

Professional Licensing Agency
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Information for Exam Candidates
Indiana portion of the Professional Surveyors Examination (Part 2B)
(April 2026 ver.)

A 70% score must be achieved in order to pass the exam.

Regarding the legal description writing problem:

The description-writing problem is not a math problem, it is a description-writing problem. The candidate should assume the perimeter boundary on the plat of survey that will be provided at the exam closes mathematically.

Other than as outlined in the instructions and shown on the plat of survey, there is no particular “style” of composing the description that the graders will be looking for. However, the problem will be graded in accordance with accepted principles of writing descriptions, the requirements of 865 IAC 1-12 (Indiana’s Survey Standards aka “Rule 12”) and Indiana Code 25-21.5-9-9.

These principles include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ✓ no abbreviations
- ✓ no symbols, other than for degrees, minutes and seconds
- ✓ correct spelling and punctuation
- ✓ adequate curve data
- ✓ designation of the basis of bearings
- ✓ appropriate reference to the Office of the County Recorder (only needed once)
- ✓ proper caption (this problem will involve a description prepared for what will become a new parcel based on an original survey, so according to Indiana statute IC 25-21.5-9-9, surveyors must reference the survey, on which the description was based, in the caption of the description)
- ✓ proper controlling calls – where appropriate – to and/or along, for example, monuments, aliquot lines, adjoiners, water features, etc.
- ✓ adequate and appropriate curve data
- ✓ proper reference to monuments; pursuant to 865 IAC 1-12-13(b)(2)(B), the description prepared based on an original survey must include courses “*calling for and accurately describing controlling physical monuments...*” This includes relationship to the surface of the ground (e.g., flush, 0.4 feet below grade, etc.)
- ✓ no conflicting or extraneous wording
- ✓ reference to and along a meander line, if appropriate

Regarding the multiple-choice questions, the **best** answer should be selected. An unanswered question will be listed as a wrong answer.

The following general topics will be covered with some resource materials noted (*the resources listed are not comprehensive*; there are many applicable resources, particularly with regard to geodesy, legal principles and writing legal descriptions):

- Engineering Design*:
 - Indiana Code 25-21.5-1-7

- Ten State Standards (Great Lakes--Upper Mississippi River Board of State and Provincial Public Health and Environmental Managers: Recommended Standards for Wastewater Facilities)
 - Indiana Rules and Regulations related to surveying:
 - Indiana Code 25-21.5 (Professional Surveyors Registration Act)
 - Indiana Administrative Code Title 865, Article 1
 - Indiana Code 32-19 (Describing Real Property; Indiana Coordinate System)
 - Indiana Code 23-14-34 (Cemetery Surveys and Plats)
 - Indiana Survey Standards (Indiana Administrative Code Title 865, Article 1, Chapter 12 aka “Rule 12”) and IC 25-21.5-1-6.5.
 - Indiana continuing education requirements (Indiana Administrative Code Title 865, Article 1, Chapter 15, aka “Rule 15”)
 - Geodesy (basic surveying/geodesy text books)
 - ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys (2016 ALTA/NSPS Minimum Standard Detail Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Title Surveys)
 - Surveyor General Edward Tiffin’s instructions for surveys of the public lands (“Tiffin’s Instructions”)
 - The United States Public Land Surveys System (2009 Manual of Surveying Instructions, Bureau of Land Management)
 - Legal Principles (Brown’s Boundary Control and Legal Principles, Robillard, Wilson and Brown; Boundary Retracement: Processes and Procedures, Donald A. Wilson; Clark on Surveying and Boundaries, Robillard, Bouman and Shelton; Evidence and Procedures for Boundary Location, Robillard and Wilson)
 - Legal Descriptions (Writing Legal Descriptions, Gurdon Wattles)
- * The comity applicant, in particular, should note that in Indiana, certain aspects of engineering design may be undertaken by professional surveyors and there will be questions in that regard.