

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

Assessment Preparation Guide and Sample Questions for Diversion Investigator Applicants April 2026



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Consumer Alert

You never have to pay for information about job vacancies or employment opportunities with the Federal Government!

Scam artists victimize people by selling information about federal job opportunities. They advertise in classified sections of newspapers (or internet/social media) and offer — for a fee — to help job seekers find and apply for federal jobs. Some even try to confuse consumers with names similar to federal agencies, such as *U.S. Agency for Career Advancement* or the *Postal Employment Service*.

It's deceptive for anyone to guarantee a high score on Federal Government tests. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management urge job seekers to avoid falling for deceptions like these:

- Classified ads or verbal sales pitches that imply an affiliation with the Federal Government, and guarantee high test scores or jobs.
- Ads that offer information about hidden or unadvertised federal jobs.
- Ads that refer to a toll-free number where an operator encourages you to buy a valuable booklet containing job listings, practice test questions, and tips for entrance exams.
- Toll-free numbers that direct you to other pay-per-call numbers for more information. Under federal law, any solicitations for pay-per-call numbers must contain full disclosures about cost. Also, the solicitation must make clear if there is an affiliation with the Federal Government. You must have a chance to hang up before you incur any charges.

If you have concerns about a company's advertisement for employment services, contact:

- Federal Trade Commission: 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357) or on the Internet at <http://www.ftc.gov>
 - Your state attorney general or local Better Business Bureau.
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Diversion Investigator Phase II Assessments

Overview of the Diversion Investigator Evaluation Process

Thank you for your interest in the DEA Diversion Investigator position. The evaluation process for the Diversion Investigator position includes four phases. Phase I includes questions regarding minimum qualifications, conditions of employment, a Realistic Job Preview (RJP), and the DEA Talent Inventory (DTI), in an unproctored setting.

Based on the results of Phase I, a subset of applicants will have the opportunity to complete Phase II. Phase II consists of computer-based assessments, which applicants complete in a proctored setting at an authorized testing center.

The Phase II assessments are computer-based tests that are completed in a proctored setting. The Phase II assessments include the *Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment*, and *Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment*. Applicants selected to proceed to the Phase II assessments will receive email invitations with information on how to schedule an appointment to complete the assessments at a test center. This email invitation will come from a third-party vendor with the email address: cloud@palladium-us.com.

Applicants will select their test date and proctored test center location from those available on the scheduling website. There are over 600 test center locations across the United States. Applicants will complete all three Phase II assessments in a single test session, which is 3 hours in length. This includes the check-in and check-out process. The assessments will be presented in the same order they are presented in this guide—the *Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment*, will be presented first, followed by the *Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment*. Based on performance on the Phase II assessments, applicants who pass are invited to move on to Phase III of the hiring process, which is a Qualifications Review. If applicants successfully complete Phase III, they are invited to Phase IV: Structured Interview.



Applicants attending a proctored exam are required to present valid and unexpired identity documents that match the name listed on their USAJobs application. Please contact HRRD.Recruit@DEA.gov immediately if you encounter an issue or if you require a name change on your application.

Cancellation Policy

Exams cannot be cancelled less than 48 hours prior to your appointment. Failure to cancel in time or failure to appear for your appointment will result in the forfeiture of the testing fee paid by DEA.

What this preparation guide offers

In this guide, we familiarize you with the testing process and its key features, so you:

- Know what to expect on the tests and are prepared to do your best.
- Have a better chance of success.
- Can take the Diversion Investigator Phase II assessments to feel more confident and at ease.

What this preparation guide does not offer

The sample questions provided are neither practice tests, nor simulations of actual testing conditions for the Diversion Investigator Phase II assessments. However, they do resemble the actual test in style and format. Completing the sample questions does not ensure an increase in your test score. However, it mentally prepares you so you are aware of what to expect once you go to the testing center.

Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment

Content

The *Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment* is designed to measure the following competencies:

- Arithmetic
- Problem Solving

This test consists of 20 questions. Each question requires you to apply arithmetic to solve a problem. A standard calculator and scratch paper will be provided to each applicant for use during the *Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment* at the proctored testing center. You will have 55 minutes to complete the assessment. An on-screen timer will help you keep track of the time remaining. There are no scheduled breaks during the testing period. There is a five-minute break scheduled following completion of the *Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment*, prior to beginning the *Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment*.

