



Written Examination

INTRODUCTION

After completing the Physical Fitness Test, you will take the National Police Officer Selection Test (POST). This exam measures your ability to process information, perform basic calculations, understand written material, and clearly document incidents.

The POST exam evaluates foundational skills necessary for:

- Writing accurate reports
- Interpreting policies and laws
- Reading and understanding statutes
- Calculating totals, percentages, and basic figures
- Communicating clearly and professionally

Each section of the test is timed.

You cannot return to a section once time has expired.

Preparation matters.

Test Structure

Candidates must complete:

The POST includes four sections:

1. Arithmetic
2. Reading Comprehension
3. Grammar & Spelling
4. Incident Report Writing

Each section is timed separately.

Section 1: Arithmetic

What to Expect

The math portion is basic but timed. Expect:

- Long division
- Multiplication
- Percentages
- Mean / median / mode
- Adding and subtracting totals
- Basic word problems

No advanced algebra. No calculus.

Study Focus

Practice:

- Doing math without a calculator
- Converting percentages
- Breaking word problems into steps
- Checking your work quickly

Strategy During Test

- Skip difficult questions and return if time allows
- Write clearly and organize scratch work
- Don't rush early problems and panic later
- Watch the clock

Section 2: Reading Comprehension

What to Expect

- Short passages
- Policy-style writing
- Scenario-based questions
- Identifying main idea

Study Focus

- Read slowly and carefully
- Practice summarizing paragraphs
- Identify keywords
- Practice timed reading

Strategy During Test

- Read questions before passage if helpful
- Eliminate clearly wrong answers
- Do not overthink
- Use evidence from the passage

Section 3: Grammar & Spelling

What to Expect

- Sentence correction
- Proper word usage
- Basic punctuation
- Identifying spelling errors

Study Focus

- Common homophones (their/there/they're)
- Comma usage
- Subject-verb agreement
- Simple sentence clarity

Strategy During Test

- Read sentences out loud in your head
- Look for obvious grammatical errors
- Trust your first instinct unless clearly wrong

Section 4: Incident Report Writing

What to Expect

You will likely:

- Read a scenario
- Write a clear summary
- Organize events chronologically
- Use proper grammar and spelling

Test-Taking Strategy

1. Time Management
 - a. You cannot return to a section once time is up
 - b. Do not get stuck and keep moving
2. Process of Elimination
 - a. Often two answers are obviously wrong
 - b. Narrow it down. Improve your odds.
3. Nerves & Performance
 - a. Get adequate sleep
 - b. Ensure you follow the steps for the physical fitness test regarding hydration and nutrition so your mind stays sharp
4. During the test:
 - a. Stay relaxed and focus on your breathing
 - b. Focus only on the current question
5. Common mistakes:
 - a. The test will be easy I don't need to study or practice
 - b. Rushing to finish
 - c. Not practicing timed sections
 - d. Not eating or staying hydrated

Sample Questions

1. A patrol unit drove 378 miles over 6 days. What was the average number of miles driven per day?
 - A. 58
 - B. 62
 - C. 63
 - D. 68
2. An officer issued 45 citations. If 20% were for speeding, how many speeding citations were issued?
 - A. 5
 - B. 7
 - C. 9
 - D. 12

3. An officer responded to the following number of calls over 5 days:
12, 15, 9, 14, 10

What is the mean number of calls per day?

- A. 10
 - B. 11
 - C. 12
 - D. 13
4. Find the median of the following response times (in minutes):
4, 7, 5, 9, 6
- A. 5
 - B. 6
 - C. 7
 - D. 9
5. A department budget increased from \$850,000 to \$935,000. What was the increase?
- A. \$75,000
 - B. \$85,000
 - C. \$95,000
 - D. \$105,000

Passage:

Officer Daniels arrived at 214 Maple Street at approximately 1830 hours in response to a noise complaint. Upon arrival, she observed loud music coming from inside the residence. She made contact with the homeowner, who agreed to lower the volume. No further action was required.

1. Why did Officer Daniels respond to the residence?
- A. To investigate a burglary
 - B. To respond to a noise complaint
 - C. To conduct a welfare check
 - D. To issue a citation
2. What action was taken?
- A. An arrest was made
 - B. A citation was issued
 - C. The homeowner agreed to lower the music
 - D. A written warning was issued
3. What time did the officer arrive?
- A. 1430 hours
 - B. 1730 hours

- C. 1830 hours
- D. 1930 hours

4. Choose the correct sentence:

- A. The officer seen the suspect running.
- B. The officer saw the suspect running.
- C. The officer see the suspect running.
- D. The officer seeing the suspect running.

5. Identify the correctly spelled word:

- A. Recieve
- B. Recive
- C. Receive
- D. Receeve

6. Choose the correct word:

The suspect left ____ vehicle parked in the roadway.

- A. there
- B. their
- C. they're
- D. them

7. Identify the sentence with correct punctuation:

- A. The officer arrived at 5:30 pm and spoke with the victim
- B. The officer arrived at 5:30 p.m., and spoke with the victim.
- C. The officer arrived at 5:30 p.m. and spoke with the victim.
- D. The officer, arrived at 5:30 p.m. and spoke with the victim.

Answer Key

Arithmetic

- 1. C (63)
- 2. C (9)
- 3. C (12)
- 4. B (6)
- 5. B (\$85,000)

Reading

- 1. B
- 2. C
- 3. C

Grammar

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C