PublicServicePrep Comprehensive Guide to Canadian Public Service Exams

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Observation and Memory

Memory

Developing your memory is a skill like any other, and will improve the more you practice. There are several methods to go about doing this.

1) Practice as many of the practice tests as possible to become familiar with the methods used during the real exam.
2) Practice reading passages and pictures in newspapers and magazines. Focus on names, and test yourself 30 minutes later to see how you did.

Observation

The goal of this exercise is to test your observation capabilities. When answering block design questions, count the number of blocks in a systematic manner (right to left / top to bottom). This way you will not accidentally count blocks twice.

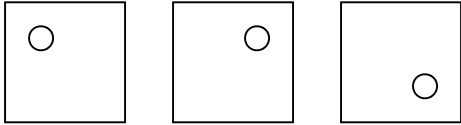Tips to improve your observation skills include:

1) Take the practice exams in this book (or on the website) to become familiar with the testing process.

2) Purchase "spot the difference" puzzles.

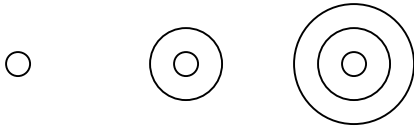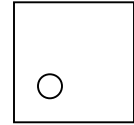3) Do word find puzzles in local papers.

Pattern Solving

When you are attempting to solve patterns, be very observant and look for consistent changes and developments. These changes can include, but are not exclusive to:

1) Number of objects
2) Size of objects
3) Colour of objects
4) Shape of objects
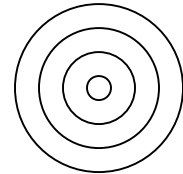5) Rotation / Flip of objects
6) Number of unique identifying marks

There are a number of different clues you must look for. The only way to improve your skills for this stage of the exam is to practice the puzzles in this book, on the website or puzzle books you may find in bookstores.
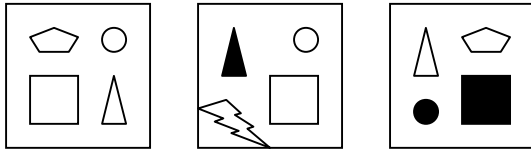
The object is rotating clockwise by ¼ turns. The next logical shape would be:

The object is steadily increasing by one larger circle each time. The next logical shape would be:

Sometimes you have to ignore information to detect the pattern.

You must ignore the shapes in this case. The image is increasing the number of highlighted objects one at a time (0, 1, 2, 3). The next logical shape would be: