



South Carolina Court Administration

South Carolina Supreme Court

Columbia, South Carolina

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MEMORANDUM

To: Prospective Magistrates

From: Robert L. McCurdy, Assistant Director

Subject: Magistrate Eligibility Examination Information and Resources

Date: March 13, 2018

Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 22-2-5 (2007), S. C. Court Administration, in cooperation with the technical school system, was required to select and administer an eligibility examination to test basic skills of all persons seeking an initial appointment as magistrate. In determining the persons to be recommended to the Governor for initial appointment, a Senatorial delegation must use the results of these eligibility examinations to assist in its selection of nominees. No person is eligible to be a magistrate unless a passing score on the eligibility examination is received. The exam results are valid for six months before and six months after the time the appointment is to be made.

Pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. §22-1-19, the Supreme Court established the Magistrate Advisory Council to assist in selecting an appropriate eligibility examination. The Council made specific recommendations to the Court, and by Order dated October 9, 2002, and amended by subsequent Orders dated February 25, 2015 and January 2, 2017¹, the Court adopted those recommendations. Pursuant to the Order, the eligibility examination is comprised of a combination of two tests, the Wonderlic Personnel Test and the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal. The results of the tests are combined and provided to the applicant and to the Senatorial Delegation of the county the applicant wishes to serve. An applicant must make a combined score of 40 on the two tests in order to be considered as a magistrate, and may take the examination as many times as necessary to achieve a passing score of 40. Provided below are brief summaries of the examination components, as well as possible resources to prepare an applicant for testing.

Any duly appointed magistrate who resigns or retires, and then seeks reappointment as a magistrate, is exempt from the eligibility examination requirement, as long as that individual's absence from office does not exceed one year.

The examination is taken online at a State technical college's testing site, and there is a fee required to be paid to the college by the applicant. Currently, three technical colleges in the State administer the magistrate eligibility examination. Those locations and contact information are provided below. If you wish to take the examination, simply contact one of the three technical colleges to arrange a date and time to take the examination at the technical college.

Any applicant wishing to take the magistrate eligibility examination who requires a special accommodation due to a special need must notify the technical college prior to taking the examination so that the college will be able to provide any reasonably necessary accommodations.

Should you have questions concerning the magistrate eligibility examination, or other questions concerning qualifications or the pre-appointment process to become a magistrate, please do not hesitate to contact this Office.

I. **Wonderlic Personnel Test (WPT)**

Because this is a test of general intelligence, it does not lend itself to a study aid or other preparatory materials. However, successful examinees will need at least a sixth grade reading level, knowledge of basic mathematics, how to tell time, days of the week and months of the year, and a basic knowledge of the U. S. monetary units and the U. S. Customary System of weights and measures. Successful applicants will not only demonstrate a suitable level of learning ability, but also a mastery of fundamental basic skills.

If a magistrate candidate believes that he/she lacks any of the above fundamental skills, they may be referred to the following list of resources:

- **Word Smart, 5th Ed.** | by Adam Robinson | Princeton Review | 2012 | ISBN: 0307945022
- **Math Smart, 2nd Ed.** | by Marcia Lerner | Princeton Review | 2001 | ISBN: 0375762167
- **Gruber's Complete Preparation for the New SAT, 10th Ed.** | by Gary R. Gruber | Collins Reference | 2005 | ISBN: 60581700
- **The Literacy Council**, (803) 765-2555, can provide free remedial tutoring in reading.
- **Community/Technical Colleges** offer Developmental Studies in reading that are broken into 4 levels based upon one's skill. These classes normally are a semester in length and may cost about \$150 plus registration fees. To apply, interested applicants should contact the college's Admissions Office.
- A Wonderlic sample test may be accessed at the following link: <http://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=wonderlic-sample-quiz>

II. **Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal II (WGCTA II)**

The Watson-Glaser II Critical Thinking Appraisal is comprised of 40 multiple choice items and can be completed in about 35 minutes. The Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal II is useful for assessing an individual's ability to recognize assumptions, evaluate arguments and

draw conclusions. It is suitable for selection as well as development in roles requiring an individual to work with business information to answer questions, determine strategy, reduce risk and maximize organizational performance. The Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal II has two equivalent forms, Form D and Form E.

