with \$18.42. How much money did she spend?  
a. \$81.58                      b. \$72.68                      c. \$72.58                      d. \$71.68                      e. \$71.58
- \_\_\_ 13. Mark invited ten friends to a party. Each friend brought 3 guests. How many people came to the party, excluding Mark?  
a. 3                                      b. 10                                      c. 30                                      d. 40                                      e. 41
- \_\_\_ 14. The office secretary can type 80 words per minute on his word processor. How many minutes will it take him to type a report containing 760 words?  
a. 8                                      b. 8 1/2                                      c. 9                                      d. 9 1/2                                      e. 10
- \_\_\_ 15. Officer Wallace has to write a report on a woman's handbag given to him while he was on foot patrol by a man who found it in the gutter. He estimates the value of the handbag at \$100. Inside, he finds two rings, which he values at \$350 each; a makeup kit, which he values at \$25; and \$249 in cash. What should Officer Wallace write as the total value of the found cash and property?  
a. \$724                                      b. \$974                                      c. \$1049                                      d. \$1064                                      e. \$1074

# READING COMPREHENSION

## PART A:

- Skim the passage briefly. When you think you know what the passage is about, try to supply the missing words.
- Begin with the easier and then go on to the harder words.
- Guess at those words that you don't know. Try to supply a word for each blank space.
- You may find that you disagree with some of the statements in the passages. Do not let that influence your choice of words. Choose words that are consistent with the overall meaning of the passage.
- Put only one word in each blank space.
- In the blank spaces, use only words that both make sense and have the same number of letters as there are dashes.
- Place your answers on the answer sheet provided. Make sure you place the answer next to the number that corresponds to the numbered space in the passage.

### Passage #1

Fortunately, no one was hurt when the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ was derailed. The derailment occurred (2) \_\_\_\_\_ lumber and other debris were piled on the tracks. Investigators believe a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of people were involved. They are looking into the possibility (4) \_\_\_\_\_ a local gang caused the accident for (5) \_\_\_\_\_. It would not be the first (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that members of this (7) \_\_\_\_\_ caused serious damage.

### Passage #2

Qualifications for Secretary IV (Motor Vehicle Theft Service Secretary)

To qualify, the person:

Must be at least 17 years of age.

Must be a U.S. Citizen

Graduation (8) \_\_\_\_\_ a standard senior high school or the equivalent plus two (2) or more (9) \_\_\_\_\_ of complex secretarial or clerical work experience that includes considerable time operating desktop computers. The equivalent of one (1) year of studies in an accredited (10) \_\_\_\_\_ or university with emphasis in criminal justice can substitute for one (1) year of the described experience.

Applicants must (11) \_\_\_\_\_ on the DPS clerical aptitude (12) \_\_\_\_\_ and the DPS alphanumeric data entry test or DPS typing test with minimum of thirty-five (35) words per (13) \_\_\_\_\_ corrected speed. All applicants must have taken the DPS alpha-numeric data entry test or DPS typing test within the past (12) twelve (14) \_\_\_\_\_.

Felony (15) \_\_\_\_\_ will be cause for rejection. Must present birth/naturalization certificate prior to employment if (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

All interested and qualified persons should submit (17) \_\_\_\_\_ application (18) \_\_\_\_\_ the Human Resources Bureau.

## **PART B: Reading Passages**

Read each passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow that passage. You are to answer the questions based on the information provided in the passage.

Each question is followed by four possible answers. Choose the best answer for each question on your separate answer sheet; blacken the space under the same letter as the choice you think is the best answer. Mark only one answer for each question.

### **Passage #1**

Police officers must read suspects their Miranda rights upon taking them into custody. When a suspect who is merely being questioned incriminates himself, he might later claim to have been in custody and seek to have the case dismissed on the grounds of having been unapprised of his Miranda rights. In such cases, a judge must make a determination as to whether or not a reasonable person would have believed himself to have been in custody, based on certain criteria. The judge must determine whether the suspect was questioned in a threatening manner (for example, if the suspect was seated while both officers remained standing) and whether the suspect was aware that he or she was free to leave at any time. Officers must be aware of these criteria and take care not to give suspects grounds for later claiming they believed themselves to be in custody.

