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PNPA CAT Reviewer 2027

20 practice questions with answer key and explanations

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Passing score: No fixed passing score is published. Passers are the top-ranked examinees (recently around the top 1,000+), based on slots set by PNP National Headquarters.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

1. Choose the word closest in meaning to the word in CAPITAL letters: The witness gave a CANDID account of what happened at the checkpoint.

A. Brief
B. Confusing
C. Frank
D. Rehearsed

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

2. Choose the word OPPOSITE in meaning to METICULOUS.

A. Precise
B. Thorough
C. Cautious
D. Careless

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

3. Choose the correct verb: Neither the barangay captain nor the councilors ___ present at the meeting.

A. was
B. were
C. is
D. has been

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

4. Read the passage: "Community policing works best when residents trust officers enough to report problems early. In barangays where tanods and police hold regular dialogues, minor disputes are often settled before they grow into crimes." What is the main idea?

A. Trust and regular dialogue between police and residents help prevent crime.
B. Barangay tanods should replace the police in handling disputes.
C. Minor disputes in barangays can never be avoided.
D. Residents should settle all disputes without involving authorities.

MATHEMATICS

5. A patrol car travels 180 km in 2 hours and 30 minutes. What is its average speed?

A. 72 km/h
B. 60 km/h
C. 75 km/h
D. 90 km/h

MATHEMATICS

6. Solve for x: 3x − 7 = 2x + 5

A. −12
B. 2
C. −2
D. 12

MATHEMATICS

7. A set of uniforms costs P2,400 after a 20% discount. What was the original price?

A. P2,880
B. P3,200
C. P3,000
D. P2,600

MATHEMATICS

8. Cadet Reyes can clean the barracks alone in 6 hours. Cadet Santos can do it alone in 3 hours. Working together at the same rates, how long will it take them?

A. 4.5 hours
B. 2 hours
C. 3 hours
D. 1.5 hours

MATHEMATICS

9. The average of five numbers is 18. If the number 30 is removed, what is the average of the remaining four numbers?

A. 15
B. 12
C. 16
D. 18

GENERAL SCIENCE

10. Which gas do green plants take in from the air to make food through photosynthesis?

A. Oxygen
B. Carbon dioxide
C. Nitrogen
D. Hydrogen

GENERAL SCIENCE

11. Ignoring air resistance, an object falling freely near the Earth's surface speeds up at about:

A. 3.0 m/s²
B. 98 m/s²
C. 9.8 m/s²
D. 0.98 m/s²

GENERAL SCIENCE

12. The Philippines lies along the Pacific 'Ring of Fire.' This location mainly explains why the country frequently experiences:

A. Typhoons
B. El Niño droughts
C. Habagat (southwest monsoon) rains
D. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions

LOGICAL & ABSTRACT REASONING

13. What number comes next? 2, 6, 12, 20, 30, ___

A. 40
B. 44
C. 36
D. 42

LOGICAL & ABSTRACT REASONING

14. What letter comes next? A, C, F, J, O, ___

A. T
B. V
C. U
D. S

LOGICAL & ABSTRACT REASONING

15. All cadets are scholars. No scholar is lazy. Which conclusion must be true?

A. No cadet is lazy.
B. Some scholars are not cadets.
C. All scholars are cadets.
D. Some cadets are lazy.

LOGICAL & ABSTRACT REASONING

16. GAVEL is to JUDGE as WHISTLE is to ___

A. Pianist
B. Referee
C. Lawyer
D. Carpenter

GENERAL INFORMATION & CURRENT EVENTS

17. In what year was the present Philippine Constitution ratified?

A. 1935
B. 1973
C. 1987
D. 1986

GENERAL INFORMATION & CURRENT EVENTS

18. Under Republic Act No. 6975, the Philippine National Police is placed under which department?

A. Department of National Defense (DND)
B. Department of Justice (DOJ)
C. Office of the President directly, with no department
D. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

GENERAL INFORMATION & CURRENT EVENTS

19. Which Katipunan founder, later its Supremo, is called the 'Father of the Philippine Revolution'?

A. José Rizal
B. Andrés Bonifacio
C. Emilio Aguinaldo
D. Apolinario Mabini

SERVICE APTITUDE

20. During the exam, you notice the examinee beside you secretly using a mobile phone. What is the most appropriate action?

