

# CJ 1390

## PLA Content Guide

### **Policing in a Democracy**

- **Role of Police:** Understand the core function of police in society and how their duties align with democratic principles (e.g., rule of law, protecting civil liberties).
- **Police Report Basics:** Know the purpose and characteristics of a well-written police report narrative, focusing on the principles of clarity, conciseness, and accuracy.

### **Police History**

- **Origin and Development:** Describe the historical evolution of policing in the U.S..
- **Eras of Policing:** Be familiar with the major eras of policing (e.g., Political Era, Reform Era, Community Era) and their defining characteristics, management styles, and primary goals.

### **Legal Issues**

- **Constitutional Framework:** Analyze the major legal limitations that govern police conduct (e.g., Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments).
- **Landmark Cases:** Be familiar with key Supreme Court cases that established rules for police practices, such as search and seizure and interrogation.

### **Police Strategies**

- **Different Strategies:** Evaluate various police strategies (e.g., community policing, problem-oriented policing, data-driven approaches).
- **Problem Solving:** Understand the framework for systematic problem-solving and how officers can apply it to address crime and community issues.

### **Police Management**

- **Organizational Structure:** Understand the typical police organizational framework, its hierarchy, and common organizational problems.
- **Leadership & Supervision:** Know different management styles and their impact on police work, officer morale, and effectiveness.

## **Organizational Change**

- Challenges to Change: Analyze issues and solutions for implementing organizational change and reform within police departments.
- Innovation & Reform: Know models and processes for introducing new strategies and technologies into a police organization.

## **Selection and Development**

- Personnel Process: Identify the steps in police recruitment, selection, and training (e.g., academy and field training).
- Job Requirements: Understand the qualifications, background checks, and psychological screening for police candidates.

## **Field Operations**

- Foundations of Patrol: Understand the primary functions of patrol, non-emergency duties, and how departments allocate resources.
- Warrior and Guardian Philosophy: Be prepared to discuss the contrasting concepts of the warrior versus the guardian approach to policing and the role of police professionalism.

## **Police Behavior**

- Police Culture: Analyze the influence of the police subculture on officer behavior and decision-making.
- Discretion: Understand the concept of police discretion (the choice of actions in specific situations) and the factors that influence it.

## **Force and Coercion**

- Use of Force: Evaluate the legal and ethical standards for the use of force and coercion in policing.
- Misconduct: Differentiate between legitimate force, excessive force, and various types of police misconduct.

## **Accountability and Ethics**

- **Accountability:** Understand mechanisms for police accountability (e.g., internal affairs, civilian review boards, early warning systems).
- **Ethical Standards:** Define police ethics and common forms of police corruption or misconduct.

## **Diversity**

- **Workforce & Community Diversity:** Analyze the importance of diversity and inclusion in policing and challenges faced by officers from diverse backgrounds.
- **Specialized Units:** Be prepared to discuss the function and role of various specialized police units or duties (e.g., vice squad, SWAT, detective assignments).

## **Stress and Officer Safety**

- **Sources of Stress:** Identify the major sources of police stress (e.g., organizational, operational, external).
- **Safety & Wellness:** Understand the consequences of stress and strategies for officer health and safety.

## **Higher Education**

- **Education & Policing:** Analyze the arguments for and against requiring higher education for police officers.
- **Impact:** Evaluate the effects of a college education on police performance, behavior, and career advancement.