

CA POST PELLETB Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

— Questions	— Time limit	Reported as a T-score; e... Passing score
— Exam fee	California Commission o... Governing body	

One page to skim the night before the PELLETB: the numbers that matter, the rules the Writing Test rewards, and the patterns the reasoning items keep recycling. Everything here is short on purpose — read it once, sleep, and trust the preparation you already did.

PELLETB at a Glance

- Scores report as a T-score: average 50, standard deviation 10 — position in the pool, not percent correct.
- POST recommends agencies set their cutoff at a T-score of 42 or above; every agency chooses its own standard.
- The full session runs 2¼ hours, and that window includes the instructions.
- POST charges no fee for the test itself.
- Agencies must deliver your results within 30 days of the administration.
- Unhappy with the number? Wait 30 calendar days, then retest.
- Scores never expire, though individual departments may set their own acceptable time frames.
- The CLOZE sub-test is gone — removed effective January 1, 2025 — so skip those chapters in older books.

Writing Test Structure

- 45 to 54 multiple-choice items in total.
- Three sub-tests — clarity, spelling, and vocabulary — with 15 to 18 items each.

Clarity Rules That Win Points

- Prefer the sentence that names the actor first: 'I searched the vehicle,' not 'the vehicle was searched by me.'
- An opening phrase describes the noun that follows it — hunt for dangling modifiers before anything else.
- Two complete sentences need a period, a semicolon, or a comma plus and/but/so; a comma alone is a splice.
- With neither/nor, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.
- Keep every item in a list in matching grammatical form.
- Cut filler on sight: 'in the event that' becomes 'if'; 'at this point in time' becomes 'now.'

Spelling Demons

- occurrence — double c, double r, -ence ending.
- harassment — one r, double s.
- noticeable — keep the silent e after the c.
- seized — e before i; a stock exception word.
- premises, sequence, separate, judgment, privilege, sergeant — the report-writing regulars.

Vocabulary Tactics

- Reread the whole sentence; context rules out the look-alike meanings.

- Substitute each choice into the sentence and test the logic.
- Match the tone: a hostile crowd is belligerent, never curious.
- When the word is unfamiliar, mine its root and prefix before guessing.

Reading Attack Plan

- The main idea is the point most sentences support — never a single detail.
- The correct answer must be provable from the passage alone; outside knowledge is a trap.
- Judgment words — clearly, best, finest, should — signal opinion, not fact.
- On fill-in-the-blank items, predict your own word before you look at the choices.

Reasoning Patterns

- Number series: compute the gaps first; look for constant, growing, doubling, or sum-of-previous-two rules.
- Ordering: sketch a line, place the fixed positions, then apply the relative clues.
- 'Must be true' means no counterexample is possible; 'could be true' is not good enough.
- Odd one out: name the category three items share, then find the one that fails it.

Night-Before Checklist

- Confirm the reporting time, location, and any identification requirements in the administering agency's instructions.
- Plan pacing around the single 2¼-hour block — steady beats frantic.
- Skim your personal error log, not new material.
- Sleep. A rested reader beats a crammed one on a comprehension battery every time.

Official sources

- California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) — LE Entry-Level Test Battery Applicant FAQs:
<https://post.ca.gov/LE-Entry-Level-Test-Battery-Applicant-FAQs>
- California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) — Applicant Preparation Guide for the POST Entry-Level Law Enforcement Test Battery:
https://post.ca.gov/portals/0/post_docs/publications/Applicant_Preparation_Guide_for-the-POST_Entry-Level-Law-Enforcement-Test-Battery.pdf
- California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) — LE Entry-Level Test Battery Agency FAQs:
<https://post.ca.gov/LE-entry-level-test-battery-agency-faqs>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/exams/california-post-pelletb/practice-test