

I'm not a robot



What are the questions asked on a police polygraph test

Most law enforcement agencies require a polygraph exam as part of their hiring process. Who is the Polygraph given to? Usually, the polygraph is provided to candidates who have advanced in the selection process and are being considered for hiring. How does the Polygraph work? You sit down to take the polygraph and you'll be fitted with a blood pressure cuff. There will be a strap around your chest and there'll be monitors on your fingers. The finger monitors measure how much you perspire as a result of the stress. The blood pressure cuff keeps track of your blood pressure. When the exam starts the cuff will fill up with air and create a tight gap around your arm. The cuff is measuring your heart beats per minute. As you get more nervous the blood pressure cuff will communicate greater beats per minute. There is a strap that goes around your chest and a set of tubes. It is placed over your chest because it measures how much air you are breathing. The Polygraph Pre-Interview Prior to actually being given the exam there will be a pre-test interview and typically you'll be asked questions for about 20 to 30 minutes. The questions will focus on a variety of things such as your previous employment history, driving record, drug use, and criminal history. The examiner is going to explain the process of the polygraph in such a way to emphasize the reliability and the precision of the test. The purpose of this is to place a truthful candidate at ease and also to heighten the anxiety of a candidate that might have something to hide. It is very important to be honest and complete during the pretest and because if you're not then you're going to have some reason to cover something up during the actual exam. It is extremely important to be very truthful because the act of not being truth may be worse than what you are trying to cover up. During the actual polygraph exam it will start off with the examiner asking you basic questions, questions that the examiner knows the answers to. You might be asked what's your name, where do you live. This also helps the examiner determine some baseline activity for questions that you are answering truthfully. Then, the examiner will begin focusing on the same questions they asked during the pretest, such as criminal activity, previous employment, and drug use. How to Prepare for the Polygraph? It is not unusual for someone to fail the polygraph when in fact they have been totally honest. The machine measures stress, and an honest person can be stressed during the exam and fail. Mastering the Polygraph is a course from Sgt Godoy which will teach you how to avoid failing the Polygraph when in fact you are answering truthfully. This is done by helping you understand the process and includes some simple relaxation techniques. The course also includes a simulated polygraph. Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. If you have a polygraph exam coming up, you may feel anxious about the questions your examiner has lined up for the test. Note that standard procedure requires polygraphers to conduct pre-test interviews before administering the polygraph exam. During the preliminary interviews, an experienced polygraph examiner will inform the examinees of the topic they'll be queried over. The polygrapher will also seek the defendant's unreserved consent, without which the entire test is null and void. But while it's important to know the polygraph topic you'll be queried over in advance, professional polygraphers won't disclose the exact questions to the examinees until the D-date. Fortunately, you can make an intelligent guess based on the topic at hand. Read below as we uncover frequently asked questions in various lie detector tests. Despite the theme topic, any lie detector test would involve a series of related questions. Moreover, it is prudent to note that all the questions will be reviewed with the examinee prior to the data collection phase. There would be no surprise questions asked during the test. The queries broadly fall into the following categories: Most polygraph exams begin with general questions. The idea is to make the defendant comfortable in the examination room and counter check specific facts gathered during the pre-test interviews. For instance, asking someone, "Is your alias "Bingo?" helps confirm their identity and credibility, particularly if they already shared this information. General questions may further be split into personal and professional. If a defendant is embroiled in a robbery case at their former workplace, an examiner may ask, "Do you work with Lindsay Printing Press." The question can help elicit a more genuine response than simply asking, "Were you involved in a robbery at Lindsay Company." This expression is a misnomer, as all polygraph questions should be topic-relevant. A more appropriate term would be case-related questions. Case-related questions target the core of the interview. They provide invaluable clues on whether the defendant had a direct involvement in the matter under investigation. After being asked a series of case-related queries, most polygraph examinees will naturally develop unease. That's where irrelevant questions come in. Irrelevant questions pose the least risks of self-incrimination. They allow the defendant to revert to their physiological baselines, helping to prevent false negatives. Control questions are employed to gauge varying levels of salience by asking questions related to the test issue but not exactly covering the test issue. Suppose the relevant question is "Did you shoot John Smith?" In that case, the control question would be "Are you the kind of person who would shoot John Smith?" Did you wilfully submit