

SAMPLE POLICE RECORDS CLERK WRITTEN EXAM Printable PDF

sample police records clerk written exam is a crucial step in the hiring process for aspiring police records clerks. This exam assesses a candidate's knowledge, skills, and aptitude related to maintaining accurate records, understanding law enforcement procedures, and demonstrating proficiency in clerical tasks. Preparing effectively for this written exam can significantly improve a candidate's chances of advancing in the selection process. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the typical structure of a police records clerk written exam, provide useful preparation strategies, and highlight key topics candidates should focus on to succeed.

Understanding the Police Records Clerk Written Exam

Before diving into preparation tactics, it is vital to understand what the exam entails. The police records clerk written exam generally evaluates a candidate's abilities in areas such as clerical skills, reading comprehension, data entry, numerical aptitude, and knowledge of law enforcement procedures.

Common Components of the Exam

The exam typically includes the following sections:

- Clerical and Data Entry Skills: Tests accuracy and speed in entering data, filing, and record management.
- Reading Comprehension: Assesses understanding of written instructions, reports, and policies.
- Numerical Ability: Measures basic math skills, including calculations related to reports and data analysis.
- Memory and Attention to Detail: Evaluates the ability to recall information and identify discrepancies.
- Knowledge of Law Enforcement Procedures: Checks familiarity with terminology, legal procedures, and departmental policies.

Duration and Format

Most police records clerk exams are timed, ranging from 1 to 2 hours, depending on the jurisdiction. The format may include multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank, short answer questions, and practical exercises such as data entry simulations.

Preparation Strategies for the Sample Police Records Clerk Written Exam

Thorough preparation is key to performing well on the exam. Here are effective strategies to help candidates prepare:

Familiarize Yourself with the Exam Content

- Obtain sample questions or practice tests from the hiring department or online resources.
- Review the official job description to understand what knowledge and skills are prioritized.
- Study the departmental policies, law enforcement terminology, and relevant laws.

Practice Clerical and Data Entry Skills

- Use online typing tests to improve speed and accuracy.
- Practice entering data into spreadsheets or databases similar to those used in law enforcement settings.
- Develop a systematic approach to organizing records and files.

Enhance Reading Comprehension

- Read police reports, legal documents, and departmental memos regularly.
- Practice summarizing passages and answering related questions.
- Improve vocabulary related to law enforcement terminology.

Brush Up on Math Skills

- Review basic arithmetic, percentages, ratios, and fractions.
- Practice solving word problems related to data and reports.
- Use online math quizzes to maintain proficiency.

Improve Attention to Detail and Memory

- Engage in exercises that require recalling information, such as memorizing sequences or details from reports.
- Practice proofreading documents to identify errors or inconsistencies.

- Use flashcards to memorize key terminology and procedures.

Key Topics to Focus On

Success in the written exam depends on a candidate's familiarity with the core topics relevant to police records management and clerical duties.

Record Management and Filing Procedures

- Understanding how to organize, retrieve, and maintain records securely.
- Knowledge of paper-based and electronic filing systems.
- Familiarity with document retention policies.

Legal and Law Enforcement Terminology

- Common legal terms such as warrant, subpoena, affidavit, and citation.
- Department-specific jargon and abbreviations.
- Basic knowledge of criminal justice processes.

Data Entry and Computer Skills

- Proficiency in using computer software such as MS Office (Word, Excel).
- Experience with database management systems.
- Ability to accurately input and verify data.

Customer Service and Communication Skills

- Understanding how to handle inquiries from the public or other departments.
- Clear and professional written communication.

Sample Questions for Practice

Practicing with sample questions can boost confidence and help identify areas needing improvement. Here are some examples:

- What is the purpose of a warrant in law enforcement?

- Which of the following is NOT a proper method of filing records?
 - A) Alphabetical order
 - B) Chronological order
 - C) Random placement
 - D) Subject matter
- If a report indicates a suspect's age as 25, but the police records show 28, what should be done?
 - Calculate: If a department receives 120 reports in a month and 15% are found to contain errors, how many reports need correction?
 - Describe the steps you would take to securely dispose of outdated records according to departmental policy.

