

EyeDetect Test Writing - Quick Reference Guide

Overview: This document provides general guidelines on how to properly construct an EyeDetect test. For more training information regarding test writing construction, please visit www.converus.com/videos.

Things to consider:

- Is this test a screening or diagnostic test? (screening = no known allegation, diagnostic = known allegation or accusation)
- Which action/behavior or question is of most concern?
- Is the examinee accused of something specific? If yes, then ask about committing the specific act for which they are accused
- Has the examinee made any admissions?
- Are the pre-instructions and statements/questions consistent? Are they simple and easy to understand?

Things to Avoid:

- Emotional/judgmental terms (molest, mutilate, butcher, etc.)
- Legal terms in statements/questions (domestic assault, forcible battery, aggravated rape, etc.)
- Using the victim's name in statements/questions, instead refer to them as that girl, that child, that woman, your son, your daughter, your wife, etc.
- Accusatory language
- Making assumptions of things you are unsure about
- Do not test on intentions

Quick Review:

- Do the pretest instructions follow the correct format?
- Do the pretest instructions clearly introduce the test topic(s)?
- Do the pretest instructions include definitions and examples where needed?
- Are the questions/statements specific?
- Are the questions/statements of similar length?
- If DLC, did you use the same directed lie phrase throughout the entire test?

MCT Test writing steps:

- 1. Determine which testing protocol to use:** MCT 3R/4R, Hybrid MCT, or Audio MCT
- 2. Formulate 2 or 3 distinct relevant topics**
 - a. Focus on a specific action or target behavior
 - b. Ensure there is little to no crossover between test topics
 - c. Define each relevant target behavior and list examples
 - d. Determine any qualifiers (ex: in the past 2 years, while at work, etc.)
 - e. Is this an indirect or direct interrogation? If there are no pretest admissions, then use a direct statement. (Ex: T/F I did not use an illegal drug in the past 3 years.) If there are pretest admissions, use an indirect statement, like a withholding info, reported, disclosed, etc. (Ex: T/F I did report all my illegal drug use from the past 3 years.)
- 3. Formulate the comparison topic**
 - a. Comparison topics should: (1) have the most serious consequences, (2) have a 1-3% likelihood of occurrence, and (3) be plausible/believable to the examinee
 - b. Define the comparison topic and list examples
 - c. List the consequences if found guilty, remind the examinee of the severity of this behavior, and when needed, explain why this topic is of concern.
- 4. Write pretest instructions (follow proper format)**
 - a. Introduction paragraph - list issues in this order R4, R1, R2, R3
 - b. R4 paragraph(s) – introduce topic, define topic, give examples, mention consequence
 - c. R1 paragraph(s) – introduce, define, examples
 - d. R2 paragraph(s) – introduce, define, examples
 - e. R3 paragraph(s) – introduce, define, examples
 - f. Summary – restate test topics (R4, R1, R2, R3), introspective questions, invite to confess
- 5. Write relevant and comparison statements**
 - a. Be clear and concise – use the same relevant topic phrase in each statement
 - b. Include any qualifiers in each statement (ex: in the past 2 years, at work, etc.)
 - c. No two statements or questions should be identical
 - d. Average length of all statements or questions should be similar
 - e. Specifics for different protocols:
 - i. MCT – 6 true and 6 false statements per topic
 - ii. AMCT – 4 true and 4 false statements per topic. All statements should follow this sentence structure (introductory phrase, topic, declaration)
 - iii. HMCT – 3 no questions, 1 yes question; 4 false and 4 true per topic

DLC Test writing steps:

- 1. Determine which testing protocol to use:** DLC2 or HDLC
- 2. Formulate 1 relevant topic**
 - a. Focus on the examinee's actions or behaviors
 - b. Determine any qualifiers (ex: in the past 2 years, while at work, etc.)
 - c. Is this an indirect or direct interrogation? If there are no pretest admissions, then use a direct question. (Ex: Y/N Did you have any sexual contact with that woman?) If there are pretest admissions, adjust the time frames of the test question or use an indirect statement, like a withholding info, reported, disclosed, etc. (Ex: Y/N Other than what you disclosed, did you have sexual contact with that woman?)
 - d. Consider: What was reported? What is the examinee's statement of the event? How do they differ?
 - e. Give definitions and examples as needed. Operational define victim as that girl, that boy, that woman, that man, etc. to avoid using their name in the relevant questions
- 3. Write pretest instructions (follow proper format)**
 - a. Introduction main test topic
 - b. Explain what has been reported/claimed (ex: it has been reported that...)
 - c. Explain what the examinee has reported (ex: you have denied...)
 - d. Restate what the test will ask and provide definitions and examples as needed
 - e. This test will give you the opportunity to show you are being truthful about...
- 4. Write relevant and directed lie comparison questions**
 - a. Be clear, concise, and focused on the specific action or behavior
 - b. Include any qualifiers in each question (ex: since that day, at work, etc.)
 - c. No two questions should be identical
 - d. Average length of all questions should be similar
 - e. Use the exact same directed lie introductory phrase throughout the entire test (pretest instructions, practice questions, and DL questions), such as "In your entire life..."