

Massachusetts State Police

Frequently Asked Questions for the State Police Officer Exam

Q: I see the State Police Officer exam is being offered in 2024. I took it in 2023. Do I need to apply and take the exam again to remain on the eligible list?

A: No. You do not have to take the exam that is offered in 2024 if you took the exam in 2023. Your score from the 2023 exam will be kept on the State Police eligibility list until the list expires.

Q: How many times can someone take the exam?

A: Candidates are eligible to participate each time the exam is offered for State Police Officer. . If taking the exam to establish a position on the State Police eligible list is your goal, you must be aware that the most recent test score will be used for ranking on the State Police eligible list. Consequently, a candidate could take the most recent exam, fail, and no longer appear on any State Police eligible list.

Q: I participated in the 2023 State Police Officer exam and choose not to take the exam in 2024. How does this impact my ranking on the eligible list?

A: If you choose not to take the exam in 2024, you will remain on the State Police eligible list. However, your ranking may be impacted once the lists are merged because candidates that take the 2024 exam may earn a higher score and be placed above your present rank on the eligible list.

Your rank on the State Police eligible list may also be impacted at any time due to changes associated with statutory preferences, such as those related to Veteran status and status as the child of a deceased MA State Police officer who died in the line of duty.

Q: Am I qualified to take the State Police Officer exam?

A: Entrance qualifications and requirements for the State Police Officer exam will be listed on the exam announcement. You are strongly encouraged to carefully review the eligibility requirements for State Police selection before you choose to apply for the State Police exam.

Q: How do I apply for the State Police Officer exam?

A: Read the information contained for State Police Officer exam, available in the exam poster and apply online when it is available.

Q: What are components of the exam?

A: The written examination consists of three subtests: the Written Ability Test (WAT), the Life Experience Survey (LES), and the Work Styles Questionnaire (WSQ). The 3 parts, each measuring qualities that are important to succeed as an entry-level police officer are:

- Written Ability Test (WAT) — The WAT is administered to measure cognitive abilities that have been identified as essential to performing the duties of a Municipal and Transit Police Officer and State Police Trooper. The WAT includes areas of verbal expression, verbal comprehension, problem sensitivity, deductive reasoning, inductive reasoning, and information ordering. Candidates must receive a passing score on the WAT section of the examination in order to have the WSQ (Work Styles Questionnaire) and LES (Life Experience Survey) sections scored.
- Work Styles Questionnaire (WSQ) — The WSQ is designed to assess certain motivational, value-related and attitudinal characteristics that are of potential relevance to successful performance of entry-level Municipal and Transit Police Officer and State Police Trooper.
- Life Experience Survey (LES) — The LES consists of a series of multiple-choice questions related to candidates' past history and experience of potential relevance to successful performance of entry-level Municipal and Transit Police Officer and State Police Trooper.

You can use the Written Test Preparation Guide to find out more about the exam process, learn test-taking techniques, and practice with sample questions.

Q: After I apply for the exam how will I know when and where to take the written test?

A: Two weeks before the written test date you will receive a notice to appear by email. The notice will tell you the location and the time to appear for your written test. Please check your junk or spam mail folder for the e-mail before contacting the Civil Service office.

Q: When will I receive my exam results?

A: Results will be emailed to you as soon as they are available.