



# U.S. Customs and Border Protection



V 2018/12

# BORDER PATROL AGENT ENTRANCE EXAM PREPARATION GUIDE



**WE ARE AMERICA'S FRONTLINE**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER



Greetings, and congratulations for choosing to apply to the nation’s largest Federal law enforcement agency: U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). I cannot think of any career that is more important – or effective – in creating a safe, secure environment for our friends, families, communities, and future generations.

CBP enforces hundreds of laws and regulations for dozens of other agencies. Border Patrol Agents work to prevent terrorists and their weapons from entering the United States illegally, between official ports of entry. Border Patrol Agents also work to prevent the illicit trafficking of people and contraband into the United States. CBP’s complex mission – protecting our borders while facilitating the flow of lawful travel and trade – is integral to our national and economic security. I am so pleased that you want to be a part of it.

This Preparation Guide contains all the information that you will need to do your best on the Border Patrol Agent Entrance Examination. The guide provides information on how the exam is structured, sample questions, and tips on how to achieve the best possible score.

**Kevin A. McAleenan**

Commissioner



# CBP ETHOS

*Our shared identify, beliefs, and aspirations*

*WE are the guardians of our Nation's Borders.*

*WE are America's frontline.*

*WE safeguard the American homeland at and beyond our borders.*

*WE protect the American people against terrorists and the instruments of terror.*

*WE steadfastly enforce the laws of the United States while fostering our Nation's economic security through lawful international trade and travel.*

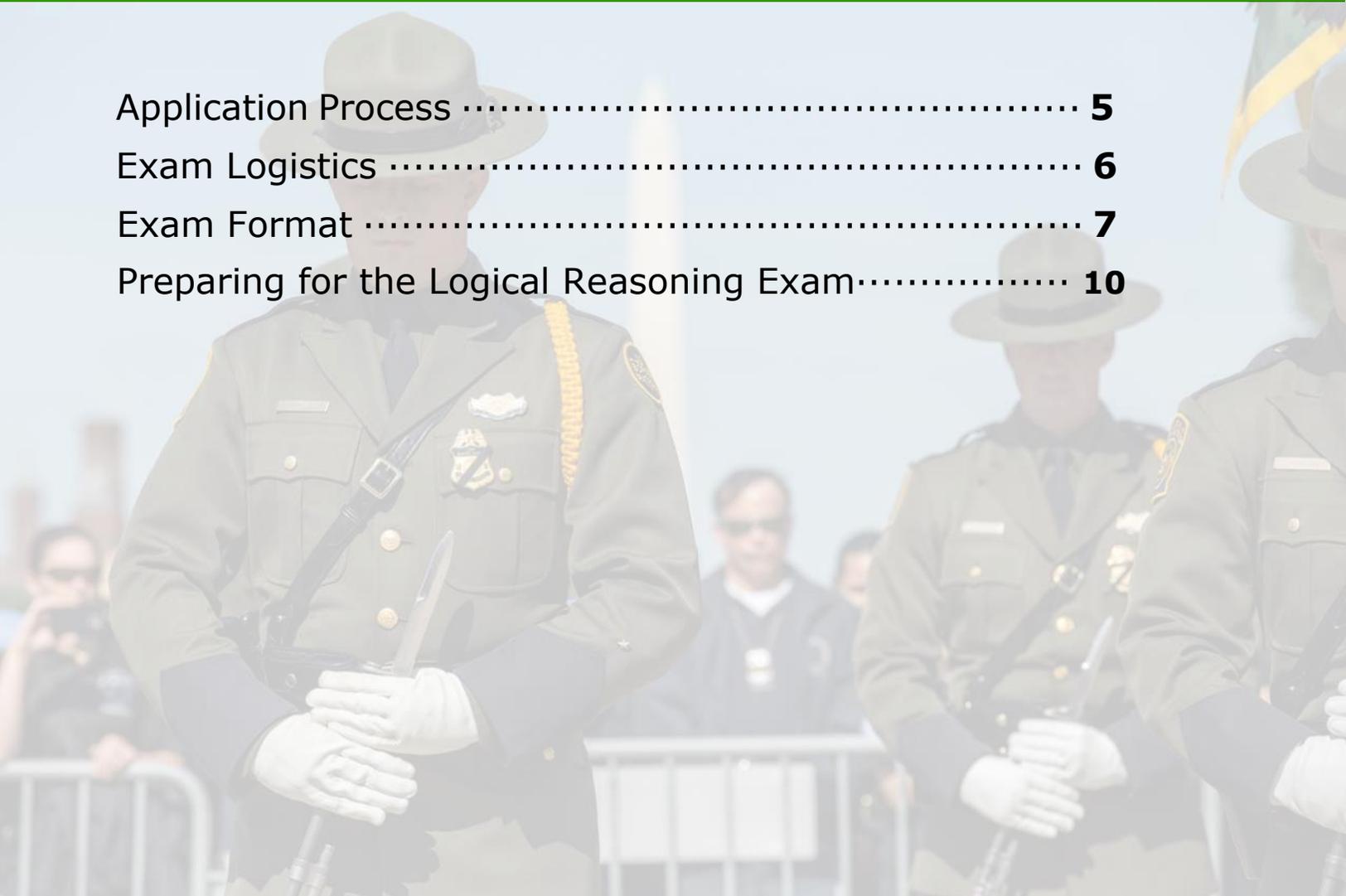
*WE serve the American people with vigilance, integrity, and professionalism*



