

**Entry-Level
Firefighter
Selection Exam
Study Guide**

***Frederick County Fire Department
2018***

This study guide will outline:

- Exam Components
 - Format
 - Competencies (what will be measured)
 - Number of Questions
 - Duration
 - Administration Logistics
 - Scoring
- Sample Questions
- How to Prepare

Exam Components

Exam Format

- This exam is a multimedia, written multiple-choice exam that contains
 - Color photographs
 - Video scenarios
 - Audio scenarios
 - Situational Judgment Questions – a situation is described and you have to choose how to best respond to the situation
- The exam is fully narrated
 - All text included in exam booklets
 - Answers recorded in pencil on Scantron for easy/immediate scoring

Competencies

- This exam measures the following Competencies:
 - Integrity
 - Reading Comprehension
 - Verbal Comprehension
 - Teamwork
 - Customer Service Orientation/Sensitivity
 - Attention to Detail
 - Conscientiousness
 - Problem Solving/Critical Thinking
 - Estimation Ability
 - Graphic Representation

Number of Questions

- The test contains 100 multiple-choice questions (4-5 answer choices, depending on the question)
- There are a roughly equal number of questions per competency (approximately 10 per)

Exam Duration

- The exam lasts approximately 3 hours, including administrative instructions*
- There are no scheduled breaks once the test begins (if you take a break or leave the test room for any reason, this will cut into your test-taking time and you may miss questions)

*times may vary slightly depending on number of candidates testing and number of questions asked by candidates prior to administration

Administration Logistics

- Test Administrators will read administrative instructions for filling out bubble sheets and outline other rules of testing
- The exam is separated into two sections
 - Part 1 is administered via administrator script
 - Part 2 is self-contained on video with timers and will run in its entirety once it begins

Scoring

- For some questions, you can get partial credit if you do not choose the best answer:
 - 4 answer choices (scaled)
 - Best Answer: 1 point
 - Second Best Answer: .67 points
 - Third Best Answer: .33 points
 - Worst/Wrong Answer: 0 points
 - 5 answer choices (scaled)
 - Best Answer: 1 point
 - Second Best Answer: .75 points
 - Third Best Answer: .50 points
 - Forth Best Answer: .25 points
 - Worst/Wrong Answer: 0 points
- For other questions, there is only one right answer:
 - Correct Answer: 1 point
 - Wrong Answer: 0 points

Sample Questions

Sample Questions

Sample Question 1: *Scaled-Response*

Sarah went to the grocery store to pick up some food to cook for dinner. Her groceries cost \$35. She handed the cashier \$40 to pay, a difference of \$5. The cashier handed her the receipt and she started to leave. While walking towards her car, she noticed that the cashier gave her \$10 back instead of \$5. What would be the BEST thing for Sarah to do?

- a. Keep the extra change since it was the cashier's mistake*
- b. Return to the store and give the extra \$5 dollars back to the first cashier or sales associate she sees*
- c. Use the extra change to buy more groceries*
- d. Return to the store, notify the cashier of the mistake, and ask for the correct change*

Sample Questions

Sample Question 2: *Single-Answer*

You are driving to the scene of a fire that is 15 miles away from your current location. If you drive 45 miles per hour (mph) the entire way there without stopping, how long will it take you to arrive?

- a. 15 minutes*
- b. 20 minutes*
- c. 30 minutes*
- d. 45 minutes*

Sample Questions

Sample Question 3: *Single-Answer*

During the exam you will have a brief time period (e.g., 20 seconds) to view several images like the one below. At the end of the time period, you will be prompted to turn the following page in your booklet and answer a question about the image(s) you just saw without looking back at it/them. To simulate this experience, briefly look at the image below and then turn to the following page to answer a question about what you saw without returning to the image.



Sample Questions

Sample Question 3: *Single-Answer*

What were the letters on the front of the white boat?

- a. MTSAD*
- b. MSTAD*
- c. MDSTA*
- d. MASDT*

How to Prepare For the Exam

How to Prepare

This exam does not require studying any specific material; however, to prepare we recommend that you:

- ***Practice answering multiple-choice questions*** – Practice answering questions against a specific timeline (e.g., 20 seconds) using a timer to help you prepare for the timed test-taking environment.
- ***Practice taking notes*** – You will need to take notes on scenarios throughout the test to improve your ability to recall information and answer questions.
- ***Understand your test-taking needs*** – If you have issues with your vision or hearing, please bring your glasses and/or ask to be seated close to the screen when you arrive so that you can hear and see all material that is presented.

Test-Taking Tips

When taking the test remember to:

- ***Read questions thoroughly and carefully*** – Skipping one word may change the meaning of the question!
- ***Answer what is asked*** – Make sure you understand what the question is asking so you can choose the best answer. Pay attention to words like “NOT,” “BEST,” or “WORST,” as they will change the meaning of the question.
- ***Underline key words*** – You will be able to mark in your test booklet, and doing this will help you pay attention to important information in the question.
- ***Narrow answer choices*** – If there are choices you know cannot be correct, cross them out. This way, even if you have to guess at the correct answer, you have a better chance of getting it right.
- ***Avoid reading into the question*** – Use only the information provided in the question; do not add additional information. Remember to choose the BEST answer from the options provided.

Test-Taking Tips

This test has audio, visual and writing requirements. You must use all of your senses so:

- Read carefully
- Listen carefully
- Watch carefully
- Analyze carefully

And you will maximize your test score!

Good luck!