to being polygraphed? - Confirms the defendant's knowledge of and consent to the lie detector test. Is your nickname "Wrangler" - Confirms a piece of personal information previously disclosed. Are you at least 18 years of age? - The age of majority is a critical consideration before administering lie detector tests. Are you in Manhattan right now? - An important polygraph question rule that verifies the examinee understands their whereabouts and what's going on. Do you study at (SCHOOL NAME), or do you work at (COMPANY NAME)? On (ENTER DATE), did you shoot Martin Brown? - The most direct question concerns the defendant's involvement with the crime. Do you know who shot Martin Brown? - Uncovers if more people were involved in the crime. Were you 100% truthful on your job application - It helps uncover early evidence of deception. Have you ever been sacked from a job? - An affirmative answer could be an indictment of the examinee's efficiency or integrity. Are you seeking to join our company for other reasons besides genuine employment? - They could be spies for all you know. Have you deliberately lied about any questions I asked? - An intelligent way to double-check their responses. Have you engaged in any form of sexual activity or conversation with anyone besides your current spouse since your relationship started? Have you ever lied to someone about your current relationship status? Do you have a secret dating profile? During the past year, have you used any illegal or scheduled substances? Polygraph questions should be brief and framed. To formulate the best response, an examinee must understand each query outright. Besides, keep the questions topic-relevant. While slightly deviating from the principal issue is allowed (such as while asking control questions), sticking to the topic enhances the test's accuracy by sifting out irrelevant responses. In the same vein, only ask questions that require flat-out 'Yes' or 'No' answers. Are you applying for a job with law enforcement? Whether it's state, local, or a Sheriff's Department, you'll have to take a polygraph exam as part of the standard background check process. The polygraph is an essential part of your background check, and its purpose is to ensure you didn't lie on your job application. Undergoing a polygraph exam can be a nervous experience for many. The examiner connects you to instrumentation that measures your physiological data, such as heart rate, blood pressure, respiration, skin electrical activity, and sweat production. If your answers trigger the "fight-or-flight" response during the test, the examiner notices elevations in these vital signs, indicating deception. They won't hire you if you fail the polygraph exam, so it pays to prepare for the test. Part of proper preparation for the lie detector exam involves understanding the types of questions the examiner asks during the session. We put together this post on the common questions the examiner asks during the polygraph exam to give you an idea of what to expect from the process. The Types of Questions Involved in the Police Polygraph Before we get to the questions, let's talk about the types of questions the examiner asks during the polygraph session. The core of the lie detector test involves your response to the questions the examiner asks during the exam. The structure of these questions represents the difference in polygraph methodologies used in these exams. There are four types of questions used in polygraph methodologies, and the examiner may ask a variation of them to create the framework for the exam. The distinctions between the questions are important, with the CQT (Control Question Technique) being the most extensively researched due to its use in criminal investigations. The types of questions used for polygraph testing are "relevant questions," "irrelevant questions," "control questions," and "concealed information" or "guilty knowledge" questions. Relevant questions surround the topic under investigation, in this case, your background check. They encompass things like contact with foreign agents, theft, and drug use. They're the most interesting to polygraph examiners. Irrelevant and control questions are usually grouped together and used for comparison purposes to irrelevant questions. It's important to note that the class of questions the examiner presents depends on its specific context of use. So, it's challenging to give examples of relevant or control questions because relevant questions may appear as control questions in different situations and times during the polygraph exam. Similarly, irrelevant questions may seem relevant, depending on your response. Let's look at the types of questions in detail before moving on to the list of common questions asked in the police polygraph exam. Relevant Questions Typically, relevant questions refer to questions directly relating to the background check and the information you provide on your job application. Police services can ask broad questions concerning your history of drug use, crimes, and other disqualifying criteria preventing your hiring. It's important to note that subjects aren't expected to present physiological responses to them all when the examiner asks several relevant questions regarding different issues. The examiner presents pertinent questions that don't create a physiological response as a type of control question after the fact. So, relevant questions are those inquiring about your background. However, topics can cover a long period and be specific. It's unclear what effect relevant questions have on polygraph exam results, and there's little research into the issue. Comparison Questions Irrelevant and control questions are used for comparison purposes during the polygraph exam. As