Additional Tips for Success

- Arrive Prepared: Bring necessary identification, writing materials, and any required documents.
- Read Instructions Carefully: Ensure you understand each question before answering.
- Manage Your Time: Allocate time to each section and avoid spending too long on difficult questions.
- Stay Calm and Focused: Maintain a positive attitude and stay focused throughout the exam.
- Review Your Answers: If time permits, revisit questions to check for accuracy.

Conclusion

The **sample police records clerk written exam** serves as a vital filter in the hiring process, assessing a candidate's readiness to handle the responsibilities of the role. Success depends on a combination of understanding the exam structure, diligent preparation, and familiarity with relevant topics. By practicing sample questions, honing clerical and computer skills, and studying law enforcement terminology and procedures, candidates can significantly improve their chances of passing the exam and moving forward in their law enforcement careers. Remember, preparation is the key to unlocking your potential and demonstrating your suitability for the crucial role of a police records clerk.

Sample police records clerk written exam: An essential step in law enforcement hiring processes

In the highly competitive and meticulous realm of law enforcement recruitment, the sample police records clerk written exam plays a pivotal role in assessing candidates' aptitude, attention to detail, and understanding of administrative procedures essential for maintaining accurate and efficient police records. This exam not only measures a candidate's technical knowledge but also evaluates

their problem-solving skills, ability to handle sensitive information, and overall readiness to undertake the responsibilities of a police records clerk. As law enforcement agencies strive for excellence in public safety and administrative integrity, understanding the structure, content, and preparation strategies for this exam becomes crucial for aspiring candidates.

Understanding the Role of a Police Records Clerk

Core Responsibilities and Duties

A police records clerk serves as a vital administrative backbone within law enforcement agencies. Their primary responsibilities include:

- Maintaining and updating police records: Ensuring that all incident reports, arrest records, warrants, and other documentation are accurately recorded and stored.
- Processing requests for information: Providing data to authorized personnel, attorneys, courts, or the public while complying with privacy laws.
- Data entry and management: Utilizing specialized software to input, retrieve, and organize large volumes of data efficiently.
- Supporting administrative functions: Handling phone calls, filing, and other clerical duties that facilitate smooth police operations.
- Ensuring data accuracy and confidentiality: Protecting sensitive information and maintaining the integrity of records.

The role demands precision, confidentiality, and an understanding of legal and procedural standards, which are thoroughly tested during the written exam.

Components of the Police Records Clerk Written Exam

The written exam typically encompasses several sections designed to evaluate specific skill sets necessary for the role. The common components include:

1. Reading Comprehension and Writing Skills

- Purpose: To assess the candidate's ability to understand written instructions, policies, and reports.
- Content: Passages related to law enforcement procedures, policies, or scenarios followed by questions testing comprehension.
- Skills tested: Ability to interpret information accurately, grasp main ideas, and communicate effectively through written responses.

2. Basic Mathematics and Data Entry Skills

- Purpose: To evaluate numerical literacy and proficiency with data handling.
- Content: Questions involving simple arithmetic, percentages, ratios, and data entry exercises.
- Skills tested: Accuracy in calculations, attention to detail, and speed in entering data correctly.

3. Knowledge of Records Management Procedures

- Purpose: To gauge familiarity with record-keeping standards, legal compliance, and administrative protocols.
- Content: Multiple-choice questions on topics like document classification, retention policies, and legal considerations.
- Skills tested: Understanding of proper record management practices and legal obligations.

4. Legal and Procedural Knowledge

- Purpose: To ensure candidates are aware of laws governing law enforcement records.
- Content: Questions on privacy laws, data protection, and confidentiality standards.
- Skills tested: Ability to interpret legal guidelines and apply them correctly.

5. Situational and Analytical Reasoning

- Purpose: To evaluate problem-solving abilities and judgment in record-keeping scenarios.
- Content: Hypothetical situations requiring candidates to choose appropriate actions.
- Skills tested: Critical thinking, ethical decision-making, and attention to detail.

Sample Questions and Practice Exercises

Providing candidates with sample questions enhances preparation and confidence. Below are examples of typical exam questions:

Reading Comprehension

Passage:

"Police records are confidential documents that contain sensitive information about investigations, arrests, and legal proceedings. Proper handling and safeguarding of these documents are essential

to prevent unauthorized access and ensure legal compliance."

Question:

Which of the following best describes the importance of safeguarding police records?