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## U.S. Customs and Border Protection Core Values

**VIGILANCE**

**SERVICE**

**INTEGRITY**

# Application Process



**Being a Border Patrol Agent can be both mentally and physically challenging. As a result, the hiring process to become a Border Patrol Agent is intentionally rigorous to ensure that those selected can carry out the duties that are expected of them.**



**1. Apply**



**2. Entrance Exam**



**3. Qualifications Review**



**4. Background Investigation**



**Medical Exam**



**Fitness Test**



**5. Interview**



**6. Polygraph Exam**



**7. Random Drug Test**



For more information about each step, visit the Current Applicant Resources page at

[www.cbp.gov/careers/car](http://www.cbp.gov/careers/car)

# Exam Logistics



**Shortly after completing your application on USAJobs, you will receive an email from USAHire\_Support@panpowered.com. If you did not receive this email, please check your Spam folder. If you are still having issues, please email CBP at CBPHiringdeubpa@cbp.dhs.gov.**

## **\*\*Important Note\*\***

The information below is subject to change at any time. Always review your exam scheduling and confirmation emails for the most up-to-date information.

### **Scheduling**

You will receive an email from USAHire\_Support@panpowered.com prompting you to schedule your entrance exam. Once you create a username and password and enter your address, the system will present a list of closest test centers and available test times. You can choose the test center and appointment time that is most convenient for you. Once you have scheduled your exam, you will receive a confirmation email.

### **Re-Scheduling or Canceling**

You can reschedule your exam, or cancel without penalty, up to 24 hours before your appointment time. Use the link on the confirmation email you receive after you scheduled your exam to change your appointment.

### **Test Day**

Please arrive 15 minutes early for your appointment to allow enough time to check in and get settled before the start of your exam. Make sure you bring a copy of your confirmation email, either printed or on a mobile device, and a valid form of identification. A list of valid forms of identification is included in the confirmation email.

The test is a computer-based exam. Other individuals in the testing room may be taking a different exam. Therefore, do not worry if it seems like others are finishing more quickly than you.

You are not permitted to bring a cellphone into the testing room. Depending on the test center, you may also not be able to bring your wallet, keys, or other personal items into the testing room. Bottled water will be allowed into the testing room. If you have any questions regarding test center procedures, you can contact the test center listed on your exam scheduling notice.

# Exam Format

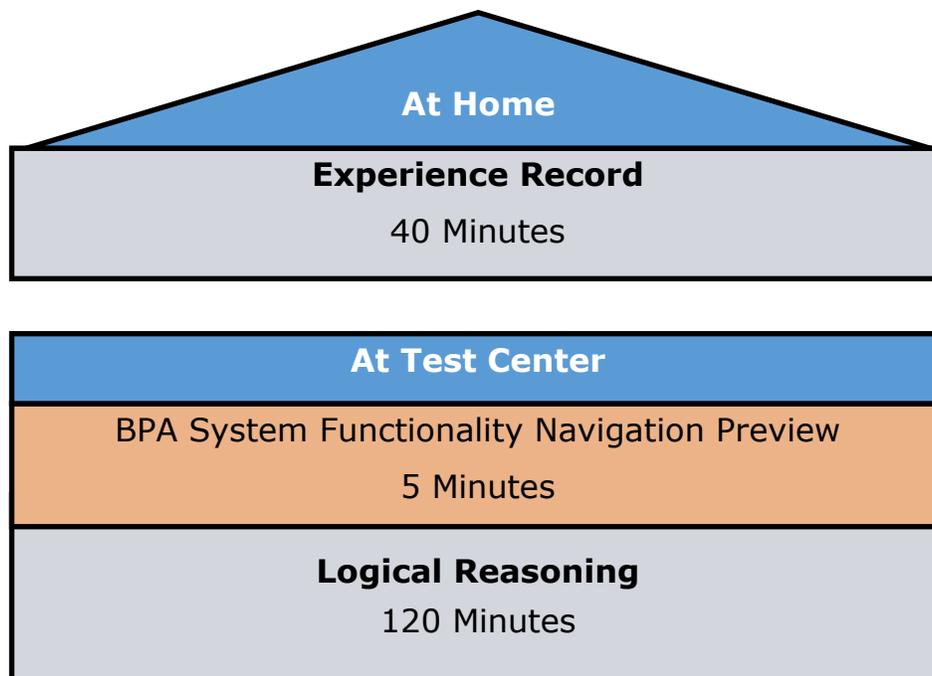


## **The Entrance Exam will be taken on a computer**

You will be given an individually sheltered area in the testing room. If you believe that your computer is not functioning or that there is an issue with your testing area, please notify your proctor.

Your proctor will provide you with scratch paper and pencils for use during the exam. You will not be able to bring your own into the testing room.

## **The BPA exam consists of 2 sections:**



\* The times above are the maximum allowable time to complete each section. Many test takers complete each section in less time.

# Additional Information about the Exam



The Logical Reasoning test you will be taking is a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT), which is a form of computer-based testing that is tailored to the ability level of each test taker. The computer uses an algorithm to select questions of varying difficulty throughout the test. The computer also controls for how often a question is administered (for test security purposes). When starting the CAT, the computer assumes that you have an average ability level and the first question will be of average difficulty. As you continue through the CAT, the computer updates its estimate of your ability level based on responses to previous questions. The computer then successively selects questions that are matched to your estimated ability level, while balancing how often different test takers answer the same question.

