GENERAL

cps police sergeant exam sample questions

Published: September 3, 2026 | Index ID: #-

For many aspiring law enforcement professionals, the journey from a police officer to a police sergeant is a pivotal career milestone. In the Central Police Service (CPS), the **police sergeant exam** is a rigorous assessment that tests knowledge, leadership capability, ethical judgment, and physical readiness. One of the most effective ways to prepare is to study **sample questions**that mirror the real exam's structure and difficulty. This comprehensive guide offers an in depth look at the CPS Police Sergeant Exam, provides a curated set of sample questions, and shares practical study tips that can help you achieve a top score.

Understanding the CPS Police Sergeant Exam

The CPS Police Sergeant Exam is designed to evaluate a candidate's readiness for supervisory responsibilities. It covers a broad spectrum of topics, including:

- Law enforcement fundamentals
- Leadership and management principles
- Ethics and integrity in policing
- Community policing and public relations
- Physical fitness and situational awareness
- Scenario based problem solving

Candidates typically have several years of field experience before they are eligible to sit for the exam. The test is a combination of multiple choice questions (MCQs) and scenario based essays, ensuring that applicants can demonstrate both theoretical knowledge and practical judgment.

Exam Format and Timing

The exam is divided into two main sections:

1. Section A: Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) – 60 questions, 90 minutes
2. Section B: Scenario Based Essays – 3 scenarios, 60 minutes total

Each MCQ carries one point, while essay questions are evaluated on clarity, structure, and depth of analysis. The overall passing score is set at 70% for Section A and a minimum of 60% on the essay section.

Why Sample Questions Are Your Secret Weapon

Studying **sample questions** offers several advantages:

- Familiarity with Question Style – Understand the phrasing, distractors, and common pitfalls.
- Time Management Practice – Learn how to pace yourself under exam conditions.
- Identifying Knowledge Gaps – Spot topics that need further review.
- Building Confidence – Reduce exam anxiety by becoming comfortable with the format.

Below, we provide a range of sample questions across key categories, followed by detailed explanations and study strategies.

Sample Questions by Category

1. Police Knowledge

These questions test your foundational knowledge of law, procedure, and policy.

1. Question: Which of the following is a primary purpose of the CPS's Community Policing Initiative?

   A) Increase arrest rates in high crime neighborhoods
2. B) Strengthen relationships between officers and residents
3. C) Reduce the number of patrol vehicles
4. D) Expand surveillance technology in public spaces

- A) Officers can use lethal force at any time if they feel threatened.
- B) The continuum is a guideline, not a legal requirement.
- C) Physical force is the first line of response.
- D) De-escalation techniques are optional in high risk situations.

2. Leadership and Management

These questions evaluate your understanding of supervisory duties and team dynamics.

1. Question: A sergeant notices a consistent pattern of low morale among patrol officers. Which action is most appropriate?

   A) Reduce the officers' shift hours without explanation.
2. B) Conduct a one on one meeting to gather feedback and propose solutions.
3. C) Post a motivational quote on the squad room bulletin board.
4. D) Assign additional training without addressing the root cause.

- A) Adapting leadership style to the task and the maturity of the team.
- B) Using force to maintain control in high risk environments.
- C) Delegating all responsibilities to subordinates.
- D) Maintaining a strict hierarchy at all times.

3. Ethics and Integrity

These questions probe your ethical reasoning and commitment to public trust.

1. Question: An officer discovers that a colleague has been accepting gifts from a local business. What is the most appropriate course of action?

   A) Report the situation to the internal affairs division.
2. B) Ignore it; it is a private matter.
3. C) Confront the colleague publicly in front of the squad.
4. D) Offer to buy the gifts in exchange for a favor.

- A) Officers may engage in any personal activity that does not interfere with duty.
- B) Officers must disclose and avoid situations where personal interests conflict with official duties.
- C) Officers should keep personal and professional lives completely separate.
- D) Officers can accept gifts from any source if they are small in value.

4. Physical Fitness

These questions assess your knowledge of fitness standards and health maintenance.

1. Question: What is the minimum standard for the CPS Physical Fitness Test for sergeant candidates?

A) 20 push ups in 90 seconds
2. B) 30 sit ups in 60 seconds
3. C) 1.5 mile run in 12 minutes
4. D) 2.5 mile run in 15 minutes

- A) Perform high intensity interval training (HIIT) once a week.
- B) Run a steady, moderate intensity distance each session.
- C) Focus exclusively on strength training.
- D) Take daily vitamin supplements.

5. Scenario Based Essay Questions

These essays require you to apply knowledge to realistic situations.

1. Scenario: During a routine traffic stop, you notice the driver's vehicle has a broken tail light and a suspicious odor emanating from the trunk. The driver appears nervous and refuses to open the trunk. How do you handle the situation, balancing safety, legality, and community relations?

Answer Guidance:

Outline the steps you would take to ensure your safety.
2. Explain how you would communicate with the driver to reduce tension.
3. Discuss the legal basis for inspecting the vehicle and the trunk.
4. Highlight the importance of maintaining public trust and transparency.

- Identify the impact of the hostile behavior on team cohesion.
- Outline a step by step approach to confront the issue, including documentation and communication.
- Describe potential training or counseling interventions.
- Emphasize the importance of leadership accountability.

Effective Study Strategies for the CPS Police Sergeant Exam

Preparing for the exam is more than memorizing facts; it's about developing a holistic understanding of policing and leadership. Below are proven strategies to help you excel.

1. Create a Structured Study Plan

Break down the exam topics into weekly study blocks. Allocate more time to areas where you feel less confident, and schedule regular review sessions to reinforce retention.

2. Use Active Recall and Spaced Repetition

Test yourself frequently with flashcards or practice quizzes. Revisit challenging concepts at spaced intervals to strengthen memory consolidation.

3. Practice Under Time Constraints

Simulate exam conditions by timing yourself on MCQs and essay responses. This will help you manage the 90 minute and 60 minute time limits.

4. Analyze Sample Answers

After completing practice questions, review model answers. Pay attention to structure, clarity, and how the answer addresses all parts of the question.

5. Build Physical Readiness Early

Start a fitness routine at least six weeks before the exam. Include cardiovascular, strength, and flexibility training to meet or exceed the CPS fitness standards.

6. Engage in Peer Study Groups

Discuss challenging scenarios with fellow candidates. Explaining concepts to others reinforces your own understanding.

7. Seek Guidance from Current or Former Sergeants

Interviewing experienced officers can provide real world insights into leadership challenges and exam expectations.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

Even well prepared candidates can slip up. Watch out for these pitfalls:

- Overreliance on Memorization – Focus on understanding principles rather than rote facts.
- Ignoring Physical Requirements – Physical fitness is a non negotiable component of the exam.
- Underestimating Time Management – Allocate time wisely; don't spend too long on a single question.
- Neglecting Essay Structure – Use the introduction body conclusion format for clarity.
- Skipping Scenario Practice – Scenario questions test application, not memorization.

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