What the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal II Measures

The Watson Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal II assesses:

- Recognizing Assumptions
- Evaluating Arguments
- Drawing Conclusions
- Overall Critical Thinking

Three reports are available for the Watson Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal-II:

Profile Report

Number of items correct and performance on each scale are reported in addition to overall percentile and a brief narrative interpretation.

Interview Report

Provides standard and score-based structured interview questions suitable for both selection and development.

Development Report

Provides developmentally-based individualized feedback and coaching suggestions

- See more at <https://www.panpowered.com/assessments/watson-glaser-critical-thinkingappraisal/#sthash.p6MrfBcl.dpuf>

Study resources for critical thinking skills may include:

- ***Learning to Think Things Through: A Guide to Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum, 4th Ed.*** | by Gerald M. Nosich | Prentice-Hall, Inc. | 2011 | ISBN: 0137085141
- ***Reading For Thinking, 8th Ed.*** | by Laraine Flemming | Cengage Learning | 2014 | ISBN: 1285430468
- ***Asking The Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking, 10th Ed.*** | by M. Neil Browne & Stuart M. Keeley | Pearson | 2011 | ISBN: 0205111165
- ***Master the LSAT*** | by Jeff Kolby | Nova Publishing | 2014 | ISBN: 1889057118
- ***Critical Thinking: An Introduction to the Basic Skills, 5th Ed.*** | by William Hughes | Broadview Press | 2008 | ISBN: 155111884X

- ***Practical Strategies for Critical Thinking*** | by Jan Rehner | Cengage Learning | 1993 | ISBN: 0395673402
- ***Becoming a Critical Thinker: A User Friendly Manual, 6th Ed.*** | by Sherry Diestler | Pearson | 2011 | ISBN: 0205063454
- <https://www.testprep-online.com/watson-glaser-test.aspx?affiliateID=10171&gclid=CL2AiaDg68MCFU07gQodr54AZA&affiliateID=10171&gclid=CL2AiaDg68MCFU07gQodr54AZA> | Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal – How to Prepare?

TECHNICAL COLLEGE TESTING SITES, LOCATIONS, AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Trident Technical College Charleston
 Susie Chandler, Testing Specialist
 7000 Rivers Avenue
 North Charleston, SC 29406
 (843) 574-6684
suzy.chandler@tridenttech.edu

Piedmont Technical College, Greenwood
 Vickie Baldwin, Program Manager and Testing Administrator,
 Computer and Community Education
 313 North Emerald Road
 PO Box 1467
 Greenwood, SC 29648
 Test Center 864-941-8400
 Office (864) 941-8602
baldwin.V@ptc.edu

Harbison Campus Irmo
 Midlands Technical College
 Spencer Griffin, Testing Services
 7300 College Street
 Irmo, SC 29063
 (803) 732-5337 or 732-5202
griffins@midlandstech.edu

ⁱ By Order dated February 25, 2015 and effective on that date, the October 9, 2002 Order was amended, to provide that a duly appointed magistrate who resigns or retires, and then seeks reappointment as a magistrate, is exempt from the eligibility examination requirement, as long as that individual's absence from office does not exceed one year.

By Order dated January 2, 2017 and effective on that date, the February 25, 2015 Order of the Supreme Court designating the minimum aggregate score of 68 on the Magistrate Eligibility Examination to a minimum aggregate score of 40 on the combined Wonderlic Personnel Test and the revised Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal Test. The amendment was made as a result of a scoring change on the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal Test. The amended score applies to all magistrate eligibility examinations taken on or after the effective date of the Order. While the examination is primarily administered electronically, the Order provides that any South Carolina Technical College that has been administering the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal Test by paper, rather than electronically, may continue administering the original paper version of the test until their current supply is been deleted. The original score of 68 will apply to any examinations given pursuant to that exception of the Order.