19. What is the main idea of the passage?
  - a. Officers must remember to read suspects their Miranda rights.
  - b. Judges, not police officers, make the final determination as to whether or not a suspect was in custody.
  - c. Officers who are merely questioning a suspect must not give the suspect the impression that he or she is in custody.
  - d. Miranda rights needn't be read to all suspects before questioning.
  
20. When is a suspect not in custody?
  - a. When free to refuse to answer questions
  - b. When free to leave the police station
  - c. When apprised of his or her Miranda rights
  - d. When not apprised of his or her Miranda rights
  
21. When must police officers read Miranda rights to a suspect?
  - a. While questioning the suspect
  - b. Before taking the suspect to the police station
  - c. While placing the suspect under arrest
  - d. Before releasing the suspect
  
22. A police officer who is questioning a suspect who is not under arrest must:
  - a. Read the suspect his Miranda rights
  - b. Inform the suspect that he is free to leave
  - c. Advise the suspect of his right to a lawyer
  - d. Allow the suspect a phone call

## Passage #2

Police officers should be aware of the cultural beliefs and habits of the subcultures they are likely to serve in an urban environment. In one case, a black man was arrested for the murder of a woman who had been strangled with a pair of stockings missing their tops because he had stocking tops in his drawer. The white police officers were not aware that stocking tops were used in a hairstyling process common in black communities at that time. Neither was the all-white jury. This shows why it is important not only that officers be culturally aware, but also that both police forces and juries reflect the diversity of their communities.

23. According to the passage, why do police officers need to be aware of the subculture they serve?
  - a. because they are likely to be prejudiced
  - b. because of possible hostility between the police and cultural minorities
  - c. because their ignorance could lead to injustice
  - d. because improved community relations will lead to more effective law enforcement
  
24. Why was the black man mentioned in the passage suspected of murder?
  - a. because he was black
  - b. because it seemed to the officers that only the murderer would be likely to possess stocking tops
  - c. because the officers looked down on his culture
  - d. because witnesses had identified him
  
25. The passage suggests that juries should reflect the diversity of the communities they serve in order to
  - a. ensure that juries will be able to place the suspect in the context of the community
  - b. make juries more sympathetic to members of cultural minorities
  - c. reduce the possibility of bias in their verdicts
  - d. improve relations between the community and the criminal justice system

### Passage #3

Each of the numbered blanks in the passage below stands for a word that has been omitted. Read the whole passage to get an idea of what it is about. Then look at the questions following the passage. For each numbered blank, choose the word that best fits in the blank from the four options given after that number.

Some people say there is too little respect for the law, but I say there is **26)** \_\_\_\_\_ much respect for it. When people **27)** \_\_\_\_\_ the law too much, they will **28)** \_\_\_\_\_ it blindly. They will say, the majority has decided on this **29)** \_\_\_\_\_, therefore I must heed it. They will not **30)** \_\_\_\_\_ to consider whether or not the law is fair. If they do think the law is **31)** \_\_\_\_\_ they think it is even more wrong to **32)** \_\_\_\_\_ it. They **33)** \_\_\_\_\_ that people must not break the law but must live with it until the majority has been persuaded to **34)** \_\_\_\_\_ it. For example, many people in Birmingham, Alabama knew that the laws that made black people **35)** \_\_\_\_\_ up their seats on **36)** \_\_\_\_\_ to white people were unjust. However, it was not **37)** \_\_\_\_\_ Rosa Parks, an **38)** \_\_\_\_\_ law-abiding citizen, refused to stand up and so **39)** \_\_\_\_\_ the law that change came about. I am not saying that we should **40)** \_\_\_\_\_ laws because they are **41)** \_\_\_\_\_ to us. I am saying that we must **42)** \_\_\_\_\_ to our consciences first. Only **43)** \_\_\_\_\_ should we follow the law. If we know in our **44)** \_\_\_\_\_ that the law is wrong, it is our **45)** \_\_\_\_\_ to break it.