- A) To maintain public transparency
- B) To prevent unauthorized access and protect privacy
- C) To increase record volume
- D) To facilitate quick data entry

Answer: B

Mathematics/Data Entry

Question:

If a police report is 15 pages long and each page takes approximately 2 minutes to scan and enter into the database, how long will it take to process 3 such reports?

Solution:

Total pages = 15 pages × 3 reports = 45 pages

Time per page = 2 minutes

Total time = 45 pages × 2 minutes = 90 minutes

Knowledge of Procedures

Question:

Which of the following is the correct procedure when handling a request for arrest records from the public?

- A) Provide the records immediately without verification
- B) Verify the requester's authorization and adhere to privacy laws before releasing information

C) Disclose all information to anyone requesting it

D) Charge a fee without checking authorization

Answer: B

Preparation Strategies for the Sample Police Records Clerk Exam

Success in this exam hinges on systematic preparation. Here are key strategies:

1. Study Relevant Laws and Policies

Understanding legal frameworks such as privacy laws, data retention policies, and confidentiality standards is essential. Review local and federal regulations governing police records.

2. Practice Sample Questions

Engage with practice exams and questions similar to those described above. Many law enforcement agencies provide sample tests or study guides online.

3. Sharpen Data Entry Skills

Familiarize yourself with common database software used in law enforcement, such as Records Management Systems (RMS). Practice accurate and efficient data entry.

4. Improve Reading Comprehension and Writing

Read law enforcement materials, reports, and policies regularly. Practice summarizing information and answering comprehension questions.

5. Review Basic Math and Data Handling

Brush up on arithmetic and data interpretation to ensure accuracy under timed conditions.

6. Develop Organizational and Time Management Skills

Since the exam may be timed, practicing under timed conditions can help improve speed and accuracy.

Post-Exam Considerations and Next Steps

Once the written exam is completed, candidates often undergo additional evaluation stages, such as:

- Physical fitness tests (if applicable)
- Interview panels
- Background checks
- Psychological assessments

Success in the written exam, however, is a significant milestone, as it demonstrates foundational knowledge and skills requisite for the role.

The Importance of the Written Exam in Law Enforcement Careers

The written exam acts as a filter to select candidates who possess the necessary academic skills, procedural knowledge, and judgment required for police records clerks. It ensures that those entrusted with sensitive data are competent, responsible, and aligned with legal standards. Moreover, performing well on this exam can enhance a candidate's chances of progressing through subsequent hiring stages, ultimately leading to a fulfilling career in law enforcement support.

Conclusion

The sample police records clerk written exam is a comprehensive assessment that combines knowledge, skills, and situational judgment essential for maintaining the integrity and efficiency of police documentation. Success in this exam requires diligent preparation, familiarity with legal and procedural standards, and proficiency in data management and comprehension skills. Aspiring law enforcement support staff should leverage available resources, practice regularly, and stay informed of current laws and procedures to increase their chances of success. As law enforcement agencies continue to prioritize transparency, accuracy, and confidentiality, the role of a well-qualified police records clerk becomes ever more critical in fostering public trust and operational excellence.

Question What topics are typically covered in a police records clerk written exam? The exam usually includes topics such as data entry and management, understanding police records procedures, basic math and arithmetic, attention to detail, and general knowledge of law enforcement terminology. **Answer** How can I prepare effectively for the police records clerk written test? Preparation can include reviewing relevant law enforcement procedures, practicing data entry and clerical tasks, taking sample tests, and studying key terminology related to police records management. **Question** What is the format of the police records clerk written exam? The exam typically consists of multiple-choice questions, with some assessments including practical exercises or writing components to evaluate clerical skills and comprehension. **Answer** Are there any specific skills assessed in the written exam for police records clerks? Yes, skills such as attention to detail,

accuracy in data entry, understanding of record-keeping procedures, and basic computer literacy are commonly assessed. How long is the police records clerk written exam? The length of the exam varies by agency but generally ranges from one to two hours, including time for instructions and breaks if necessary. What resources are recommended for studying for the police records clerk written exam? Recommended resources include practice tests, study guides on law enforcement records procedures, computer skills tutorials, and reviewing job-related materials provided by the hiring agency. Is prior experience in clerical work necessary to pass the police records clerk exam? While prior clerical experience can be beneficial, many exams are designed to assess basic skills and knowledge, so thorough preparation can help candidates without experience succeed. How important is familiarity with police record systems for the written exam? Familiarity with police record management systems and terminology can be advantageous, as some exam questions may test understanding of record-keeping procedures and software use. What are common mistakes to avoid during the police records clerk written exam? Common mistakes include rushing through questions, neglecting to read instructions carefully, failing to review answers, and not managing time effectively during the test. How is the written exam score used in the hiring process for police records clerk positions? The exam score typically contributes to the overall assessment, often combined with interview performance and other qualifications, to determine eligibility and ranking for the position.

