



Texas DPS Level III Armed Security Officer

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Practice Questions

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1. Under Texas Occupations Code Chapter 1702, which agency regulates the private security industry?

- A. Texas Department of Public Safety — Regulatory Division
- B. Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE)
- C. Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)
- D. Texas Attorney General's Office

2. The 'force continuum' concept means a security officer should:

- A. Use the minimum force necessary to control a situation
- B. Always use maximum force to ensure control
- C. Avoid physical contact at all costs
- D. Match force level to the suspect's size, not actions

3. The four basic rules of firearm safety include treating every firearm as if it is:

- A. Unloaded unless you personally loaded it
- B. Always loaded
- C. Safe when the safety mechanism is engaged
- D. Unloaded when holstered

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4. The primary purpose of a security patrol is to:

- A. Deter criminal activity and detect problems early
- B. Arrest criminals on sight
- C. Generate detailed incident reports only
- D. Collect evidence for law enforcement



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5. When a security officer discovers a fire, the FIRST priority is:

- A. Extinguish the fire immediately regardless of size
- B. Evacuate and ensure life safety, then call 911 and use a fire extinguisher if trained and safe
- C. Secure the perimeter around the fire
- D. Find the source of the fire before calling for help

6. An incident report written by a security officer should primarily be:

- A. Factual, objective, and written in the first person
- B. Based on assumptions and what the officer believes happened
- C. Written in the third person using formal legal language
- D. Completed only if law enforcement requests it

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7. Civil liability for a security officer means the officer can be:

- A. Charged with a felony and imprisoned
- B. Sued for money damages by a person harmed by the officer's actions
- C. Suspended from their security license automatically
- D. Required to retake their licensing exam

8. When conducting an interior patrol of a large building, the safest approach is to:

- A. Move quickly through all areas without stopping
- B. Systematically check each area, using cover and concealment, and avoid predictable patterns
- C. Patrol only the main corridors and skip utility areas
- D. Always patrol with the lights off to surprise intruders

9. The fees submitted to the Private Security Board are refundable.

- A. True
- B. False

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10. A Level III Commissioned Security Officer license in Texas allows the officer to:

- A. Carry a firearm while on duty as a security officer
- B. Make arrests as a peace officer
- C. Carry a firearm off duty anywhere in Texas
- D. Issue traffic citations



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11. In Texas, deadly force by a security officer is legally justified only when:

- A. The officer is protecting company property worth more than \$1,000
- B. A person verbally threatens the officer
- C. The suspect is fleeing the scene
- D. The officer reasonably believes it is immediately necessary to protect against death or serious bodily injury

12. A security officer should never point a firearm at:

- A. Anything they are not willing to destroy or shoot
- B. The ground while holstering
- C. A suspect who poses a deadly threat
- D. Paper targets at a range

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13. A security officer notices an unfamiliar vehicle parked in a restricted area for several hours. The BEST initial action is to:

- A. Ignore it — vehicles are not a security concern
- B. Immediately call for law enforcement backup before approaching
- C. Observe and document the vehicle description, then investigate according to post orders
- D. Damage the vehicle so it cannot be driven away

14. PASS is the acronym for using a fire extinguisher. What does it mean?

- A. Pull the pin, Aim at the base, Squeeze the handle, Sweep side to side
- B. Push the handle, Approach the fire, Spray water, Step back
- C. Position yourself, Activate the alarm, Secure the area, Spray
- D. Prepare, Aim, Shoot, Stop

15. When should an incident report be completed?

- A. At the end of the officer's shift, all at once
- B. Within one week of the incident
- C. As soon as possible after the incident, while details are fresh
- D. Only if the incident results in an arrest

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16. Negligence in a security context means the officer:

- A. Acted with intent to harm someone
- B. Failed to exercise the reasonable care that a similarly trained officer would have used
- C. Followed all post orders but the incident occurred anyway
- D. Was absent from the post without authorization

17. Access control at a secured facility means:

- A. Allowing only officers to enter or exit the facility
- B. Verifying and managing who is authorized to enter specific areas and documenting all entries and exits
- C. Installing locks on all doors regardless of function
- D. Preventing all visitors from entering the facility

18. A licensee shall, either orally or in writing, notify all consumers or recipients of services of their license number and the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the Private Security Bureau for the purpose of directing complaints.

