

# Florida Basic Abilities Test (FBAT)

(sometimes referred to as CJBAT)

The FBAT is a multiple choice, written exam which tests the abilities identified as important for the successful performance of the entry-level law enforcement officer. These abilities include:

**Verbal Comprehension:** Understanding the meaning of words or ideas.

**Associative Memory:** Such as memorizing information from wanted posters that requires later recall and the information does not necessarily have a logical relationship.

**Memory for Relationships:** Such as step by step instructions and operating procedures used in filling out an incident report.

**Memory for Ideas:** Such as reading and understanding the main ideas and themes from police academy training materials.

**Semantic Ordering:** For example, an officer, when arriving at a crime scene, is required to make decisions on what order he/she should set about to accomplish the necessary tasks.

**Identifying Themes and Ideas:** Reading material and making inferences and inducing certain issues/hypotheses from that information typically required of an officer in attempting to solve a crime.

**Problem Sensitivity:** For example, officers are constantly required to make decisions on what action to take (i.e., choosing between backing up another officer or stopping a traffic violator).

**Observational Judgment:** Such as when observing an accident scene, an officer is required to "sift" through the information, visually and verbally, in order to determine what is relevant and important.

**Spatial Orientation:** For example, an officer is required to draw sketches of traffic accidents and in doing so must be able to visualize the placement of cars and directions in order to accurately depict the classroom instruction.

**Spatial Scanning:** Such as finding one's way through a paper maze, requiring quick scanning of the field for openings, following paths with the eye, and quickly rejecting false leads such as determining the quickest route to take to get to a crime scene.

**Visualization:** For example, an officer may not have a recent picture of a wanted felon but must be able to visualize this felon with possible physical changes.

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