Related keywords: police records clerk test, law enforcement written exam, police administrative exam, police records knowledge test, law enforcement clerical exam, police documentation skills, police records management test, police exam practice, law enforcement exam preparation, police clerk interview questions

Advantages And Disadvantages Of Written Communication

Advantages and disadvantages of written communication are important considerations for individuals and organizations alike. In an increasingly digital world, written communication remains a fundamental method for exchanging information, whether through emails, reports, memos, or digital messages. While it offers numerous benefits, it also presents certain challenges. Understanding these advantages and disadvantages can help improve the effectiveness of communication strategies and prevent potential pitfalls.

Advantages of Written Communication

Written communication offers several significant benefits that make it an essential component of personal, academic, and professional exchanges. Its advantages can be categorized into clarity and record-keeping, permanence, flexibility, and accessibility.

Clarity and Precision

One of the primary advantages of written communication is the ability to craft clear and precise messages. When writing, individuals have the opportunity to organize their thoughts carefully, choose appropriate words, and revise their messages before sending. This process helps ensure that the message conveys exactly what is intended, reducing misunderstandings.

Permanent Record

Written communication creates a tangible record that can be stored and referenced later. This is especially valuable in legal, business, and academic contexts where documentation of agreements, instructions, or decisions is necessary. Having a written record can also provide evidence in disputes or clarify previous commitments.

Flexibility and Convenience

Written communication allows recipients to read and respond at their convenience. Whether through email, memos, or reports, the recipient can access the information at any time and from any location, provided they have the necessary tools. This flexibility is particularly beneficial for remote teams and international organizations.

Standardization and Consistency

With written communication, organizations can develop templates, guidelines, and standardized formats that ensure consistency across messages. This standardization helps maintain a professional image and ensures uniformity in messaging, which is crucial for branding and legal compliance.

Accessibility and Reach

Digital written communication can reach a vast audience instantly. Emails, social media, and websites enable organizations to disseminate information broadly and quickly, making it an effective tool for marketing, public relations, and internal communication.

Cost-Effectiveness

Compared to face-to-face communication, written methods often cost less. There are no travel expenses, and mass communication can be achieved with minimal resources, especially with electronic communication tools.

Disadvantages of Written Communication

Despite its many advantages, written communication also has notable disadvantages that can impact its effectiveness if not managed properly. These disadvantages include issues related to misinterpretation, lack of immediacy, time consumption, and barriers to engagement.

Risk of Misinterpretation

One of the main drawbacks of written communication is that messages can be misunderstood. Without tone of voice, facial expressions, or body language, recipients may interpret messages differently from what the sender intended. Ambiguous wording, lack of context, or poorly structured messages can lead to confusion and errors.

Lack of Immediate Feedback

Unlike face-to-face conversations or phone calls, written communication often lacks real-time interaction. This delay can hinder quick clarification of misunderstandings or immediate problem-solving, leading to prolonged issues or inefficiencies.

Time-Consuming Process

Writing, editing, proofreading, and formatting messages take time, especially for complex or detailed content. Additionally, waiting for responses can slow down decision-making processes, which may be detrimental in urgent situations.

Barrier to Engagement and Personal Connection

Written communication can sometimes feel impersonal, especially in sensitive situations such as delivering bad news or resolving conflicts. The lack of emotional cues can make it challenging to establish rapport or gauge the recipient's reactions.

Dependence on Technology

Digital written communication relies heavily on technology. Technical issues, such as server outages or connectivity problems, can disrupt communication. Furthermore, not everyone has equal access to digital tools, creating potential inequalities.

Potential for Overload

Organizations and individuals often face information overload due to the volume of written messages received daily. Important messages can be overlooked or ignored amid the flood of emails, memos, and reports.