- |   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| 26. a. very<br>b. too<br>c. over<br>d. not                        | 27. a. respect<br>b. underestimate<br>c. obey<br>d. hinder | 28. a. decide<br>b. believe<br>c. plan<br>d. follow                  | 29. a. law<br>b. decision<br>c. candidate<br>d. minority       | 30. a. desire<br>b. think<br>c. stop<br>d. manage   |
| 31. a. righteous<br>b. fair<br>c. just<br>d. wrong                | 32. a. disobey<br>b. discover<br>c. follow<br>d. respect   | 33. a. proclaim<br>b. believe<br>c. disagree<br>d. remark            | 34. a. disobey<br>b. make<br>c. change<br>d. observe           | 35. a. build<br>b. give<br>c. move<br>d. look       |
| 36. a. notice<br>b. theaters<br>c. weekdays<br>d. buses           | 37. a. without<br>b. unless<br>c. for<br>d. until          | 38. a. outstanding<br>b. exceptionally<br>c. equally<br>d. otherwise | 39. a. mocked<br>b. heeded<br>c. defied<br>d. justified        | 40. a. refuse<br>b. provide<br>c. break<br>d. deny  |
| 41. a. disastrous<br>b. inconvenient<br>c. proper<br>d. agreeable | 42. a. listen<br>b. follow<br>c. obey<br>d. march          | 43. a. then<br>b. later<br>c. now<br>d. first                        | 44. a. deliberations<br>b. fashion<br>c. hearts<br>d. feelings | 45. a. mistake<br>b. duty<br>c. desire<br>d. choice |

# WRITING SKILLS

## PART A: Vocabulary

Choose the word or phrase that most nearly expresses the same meaning as the underlined word.

1. The general public was apathetic about the verdict.
  - a. enraged
  - b. indifferent
  - c. suspicious
  - d. saddened
  
2. The theories of some criminal psychologists were fortified by the new research.
  - a. reinforced
  - b. altered
  - c. disputed
  - d. developed
  
3. One of the duties of a captain is to delegate responsibility.
  - a. analyze
  - b. respect
  - c. criticize
  - d. assign
  
4. The police spokesperson must articulate the philosophy of an entire department.
  - a. trust
  - b. refine
  - c. verify
  - d. express

## PART B: Grammar

Choose the option that uses verb tense correctly.

5.
  - a. When I cry, I always get what I want.
  - b. When I cry, I always got what I want.
  - c. When I cried, I always got what I want.
  - d. When I cried, I always get what I want.
  
6.
  - a. It all started after I came home and am in my room studying for a big test.
  - b. It all started after I came home and was in my room studying for a big test.
  - c. It all starts after I come home and was in my room studying for a big test.
  - d. It all starts after I came home and am in my room studying for a big test.
  
7.
  - a. The child became excited and dashes into the house and slams the door.
  - b. The child becomes excited and dashed into the house and slammed the door.
  - c. The child becomes excited and dashes into the house and slammed the door.
  - d. The child became excited and dashed into the house and slammed the door.



# Exam Preparation Guide - Answer Sheet

## ADAPTABILITY

- |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. A  | 2. D  | 3. D  | 4. B  | 5. B  |
| 6. D  | 7. A  | 8. C  | 9. C  | 10. D |
| 11. B | 12. A | 13. D | 14. D | 15. E |

## READING COMPREHENSION

- |              |            |            |            |                |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| 1. TRAIN     | 2. BECAUSE | 3. NUMBER  | 4. THAT    | 5. FUN         |
| 6. TIME      | 7. GANG    | 8. FROM    | 9. YEARS   | 10. COLLEGE    |
| 11. QUALIFY  | 12. TEST   | 13. MINUTE | 14. MONTHS | 15. CONVICTION |
| 16. SELECTED | 17. THEIR  | 18. TO     | 19. A      | 20. B          |
| 21. C        | 22. B      | 23. C      | 24. B      | 25. C          |
| 26. B        | 27. A      | 28. D      | 29. A      | 30. C          |
| 31. D        | 32. A      | 33. B      | 34. C      | 35. B          |
| 36. D        | 37. D      | 38. D      | 39. C      | 40. C          |
| 41. B        | 42. A      | 43. A      | 44. C      | 45. B          |

## WRITING SKILLS

- |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. B | 2. A | 3. D | 4. D | 5. A |
| 6. B | 7. D |      |      |      |

### References:

Texas Department of Public Safety Human Resources 2003  
Learning Express, *The Complete Preparation Guide Police Officer, Texas 1<sup>st</sup> Edition*  
Texas Department of Public Safety Exam Preparation Guide 2000 Edition