A. Quietly inform the room examiner or proctor.
B. Confront the examinee loudly so everyone notices.
C. Ignore it because it is not your concern.
D. Ask to see the phone so you can check your own answers.

Answer key and explanations

1. C. Frank
Candid means open, honest, and straightforward, so a candid account is a frank one. 'Brief' is a tempting guess, but candid is about honesty, not length.

2. D. Careless
Meticulous means very careful about small details, so its opposite is careless. Precise, thorough, and cautious all point the same way as meticulous, so they cannot be opposites.

3. B. were
With 'neither...nor', the verb agrees with the nearer subject. 'Councilors' is plural and sits next to the blank, so use 'were'. 'Was' would be right only if the order were reversed.

4. A. Trust and regular dialogue between police and residents help prevent crime.
Both sentences point to one idea: trust plus regular dialogue lets problems surface early and keeps small disputes from becoming crimes. The passage never says tanods should replace the police.

5. A. 72 km/h
Speed = distance ÷ time. Change 2 hours 30 minutes to 2.5 hours (not 2.3), then 180 ÷ 2.5 = 72 km/h.

6. D. 12
Subtract 2x from both sides: x − 7 = 5. Add 7: x = 12. Check: 3(12) − 7 = 29 and 2(12) + 5 = 29. Choice C (−2) comes from subtracting 7 instead of adding it.

7. C. P3,000
After a 20% discount you pay 80% of the price. 0.80 × P = 2,400, so P = 2,400 ÷ 0.80 = P3,000. The trap is P2,880, from adding 20% of P2,400; the 20% was taken from the original price.

8. B. 2 hours
Add their rates: 1/6 + 1/3 = 1/6 + 2/6 = 3/6 = 1/2 of the job per hour, so the whole job takes 2 hours. Together they must be faster than the faster cadet alone, which rules out 3 and 4.5 hours.

9. A. 15
Total of five numbers = 5 × 18 = 90. Remove 30: 90 − 30 = 60. New average = 60 ÷ 4 = 15. Removing a number above the average always pulls the average down, so 18 cannot be right.

10. B. Carbon dioxide
In photosynthesis, plants use carbon dioxide, water, and sunlight to make glucose. Oxygen is the tempting choice, but plants release it as a by-product of photosynthesis.

11. C. 9.8 m/s²
The acceleration due to gravity near Earth's surface is about 9.8 m/s². A falling object gains about 9.8 m/s of speed every second, regardless of its mass, if air resistance is ignored.

12. D. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions
The Ring of Fire is a belt of tectonic plate boundaries, which produce earthquakes and volcanoes. Typhoons, El Niño droughts, and the habagat are weather and climate events, not tectonic ones.

13. D. 42
The differences grow by 2: +4, +6, +8, +10, so the next is +12. 30 + 12 = 42. Each term is also n × (n + 1): 1×2, 2×3, and so on up to 6 × 7 = 42.

14. C. U
The gaps between letters grow by one: A(+2)C(+3)F(+4)J(+5)O(+6). O is the 15th letter, and 15 + 6 = 21, which is U. Number the letters first so you don't miscount.

15. A. No cadet is lazy.

Every cadet is inside the group 'scholars', and no scholar is lazy, so no cadet can be lazy. That makes choice D false. Choices B and C might be true, but the premises don't prove them.

16. B. Referee

A gavel is the tool a judge uses to keep order, and a whistle is the tool a referee uses to control a game. A lawyer is tempting because of the courtroom link, but the pattern is tool-to-user.

17. C. 1987

The current Constitution was ratified in a plebiscite on February 2, 1987. 1986 is tempting because that was the year of EDSA and when the Constitution was drafted, but ratification came in 1987.

18. D. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

RA 6975 (DILG Act of 1990) created the PNP under the reorganized DILG. The DND is the tempting choice, but the Constitution requires a civilian police force, so the PNP is not under the defense department.

19. B. Andrés Bonifacio

Andrés Bonifacio helped found the Katipunan in 1892, became its Supremo, and led the revolt against Spain in 1896. Rizal was a reformist who was not a Katipunan member, and Aguinaldo led the revolution later.

20. A. Quietly inform the room examiner or proctor.

Reporting quietly to the proper authority upholds integrity without disrupting other examinees. Confronting, ignoring, or joining in are all wrong for a future officer. Integrity starts before you wear the uniform.

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