Format

The *Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment* is a computer based multiple-choice test. After you read the instructions and indicate you would like to begin the assessment, you will see the first question on the screen. There are five response options for each question. All of the information you need to answer each question is provided in the question text. After clicking the "Record answer" button for a question, you will advance to the next question.

Directions

Following are the directions provided for the *Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment*.

Read each question carefully and select the best answer. All of the information you need to answer each question is provided in the question text. You may use the scratch paper provided; however, you must return all scratch paper to the proctor at the conclusion of testing. You have 55 minutes to respond to all of the questions.

Scores on this test are based on the number of questions you answer correctly. There is no penalty for guessing. Therefore, it is to your advantage to answer every question that you can, even if you are not sure of the correct answer. It is important to work quickly and accurately.

For sample questions refer to Appendix A.

Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment

Content

Because the open-ended nature of the *Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment* does not lend itself to providing sample questions, this guide only presents a description of the content and format of the assessment and sample directions. The *Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment* is designed to measure the following competencies:

- Attention to Detail
- Memory
- Writing

This test is designed to measure your ability to write effectively, accurately remember important events, and attend to critical details depicted in an audio/visual stimulus.

You will have 55 minutes to review the instructions, an audio/visual stimulus, answer questions, and compose your documentation of the scenario presented.

Format

The *Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment* is an essay and multiple choice assessment administered via computer at a proctored testing center. You will be presented with instructions and background information on the screen. Your score on the Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment is based on the writing quality and accuracy of your summary, as well as the number of correct responses to the multiple-choice questions.

A word counter will be available for you to keep track of the number of words you use in your documentation response. You are required to use at least 150 words in your response for the response to be scored.

There are five main sections to this assessment:

- **Audio/visual device check:** Allows you to make sure your device's audio and video are working correctly.
- **Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment Instructions:** You will have **10 minutes** to review the assessment instructions.
- **Scenario presentation:** You will watch a three-minute video depicting an incident relevant to handling controlled substances.
- **Documentation:** You will have **30 minutes** to submit a written summary of the events and information you heard and saw in the scenario presented.
- **Fact Recall:** You will have **15 minutes** to complete 20 multiple choice items about the scenario.

The assessment will take about **55 minutes** overall and must be completed in **one sitting**.

Directions

Following are the directions provided for the *Diversion Investigator Recall and Documentation Assessment*.

About this Assessment

This computerized assessment is designed to measure your ability to write effectively, accurately remember important events, and attend to critical details depicted in an audio/visual stimulus. (Attention to Detail, Memory, and Writing are assessed).

Audio/Visual Device Check

- Click the “Play” button to view the example video.
- While the video is playing, adjust the volume controls so you can hear the video clearly. If you need assistance, notify the proctor.
- **DO NOT** continue until any issues are resolved.
- When ready to begin the assessment click “Next” to continue

Video Scenario

You will be presented with a video that depicts a scenario related to Diversion Investigator work. The scenario will last roughly **3 minutes**. After you press play, the video will continue until it has finished. **You CANNOT pause, stop, fast-forward, rewind, or rewatch the video.** If desired, you can activate closed captioning by clicking on the **[CC]** icon at the bottom right corner of the screen.

The video will include:

- Written information to set the scene
- Audio of the discussion
- Static images to give further context
- Before the video, make sure you have note taking materials from the proctor on hand. **Note taking is encouraged** as the video will play only once.

If you have any questions, please ask the proctor before the video prompt begins. Once the video begins, you will **NOT** be allowed to ask any questions. Proctors are **NOT** allowed to explain the meaning of any questions or provide you with the answers. You will be given materials to take notes. No copies of test questions or notes may be taken from the test site.

Documentation

After the video, you will be taken to the *Documentation* section where you are required to write an accurate, well-organized summary of the events and information you gathered from the scenario you observed.

You will have **30 minutes** to write, review, and submit your summary demonstrating your ability to effectively and accurately communicate information in writing. Therefore, it should be well-organized, focused, professional in tone, and include the most important events and details from the scenario. Your response must be a minimum of **150 words** and may not exceed **800 words**.

While writing make sure to:

- Use your notes to assist you as you write the report.
- Write in a conventional paragraph structure with appropriate transitions.
- Write in a professional tone and style.
- Do **NOT** use bullets, numbering, or other formatting.
- Present information concisely and clearly.

