

How to be ready for the next promotional exam

With the uncertainty of not only the scheduling of the next sergeant's exam but of the type of exam itself, there is a lot of worrying about what to do in your downtime between finishing studying and the test. But the fact is, there is no such thing as being "finished" studying. To avoid cramming once the details of the exams are released, you should be in a constant state of review.

As for the timing of the tests, the Sergeant's exam will be held April 13. In the meantime, the most important measure of preparation you can take is reviewing your materials, according to George Prunes, owner of Top Brass Learning Centers, a Civil Service Police Promotional Test Prep Group. Regardless of whether the test is presented orally, by video, or by multiple choice, you can't get away from the material. The basic principles of managing police personnel – case law, 2C, statutory law, etc. – are not going to change, even if the testing methods do. This is even a good time to catch up if you have joined a class late or have missed classes.

"Our instructors have experience in training for different

testing processes, and know what key points Civil Service has looked for in the past with assessment tests," Prunes added. "And when an announcement as to the type of test does come out, we will simply tweak our curriculum to that type of process. We're confident that anything that Civil Service throws out, our students have tried."

Prunes says it is important to find instructors that are active or retired officers who are willing to put in the time to help their students, and class size is key. "We do not wait until we have a group of 100-200 students," he continues. "Smaller classes have many benefits. We don't have more than 30 students in a classroom at any given time."

You should definitely be looking for instructors that are police officers that have tested in the past, and who can show you exactly what Civil Service is looking for. Just like a boxer spars before he gets into the ring, it's important to practice all possible scenarios to be ready. ♥