

## Test Overview - What to Expect

This test may be a little different than some other tests you have taken. The test covers a broad range of skills and abilities that have been found to be important for the job. These are discussed below, with ideas for how you can perform at your best.

### Basic Skills of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics

Some of the skill areas covered are basic skills, such as Reading Comprehension, Writing Skills, and Mathematical Skills. There is one right answer to each question. The best way to prepare for these types of questions is to brush up on these basic skills by using standard study materials, which you can obtain from a library or a bookstore. Some references are listed in the Reference List of this study guide, but any similar material will be adequate. If you are not sure of your skills in these areas, you may want to consider taking a remedial class at a local community college.

### Judgment, Reasoning, Communication, Motivation, and other skills and aptitudes

The test also measures a variety of other skills, abilities, and aptitudes. These include:

- your ability to use good judgment and solve problems
- your motivation, interest, and preparation for the job
- your communication skills
- your ability to work with a variety of people
- other skills and aptitudes

### Situational Questions

These questions describe situations related to an event or subject and ask what you would do, what the person in the situation should do, or what you think about the situation. For these types of questions, there may be many correct answers and perspectives. Each of us is different, and we solve problems and deal with situations differently. However, in a written test format, it is important for you to choose the response which comes closest to how you would respond, even if it is not exactly what you would do or think.

The test contains various situations that are based on typical and everyday experiences that are common across age, gender, ethnicity, religion, region, or other background or experience. However, not all experiences will be common to everyone. If a particular situation is not familiar to you, try to place yourself in the situation as much as possible, by thinking about experiences you have had that are similar. The test does not require any prior Firefighter knowledge or experience.

You may also feel that some of the questions have some emotional content, or trigger an emotional reaction. The goal of the questions is to represent a variety of real-life circumstances. The questions are not intended to make you feel uncomfortable or offended in any way. However, in the job for which you are applying, you will deal with many different issues and types of people. The test questions represent and reflect a complex world with many difficult issues. Also, remember that you may not totally agree with the answer choices that are provided. Try to pick the answer that is the closest to how you would want to respond.

### Questions about You

These are questions that ask how you feel or think about a specific topic, or that ask you to describe yourself in various ways. Some of these situations may seem a little vague. In many cases, you might act or respond in different ways, depending upon the exact circumstances. However, for the written test, you need to choose the response that seems most like you, most of the time. Imagine yourself in situations that are similar to the ones described and think about what your most likely or frequent response has been or would be.

All of us have different skills, styles, and ways of dealing with various issues. There is no one right style for doing the job. The best way for you to prepare to answer questions about yourself is to think about your own experiences and skills, and answer the questions honestly and thoughtfully.