



Dear Instructor Candidate,

This is the guideline that NRA Training Counselors use to pre-qualify students. Each discipline has a specific test and guideline. This is the package for the discipline you have inquired about, and it has been provided for your success.

Please take the time to go through it and practice the shooting portion. You will notice there are requirements for you to be familiar with different types of firearms that are specific to this discipline, so please make sure that you brush up on your understanding of how they all operate. The test is open book and open source. You are welcome to take the test early, and answer as many questions as you can without the books. You will be given the chance to find the answers in the textbook prior to turning it in before the class starts.

Giving you the opportunity to practice for the pre-qualification is not cheating. It is simply an opportunity for you to show your best. Take advantage of it and let us know if you have any questions.

All the best,

Troy M. Perry  
NRA Training Counselor  
General Manager, TCG

## Appendix 5

# NRA INSTRUCTOR TRAINING PROGRAM PRE-COURSE QUALIFICATION

## PISTOL

Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The NRA Instructor Training Pre-Course Qualification is to be administered after the potential Instructor Candidate has achieved a minimum score of 90 percent on the Basic Pistol Shooting Course Student Exam. The Pre-Course Qualification must be administered before or during an Instructor Training Course and is a hands-on, practical exercise to evaluate an individual's knowledge, skills and attitude in safety, loading, unloading, clearing firearm malfunctions, and shooting skills. The qualification is conducted in three phases. *Alternatively, candidates may provide documented proof of Classified Sharpshooter or better in NRA Conventional or Action Pistol, Classified Marksman or better in International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) or Classified "C" or better in US Practical Shooting Association(USPSA)/International Practical Shooting Confederation(IPSC) or a certification as an NRA LEAD Handgun/Shotgun or Tactical Handgun certified instructor.*

### **Passing/Failing:**

The NRA Pre-Course Qualification for Pistol will have a maximum score of 100 points and a minimum passing score of 80 points. Minimum passing requirement must be met in each phase.

### **Unsafe Gun Handling:**

Candidates who demonstrate unsafe gun handling will be given 0 points for that particular skill test. Examples of unsafe gun handling include pointing the gun in an unsafe direction or any area not designated as safe by the Training Counselor, sweeping one's own body, or placing the finger on the trigger before being ready to shoot.

### **PHASE 1 - LOADING/UNLOADING**

Location: Classroom or Range

Using dummy ammunition, instructor candidate must load and unload a single action revolver, double action revolver, and a semi-automatic pistol.

*Requests for assistance will result in a deduction of 3 points per action type in the exercises; candidate will be given a score of 0 for safety violations.*

**NRA TRAINING COUNSELOR GUIDE**

*Appendix 5: NRA Instructor Training Program Pre-Course Qualification  
Pistol*

**Loading**

Minimum Passing 12 points / Maximum 15 points

5 points maximum per action type

	Points
Single Action Revolver	_____
Double Action Revolver	_____
Semi-Automatic Pistol	_____
TOTAL	_____

**Unloading**

Minimum Passing 12 points / Maximum 15 points

5 points maximum per action type

	Points
Single Action Revolver	_____
Double Action Revolver	_____
Semi-Automatic Pistol	_____
TOTAL	_____

**PHASE 2 – CLEARING COMMON PISTOL STOPPAGES**

Location: Range

Using dummy ammunition, instructor candidate must demonstrate how to clear a common pistol stoppage using a semi-automatic pistol. Training Counselor will set-up the pistol and conduct a practical exercise involving failure to fire and double feeds.

*Requests for assistance will result in a deduction of 3 points per action type in the exercises; candidate will be given a score of 0 for safety violations.*

**FAILURE TO FIRE DRILL:** If candidate waits 30 seconds keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction, taps the bottom of the magazine, and pulls the slide to the rear, 5 points will be given.

**DOUBLE FEED DRILL:** If the candidate locks the slide to the rear, removes the magazine, and renders the pistol unloaded 5 points will be given.

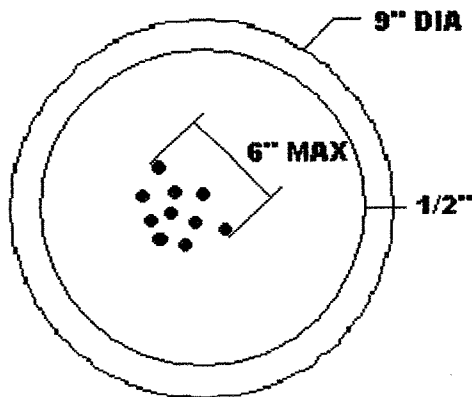
Minimum Passing 8 points / Maximum 10 points  
 5 points maximum per stoppage type

	Points
Semi-Automatic Failure to Fire	_____
Semi-Automatic Double Feed	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>	_____

