

IACP / Discover Policing Virtual Police Ride-Along

Self-Assessment Questions by Scenario

The self-assessment questions below are designed to help viewers reflect on and react to the job duties shown in each scenario. There are three types of questions:

- Questions about **effectiveness** -- how good or effective do you think you might be in the situations or performing the tasks shown in the realistic job preview?
- Questions about **interest** – how interested are you in filling the roles and responsibilities outlined in the realistic job preview?
- Questions on **key takeaways** -- were you able to pick up on the major themes conveyed through the scenarios?

These questions can serve as the basis for individual self-reflection or interactive classroom or group discussions.

Scenario 1: Roll Call

1. Would you be successful in a job that involves teaching or training new coworkers, or “showing them the ropes” as Officer Ramirez will do with Officer Davis?
2. Police Officers typically wear highly recognizable uniforms on the job. How would you feel about a job that involves wearing a uniform?

Scenario 2: Convenience Store Theft

1. How would you feel about a job that involves working closely with local business owners like Mr. Garcia to solve crime problems like shoplifting?
2. How would you feel about a job that involves gathering information, brainstorming to generate a variety of solutions, and applying these solutions to problems?
3. Would you be successful in a job that involves collecting and analyzing key information and coming up with solutions to problems like Mr. Garcia is dealing with?
4. Which of the following is the MOST important takeaway from this scenario?
 - a) Effective police work involves working with members of the public to solve crime problems.
 - b) Effective police work involves collecting evidence that a crime has been committed before making arrests.
 - c) Effective police work involves finding ways to get business owners to solve their own crime problems.

Scenario 3: Traffic Stop with Open Warrant

1. For many situations that police officers face, there are set policies and procedures that must be followed to effectively uphold the law. How would you feel about a job where this is a regular requirement?
2. How would you feel about a job that involves arresting and detaining suspects and enforcing laws?
3. Would you be successful in a job that involves adapting when situations or circumstances change?
4. Would you be successful in a job that involves managing your stress level in situations that escalate quickly?
5. Which of the following is the MOST important takeaway from this scenario?
 - a) Police officers need to treat everyone as a potential suspect.
 - b) Police officers always need to be alert to criminal activity.
 - c) Police officers need to be ready to adapt and respond to any situation.

Scenario 4: Traffic Crash

1. How would you feel about a job that involves dealing with frustrated, angry, or emotional members of the public while remaining calm yourself?
2. Would you be successful in a job that involves using your communication skills to calm distressed people like Mrs. Bennett?
3. What was Officer Ramirez most likely trying to accomplish by giving the toy to Haley?
 - a) Check to see if Haley is injured.
 - b) Relate to and comfort Haley.
 - c) Remind Haley's mother that she needs to take care of her daughter.

Scenario 5: Traffic Crash Report

1. How would you feel about a job that involves documenting activities, writing detailed reports, and filling out forms on a regular basis?
2. Would you be successful in a job that involves conveying your thoughts verbally or in writing in a clear, concise, and organized manner?

3. Sometimes police officers must testify in court. How would you feel about a job that involves testifying in court?
4. Would you be successful in a job that involves paying close attention to details and making careful observations?
5. Which of the following is the MOST important takeaway from this scenario?
 - a) In the policing profession, accurate and thorough reporting is critical.
 - b) Police officers have to fill out accident reports in a timely manner.
 - c) Not all police officers have to write detailed reports.

Scenario 6: Traffic Enforcement

1. How would you feel about a job that involves having the discretion to make your own decisions in challenging situations?
2. How would you feel about a job that involves conducting traffic stops and issuing citations?
3. Would you be successful in a job in which it is hard to predict what might happen on any given shift?
4. Which of the following is the MOST important takeaway from this scenario?
 - a) Police officers are required by law to issue tickets for traffic violations.
 - b) Effective police officers are firm, respectful, and explain the context of their actions.
 - c) Police work involves educating the public about safety.

Scenario 7: Panhandling Complaint

1. Would you be successful in a job that involves collaborating with social workers or other service-providers to solve problems in your community?
2. How would you feel about a job that involves working with sensitive populations such as individuals experiencing homelessness or substance abuse problems?
3. How would you feel about a job that involves dealing with chronic offenders on a regular basis?
4. Which of the following is the MOST important takeaway from this scenario?
 - a) Effective police officers should know about social and public health issues.

- b) Effective police officers understand that some members of the public will always have problems.
- c) Effective police officers understand that making an arrest may not always be the right solution to a problem.

Scenario 8: Community Meeting

1. How would you feel about a job that involves informing and educating members of the public about safety and crime prevention strategies?
2. Would you be successful in a job that involves serving as a representative or spokesperson for your organization at public events?
3. Which of the following is the MOST important takeaway from this scenario?
4. Would you be successful in a job that involves public speaking and fielding questions on the spot?

Scenario 9: Daily Activity Review

1. Which of the following is the MOST important takeaway from this scenario?
 - a) Policing is a fulfilling job involving more than just enforcing laws.
 - b) Police work is only suited for people who desire a fast-paced work environment.
 - c) Police work requires a variety of skills.

Scenario 10: Debriefing

1. After watching the scenes in this video, how interested are you in becoming a police officer?
2. How confident are you that you would be good at this type of job?
3. Do you feel you have the qualities required to be an effective police officer?