Balancing the Advantages and Disadvantages

To maximize the benefits of written communication while minimizing its drawbacks, effective strategies should be employed.

Strategies to Enhance Effectiveness

- **Clarity and Conciseness:** Use simple language, avoid jargon, and be direct to prevent misunderstandings.
- **Proper Formatting:** Break down information with headings, bullet points, and paragraphs for easy reading.
- **Proofreading:** Review messages carefully to eliminate errors and ensure professionalism.
- **Use of Appropriate Channels:** Choose the right platform based on the message's importance, urgency, and audience.
- **Follow-up and Feedback:** Encourage responses and clarify any ambiguities promptly.
- **Combining with Other Communication Forms:** Use face-to-face or phone conversations when emotional nuance or immediate interaction is necessary.

Conclusion

In summary, the advantages and disadvantages of written communication highlight its importance as a powerful tool for effective information exchange. Its ability to provide clarity, serve as a permanent record, offer flexibility, and reach a broad audience makes it indispensable in various contexts. However, issues such as misinterpretation, lack of immediacy, and potential impersonal nature necessitate careful planning and execution. By understanding these dynamics and applying best practices, individuals and organizations can leverage the strengths of written communication while mitigating its weaknesses, leading to more efficient and meaningful interactions.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Written Communication

In an era characterized by rapid technological advancement and digital connectivity, communication remains the backbone of personal and professional interactions. Among the various modes of communication, written communication stands out as a fundamental method that has been utilized for centuries. Its significance is evident across industries, educational institutions, and personal relationships. However, like any communication form, written communication carries its own set of advantages and disadvantages that influence its effectiveness, clarity, and impact. This comprehensive review aims to explore these facets in depth, providing a balanced perspective suitable for researchers, professionals, and anyone interested in understanding the intricacies of written communication.

Understanding Written Communication

Written communication involves the transfer of information through written symbols, whether in the form of letters, reports, emails, memos, or digital messages. It is distinguished from oral communication by its permanence, structure, and the need for clarity to ensure the message is accurately interpreted by the recipient. Its evolution from handwritten letters to digital emails and instant messaging reflects technological progress and changing communication preferences.

Advantages of Written Communication

Written communication offers several notable advantages that make it indispensable in various contexts. Understanding these benefits helps organizations and individuals leverage its strengths effectively.

1. Permanence and Record-Keeping

One of the most significant advantages of written communication is its permanence. Unlike spoken words, which can be forgotten or misremembered, written messages are documented and can be stored for future reference. This feature facilitates accountability, legal documentation, and historical records.

Benefits include:

- Facilitates accurate record-keeping for audits and compliance.
- Allows for future reference and review.
- Provides evidence in legal or contractual disputes.

2. Clarity and Precision

Written communication allows the sender to carefully craft their message, ensuring clarity and precision. The ability to revise and edit before transmission reduces misunderstandings and ambiguity.

Advantages include:

- Opportunity to organize thoughts logically.
- Ability to use precise language, diagrams, and supporting data.
- Reduced risk of miscommunication compared to spontaneous speech.

3. Accessibility and Flexibility

Written messages can be delivered across different time zones and geographical locations without the need for simultaneous interaction.

Key benefits:

- Asynchronous nature allows recipients to read and respond at their convenience.
- Suitable for complex or detailed information that requires careful analysis.
- Enables communication in situations where verbal interaction is impractical.

4. Formality and Professionalism

Written communication often lends a formal tone to interactions, which can enhance professionalism and credibility.

Implications include:

- Establishes official channels for communication.
- Suitable for formal requests, proposals, and contractual agreements.
- Enhances the perceived seriousness of the message.

5. Standardization and Uniformity

Written communication can be standardized through templates and formats, ensuring consistency across organizations or departments.

Advantages include:

- Promotes uniformity in messaging.
- Simplifies training and onboarding processes.
- Ensures compliance with organizational policies.

Disadvantages of Written Communication

Despite its numerous benefits, written communication is not without limitations. Recognizing its disadvantages is crucial for effective implementation and to mitigate potential drawbacks.

1. Lack of Immediate Feedback

Unlike face-to-face or verbal communication, written messages often lack instant feedback, which can delay clarification or resolution of misunderstandings.