- A. True
- B. False

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19. How many hours of pre-assignment training are required for a Level III security officer in Texas?

- A. 8 hours
- B. 30 hours
- C. 40 hours
- D. 60 hours

20. De-escalation techniques should be attempted BEFORE using physical force because:

- A. They are required by federal law in all states
- B. They may resolve conflicts without injury to either party
- C. They are more costly for the security company
- D. They take less time than physical intervention



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21. When should a security officer's finger be on the trigger?

- A. As soon as the holster is cleared
- B. Whenever the officer is scanning for threats
- C. Only when the officer has made the decision to shoot
- D. Whenever carrying the firearm on duty

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22. Varying patrol routes and timing is important because it:

- A. Saves fuel and reduces wear on patrol vehicles
- B. Prevents criminals from predicting officer locations
- C. Reduces the officer's physical fatigue
- D. Is required by Texas state law

23. During a medical emergency where a person is unconscious and not breathing, a security officer should:

- A. Administer medication from the first aid kit
- B. Wait for EMS and do nothing to avoid liability
- C. Call 911, begin CPR if trained, and use an AED if available
- D. Move the person to a more comfortable location first

24. The 5 W's of report writing refer to:

- A. Witness, Weapon, Warning, Warrant, Written statement
- B. Who, What, When, Where, and Why/How
- C. Weather, Wounds, Warnings, Warrants, Witnesses
- D. Work order, Warrant, Written report, Witness, Weapons

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25. False imprisonment by a security officer occurs when a person is:

- A. Temporarily delayed during an identity check that takes less than 5 minutes
- B. Told to leave the property and they comply
- C. Held or restrained without legal justification
- D. Escorted to a manager's office voluntarily



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26. A 'crime prevention through environmental design' (CPTED) principle that a security officer can apply is:

- A. Eliminating all natural lighting to reduce visibility for intruders
- B. Ensuring areas are well-lit, sightlines are clear, and hiding spots are minimized
- C. Constructing barriers that prevent all public access
- D. Reducing the number of security cameras to save cost

27. It is important to read all mail from the Private Security Board immediately because

- A. It's not important because the board sends a lot of junk mail
- B. Much of the notices you may receive are very time sensitive
- C. The board uses mail to communicate important information to license holders
- D. Both B & C

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28. A Texas security officer's commission card must be:

- A. Kept at home for safekeeping
- B. Submitted to the employer after each shift
- C. Carried on the officer's person while on duty
- D. Laminated and framed at the security post

29. A security officer uses force against a subject who has stopped resisting. This is:

- A. Justified to prevent future resistance
- B. Required by the use of force policy
- C. Excessive force and not legally justified
- D. Permitted if the subject was previously aggressive

30. Before firing at a target, a security officer must be certain of:

- A. The firearm's manufacturer and model
- B. The brand of ammunition being used
- C. Their shooting stance and grip
- D. Their target and what is beyond it



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. C — Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR)

Chapter 1702 of the Texas Occupations Code places regulation of the private security industry under the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Private Security Bureau (PSB).

2. A — Use the minimum force necessary to control a situation

The force continuum requires officers to use the minimum level of force necessary and proportionate to the threat. Escalation and de-escalation guide each decision.

3. B — Always loaded

Rule 1 of firearm safety: always treat every firearm as if it is loaded, even if you believe it is empty. This eliminates complacency that leads to accidents.

4. A — Deter criminal activity and detect problems early

Patrols serve to deter crime through visible presence, detect hazards or suspicious activity early, and respond promptly — preventing incidents before they escalate.

5. B — Evacuate and ensure life safety, then call 911 and use a fire extinguisher if trained and safe

Life safety always comes first. Evacuate occupants, activate the fire alarm, call 911, and only attempt extinguishing a small fire if trained and it is safe to do so.

6. A — Factual, objective, and written in the first person

Incident reports must record verified facts only. Opinions, assumptions, and conclusions should be avoided. First-person, factual, objective writing is the standard.