mentioned, no evidence exists of the exact physiological response created when we tell lies. However, the examiner looks for the elevation of vital signs made by the "fight-or-flight" response. If the examiner only asked you relevant questions, they can't establish a baseline response to evaluate when they think you're telling the truth. We discussed how the polygraph exam could make people feel nervous. By using irrelevant questions during the lie detector test, the examiner can remove the possibility of creating a false positive due to you feeling anxious and creating a similar response to the fight-or-flight mode. However, even when we include nonrelevant comparison questions, it's required for the examiner to run several charts with the same questions, usually in a different order. This methodology ensures consistency in analyzing your reactions to the questions they ask during the lie detector test. If the examiner doesn't run several charts, they may interpret your responses to anxiety, physical movements, or surprise. Alternatively, using several charts theoretically might repeat the initial physiological response if the cause isn't random. So, the essence of the polygraph exam is the comparison of your responses to relevant and nonrelevant questions, labeled as control and irrelevant questions. Control Questions The examiner uses the control questions they ask you for comparison purposes. Essentially, if you're being truthful during the lie detector test, the examiner becomes more interested in your reactions to the control questions rather than the relevant questions. The examiner compares your responses to both relevant and control questions during the lie detector test. However, like the control questions, relevant questions can vary in type and breadth. One type of control question asked during the exam concerns what the examiner hypothesizes is the same issue under investigation during the lie detector test. Subjects answering truthfully during the lie detector test are presumably more concerned about having done anything relating to the question the examiner asks. In other words, they don't want to paint themselves into a corner because they might have done something similar in the past to the question asked by the examiner. If you're lying about your answer, you'll also be concerned about the control question. Therefore, your response exhibits more physiological reactions to the relevant questions. There are several views about what distinguishes a relevant question from a control question. One key distinction in control questions is whether the question is exclusive or inclusive. An inclusive control question relates specifically to your background check. Exclusive control questions will cover a period that's not under investigation by the examiner and unrelated to the time frame relating to the inquiry. There's controversy over how far back the examiner goes with exclusive control questions and how they relate to you, considering it psychologically separate from incidents under investigation, thus making it an irrelevant question. Since inconclusive control questions might include the act under investigation from your perspective, many polygraph examiners contend they're actually relevant questions and cannot be used for comparison purposes. Irrelevant Questions Irrelevant questions serve purposes other than providing the examiner with a physiological baseline in your responses. Irrelevant questions asked among relevant questions usually give you a rest period to reduce the nervous system's excitement, which prevents a false positive. Concealed Information Questions Unlike relevant and control questions, which ask if you've committed a crime or lied on your application, concealed information questions allow the examiner to detect information about incidents only guilty people have. For instance, they might be questions relating to details of past behaviors considered illegal, such as drug use. Examiners assume that guilty people exhibit different physiological responses to the relevant information than to irrelevant details, but if you're innocent, you'll respond the same way to all questions. Examples of The Relevant Questions Asked in the Police Polygraph Employment History How many jobs have you had? Have you ever been fired from a job? Have you ever been asked to resign from a job? Have you ever quit a job to avoid being fired for any reason? Have you ever lied to an employer? Have you ever stolen from an employer? Have you ever stolen merchandise over the value of \$500 from an employer? Armed Forces Service History Have you ever served in the Armed Forces? Have you ever been AWOL? Were you ever given a judicial punishment? Were you ever confined to the brig, guardhouse or stockade? Were you ever reduced in rank? Were you ever given a court martial or had any type of disciplinary action taken against you? Did you ever sell anything on the black market? Did you ever convert any government property to your own use or sell any property? Credit History Do you have a house, mortgage, or rent? Do you owe any school loans? Do you have any doctor or hospital bills? Have you ever declared bankruptcy? Have you ever had anything repossessed? Have you ever had unsatisfactory credit? Do you have any accounts past 30 days due? Driving Record Do you hold any other state licenses? If yes, please list the following: state, license # and expiration. Have you ever had your license revoked or suspended? Have you ever received a warning or safety notification letter? How many citations have you received in the past year? Total number of citations you have ever received? How many accidents have you had in the past year? Total number of accidents you have ever been in? Were there any injuries? Have