Frequently Asked Questions about PSP Entry-level Examinations

Current as of August 2019

Information regarding Cadet selection testing is subject to change. For the most current information, candidates are advised to monitor the Pennsylvania State Police website at www.psp.pa.gov. Click on “Employment” and then click on “Current State Police Cadet Testing Announcements.”

When will I get my written examination results?

- The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) will send results of the written examination via email no later than August 30, 2019. Written examination results will indicate whether the applicant is moving forward to the oral examination or not. Exact scores are not released to candidates. Examination final rankings will only be released to candidates that complete both the written and the oral portions of the examination process. The PSP will annotate the website that notifications have been sent. Due to the high volume of applicants seeking information, PLEASE CHECK THE PSP WEBSITE for additional information prior to calling or emailing PSP about your results.
- Candidates will not be able to obtain examination results online.
- Actual scores are not released; rather, candidates will be notified if they qualify or do not qualify to participate in an oral examination.

DO NOT submit Veterans’ Preference Points (VPP) documents to the testing centers. VPP materials submitted at the testing centers WILL NOT be considered for PSP positions. VPP documents must be submitted directly to PSP.

When will the oral examinations take place?

- The PSP anticipates conducting oral examinations for the position of Cadet at five locations throughout Pennsylvania for five consecutive days from September 27, 2019 through October 1, 2019.

How will I find out the specific location, date, and time of my oral examination?

- Cadet candidates achieving a qualifying score on the written test will be invited by email to participate in the oral examination. Qualified candidates will be able to self-schedule the oral examination at a suitable location, date, and time. Appointments will be scheduled on a first come first served basis. The PSP cannot guarantee availability of a particular location, date, or time.

What should I do if I cannot attend the oral examination during the scheduled date range?

- All candidates who qualify to take the oral examination must take the test at the time it is offered. Candidates not taking the oral examination will be ineligible to continue the current Cadet selection process. Make-up examinations are offered to military applicants under certain conditions.
- Candidates who are unable to attend the oral examination due to military activation and deployment will be granted a deferment upon furnishing a copy of military orders via email to the Public Safety Human Resource Delivery Center, Uniformed Talent Management Division, at ra-pypsdcentrylevel@pa.gov.
How can I prepare for the oral examination?
- An oral examination preparation guide for the position of Cadet will be available for viewing, printing, and/or downloading in the "Current Cadet Testing Announcements" section of the PSP website before the administration of the oral examinations.

What happens after I take the oral examination?
- After completing the written and oral examinations, candidates are placed on an eligibility list in rank order. The PSP will contact candidates for further processing, in rank order, according to the needs of the Department. Since PSP’s requirements vary from year to year, it is difficult to predict how many candidates will be contacted for further processing during a particular year, or when that processing will occur.
- Candidates remain on the eligibility list until it is superseded by a new list. To be considered for a new eligibility list, applicants are required to submit a new application for each testing cycle.

Who can I contact if I have a problem?
- Candidates may contact ra-pypsdcentrylevel@pa.gov regarding PSP Cadet examination issues. All candidates should periodically check the PSP website for updated information prior to contacting the Public Safety Human Resource Delivery Center, Uniformed Talent Management Division.