7. A — Charged with a felony and imprisoned

Civil liability means a party can file a lawsuit seeking financial compensation for harm caused by negligent, reckless, or intentional conduct. Criminal liability involves prosecution for crimes.

8. B — Systematically check each area, using cover and concealment, and avoid predictable patterns

Systematic interior patrol covers all areas methodically. Officers should move from cover to cover, stay alert to sound and movement, and avoid standing in lit doorways (silhouette hazard).

9. B — False

10. A — Carry a firearm while on duty as a security officer

A Level III Commissioned license authorizes a security officer to carry a firearm while performing security duties. It does not grant peace officer powers or off-duty carry rights.

11. D — The officer reasonably believes it is immediately necessary to protect against death or serious bodily injury

Texas Penal Code Section 9.32 allows deadly force when an individual reasonably believes it is immediately necessary to protect themselves or another from death or serious bodily injury.



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12. A — Anything they are not willing to destroy or shoot

Rule 2 of firearm safety: never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot. Muzzle discipline prevents accidental or negligent discharge from causing unintended injury.

13. C — Observe and document the vehicle description, then investigate according to post orders

Documenting details (make, model, color, plate, time) and then investigating per post orders is the correct procedure. If the situation escalates, law enforcement is contacted.

14. A — Pull the pin, Aim at the base, Squeeze the handle, Sweep side to side

PASS: Pull the safety pin, Aim the nozzle at the base of the fire, Squeeze the handle to discharge, Sweep the nozzle side to side at the base until extinguished.

15. C — As soon as possible after the incident, while details are fresh

Reports should be completed promptly — ideally at the scene or immediately after — so that accurate details are captured before memory fades or evidence changes.

16. B — Failed to exercise the reasonable care that a similarly trained officer would have used

Negligence is the failure to act as a reasonably prudent officer would have acted in the same circumstances — not necessarily intentional but resulting in harm to another person.

17. A — Allowing only officers to enter or exit the facility

Access control verifies the identity and authorization of all persons seeking entry, logs all entries and exits, and denies access to unauthorized persons — protecting people and assets.

18. A — True

19. B — 30 hours

Texas PSB requires Level III Commissioned officers to complete 30 hours of pre-assignment training covering both non-commissioned topics and firearm qualification.

20. B — They may resolve conflicts without injury to either party

De-escalation — using calm communication, creating distance, and offering non-confrontational options — can resolve many situations without resorting to physical force, reducing injury risk for all parties.

21. C — Only when the officer has made the decision to shoot

Rule 3: keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you have made the conscious decision to fire. This is the most critical safety rule for preventing negligent discharges.

22. B — Prevents criminals from predicting officer locations

Predictable patterns make security routines easy to exploit. Random patrols (varying routes and timing) keep potential offenders uncertain about where the officer will be next.

23. C — Call 911, begin CPR if trained, and use an AED if available

The chain of survival requires early recognition, calling 911, early CPR, and rapid AED use. Trained officers should begin CPR and use an AED while waiting for EMS.

24. B — Who, What, When, Where, and Why/How

Effective reports answer Who was involved, What happened, When it occurred, Where it happened, and Why/How it took place. These elements ensure completeness.



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25. C — Held or restrained without legal justification

False imprisonment is the unlawful restraint of a person's freedom of movement without legal justification. Security officers must have lawful authority (store owner's privilege, reasonable suspicion) to detain.

26. C — Constructing barriers that prevent all public access

CPTED uses environmental elements to deter crime: natural surveillance (lighting, clear sightlines), natural access control (directing traffic through defined entry points), and territorial reinforcement.

27. D — Both B & C

28. D — Laminated and framed at the security post

Texas DPS PSB rules require that a commissioned security officer carry their commission card (license) on their person at all times while on duty.

29. C — Excessive force and not legally justified

Once a subject stops resisting, the justification for force ends. Continuing to use force after resistance ceases constitutes excessive force and can result in criminal charges and civil liability.

30. D — Their target and what is beyond it

Rule 4: know your target and what is beyond it. Bullets can travel through or past a target, and the officer is responsible for every round fired regardless of where it ends up.



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