

**NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM
OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION**



**COURT ASSISTANT
EXAMINATION GUIDE**

The New York State Office of Court Administration has developed this test guide to familiarize you with the Court Assistant examination. This test guide provides at least one sample question for each subject area listed. This test guide provides the correct answer for each sample question presented. You should study these in order to understand how the correct answers were determined. There are 85 questions in the actual examination and applicants have three (3) hours to complete it. The examination for Court Assistant is open-competitive.

Subject of Examination:

This examination consists of multiple-choice questions and assesses the following:

1. CLERICAL CHECKING

These questions assess applicants' ability to distinguish between different sets of names, numbers, letters and/or codes which are almost exactly alike. Material is presented in three columns, and applicants are asked to compare the information in the three sets.

2. UNDERSTANDING AND INTERPRETING WRITTEN MATERIAL

These questions assess applicants' ability to understand brief passages. Applicants are provided with short passages from which words or phrases have been removed. Applicants are required to select, among four alternatives, the word or phrase that best fits in each of the spaces. Applicants are not required to have any prior knowledge relating to the content areas covered in the selections.

3. APPLYING FACTS AND INFORMATION TO GIVEN SITUATIONS

These questions assess applicants' ability to use the information provided and apply it to a specific situation defined by a given set of facts. Applicants are presented with a regulation, policy or procedure similar to what a Court Assistant may encounter on the job. Applicants must use this information to answer questions about specific situations. All of the information required to answer the questions is contained in the passages and in the description of the situation.

4. COURT RECORD KEEPING

These questions assess applicants' ability to read, combine, and manipulate written information organized from several sources. Applicants are presented with different types of tables, which contain names, numbers, codes and other information, and must combine and reorganize the information to answer specific questions.

5. PREPARING WRITTEN MATERIAL

Format A: These questions assess applicants' ability to present information accurately and clearly and to organize written information logically and comprehensibly. Applicants are presented with several sentences and must select the sequence that most effectively organizes them into a coherent and logical paragraph.

Format B: These questions assess applicants' ability to apply the rules of English grammar and usage, punctuation, and sentence structure. Applicants are presented with a series of sentences and must select the sentence that best conforms to standard English grammar and usage, punctuation, and sentence structure.

6. LEGAL TERMINOLOGY

These questions assess candidates' knowledge of basic legal terminology that Court Assistants encounter in their daily work.

TIMING – Applicants are given a total of 3 hours to complete the examination.