

## Armed police fear impact of new colour-blindness rules

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 1 Warmer

Put these items of police equipment and resources in order from 1 (most important) to 6 (least important).

- |          |                       |
|----------|-----------------------|
| 1. _____ | a. radios             |
| 2. _____ | b. stun guns (tasers) |
| 3. _____ | c. cars               |
| 4. _____ | d. helicopters        |
| 5. _____ | e. DNA testing        |
| 6. _____ | f. uniforms           |

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

deficiency

armed

unreliable

stun gun

tough

- An \_\_\_\_\_ police officer carries a gun. (para 1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a lack of something that your body needs. (para 1)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ rule is very strict and severe. (para 2)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is a weapon that produces an electric shock that makes someone unable to move for a short time. (para 2)
- If a test is \_\_\_\_\_, it is not accurate and does not work well. (para 4)

screening

suspect

volunteer

mild

firearms

- If you suffer from a \_\_\_\_\_ health problem, it is not serious. (para 4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ are guns, especially small guns that you hold in one hand. (para 5)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who offers to do something without being forced to do it. (para 5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a series of tests done to check someone for a particular disease or condition. (para 8)
- A \_\_\_\_\_ is someone who the police believe may have committed a crime. (para 11)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

- What does CVD stand for?
- Who suffers more from colour blindness – women or men?
- How many armed police officers are there in England and Wales?
- How many police officers are there in total in England and Wales?
- How many police officers in Essex could be affected by the new rules on CVD?
- How were police officers tested for colour blindness in the 1970s?

## Armed police fear impact of new colour-blindness rules

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### Armed police fear impact of new colour-blindness rules

Vikram Dodd

2 September, 2018

- 1 Hundreds of armed police officers may have to stop using their weapons because of new tests. The tests discover officers who have colour vision deficiency (CVD) or colour blindness.
- 2 The Police Federation says the changes discriminate against men because most of the 6,459 armed officers in England and Wales are male and men are much more likely than women to suffer from CVD. Supporters of the tougher rules say officers who cannot distinguish the colour red could have difficulty using electric stun guns. These guns use red dots to help hit the target.
- 3 Critics of the rules say CVD makes almost no difference to most officers' ability to do the job. They also say it is not a good time to lose experienced armed officers – the government want more armed officers because of terrorism.
- 4 Ché Donald, of the Police Federation, which represents 122,000 police officers across England and Wales, said: "The test discovers who has CVD but we know that the tests are unreliable. Before, officers had to pass one of two CVD tests; they now need to pass both. There will also be retesting for officers who took these tests before and have mild CVD."
- 5 Firearms officers are volunteers so anyone with CVD will have to return to other jobs if they fail the test and can't carry a gun. After a series of terrorist attacks in Europe, there are more armed officers in England and Wales but it has been difficult for police chiefs to achieve the rise in numbers.
- 6 Donald, who is a firearms officer, said: "Hundreds of officers will be affected. This is because CVD is mainly found in men and firearms officers are still mostly male. CVD affects one in 12 men and one in 200 women. Firearms officers are very worried."
- 7 The change was introduced by the College of Policing, which sets rules and standards across police forces in England and Wales. The college said: "The key points that the new rules check are: can an officer identify someone from a description, of which colour could be a significant factor, and can they use firearms with a red dot sight system?"
- 8 "But the test that officers have to take if they fail screening was updated last year. The changes do not exclude all officers with CVD but only those below a certain level."
- 9 In Essex, a medium-sized force, there could be up to ten armed officers affected, Donald said. The force said: "Essex Police is aware of the change to the colour vision standards set by the College of Policing and is making sure that we manage the new rules appropriately. Our firearms officers are carefully tested."
- 10 Testing for colour vision among police officers has improved a lot. In the 1970s, officers had to look at toy cars and say what colour they were.
- 11 Former firearms officer Tony Long, who shot and killed three suspects during his 25-year career, suffered from CVD. He said: "A lot of people are angry about it because it is nonsense. It's someone in an office finding problems that don't exist. You don't shoot someone because of the colour of their jacket. You shoot someone because of their actions."

© Guardian News and Media 2018

First published in *The Guardian*, 02/09/18

## Armed police fear impact of new colour-blindness rules

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. If police officers have CVD, ...                              | a. ... we need more armed officers because of terrorism.    |
| 2. The new CVD tests are ...                                     | b. ... they may not be able to carry firearms.              |
| 3. Police officers who have CVD may not ...                      | c. ... have CVD than women.                                 |
| 4. Critics say that the new tests come at a bad time because ... | d. ... new officers had to identify the colour of toy cars. |
| 5. Most armed officers are male and more men ...                 | e. ... much tougher than the old ones.                      |
| 6. In the tests used in the 1970s, ...                           | f. ... be able to see the red dots on electric stun guns.   |

#### 5 Prepositions

Complete the phrases from the text using these prepositions.

below

for

from

against

to

in

- discriminate \_\_\_\_\_
- one \_\_\_\_\_ 12 men
- up \_\_\_\_\_ ten armed officers
- testing \_\_\_\_\_ colour vision
- suffer \_\_\_\_\_ CVD
- \_\_\_\_\_ a certain level

#### 6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. colour   | a. rules     |
| 2. firearms | b. gun       |
| 3. tough    | c. officer   |
| 4. red      | d. chief     |
| 5. police   | e. dot       |
| 6. stun     | f. blindness |

## Armed police fear impact of new colour-blindness rules

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### 7 Word stress

Put these words from the text into two groups according to their stress.

attack  
vision

firearms  
target

achieve  
return

standard  
police

suspect (n)  
against

A   o   o	B   o   o

#### 8 Discussion

- Should police officers carry guns? Why? Why not?

## Armed police fear impact of new colour-blindness rules

### Level 1 • Pre-intermediate / Intermediate

#### KEY

#### 2 Key words

1. armed
2. deficiency
3. tough
4. stun gun
5. unreliable
6. mild
7. firearms
8. volunteer
9. screening
10. suspect

#### 3 Find the information

1. colour vision deficiency
2. men
3. 6,459
4. 122,000
5. up to ten
6. They had to look at toy cars and say what colour they were.

#### 4 Comprehension check

1. b
2. e
3. f
4. a
5. c
6. d

#### 5 Prepositions

1. against
2. in
3. to
4. for
5. from
6. below

#### 6 Two-word phrases

1. f
2. c
3. a
4. e
5. d
6. b

#### 7 Word stress

A   0   o	B   o   0
firearms	attack
standard	achieve
suspect	return
vision	police
target	against