For the most part, the CAT will look very much like any other test that you have taken on a computer. However, there are a few things that you should understand before taking the CAT.

- **Reviewing your answer** – The computer selects the next question you are given based on your responses to the previous questions. Therefore, you cannot go back to a question after you have submitted your response.
- **Test-taking strategy** – Try to make an educated attempt at identifying the correct answer for every question. You cannot skip questions. If you are not sure of the correct answer for a question, you will need to provide your best guess as an answer and proceed to the next question.
- **Pacing yourself** – You will be given 120 minutes (2 hours) to complete the 31 questions in the CAT. This means that, on average, you should be spending just under 4 minutes on a question.
- **Study** – as with any test, if you are prepared you will feel more confident and be able to focus your attention on the content of the test. Using CBP provided study guides and practice tests will help you become familiar with the test format and content, and ensure that you do your best.
- **Do not try to guess how you are doing on the test** – some people think they can figure out whether they are doing well or poorly based on how easy or hard the questions seem. The selection of questions you will be administered is based on many factors and therefore, some questions may seem hard or easy to you, but may in fact have a difficulty level that you cannot determine. Remember that what seems “harder” for one person may not be as hard for another. Do not waste your time or attention trying to guess how you are doing; just spend your time focusing on answering each question in the test correctly.

# CBP Accomplishments

## Sonoita Agents Stop 2 Human Smuggling Attempts

**TUCSON, Ariz.** – Tucson Sector Border Patrol agents stopped two human smuggling attempts while conducting immigration checkpoint operations on State Route 83 near Sonoita.

A U.S. citizen driving a 2001 Saturn Ion sped through the immigration checkpoint Tuesday, prompting agents to pursue the car a short distance before the driver pulled over. During a search of the vehicle, agents found three adult Mexican nationals in the trunk.

The second incident occurred Wednesday when agents working the same immigration checkpoint referred a U.S. citizen driving a Hyundai Accent to the secondary inspection area after the driver consented to a search of the vehicle. During the inspection, agents discovered three undocumented Mexican nationals hiding in the vehicle's trunk.

The drivers in both incidents are being prosecuted for human smuggling. The six undocumented Mexican nationals are pending removal proceedings in accordance with Tucson Sector guidelines.



**U.S. Border Patrol agents survey the international border in Vermont.**

## Burke, NY Border Patrol Agents Arrest 2 in Failed Human Smuggling Attempt

**Malone, N.Y.** – U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Burke Station arrested two subjects after a failed human smuggling attempt near Malone, N.Y. late last week.

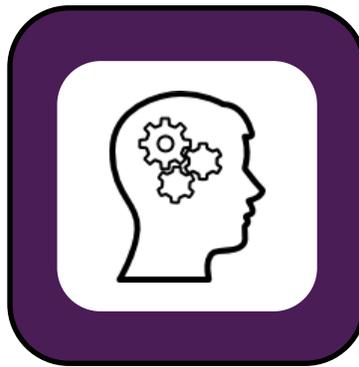
On Friday evening, a Border Patrol agent from the Burke Station identified a suspicious vehicle during normal patrol duties. The agent stopped the vehicle and during questioning of the two occupants, determined that the driver had allegedly picked up the passenger, a Turkish citizen, who recently crossed the border into the United States illegally on foot.

Agents arrested the driver, Mahmut Sonmez, 28, of Patterson, N.J., on human smuggling charges. The passenger, a 26-year-old Turkish citizen who had previously applied for a U.S. visa for entry but was denied, was also taken into custody.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York is prosecuting Sonmez for Alien Smuggling 8 USC 1324, and the Turkish citizen is being prosecuted for Entry without Inspection 8 USC 1325.

"The diligence and quick assessment of the situation by Border Patrol agents successfully thwarted this smuggling event," said Acting Patrol Agent in Charge Richard Parker.

# Logical Reasoning



## **Logical reasoning is a crucial tool for Border Patrol Agents**

Border Patrol Agents must make critical decisions in a short amount of time based on their ability to read and understand laws, legal commentary, and regulations. Although Border Patrol Agents memorize some information, most of their decisions must be made through reasoning. National security depends on this ability.

The logical reasoning section is designed to select trainees who will be able to handle the demanding academic workload of the academy as well as the complex decisions made daily by Border Patrol Agents.



**U.S. Border Patrol Agents conduct a simulation with a CBP canine alerting on a vehicle attempting to cross the border**

## Reading the Paragraph

Every paragraph in this section is drawn from written material relating to CBP or government work. While answering the questions in this section, **you must accept every fact in the text as true.**

Remember that you are not being judged on your knowledge of facts but rather your ability to reason on the basis of given facts.

The type of information in the reading will vary. It is important to be able to distinguish between positive and negative information. Also, information may be presented about categories, groups, and events.

# Logical Reasoning

## The Lead-In Phrase



CBP Officers and Border Patrol Agents assisting with security for the 2017 Presidential Inauguration are sworn in at a ceremony in Washington, DC

### How to Read a Lead-In Phrase

A lead-in phrase will ask you to complete a sentence by choosing one of several responses. It will typically be presented at the end of a paragraph, which you must read in order to find the correct answer. The lead-in phrase is **a very important part of the logical reasoning question.**

A lead-in phrase can be positive or negative. Positive lead in phrases are followed by four invalid conclusions and one valid conclusion. You must find the valid conclusion. An example of a positive lead in question is featured below.