you ever operated any motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, drove recklessly, or driven while under suspension? Drug History Have you ever smoked marijuana? When was the first time you smoked marijuana? When was the last time you smoked marijuana? How many times have you smoked marijuana in the last twelve months? How many times have you smoked marijuana in your entire life? Have you ever injected, or had injected, any illegal drugs into your body? Have you ever used: Hashish? G. Uppers? Heroin? H. Downers? Acid/LSD? I. Crack? Cocaine? J. Quaalude? Speed? K. Hallucinogenic? Inhalants? J. Magic Mushrooms If yes, indicate number of usage's and when last usage occurred: Have you ever misused or illegally used prescription drugs? Have you illegally used any of the following: Zanax F. Ritalin Percocet G. Percoden Dilaudid H. Oxycontine Oxycodine I. Methadone Valium J. Steroids Have you ever been present when any of the following were used, but you did not use them? Have you ever purchased marijuana or any other type of illegal or prescription drug not prescribed to you? Have you ever sold marijuana or any other type of illegal or prescription drug? Have you ever bought an illegal drug or a prescription drug for someone else? Have you ever grown, harvested, packaged, stored or transported any type of illegal drugs? When was the last time you used or possessed any illegal drug? Fire Have you ever illegally started a fire? Have you ever intentionally set fire to anything? Fish & Game Have you ever been convicted of a Fish and Game violation? Have you ever hunted or fished without a license? Have you ever night hunted illegally? Have you ever committed any fish and game violation? Immoral & Illegal Activities Have you ever sexually fondled a child since you've been grown? Have you ever committed an indecent exposure or held the urge to do so? Have you ever accepted or given any money for the act of prostitution? Have you ever given someone a drug before engaging in sex with them? Have you ever forced someone to have sex with you, (rape)? Have you ever possessed or produced child pornography? Have you ever accessed child pornography on the Internet? Criminal & Civil Record Are you presently involved in any litigation: criminal or civil? Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony? Have you ever been arrested or detained? Have you ever stolen any money from a place where you work(ed)? Have you ever stolen any property or merchandise from a place where you work(ed)? Have you ever been with someone when they stole something from a store? Have you, in the past five years, stolen anything from a store? Have you ever broken into a house or business not under your control? Have you ever engaged in any type of fraud over the Internet? What is the most serious crime in which you were involved? Closing Questions Have you been completely truthful on your application for employment and during the entire hiring process for the agency, you are currently seeking employment with? Have you accurately and truthfully completed this questionnaire? Joseph Libowsky,former Special Agent A polygraph, commonly referred to as a "lie detector," may be required when you apply for a law enforcement job, depending on the specific agency and job you are applying for. Jobs requiring a top-secret clearance usually polygraph during the hiring process, as do many state and local law enforcement agencies. Often job announcements will list if a polygraph is required. Taking a polygraph is one of the most nerve-wracking parts of the law enforcement application process. It is possible for applicants who are telling the truth to appear like they are not. However, opting out of a required polygraph is not an option if you want to continue in the hiring process. If you fail a polygraph, you must disclose that when applying to a law enforcement agency in the future, even if that agency does not require a polygraph. This may negatively impact your chance of being hired, which is why it is vital to pass the polygraph in the first "go." Agencies may polygraph candidates to: Verify the information the candidate already provided Find out information they are not disclosing Determine if they are honest and trustworthy In the academy, they can teach you offensive driving, how to shoot a firearm, and other physical tactics, but they cannot teach you integrity. That is why agencies go to great lengths to find candidates who are honest and trustworthy. The polygraph is usually one of the final stages of the application process because administering the test can be expensive. It usually happens after you pass the police written test, oral board interview, and physical agility test. Before taking the polygraph, you will be given a background questionnaire. Make sure to answer truthfully since the information you provide will be compared to the answers you provided elsewhere during the application process. Try a Simulated, Interactive Polygraph Exam Some of the topics the questionnaire and polygraph may cover include: Personal history Negative information from other agencies (such as previously failing a polygraph) Employment background Criminal behavior Financial information Illegal drug use Alcohol use Illegal or deviant sexual behavior The online course Mastering the Polygraph, developed by Sgt. Godoy, will provide you with the tips and techniques you need to pass your polygraph honestly. (It does NOT teach you how to lie during a polygraph.) The course is mobile-friendly and provides unlimited use! Mastering the Polygraph will cover: - How the polygraph works - How the exam is conducted - Questions that may be asked during the polygraph - Bonus: an interactive, practice polygraph to help you prepare for the actual test!