

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
BASIC PISTOL SHOOTING COURSE**

STUDENT EXAMINATION

Name _____ Date _____ Grade _____

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 *trigger mechanism*:
 - a. releases a spring-powered hammer or striker to fire the cartridge.
 - 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. Aiming consists of:
 - a. grip and position.
 - b. sight alignment and sight picture.
 - 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

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6. To ensure you use the correct ammunition for your gun:
 - a. check the information stamped on the barrel and/or slide.
 - b. check your owner's manual.
 - c. check the cartridge box and cartridge headstamp.
 - d. all of the above.

 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 integrates, maintains and continues all shooting fundamentals before, during and immediately after firing the shot.
 - b. it helps maintain your grip.
 - c. it keeps the gun from recoiling excessively.
 - d. none of the above.

 10. The frame of a pistol is:
 - a. made of wood or metal.
 - b. is attached to the other components of the pistol.
 - c. is the central component of most pistols.
 - d. none of the above.

 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.
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12. Revolver actions can be subdivided into:
 - a. hunting and target.
 - b. single-action and double-action.
 - c. double-action and double-action-only.
 - d. small and large.

 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 pistol is disassembled according to instructions in owner's manual.
 - 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. a mechanical device, and can fail.
 - b. a device that never fails.
 - c. found only on revolvers.
 - d. none of the above

 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. involves practicing every phase of the firing process using an *unloaded* firearm.
 - d. is the firing of live ammunition at tin cans and other similar targets.
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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. none of the above.
20. Trigger control when shooting refers to:
- a. pulling the trigger when the arc of movement has been eliminated.
 - b. the technique of pulling the trigger without causing any movement of the aligned sights.
 - c. both a and b.
 - d. none of the above.

TRUE OR FALSE QUESTIONS

21. T F As the gun powder burns, it creates high-pressure gas that begins to push the bullet down the bore.
22. T F Consistency, balance, support, natural aiming area, and comfort are elements of a good shooting position.
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 powder charge.
25. T F A gun that is properly maintained will function more reliably, shoot more accurately and last longer.
26. T F **ALWAYS** keep your gun pointed in a safe direction.
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.
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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 You should always bury unserviceable ammunition.
34. T F You should always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
35. T F Grip consistency is essential for accurate shooting.
36. T F Ammunition should not be present when cleaning a pistol.
37. T F The single most important selection criterion revolves around the purpose of the firearm.
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 it.
41. T F Pistols that are fired regularly do not need to be cleaned.
42. T F Aiming consists of two stages: sight alignment and sight picture.
43. T F Trigger control is one of the most important shooting fundamentals.
44. T F The major components of breech-loading pistols include the frame, the barrel, and the action.
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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 Before handling a gun, learn how it operates. Read the owner's manual for your gun.

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