**“From the information given above, it can be validly concluded that...”**

Negative lead-in phrases are followed by four valid conclusions and only one invalid conclusion. In this case, you must find the invalid one. In other words, you should determine what **cannot** be validly concluded based on the facts in the paragraph.

**“From the information given above, it CANNOT be validly concluded that...”**



**In this section, we will review how to process information about groups and categories**

**“All” Statements**

A statement about two groups that begins with the words **“all”** or **“every”** gives you some important information about how the two groups are related. The words “all” and “every” tell you that everything in the first group is also in the second group.

Keep in mind that the “all” statement does not provide sufficient information to determine whether or not all members of the second group are included in the first group!

During the test, you must identify groups and understand the relationships between the groups in order to be able to identify valid and invalid conclusions. Below are some examples illustrating this concept.

True <b>Valid conclusion</b>	All the people at my party speak Spanish. <b>Some people who speak Spanish are at my party.</b> <i>There are many people who speak Spanish, and some of them are at my party.</i>
Invalid conclusion	All the people who speak Spanish are at my party. <i>There are many people who speak Spanish, but we do not know if they are all at my party.</i>
True <b>Valid conclusion</b>	All Supreme Court justices are lawyers. <b>Some lawyers are Supreme Court Justices.</b> <i>There are many lawyers, and some of them are Supreme Court Justices.</i>
Invalid conclusion	All lawyers are Supreme Court Justices. <i>Not all lawyers are Supreme Court Justices.</i>
True <b>Valid conclusion</b>	Every U.S. Border Patrol Agent works for the U.S. Government. <b>Some employees of the U.S. government are U.S. Border Patrol Agents.</b> <i>There are many U.S. government employees, and some of them are Border Patrol Agents.</i>
Invalid conclusion	Everyone working for the U.S. Government is a U.S. Border Patrol Agent. <i>Not all U.S. government employees are Border Patrol Agents. Some U.S. government employees are CBP Officers.</i>



## “None” and “Not” Statements

Information that something is **NOT** true is useful information and should not be overlooked. You can draw conclusions about either group as it relates to the other since you can count on the fact that the two groups have no members in common.

For example, if you can say that “None of the stolen cars recovered from the rail yards were cars stolen from Canada,” you can also say that “None of the cars stolen from Canada were recovered from the rail yards” because you know that the first statement means that there is no overlap between the two groups.

As you work through the practice test, think about each negative phrase or term you find. Sometimes, our ordinary speech habits can cause us to jump to conclusions. Take care to assume only as much as is definitely indicated by the facts as given, and no more.

For example, a detective might make a statement such as “some of the bloodstains were not human blood” simply because only some of the samples had come back from the laboratory. The detective is trying to suggest that at least some of the bloodstains were not human blood. The rest of the bloodstains may or may not be human blood.

## Reasoning About Parts of a Group

The term “some” is an intentionally imprecise reference– it refers to an unknown number and implies nothing about the entire group. Unless information is provided in the paragraph to the contrary, treat “some” as meaning “at least some.”

Statements that include words such as “most”, “a few”, or “almost all” should also be considered carefully. For example if you read, “Many Border Patrol Agents are not fluent in French”, you may be tempted to infer that there are at least a few Border Patrol Agents who are fluent in French, but that would be wrong. In this case, you do not know if **any** Border Patrol Agents are fluent in French so you cannot make that assumption.

Remember that if the statement only applies to **part** or **some** of the group, you cannot assume anything about the entire group.

For example, in the statement “Some CBP Agriculture Specialists are taking specialized training,” the term “some CBP Agriculture Specialists” refers to an unknown number of CBP Agriculture Specialists. The fact that we know that “some CBP Agriculture Specialists are taking specialized training” implies nothing about the entire group of CBP Agriculture Specialists: there may or may not be CBP Agriculture Specialists who are not taking specialized training. Unless information is provided in the paragraph to the contrary, treat “some” as meaning “at least some.”

# “If-Then” Statements



An “If-Then” Statement covers information about events or situations. The concept of cause and effect is crucial for succeeding in this section.

The idea of cause and effect is based on one thing leading to another thing. Cause and effect means that when the first thing happens, the later event **MUST** follow.

The cause and effect relationship also informs you that if the effect never occurred, the cause must not have occurred.

If First Salem Bank suspects that Mr. Tubill deposited funds stemming from criminal activity, First Salem Bank is required to report Mr. Tubill’s deposit to the authorities.

If First Salem Bank is NOT required to report Mr. Tubill’s deposit to the authorities, then First Salem Bank does NOT suspect that Mr. Tubill deposited funds stemming from criminal activity.

**Incorrect:** If First Salem Bank is required to report Mr. Tubill’s deposit to the authorities, then First Salem Bank suspects Mr. Tubill deposited funds stemming from criminal activity.  
*Based on the information, we do not know if there are other reasons why First Salem Bank is required to report Mr. Tubill’s deposit. For example, there might be a law requiring banks to report all deposits over \$10,000 regardless of whether they suspect criminal activity.*

Statements that illustrate cause and effect are referred to as “if-then” statements. The first event in this statement is referred to as “if” and the second event is referred to as “then”. “If-then” statements can also be used to illustrate other relationships aside from cause and effect such as expressing permission or obligation. For example one might say, “If an agent places an individual under arrest, the arrestee must be provided with Miranda warnings.”

It is important to remember that with these statements, the two pieces of information are **always** true. In other words, whenever the first event or situation occurs, the second event or situation **MUST** occur. Also, the “if-then” statement works in one direction only; the converse of the “if-then” statement is most likely invalid.

It is also important to realize that you cannot validly switch the order of the two statements in this type of sentence. If you do, your conclusion may be wrong and may lead to costly errors in real-life situations.

# "If-Then" Statements



## Valid and Invalid Conclusions from "If-then" Statements

Below are examples of valid and invalid conclusions from "If-Then" Statements

True	If a person is a Border Patrol Agent, the person is an employee of the U.S. Government.
<b>Valid Conclusion</b>	<b><i>If a person is not an employee of the U.S. Government, the person is not a Border Patrol Agent.</i></b>
Invalid Conclusion	If a person is an employee of the U.S. Government, the person is a Border Patrol Agent.
True	If a criminal receives a pardon, the criminal will be released.
<b>Valid Conclusion</b>	<b><i>If a criminal is not released, the criminal has not received a pardon.</i></b>
Invalid Conclusion	If a criminal is released, the criminal has received a pardon.
True	If a person is convicted of murder, that person is guilty of a felony.
<b>Valid Conclusion</b>	<b><i>If a person is not guilty of a felony, that person has not been convicted of murder.</i></b>
Invalid Conclusion	If a person is guilty of a felony, that person has been convicted of murder.
True	If a person lives in Germany, the person lives in Europe.
<b>Valid Conclusion</b>	<b><i>If a person does not live in Europe, the person does not live in Germany.</i></b>
Invalid Conclusion	If a person lives in Europe, the person lives in Germany.
True	If a car has no gas, the car will not run.
<b>Valid Conclusion</b>	<b><i>If a car runs, the car has gas.</i></b>
Invalid Conclusion	If a car does not run, the car has no gas.

# Cautions about Wording



## Pay attention to words that provide information on groups or on liked events.

**Positive Words:** all, some, most, always

**Negative Words:** seldom, never, illegal, prohibited

**Negative Prefixes:** non-, un-, dis-

**Connectors:** whenever, unless, except

Watch out for the word "only". This word creates very strong statements.

**Double Negatives**  
When a sentence has two negatives, it actually has a positive meaning.  
For example, if a sentence says "There are no training opportunities that are not available", the sentence is saying that there ARE training opportunities available (No and Not cancel each other out).

Watch out for the word "not" since that makes the sentence have the opposite meaning.



The Bridge of the Americas in El Paso Texas

# Logical Reasoning

## Final Test-Taking Tips



- ☑ In questions with positive lead statements, always choose the only conclusion that can *definitely* be drawn from the information given in the paragraph.
- ☑ Remember **NOT** to use any outside factual information to reach your conclusion.
- ☑ Read the lead-in sentence and the paragraph very carefully. Also, read all the answer choices before you mark the one you think is correct.
- ☑ Pay special attention whenever the question uses words such as “all”, “some”, or “none”. Other terms such as “unless” or “except” or “only” are also important. These words help to define the facts from which you must draw conclusions.
- ☑ Pay special attention whenever you see a negative prefix such as “non-” or a negative verb such as “disconnect” or “unfasten”. These may be crucial to understanding the basic facts in the paragraph.
- ☑ Ignore any advice you may have received in the past about avoiding an answer that contains the word “all” or the word “none”. These may be signs of an incorrect response in some tests, but not in this test. You will find these words in both right and wrong response options.
- ☑ Take the sample test and study the explanation for each of the questions very carefully. This may help you fine-tune your reasoning on the actual test.



A CBP Officer works alongside a Border Patrol Agent at the Otay Mesa, San Diego border crossing.

# Logical Reasoning Practice Test



## **You are now ready to take a practice logical reasoning test**

It is suggested that you take no more than 20 minutes to complete questions 1-8. The practice test contains questions that are similar to, but not exactly the same as the questions on the real test. The practice test is followed by detailed explanations of every practice test question. These explanations will give you information about why the correct response options are correct and why the incorrect response options are incorrect. Understanding the reasons for the correct and incorrect response options should assist you in distinguishing between a right and wrong answer on the test.

In questions 1 through 8, some questions will ask you to select the only answer that can be validly concluded from the paragraph. These questions include a paragraph followed by five response options. Preceding the five response options will be the phrase "From the information given above, it can be validly concluded that". In other questions you will be asked to select the only answer that cannot be validly concluded from the paragraph. These questions include a paragraph followed by five response options. Preceding the five response options will be the phrase "From the information given above, it CANNOT be validly concluded that".

**You must use only the information provided in the paragraph, without using any outside information whatsoever.**

# Logical Reasoning Practice Test



1. Often, crimes are characterized as either *malum in se*—inherently evil—or *malum prohibitum*—criminal because they are declared as offenses by a legislature. Murder is an example of the former. Failing to file a tax return illustrates the latter. Some jurisdictions no longer distinguish between crimes *malum in se* and *malum prohibitum*, although many still do.

