

Indiana State Police - Lateral Applicant Study Guide

SECTION 1: CRIMINAL LAW

Key Topics & Concepts

Search & Seizure

- Fourth Amendment applies to searches and seizures.
- Plain view, protective sweep, and exigent circumstances are exceptions.

Arrest Standards

- Probable cause is needed for a lawful arrest.
- Misdemeanor arrest requires presence unless specified.

Miranda & Interrogation

- Required during custodial interrogation.
- Waiver must be voluntary; coerced confessions are inadmissible.

Vehicle Searches

- Search incident to arrest is limited to the passenger area if the suspect is unsecured.
- Inventory searches must follow department policy.

Qualified Immunity & Civil Rights

- 42 U.S.C § 1983 governs civil rights claims.

Sample Questions

Q: What standard is required for a Terry Stop?

- A: Reasonable suspicion.

Q: What doctrine excludes derivative evidence from an illegal search?

- A: Fruit of the Poisonous Tree.

Q: Can officers conduct a protective sweep without a warrant?

- A: Yes, if they reasonably believe a dangerous person is present.

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Q: What allows a warrantless vehicle search if an officer has probable cause?

- A: Carroll Doctrine.

Q: What amendment governs excessive force?

- A: Fourth Amendment.

SECTION 2: TRAFFIC LAW

Key Topics & Concepts

Operating While Intoxicated (OWI)

- OWI can occur from alcohol, drugs, or other impairing substances.
- Implied consent must be read when there is probable cause.
- Refusal to test may result in license suspension or a warrant for blood draw.

Enforcement on Private Property

- Reckless driving, leaving the scene, and OWI are enforceable.

Traffic Stops & Officer Conduct

- Officer must be in uniform or clearly identified.
- Searches during seatbelt-only stops are restricted.

Arrests & Probable Cause

- Warrantless misdemeanor arrest requires presence, with exceptions (e.g., OWI).

Vehicle Operation & Equipment

- Headlamps visible from 500 feet.
- Unauthorized red/blue lights = Class C misdemeanor.

License Plates & Registration

- Interim tags valid for 45 days.
- Homemade plates are illegal.
- Minimum license plate height: 12 inches.

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Emergency Vehicles

- Must yield to lights/sirens.
- Move Over Law' requires lane change or reduced speed.

Sample Questions

Q: What must an officer have to conduct a traffic stop under Title 9?

- A: Must be in uniform or clearly identified.

Q: What is required when a vehicle is stopped for OWI and the driver refuses testing?

- A: May pursue a warrant, arrest, or file probable cause affidavit.

Q: What is the maximum speed allowed for a Motor Driven Cycle (Class B)?

- A: 35 mph.

Study Strategy Overview

Understand, Don't Memorize

Focus on why a law exists and how it applies in practice.

Practice Scenario Mapping

Apply laws to patrol situations you may encounter.

Focus on Core Themes

Constitutional rights, vehicle operation, arrest/search rules, officer conduct, and use of force.

Traffic Law Deep Dive

Key Statutes to Know

- IC 9-30-5-1 – Operating While Intoxicated
- IC 9-21-5-2 – Speed Limits
- IC 9-19-14-5.5 – Unauthorized red/blue lights
- IC 9-21-8-52 – Reckless driving
- IC 35-44.1-3-1 – Resisting law enforcement with a vehicle

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Criminal Law Deep Dive

Key Constitutional Amendments

- 4th Amendment – Search & seizure
- 5th Amendment – Right against self-incrimination
- 6th Amendment – Right to counsel
- 14th Amendment – Due process

Key Case Law

- Terry v. Ohio – Stop & frisk on reasonable suspicion
- Tennessee v. Garner – Limits on deadly force against fleeing felons
- Graham v. Connor – Objectively reasonable standard for use of force
- Katz v. US – Reasonable expectation of privacy
- Carroll v. US – Vehicle search exception
- Kyllo v. US – Thermal imaging constitutes a search

Final Tips for Lateral Applicants

- Tie knowledge to practice. Picture real stops or arrests.
- Know Indiana Code numbers for major statutes.
- Review constitutional protections daily for retention.
- Quiz yourself or your peers aloud.
- Stay current with any statutory or case law changes.