

Missouri Peace Officer License Exam Process



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INTRODUCTION

To be eligible for licensure as a peace officer in the state of Missouri each applicant must meet the following qualifications:

1. Be a United States Citizen;
2. Be 21 years of age;
3. Have a high school diploma or its equivalent;
4. Have no criminal record;
5. Graduate of a state licensed law enforcement basic training course;
6. **Successfully pass the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam.**

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

1. Only the POST mandated objectives are tested.
2. Test questions are multiple-choice or true and false.
3. There are 200 questions on the exam.
4. There is no time limit to take the exam.
5. Individuals who fail to pass the exam may apply to POST or its designated representative within thirty days of notification of failure. If an individual fails the exam a second time, such person must contact POST no later than thirty days after notification of failure and schedule a time to take the exam a third time. If an individual fails the exam a third time, or fails to re-schedule within the thirty day time frame to re-take the exam, such person must wait one year from the date of the last exam unless they complete a basic training course of four hundred and eighty hours or more.

The following is a breakdown of the core subject areas and the percentage of questions in each area as well as sample test questions:

1. **LEGAL STUDIES** (11%)

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

- ◆ Introduction to Law
- ◆ The Criminal Process
- ◆ Rules of Evidence
- ◆ Admissions/Confessions
- ◆ Contact/Detention/Arrest
- ◆ Prisoner Rights and Privileges
- ◆ Searches, Seizures, and the Search Warrant
- ◆ Peace Officer Liability

MISSOURI STATUTORY LAW

- ◆ Criminal Code Overview
- ◆ Justification-Use of Force
- ◆ Criminal Statutes
- ◆ Civil Process

TRAFFIC LAW

- ◆ Complaint and Summons
- ◆ Registration and Licensing

2. INTERPERSONAL PERSPECTIVES (14%)

Ethics and Professionalism

Domestic Violence

- ◆ Crisis Intervention/Domestic Violence
- ◆ Child Abuse and Neglect

Human Behavior

- ◆ Communication Obstacles
- ◆ Cultural Diversity
- ◆ Community Problem Solving
- ◆ Crime Prevention
- ◆ Dealing With Death
- ◆ Stress Management
- ◆ Health, Fitness, and Nutrition

3. TECHNICAL STUDIES (65%)

PATROL

- ◆ Radio Communication Procedure
- ◆ Field Interviews
- ◆ Mechanics of Arrest and Control
- ◆ Search of Persons/Vehicles
- ◆ Vehicle Stops
- ◆ Day vs. Night Patrol
- ◆ Emergency Response/Building Searches
- ◆ Gangs, Transients, and Organized Crime
- ◆ Civil Disturbance Response
- ◆ Survival Mentality
- ◆ Hazardous Materials
- ◆ Introduction to Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)

JAIL POPULATION MANAGEMENT

- ◆ Processing and Documentation Procedures
- ◆ Basic Security Principles

TRAFFIC ACCIDENT and LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ◆ State Wide Accident Reporting System (STARS)/Accident Report Writing & Diagramming
- ◆ Accident Investigation
- ◆ Introduction to Traffic Radar
- ◆ DWI Investigation and Reporting

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

- ◆ Crime Scene Processing and Investigation
- ◆ Fingerprint Evidence
- ◆ Interrogation Process

OFFENSE INVESTIGATION (not all inclusive)

- ◆ Homicide
- ◆ Robbery
- ◆ Sexual Assault
- ◆ Bad Check
- ◆ Vehicle Theft
- ◆ Burglary

REPORT WRITING

- ◆ Memoranda (internal departmental correspondence)
- ◆ Introduction to Report Writing

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND PROCEDURES

- ◆ Introduction, Jurisdiction and Certification
- ◆ Judicial Custody
- ◆ Juvenile Interrogation/Interviews
- ◆ Fingerprinting and Lineups
- ◆ Related Missouri Statutes

FIRST AID (FIRST RESPONDER)

4. SKILL DEVELOPMENT (10%)

DEFENSIVE TACTICS

- ◆ Handcuffing and Restraining Devices
- ◆ Control Techniques

FIREARMS

- ◆ Fundamentals of Marksmanship
- ◆ Shooting Stance

DRIVER TRAINING

- ◆ Fundamentals of Law Enforcement Driving

Sample Exam Questions

The following questions are typical of those that appear in the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam. There is a sample question for each category. By reviewing each question, candidates can familiarize themselves with the types of questions on the examination.

1. **Technical Studies**

One can generally say that a serial murderer has the following characteristics:

- a. They are a dangerous criminal.
- b. They murder more than once.
- c. Their crime may have a similar modis operandi.
- d. All of the above.

2. **Legal Studies**

The right of the people to be secure that excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted is embodied in which amendment?

- a. First
- b. Ninth
- c. Eighth
- d. Third

3. **Legal Studies**

Officer Brown responds to a report of property damage. After interviewing the complainant, Officer Brown determines the complainant had contracted with a construction company to put in a water line and in the process the backhoe operator backed into his house causing substantial damage. The complainant wants the backhoe operator arrested. This is a:

- a. Criminal matter
- b. Civil matter

4. **Legal Studies**

After a search warrant has been served:

- a. Only items over \$50.00 in value need to be listed on the return to the court.
- b. Only items over \$150.00 in value need to be listed on the return to the court.
- c. Only items that have a retail value of \$500.00 need to be listed on the return to the court.
- d. All items seized need to be listed on the return to the court.

5. **Skill Development**

When handcuffing a prisoner who is unruly:

- a. Always spray the prisoner with chemical mace before applying handcuffs.
- b. Handcuff the prisoner's right hand to their left ankle and left hand to right ankle.
- c. Handcuff the prisoner's hands behind their back and apply leg restraints if necessary, insuring the handcuffs and leg restraints are double locked.
- d. Tighten the handcuffs tight enough that the prisoner's hands turn blue and they cease to be unruly.

6. **Legal Studies**

Officer Brown has developed sufficient probable cause to arrest suspect Jones for misdemeanor stealing. Officer Brown is able to locate suspect Jones one month after the incident. At the time of the arrest Officer Brown must have in his possession:

- a. Writ of Habeas Corpus
- b. Writ of Mandamus
- c. Subpoena Duces Tecum
- d. None of the above

7. **Technical Studies**

In a DWI investigation, eight hundredths of one percent or more by weight of alcohol in the suspect's blood is:

- a. Proof that the suspect drank at least eight beers
- b. Indication that the suspect is in need of medical attention
- c. Prima Facie evidence that the suspect is intoxicated
- d. Cause for dismissal

8. **Technical Studies**

- T F A Missouri STARS accident report must be completed on all private property accidents.

9. **Legal Studies**

You have answered a second domestic abuse call at the same residence involving the same husband and wife. The husband is identified as the primary aggressor. The wife does not want her husband arrested and doesn't want any report made. If this second call has taken place within _____ hours of the first and you can identify the primary aggressor, you must make an arrest.

- a. 24
- b. 8
- c. 12
- d. 48

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|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Answer Key | 1. d | 2. c | 3. b | 4. d | 5. c | 6. d | 7. c | 8. f | 9. c |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|

Contact Information

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact the POST Program at (573) 751-3409.