**PHASE 3 – PISTOL SHOOTING**

Location: Range

Candidate will shoot any gun of their choice, regardless of action, sights or caliber, at a blank 9 inch diameter paper target at a distance of 15 yards. Candidates will fire 20 shots from a two-handed, unsupported, standing position. Targets will be broken into two ten-shot targets or four five-shot targets. Three points will be given for each scoring hit. In order for a hit to count, it must fall inside a 1/2" border from the edge of the plate. Shots that break the edge of the 1/2" border will count as hits. All scoring hits on a target must be within a 6" or less extreme spread (see below). Candidates will be allowed to shoot their own firearms if desired. *Two requalification shoots are allowed within any 24-hour period.*



If adjusted distance is required due to range limitations, the following formulae will be used; all distances are in inches (hit scoring and requirements remain the same):

- Target Diameter: Target Distance divided by 60.0
- Outside Border: Target Diameter divided by 18.0
- Extreme Spread: Target Diameter divided by 1.5

*Candidate will be given a score of 0 for safety violations.*

**NRA TRAINING COUNSELOR GUIDE**

*Appendix 5: NRA Instructor Training Program Pre-Course Qualification  
Pistol*

Minimum Passing 48 points / Maximum 60 points  
3 points for each scoring hit

Pistol Shooting Points  
\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Phase I Loading Unloading Sub-Total:</b>	<input type="text"/>
Minimum Passing 80%	
<b>Phase II Clearing Stoppages Sub-Total:</b>	<input type="text"/>
Minimum Passing 80%	
<b>Phase III Pistol Shooting Sub-Total:</b>	<input type="text"/>
Minimum Passing 80%	
<b>Pistol Pre-Course Qualification Total Score:</b>	<input type="text"/>

# APPENDIX 5A

## NRA BASIC PISTOL SHOOTING COURSE

### STUDENT EXAMINATION

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

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**DIRECTIONS:** Please select the *best* answer for each of the following multiple-choice and true-false questions. The questions in this examination are based on the *NRA Guide to the Basics of Pistol Shooting*.

1. The three major components of a pistol are:
  - a. barrel, action and grip
  - b. frame, barrel and action
  - c. barrel, frame and hammer
  - d. cylinder, frame and barrel
  
2. A *cylinder* is:
  - a. where extra cartridges are stored in a semi-automatic pistol
  - b. the part of a revolver where cartridges are held in individual chambers arranged in a circular pattern
  - c. the diameter of the projectile or bore of a barrel
  - d. a device that pivots on its axis to strike the firing pin
  
3. The *action* is:
  - a. a group of moving parts used to load, fire, and unload the pistol.
  - b. the part of a firearm in which a cartridge is contained at the instant of firing.
  - c. the end of the barrel where the chamber is located.
  - d. another term for the slide on a semi-automatic pistol.
  
4. The two most important shooting fundamentals are:
  - a. aiming and trigger control.
  - b. grip and position.
  - c. breath control and aiming.
  - d. trigger control and follow-through.
  
5. When aiming a pistol, the eye can only focus on one object at a time; therefore, you should focus on the \_\_\_\_\_ so that it appears clear and sharp.
  - a. rear sight
  - b. target
  - c. front sight
  - d. bullseye

6. When you hear the command "Cease Fire," you should:
  - a. complete firing the shot and immediately put the pistol down.
  - b. immediately put the safety on.
  - c. fire the remaining cartridges in the pistol and wait for instruction from the range officer.
  - d. stop shooting immediately, remove your finger from the trigger while keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, and wait for further instructions from the range officer.
  
7. When a cartridge fails to fire immediately, you should:
  - a. put the safety on and put the pistol down.
  - b. keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction and, after waiting at least 30 seconds (as a precaution in case of a hangfire), open the action and remove the cartridge.
  - c. open the action immediately and inspect the cartridge to determine the malfunction.
  - d. none of the above.
  
8. When gripping the pistol, you should:
  - a. use the same grip each time that you hold the pistol.
  - b. change your grip when going from short-range to long-range targets.
  - c. slowly increase your grip pressure when you begin pulling the trigger.
  - d. hold the pistol as loosely as possible to prevent muscle tremors.
  
9. *Follow-through* is important because:
  - a. it is a continuation of everything that was being done at the time the shot was fired.
  - b. it helps maintain your grip.
  - c. it keeps the gun from recoiling excessively.
  - d. none of the above.
  
10. On a hammerless pistol:
  - a. the hammer must be manually cocked before a shot can be fired.
  - b. the powder charge is ignited by a piece of flint striking the primer.
  - c. the hammer is not visible and may be part of an internal firing mechanism, or the pistol may have an internal firing mechanism that does not contain a hammer.
  - d. the hammer must be lowered completely before the trigger is pulled.
  