From the information given above, it can be validly concluded that

- Ⓐ many jurisdictions no longer distinguish between crimes *malum in se* and *malum prohibitum*
- Ⓑ some jurisdictions still distinguish between crimes *malum in se* and *malum prohibitum*
- Ⓒ some crimes characterized as *malum in se* are not inherently evil
- Ⓓ some crimes characterized as *malum prohibitum* are not declared by a legislature to be an offense
- Ⓔ sometimes failing to file a tax return is characterized as *malum in se*

2. A trucking company can act as a *common carrier*—for hire to the general public at published rates. As a common carrier, it is liable for any cargo damage, unless the company can show that it was not negligent. If the company can demonstrate that it was not negligent, then it is not liable for cargo damage. In contrast, a *contract carrier* (a trucking company hired by a shipper under a specific contract) is only responsible for cargo damage as spelled out in the contract. A Claus Inc. tractor-trailer, acting under common carrier authority, was in a 5-vehicle accident that damaged its cargo. A Nichols Inc. tractor-trailer, acting under contract carrier authority, was involved in the same accident, and its cargo was also damaged.

From the information given above, it can be validly concluded that, in reference to the accident,

- Ⓐ if Claus Inc. is liable, then it can show that it was not negligent
- Ⓑ if Claus Inc. cannot show that it was not negligent, then it is not liable
- Ⓒ if Claus Inc. can show that it was not negligent, then it is not liable
- Ⓓ if Nichols Inc. is liable, then it cannot show that it is negligent
- Ⓔ if Nichols Inc. can show that it is not negligent, then it is not liable

# Logical Reasoning Practice Test



3. A rapidly changing technical environment in government is promoting greater reliance on electronic mail (e-mail) systems. As this usage grows, there are increasing chances of conflict between the users' expectations of privacy and public access rights. In some investigations, access to all e-mail, including those messages stored in archival files and messages outside the scope of the investigation, has been sought and granted. In spite of this, some people send messages through e-mail that would never be said face-to-face or written formally.

From the information given above, it **CANNOT** be validly concluded that

- Ⓐ some e-mail messages that have been requested as part of investigations have contained messages that would never be said face-to-face
- Ⓑ some messages that people would never say face-to-face are sent in e-mail messages
- Ⓒ some e-mail messages have been requested as part of investigations
- Ⓓ e-mail messages have not been exempted from investigations
- Ⓔ some e-mail messages contain information that would be omitted from formal writing

4. Phyllis T. is a former Federal employee who was entitled to benefits under the Federal Employee Compensation Act because of a job-related, disabling injury. When an eligible Federal employee has such an injury, the benefit is determined by this test: If the beneficiary is married or has dependents, benefits are  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the person's salary at the time of the injury; otherwise, benefits are set at  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the salary. Phyllis T.'s benefits were  $\frac{2}{3}$  of her salary when she was injured.

From the information given above, it can be validly concluded that, when Phyllis T. was injured, she

- Ⓐ was married but without dependents
- Ⓑ was not married and had no dependents
- Ⓒ was not married but had dependents
- Ⓓ was married and had dependents
- Ⓔ had never been married

# Logical Reasoning Practice Test



**5. Some 480,000 immigrants were living in a certain country in 1999. Although most of these immigrants were not employed in professional occupations, many of them were. For instance, many of them were engineers and many of them were nurses. Very few of these immigrants were librarians, another professional occupation.**

*From the information given above, it can be validly concluded that, in 1999, in the country described above,*

- Ⓐ most immigrants were either engineers or nurses
- Ⓑ it is not the case that some of the nurses were immigrants
- Ⓒ none of the engineers were immigrants
- Ⓓ most of those not employed in professional occupations were immigrants
- Ⓔ some of the engineers were immigrants

**6. Police officers were led to believe that many weapons sold at a certain gun store were sold illegally. Upon investigating the lead, the officers learned that all of the weapons sold by the store that were made by Precision Arms were sold legally. Also, none of the illegally sold weapons were .45 caliber.**

*From the information given above, it can be validly concluded that, concerning the weapons sold at the store,*

- Ⓐ all of the .45 caliber weapons were made by Precision Arms
- Ⓑ none of the .45 caliber weapons were made by Precision Arms
- Ⓒ some of the weapons made by Precision Arms were .45 caliber weapons
- Ⓓ all of the .45 caliber weapons were sold legally
- Ⓔ some of the weapons made by Precision Arms were sold illegally

# Logical Reasoning Practice Test



**7. Impressions made by the ridges on the ends of the fingers and thumbs are useful means of identification, since no two persons have the same pattern of ridges. If finger patterns from fingerprints are not decipherable, then they cannot be classified by general shape and contour or by pattern type. If they cannot be classified by these characteristics, then it is impossible to identify the person to whom the fingerprints belong.**

*From the information given above, it **CANNOT** be validly concluded that*

- Ⓐ if it is possible to identify the person to whom fingerprints belong, then the fingerprints are decipherable
- Ⓑ if finger patterns from fingerprints are not decipherable, then it is impossible to identify the person to whom the fingerprints belong
- Ⓒ if fingerprints are decipherable, then it is impossible to identify the person to whom they belong
- Ⓓ if fingerprints can be classified by general shape and contour or by pattern type, then they are decipherable
- Ⓔ if it is possible to identify the person to whom fingerprints belong, then the fingerprints can be classified by general shape and contour or pattern type

**8. Explosives are substances or devices capable of producing a volume of rapidly expanding gases that exert a sudden pressure on their surroundings. Chemical explosives are the most commonly used, although there are mechanical and nuclear explosives. All mechanical explosives are devices in which a physical reaction is produced, such as that caused by overloading a container with compressed air. While nuclear explosives are by far the most powerful, all nuclear explosives have been restricted to military weapons.**