- Use correct spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. with consistent use of tenses and person.
- Include the most important events and pertinent details in a way that is accurate, logical, and focused (i.e., who, what, when, where, why, and how).

Recall

Once you submit your summary, you will be taken to the *Fact Recall* section, where you will be required to respond to items about the scenario in order to measure your memory and attention to detail. You will have **15 minutes** to complete 20 multiple choice items about the scenario.

You are permitted to take written notes when completing this assessment; however, your written notes will be collected from you prior to you departing the testing center.

Testing Procedures – because this is an electronic test, the following security and administration rules must be followed:

- You are required to type your response directly into the box provided. It is a violation of test procedures to cut and paste your response from another application. Those individuals who do so will be disqualified.
- Your essay must include at least 150 words; a word count feature is provided (lower left-hand corner of the screen) to help you ensure your essay contains the minimum number of words. Your essay will not be scored if it does not contain at least 150 words.
- You will have 10 minutes to review the assessment instructions. Then you will have 30 minutes to respond to Documentation section, and 15 minutes to respond to the Recall section. This is a total of 55 minutes. A timer is provided (top middle of the screen) to help you manage your time. The timing of this assessment is monitored by both the server and the browser.
- Do not use any special formatting (e.g., bullets, numbering) as the computer is unable to process special formatting.
- **Do not submit your essay until you are finished - you will not be able to review or change your essay once it has been submitted.**
- When you have finished the essay, click on the Submit Essay button.

General Information

Before the test:

1. Please ensure you have successfully scheduled your exam. You should receive a confirmation email. It is important that you note the location of your testing center as some major cities have multiple locations available.
2. Review directions to your test site and plan your commute accordingly. Directions will be provided to you via email after you have scheduled your testing appointment. Some testing centers may have limited parking available.
3. Please ensure you bring an acceptable form of identification to your exam. You will be required to present one form of original (no photocopies), valid (unexpired) government issued ID that includes your name, photograph, and signature. The first and last name that you used to register on USAJobs must be an exact match to the first and last name on the ID that is presented on test day. All IDs or Passports must be issued by the country in which you are testing
4. Remember to leave your purses, backpacks, outerwear (coats, jackets, scarves, hoodies, hats, etc.), firearms, knives, weapons of any kind, briefcases, books, reading material, calculator, notebooks, umbrellas, pencils, pens, erasers, watches, and wallets at home or in your car. The testing center provides lockers for you to secure small items, such as phones and keys. They are not permitted in the testing room.
5. You may access additional information using the links below:
<https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/dea.html>
<https://www.pearsonvue.com/us/en/test-takers/resources.html>

During the test:

1. Pay careful attention to all directions before beginning.
2. Ensure that you use the sound check to ensure your headphones are functioning.
3. Ensure you have scratch paper and a working pen to take any notes.
4. Read each question carefully.
5. For each question, read the entire question and all response options carefully before deciding upon an answer.
6. You are not penalized for answering questions incorrectly. Therefore, you should answer every question, even if you must guess.
7. Ignore any patterns of A's, B's, C's, D's, or E's. Answer positions are chosen randomly and there is no way to improve your chances by guessing based on response patterns.

Appendix A – Sample Questions

These sample questions are provided to help familiarize you with the kinds of questions you will find on the *Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment*. Some questions on the test may be more difficult than the questions shown here, and some may be less difficult.

Diversion Investigator Mathematics Assessment

Sample Questions

1. How many tablets will it take to fill the following prescription as it is written: “Fexofenadine 250 milligrams, 3 tablets by mouth daily for 14 days”?
 - 17 tablets
 - 18 tablets
 - 42 tablets
 - 54 tablets
 - 84 tablets
2. The Drug Enforcement Administration tracks the units of drugs seized. Using the table below, which year showed the highest percentage increase in units seized compared to the preceding year?

	Units of Drugs Seized
Year 1	104,560
Year 2	118,153
Year 3	113,485
Year 4	120,695
Year 5	135,754
Year 6	150,008

- Year 2
 - Year 3
 - Year 4
 - Year 5
 - Year 6
3. An aerosol contains 150 milligrams of medicine, which is sufficient for 200 inhalations. How many micrograms are in each inhalation? (1 milligram = 1,000 micrograms)
 - 0.75 micrograms
 - 133 micrograms
 - 750 micrograms
 - 1,333.33 micrograms
 - 150,000 micrograms