Consequences include:

- Prolonged resolution times for issues.
- Increased potential for misinterpretation without real-time clarification.
- Possible frustration for both sender and recipient.

2. Potential for Misinterpretation

Written language can be ambiguous, especially when tone, facial expressions, and body language are absent.

Challenges include:

- Messages may be interpreted differently based on cultural or personal biases.
- Sarcasm or humor can be misunderstood.
- Difficulties in conveying emotional nuance.

3. Time-Consuming Process

Creating, editing, and proofreading written messages can be time-consuming, especially in formal contexts.

Impacts include:

- Delays in communication, particularly in urgent situations.
- Increased workload for writers and reviewers.
- Potential for over-editing or over-complicating messages.

4. Accessibility Barriers

Not everyone has equal access to written communication channels, especially in regions with limited technological infrastructure.

Issues include:

- Digital divide affecting access to email or online platforms.
- Literacy challenges among certain populations.
- Dependence on language proficiency.

5. Risk of Information Overload

The ease of producing written content can lead to information overload, where recipients are overwhelmed by excessive or irrelevant messages.

Resulting problems:

- Important messages may be overlooked.
- Reduced engagement and responsiveness.
- Increased stress and cognitive load for recipients.

Balancing the Pros and Cons

Effective communication requires understanding when and how to utilize written communication optimally. It is essential to weigh its advantages against its disadvantages in the context of specific needs, audience, and objectives.

Strategies to Maximize Benefits

- Use clear, concise language and avoid jargon.
- Incorporate visual aids or bullet points for clarity.
- Maintain professionalism and appropriate tone.
- Ensure accessibility by considering language and formatting.

Mitigating Disadvantages

- Follow up written messages with verbal clarification when necessary.
- Encourage feedback to confirm understanding.
- Limit the volume of messages to prevent overload.
- Use technology tools for real-time communication when urgent responses are required.

Conclusion

Written communication remains a vital component of effective information exchange across personal, academic, and professional domains. Its advantages—such as permanence, clarity, accessibility, professionalism, and standardization—make it an invaluable tool for documentation, formal interactions, and complex information dissemination. However, its limitations—lack of immediate feedback, potential for misinterpretation, time consumption, accessibility issues, and information overload—must be carefully managed.

Ultimately, the key to harnessing the full potential of written communication lies in understanding its strengths and weaknesses, selecting appropriate formats, and supplementing it with other communication channels when needed. As technology continues to evolve, integrating digital tools can further enhance its effectiveness, making written communication more dynamic, inclusive, and responsive. Recognizing these facets will enable individuals and organizations to communicate more effectively, fostering clarity, efficiency, and mutual understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.

Question What are the main advantages of written communication? Written communication provides a permanent record, ensures clarity, allows careful drafting, and can be referenced later, making it ideal for conveying complex information and formal messages. What are the disadvantages of written communication? It can be time-consuming to prepare, lacks immediate feedback, may be misinterpreted due to lack of tone or context, and can become outdated if not updated regularly. How does written communication benefit organizations? It helps in maintaining documentation, standardizing procedures, reducing misunderstandings, and ensuring legal compliance through formal records. What are the limitations of written communication in urgent situations? In urgent scenarios, written communication may be slow and less effective compared to verbal or face-to-face communication, which allows instant clarification and response. Can written communication improve accuracy in message delivery? Yes, because messages can be carefully drafted and reviewed before sending, reducing errors and misinterpretations. What is a major disadvantage of written communication in terms of personal connection? It often lacks emotional tone and personal touch, which can lead to misunderstandings or a sense of impersonality. How does written communication facilitate legal and official documentation? It provides tangible evidence of agreements, instructions, and decisions, which can be used for future reference or legal purposes. What are some common mediums for written communication? Emails, memos, reports, letters, and digital messages are common mediums used for written communication. How does the lack of immediate feedback affect written communication? It can delay clarifications and problem-solving, potentially leading to prolonged misunderstandings or errors. In what scenarios is written communication most advantageous? It is most advantageous when formal documentation is required, for detailed instructions, official notifications, or when the message needs to be preserved for future reference.

Related keywords: benefits, drawbacks, effectiveness, clarity, misunderstandings, formality, immediacy, documentation, efficiency, limitations

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