*From the information given above, it can be validly concluded that*

- Ⓐ all explosives that have been restricted to military weapons are nuclear explosives
- Ⓑ no mechanical explosives are devices in which a physical reaction is produced, such as that caused by overloading a container with compressed air
- Ⓒ some nuclear explosives have not been restricted to military weapons
- Ⓓ all mechanical explosives have been restricted to military weapons
- Ⓔ some devices in which a physical reaction is produced, such as that caused by overloading a container with compressed air, are mechanical explosives

# Logical Reasoning Practice Test Answers



## Logical Reasoning Practice Test Answers

### 1. Correct Answer: B) some jurisdictions still distinguish between crimes *malum in se* and *malum prohibitum*

This question is concerned with classification of crimes into sets—that is, with the classification of crimes as either *malum in se* or *malum prohibitum*. The last phrase in the last sentence tells us that many jurisdictions make the distinction between these two categories of crimes. Response B follows from that sentence, because if many jurisdictions make the distinction, some jurisdictions make the distinction. From the fact that many jurisdictions make the distinction, it cannot be inferred that many do not make the distinction. Therefore, Response A is incorrect.

Responses C, D, and E are based on erroneous definitions of the two classes of crimes. The paragraph tells us that all crimes characterized as *malum in se* are inherently evil. Response C is false because it cannot be the case that SOME crimes characterized as *malum in se* are NOT inherently evil. The paragraph also tells us that all crimes characterized as *malum prohibitum* are declared as offenses by a legislature. Response D is false because it cannot be the case that SOME crimes characterized as *malum prohibitum* are NOT declared by a legislature to be an offense. In the paragraph, we are told that filing a tax return late is *malum prohibitum*, rather than *malum in se*. Response E is incorrect because it cannot be the case that failing to file a tax return is *malum in se*.

### 2. Correct Answer: C) if Claus Inc. can show that it was not negligent, then it is not liable

The second sentence states the liability rule for common carriers: all common carriers are liable for cargo damage unless they can show that they are not negligent; if they can show that they are not negligent, then they are not liable for cargo damage. Claus Inc. is a common carrier, and accordingly this rule applies to it. From this rule it follows that if Claus Inc. can show it was not negligent, then it is not liable, Response C. Response A contradicts this rule by claiming that when Claus Inc. is liable it can show that it was not negligent. Response B contradicts this rule by claiming that Claus Inc. is not liable even when it cannot show that it is not negligent. Responses D and E concern Nichols Inc., a contract carrier. However, the terms of the Nichols Inc. contract were not disclosed in the paragraph, so neither response is supported.

### 3. Correct Answer: A) some e-mail messages that have been requested as part of investigations have contained messages that would never be said face-to-face.

This is an example of a test question with a negative lead-in statement. It asks for the conclusion that is NOT supported by the paragraph. That means that four of the statements are valid conclusions from the paragraph while one is not. Response B (some messages that people would never say face-to-face are sent in e-mail messages) is a valid conclusion because it restates a fact given in the last sentence of the paragraph. Response E (some e-mail messages contain information that would be omitted from formal writing) is valid because it restates the other fact in the last sentence of the paragraph.

The next-to-last sentence in the paragraph is the source of both response C (some e-mail messages have been requested as part of investigations) and response D (e-mail messages have not been exempted from investigations). Both of these choices restate information in that sentence, based on the fact that access to e-mail messages was sought and granted. This leaves only the first option, response A (Some e-mail messages that have been requested as part of investigations have contained messages that would never be said face-to-face). This is the only choice that does NOT represent a valid conclusion, because even though we know from the paragraph that there is a group of e-mail messages that are requested in investigations and also that there is a group of messages that contain information that people would not say face-to-face, there is nothing that says that these groups overlap. We simply do not know.

# Logical Reasoning

## Practice Test Answers



#### 4. Correct Answer: B) Phyllis T. was not married and had no dependents.

This question concerns an either/or situation. The paragraph states that benefits under the Federal Employees Compensation Act are awarded at one level (3/4 of salary) if a beneficiary is married or has dependents when injured and at another level (2/3 of salary) if this is not true.

Phyllis T. is eligible for benefits under the Act. The paragraph states that Phyllis T.'s benefit level was 2/3 of her salary. Given this benefit level, it is clear that Phyllis T. did not meet either of the conditions for the 3/4 level. Therefore, responses A, C, and D cannot be correct (A states that she was married, C states that she had dependents, and D states that she both was married and had dependents). Response E goes beyond the facts given because prior marriages are not listed as a factor relating to this benefit. The one correct conclusion is that Phyllis T. did not meet either requirement to qualify for the higher benefit level (3/4 of salary), so response B is the correct answer to the question.

#### 5. Correct Answer: E) some of the engineers were immigrants

Response E is correct because it restates the third sentence in terms of the overlap between immigrants and engineers in the country described in the paragraph. Response A says that most immigrants are engineers or nurses, which are professional occupations. However, the second sentence says that most immigrants are not employed in professional occupations, so Response A is false. Response B is false because it denies that there is any overlap between immigrants and nurses, even though this overlap is clear from the third sentence of the paragraph. Response C is false because it denies the overlap between immigrants and engineers. Because the paragraph does not give complete information about the non-professionals (immigrant and non-immigrant) in the country described in the paragraph, Response D is invalid.

#### 6. Correct Answer: D) all of the .45 caliber weapons were sold legally

The second and last sentences are the two main premises in the paragraph. These two sentences give information about three categories of weapons: weapons made by Precision Arms, weapons sold legally, and .45 caliber weapons.

