

# 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: 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. Your finger may contact the trigger:
  - a. when drawing from the holster.
  - b. when you are ready to shoot.
  - c. when gripping the pistol.
  - d. when it is unloaded.
  
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

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 pulled to release the hammer.
  - 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.

12. Some of the benefits of the Isosceles Position are:
  - a. gives considerable support to the firearm.
  - b. it is natural and easy to assume.
  - c. enhances recoil absorption.
  - d. gives excellent mobility.
  
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. never fails.
  - c. is 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.

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.

- 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 Both ear and eye protection are highly recommended whenever you are firing live ammunition..
- 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 pistol include the frame, the barrel, and the action.

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45. T F The Natural Aiming Area refers to the natural alignment of the shooter and the gun in any position.
46. T F The first Rule for Safe Gun Handling can be ignored while dry-firing.
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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