

TRAINEE/QUALIFIED PARAMEDIC APTITUDE TESTING INFORMATION

As the second stage of the selection procedure, selected applicants will be required to participate in a series of aptitude tests. These tests are designed to assess each applicant's ability to undertake both the academic content of the Trainee/Qualified Paramedic curriculum and the subsequent demands of Paramedic duties.

This is one of many important steps in the evaluation process to ensure that we select those who are most suited to the role of Paramedic. People in this profession require skills and attitudes such as (but not limited to) excellent interpersonal skills to deal with every sector of the community, good judgement in working with sick people and emergency situations, as well as strong teamwork skills.

Obtaining a 'pass' in the aptitude tests does not guarantee employment into the Ambulance Service of NSW as all other selection requirements must be met. Applicants whose aptitude testing results are not competitive will be advised by letter and no further feedback will be provided.

Applicants who are not invited to interview may re-apply at the next advertisement. However, applicants may only undertake the aptitude tests once every 12 months. Those applying before the end of 12 months will have their test results carried over to their new application.

There are two parts to the ASNSW Trainee/Qualified Paramedic aptitude tests.

Part One applicants will be required to demonstrate their ability to read, to work with numbers, to recognise errors in written language, to correctly identify what words mean and to solve problems. These questions all have one correct answer, and measure a person's skill in each of these activities.

Part Two is a series of questionnaires. These questions have no right or wrong answers. They provide another opportunity for applicants to describe themselves to us.

Each test is timed. Instructions will be given on how to do the test before each test starts. Pencils, question booklets and answer sheets are provided. The total time allowed for parts one and two of the aptitude testing is five and a half hours (Part two of the test takes three and a half hours). Some people finish earlier, and others require the full time allowed.

Following are examples of some of the types of questions you will be asked during the aptitude tests. These are provided to give you an idea of the general type of questions that may appear.

PART ONE - ABILITY QUESTIONS

Reading and Comprehension Example

Ethics in Health Care (passage taken from Mosby's *Paramedic Textbook*, pages 96-97)

The fundamental question of ethical tests in health care is, "What is in the patient's best interest?" However, doing what is best, or what one thinks is best, is not sufficient to justify actions. Determining what the patient wants must first be defined by patient statements (if the patient is mentally competent), written statements, and family input (if the patient demonstrates altered mental status or incompetence). The role of "good faith" in making ethical decisions ("Am I doing my best to help and not harm my patient?") should be balanced with the wishes of the patient and the patient's family. The global concept of health care (providing patient benefit and avoiding harm) recognises and respects the patient's autonomy, as well as the various legal issues that affect the delivery of health care.

An otherwise young and healthy person is treated for minor cuts and bruises at the scene of a motor vehicle accident. As you treat the patient, he confesses that he is depressed and asks you for a potentially lethal dose of medication. How, and under what ethical basis, should you act?

- A. Refuse the request ("Am I doing my best to help and not harm the patient?")
- B. Refuse the request ("What is in the patient's best interest?")
- C. Refuse the request (on both bases stated in A and B)
- D. Grant the request (Respecting the rights and autonomy of the patient)

Numeracy Question Examples

For each of the following questions, choose the correct answer. There is only one correct answer.

1. $19 + 11 = ?$

- A. 27
- B. 8
- C. 30
- D. 31

The correct answer = (C) 30

2. $14 - 6 = ?$

- A. 7
- B. 8
- C. 9
- D. 10

The correct answer = (B) 8

3. An ambulance receives an emergency call. The location of the victim is exactly 5 kilometres from where the ambulance is now. Assuming that the ambulance travels the whole distance at exactly 60 kilometres per hour, how long will it take to arrive at the scene?

- A. 5 minutes
- B. 6 minutes
- C. 10 minutes
- D. 12 minutes

The correct answer = (A) 5 minutes.

If the ambulance can travel 60 kilometres in 60 minutes, it is travelling at 1 kilometre per minute. Therefore, to travel 5 kilometres at 60 kilometres per hour will take 5 minutes.

<i>Written Language</i>

In each group of sentences listed below, choose the one that is most correct.

Example 1.

- A. The oficer approached the scene.
- B. The officer aproached the scene.
- C. The officer approached the scene.
- D. The officer approached the seen.

The correct answer = (C)

All of the other choices have a spelling mistake.

Example 2.

- A. The vehicle made a left turn.
- B. The vehicle made a Left turn.
- C. The vehicle, took a left turn.
- D. The vehicle took a left Turn.

The correct answer = (A).

All of the other choices either have a comma in the wrong place, or have a letter that is capitalised incorrectly.

Word Meanings

In the sample items below, the first word in each line is printed in capital letters. Opposite it are four other words. You will be asked to circle the *one word* which means the *same thing*, or most nearly the same thing, as the first word.

- 1. **HOUSE** shed garden home garage
- 2. **SIMPLE** easy sample little clear
- 3. **OPTIMISTIC** bright hopeful characteristic careful

ANSWERS:

- 1. = home
- 2. = easy
- 3. = hopeful

There will also be questions where you are asked to fill in either a letter or number for each space (___) which follows the information you are given.

EXAMPLE:

- 1. 1 3 5 7 ___
- 2. good bad down ___
- 3. 1 2 3 4 5 2 3 4 5 1 3 4 5 6 7 4 5 6 7 3 5 6 7 8 9 6 7 8 9 ___

ANSWERS:

- 1. 9
- 2. up
- 3. 5 *explanation:* in the second set of numbers the first number has been moved to the last place followed by five more numbers which are in order. In the fourth set of numbers the first number has been moved to the last place, this is followed by another set of numbers in sequence. The correct answer is 5 as it follows the pattern of taking the first number in the sequence and placing it at the end.

PART TWO – QUESTIONNAIRES

PREFERENCES

Here you will be given two statements that will be about things that you may or may not like, or about ways in which you may or may not feel. You will be asked to make a choice for every pair of statements. For example:

- A. I like to be involved in outdoor activities.
- B. I enjoy reading books and magazines.

To answer this you need to consider which of these is more characteristic of what you like. You may like both. In this case you should choose the one that you like better. You may dislike both. In this case you should choose the one that you dislike less.

Here is another example:

- A. I feel pleased when I have a chance to work with other people.
- B. I feel discouraged when I'm unable to solve a difficult problem.

You will be asked to choose which of these is most like the way that you feel now. Again, both may describe the way you feel. Your job will be to select the one which is most like you. If neither describes how you feel, choose the one which you consider is most like you.

OPINIONS ABOUT SOCIETY

Here you will be given two statements about aspects of life in our society. You will be asked to choose the one which you more strongly believe. For example:

- A. People tend to get ahead in life because they know the right people.
- B. People tend to be successful because of pure hard work.

If you agree with both sentences, you will be asked to choose the one that you believe more strongly. If you don't agree with either sentence, you will be asked to choose the one that you disagree with least.

WORKPLACE PROCEDURES

Here you will be given some statements about what goes on in many work places. You'll be asked to indicate whether you agree, disagree or feel uncertain about the statement. Examples:

A = agree

? = uncertain

DA = disagree

- | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Most people require close supervision at work | A | ? | DA |
| 2. A good boss is someone who can understand how you feel about a problem. | A | ? | DA |

YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY AND OPINION

Here you will be given a series of statements. You will be asked to indicate whether the statement is True or False as it applies to you.

For example:

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| 1. Most of the time I have a good sense of humour. | T | F |
| 2. I often find it hard to wake up in the morning. | T | F |
| 3. Sometimes I find that little things irritate me more than most other people. | T | F |
| 4. I believe that people who are basically honest are most likely to get ahead in this world. | T | F |