The last sentence states that none of the illegally sold weapons were .45 caliber. This means that none of the .45 caliber weapons were sold illegally. Notice that this new statement is a double negative. In affirmative form the statement means that all of the .45 caliber weapons were sold legally, Choice D.

The information that all of the .45 caliber weapons were sold legally (last sentence), combined with the information that all of the weapons made by Precision Arms were sold legally (second sentence), allows us to draw no valid conclusions about the relationship between the .45 caliber weapons and the weapons made by Precision Arms. There is insufficient information about the entire group of weapons sold legally to know whether the group of .45 caliber weapons and the group of weapons made by Precision Arms overlapped entirely (Choice A), partially (Choice C), or not at all (Choice B). Choice E contradicts the second sentence and is, therefore, invalid.

# Logical Reasoning

## Practice Test Answers



### **7. Correct Answer: C) if fingerprints are decipherable, then it is impossible to identify the person to whom they belong**

This question asks for the response option that cannot be validly concluded from the information in the paragraph. The only response option that cannot be validly concluded is Response C, so the correct answer to question 7 is Response C. Response C is invalid because the paragraph does not provide enough information to conclude whether or not it would be possible to identify the person to whom the fingerprints belong from the mere fact that the fingerprints are decipherable.

Response A refers to a condition where it is possible to identify the person to whom fingerprints belong. Based on the final sentence in the paragraph, this condition of fingerprints means that the fingerprints could be classified by general shape and contour or by pattern type. Based on the second sentence, the ability to classify the fingerprints means that the fingerprints are decipherable.

Since Response B refers to a condition in which finger patterns from fingerprints are not decipherable, we know from the second sentence that, in that circumstance, they cannot be classified by general shape and contour or by pattern type. From the final sentence in the paragraph, we can infer that since they cannot be classified by these characteristics, then it is impossible to identify the person to whom the fingerprints belong.

According to the second sentence, fingerprints cannot be classified by general shape and contour or by pattern type when they are not decipherable. Therefore, if fingerprints can be classified by general shape and contour or by pattern type, then the fingerprints must be decipherable, Response D. According to the third sentence, it is impossible to identify the owner of a set of fingerprints when the fingerprints cannot be classified by general shape and contour or by pattern type. Therefore, if it is possible to identify the person to whom fingerprints belong, then the fingerprints must be able to be classified by general shape and contour or pattern type, Response E. Notice that Responses D and E are valid based on the same type of reasoning. The first and second statements of the second sentence were made opposite and reversed in Response D, and the first and second statements of the final sentence were made opposite and reversed in Response E.

### **8. Correct Answer: E) some devices in which a physical reaction is produced, such as that caused by overloading a container with compressed air, are mechanical explosives**

The correct answer is E. The third sentence states the overlap between all mechanical explosives and devices in which a physical reaction is produced, such as that caused by overloading a container with compressed air. From this, we can safely conclude that some devices in which a physical reaction is produced, such as that caused by overloading a container with compressed air, are mechanical explosives.

Response A is incorrect because the paragraph does not provide sufficient information to validly conclude that all explosives which have been restricted to military weapons are nuclear weapons. It may be that some types of explosives other than nuclear weapons also have been restricted to military weapons.

Responses B and C are incorrect because they contradict the paragraph. Response B contradicts the third sentence, and Response C contradicts the last sentence.

Response D is incorrect because the paragraph provides no information about whether or not mechanical explosives are restricted to military weapons.

# CBP Accomplishments

## **Eagle Pass Border Patrol Thwarts Smugglers, Saves Man from Drowning**

**EAGLE PASS, Texas** – U.S. Border Patrol Marine Agents working near Eagle Pass assisted with the apprehension of five undocumented aliens and saved one of them from drowning in the Rio Grande. Border Patrol Agents rescued a suspected smuggler after the raft he used for his escape lost buoyancy.

On Jan. 24, at approximately 12:45 p.m., agents from the Eagle Pass Station detected six individuals attempting to cross into the United States illegally on an inflatable raft. While agents intercepted the river crossers on the United States side, two suspected smugglers tried to take the raft and swim back to Mexico. With river levels unusually high, one man was able to return safely but the other became overwhelmed by the river current.

Struggling to stay afloat, the man was unable to make it to either riverbank. Border Patrol marine units pulled the individual into their boat and then delivered him to agents on dry land. The man was taken into custody and transported to the Eagle Pass South Border Patrol Station for processing, per CBP guidelines.

During processing, Agents discovered that the individual had a lengthy history with law enforcement. The subject, a 37-year-old from Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico, was previously arrested by U.S. Border Patrol and deported from the country multiple times. The man had also been sentenced to six years imprisonment for possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance (cocaine). The man will face a federal judge in the near future and his prior order of deportation will be reinstated.

“I am immensely proud of the actions that our agents took,” commented Acting Chief Patrol Agent Matthew J. Hudak. “Their vigilance not only helped to save a life but also prevented a known criminal from committing further crimes.”



**Border Patrol Agents rescued a suspected smuggler after the raft he used for his escape lost buoyancy.**

# Congratulations!



**You have completed all the practice sections for the Border Patrol Agent Entrance Exam.**

We recommend that you continue reviewing the concepts until test day. You can also find out more about a career in Customs and Border Protection at:



**CBP Careers Website**

[www.CBP.gov/Careers](http://www.CBP.gov/Careers)



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**A BORTAC team member assists in a manhunt for escaped fugitives in the forest outside of Dannemora, N.Y.**

