

Buffalo Police Department Written Examination Cut Scores and Appeal Process Results—Detective, Detective-Sergeant, Captain & Inspector



I/O Solutions (IOS, herein) has scored all written examination and is preparing to send final results to the city of Buffalo. In the process of scoring examination, IOS did statistical analysis on the written examination results to help inform us regarding the cut scores on the written examinations. In addition, IOS evaluated the data collected from the Buffalo PD subject matter expert (SME) review of the examinations conducted on the day of the examination administration(s). As part of these reviews, IOS conducted an Angoff workshop with our SMEs where the individuals involved judged the difficulty level of the items. This data and the analysis of this data form the basis of an Angoff-derived cut score.

Based on both the Angoff-derived cut score information and the test data analysis, we made recommendations to the city regarding cut scores. All recommendations were accepted.

In addition, IOS conducted written examination appeal processes related to each of the four examinations described herein. No written appeals were received for the captain and inspector examinations. Thus, the “initial raw scores” remain in place. One appeal was received for the detective-sergeant examination related to item 40 on the examination. This appeal was reviewed by our technical writing staff and an appeal response was created. The appeal and our response was then reviewed by our assessment staff. It was determined that the item was indeed correct as keyed. Then, IOS received 26 separate appeals related to the detective examination that covered 19 separate items. The same process was undertaken where each appeal was reviewed, researched and a response was drafted with a recommendation. This information was then reviewed by our assessment staff. Again, all items were determined to be keyed as correct according to the published source material. The table below outlines this information.

Item Appealed	Number of Appeals Received	Final Appeal Status
9	1	Item is correct as keyed.
11	1	Item is correct as keyed.
20	2	Item is correct as keyed.
23	4	Item is correct as keyed.
25	1	Item is correct as keyed.
26	2	Item is correct as keyed.
30	1	Item is correct as keyed.
32	1	Item is correct as keyed.
34	1	Item is correct as keyed.
35	2	Item is correct as keyed.
36	1	Item is correct as keyed.
46	1	Item is correct as keyed.
53	1	Item is correct as keyed.
54	1	Item is correct as keyed.
55	1	Item is correct as keyed.
56	2	Item is correct as keyed.
74	1	Item is correct as keyed.
75	1	Item is correct as keyed.
84	1	Item is correct as keyed.

As a result of this process, all initial scoring remains in effect.

Then, the table below presents the raw cut scores for the written examination. These are “raw” cut scores in that the results are transformed to fit civil service rules. Civil service requirements indicate that the final listed passing score appear as “70”—thus, a transformation is necessary. In this case, the transformation is simple. For example, if the raw cut score as 60, 10 points would be added to each score so that the passing score appears as a “70.”

Examination Cut Scores

Examination	Raw Cut Score	Transformed Cut Score
Detective	59	Add 11—70
Detective Sergeant	60	Add 10- 70
Captain	65	Add 5- 70
Inspector	70	Same