11. The four components of a pistol cartridge are:
  - a. primer, wad, case and bullet.
  - b. hull, shot, slug and primer.
  - c. bullet, hull, powder and wad.
  - d. case, primer, powder charge and bullet.
  
12. A .22 target pistol is a good starter pistol for beginning shooters because:

- a. it is extremely accurate.
  - b. it makes relatively little noise and has little recoil.
  - c. its ammunition is less expensive than center-fire ammunition.
  - d. All of the above.
13. *Double-action* refers to the type of action:
- a. in which pulling the trigger performs two tasks: cocking and releasing the hammer.
  - b. found only on revolvers.
  - c. found only on semi-automatic pistols.
  - d. none of the above.
14. Before cleaning a pistol, be sure that:
- a. the pistol is unloaded.
  - b. the action is open.
  - c. no ammunition is present in the area.
  - d. all of the above.
15. A \_\_\_\_\_ occurs when a cartridge fails to fire after the primer has been struck by the firing pin.
- a. hangfire
  - b. dry-fire
  - c. squib load
  - d. misfire
16. The *safety* on a pistol is a mechanical device that:
- a. when activated, will ensure that the pistol will never fire.
  - b. is designed to reduce the chance of an accidental discharge.
  - c. never fails.
  - d. is found only on revolvers.
17. When shooting, you should hold your breath because:
- a. it minimizes body movement.
  - b. it enhances concentration.
  - c. it eliminates muscle tremors.
  - d. all of the above.
18. Dry-firing:
- a. occurs when the cartridge fails to fire after the firing pin strikes the primer.
  - b. is a long delay in the ignition of a cartridge after the firing pin strikes the primer.
  - c. is executing the fundamentals of shooting using an unloaded gun, and is helpful in practicing marksmanship skills.
  - d. is the firing of live ammunition at tin cans and other similar targets.
19. The basic rule for sight adjustment is:
- a. move the rear sight in the opposite direction that you want hits on the target to

- move.
- b. move the front sight in the same direction that you want hits on the target to move.
- c. move the rear sight in the same direction that you want hits on the target to move.
- d. move the front sight in the opposite direction that you want hits on the target to move.

20. When shooting, the trigger:
- a. must be pulled only when you have a perfect sight picture and the arc of movement has been eliminated.
  - b. must be squeezed straight to the rear in a smooth and continuous manner without disturbing sight alignment.
  - c. both a and b.
  - d. none of the above.

TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

21. T F The powder charge in a pistol cartridge is a fast-burning chemical compound used as a propellant.
22. T F A pistol shooter should position his or her body so that the gun points naturally to the center of the target.
23. T F Proper sight alignment is having the front sight even with the top of the rear sight, and the front sight centered in the notch of the rear sight so that there is an equal amount of space on each side of the front sight.
24. T F A squib load develops less than normal pressure or velocity after ignition of the cartridge.
25. T F The barrel should be cleaned from the rear whenever possible in order to reduce muzzle wear.
26. T F The frame is the backbone of a pistol, to which all the other parts are attached.
27. T F The safety on a pistol is a mechanical device that can fail.
28. T F Pistols should be stored so that they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
29. T F A misfire is a perceptible delay in the ignition of a cartridge after the primer has been struck by the firing pin.

- 30. T F Most pistol cartridges can be fired from any handgun.
- 31. T F In single-action pistols, the trigger performs only one action: releasing the hammer.
- 32. T F Cartridges loaded to lower pressures than standard ammunition are known as "+P" cartridges.
- 33. T F Only the range officer can give the command, "Cease Fire."
- 34. T F You should always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- 35. T F The gun safety rules described in the *NRA Guide to The Basics of Pistol Shooting* do not apply to air pistols.
- 36. T F Ammunition should not be present when cleaning a pistol.
- 37. T F Laws for transporting a pistol may differ from one locality to another.
- 38. T F Your breath should be let out slowly and steadily until the shot is fired.
- 39. T F Your non-dominant eye should be used for aiming the pistol.
- 40. T F You should always keep your gun unloaded until you are ready to use them.
- 41. T F A pistol should be cleaned each time it is used.
- 42. T F If the front sight is high when the pistol is fired, the shot will appear low on the target.
- 43. T F Aiming and trigger control should be done simultaneously while maintaining a minimum arc of movement.
- 44. T F The major components of a pistol are the frame, the barrel and the action.
- 45. T F The chamber of a semi-automatic pistol is located in the rear of the barrel.
- 46. T F The magazine is a storage device designed to hold extra cartridges

in a revolver.

- 47. T F Pistol cartridges should not be exposed to water or solvents.
- 48. T F The muzzle is the front end of the barrel where the bullet exits.
- 49. T F When shooting a pistol, you should always know your target and what is beyond.
- 50. T F The uncocking procedure for a semi-automatic pistol can vary greatly from model to model.

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