The M-Pulse™ Inventory includes several scales, which assess, among others, the risk of using excessive force, experiencing difficulties with interpersonal relationship, causing damages to another person's property, having a criminal conduct, misusing weapons or yet mismanaging one's emotions and lacking integrity.

Psychometric tests are characterized by standardized administration methods, questions and correction systems. The correction is done by comparing the subject's result to a normative sample. In the case of this test, the normative sample consists of approximately 1,700 persons including final year students in police technology, police cadets in training at the École nationale de police du Québec and active police officers with less than 5-year experience.

The test comprises 455 statements with 50 to 90 minutes administration time. You will have to state your level of agreement with every statement. So, for each question, you will have to indicate if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. There are no right or wrong answers. You just need to give your opinion or preference. Here are some examples of statement that can be found in the test:

- I think patrol officers do the real police work.
- Any officer should expect to give up his or her life in the line of duty.
- I am more shy than outgoing.
- I would rather be a bomb technician than a negotiator.
- I feel bad about some things I have done.
- People can tell when I am lying.
- It is wrong to lie to a suspect, even if it is not against the rules to do so.
- People will lie and cheat to get what they want.
- I never drive faster than the speed limit.
- I am more comfortable indoors than I am outdoors.
- I am sensitive.
- The average officer is loyal and honest.
- The general public should not know too much about an officer's private life.
- I would benefit from working under the direction of a veteran officer.
- Authority is important and should be obeyed.

When taking psychometric tests, you might want to try to use "strategies" such as memorizing patterns and trying to find the hidden meaning of the questions. However, these strategies could work against you.

MEMORIZING PATTERNS

You must consider each question one at a time and answer them without trying to keep a main link. If you try to remember a previous answer given to a similar question and follow an answering pattern, you might unknowingly show undesirable traits. Furthermore, your results could turn out to be invalid because you did not answer to some questions honestly. Trying to establish an answering pattern that does not correspond to who you are could work against you.

TRYING TO FIND THE HIDDEN MEANING OF THE QUESTION

Often, candidates wonder what the question wants to bring out or assess and they try to answer it based on their assumptions. This type of behaviour could also be counterproductive and work against you by altering the results.

Here is a statement that can be found in a psychometric test:
I like young children   *True*   *False*

Some candidates might answer "false" thinking that this statement is used to identify sexual deviance. If candidates answer "false", what does that mean? Why don't they like young children?

Therefore each time a statement seems tricky, formulate it in the opposite way. For example:
I do not like young children   True   False

Once you have answered the question, go to the next one and try not to worry about the previous answers you gave. Answering questions spontaneously and processing questions independently are the best strategies to use.

Compiling the answers associated with the various selected scales will help to determine how likely you are to show counterproductive behaviours or present attitudes that are unsuitable for police work. To find out more about this test, go to the editor's website.

The analysis and compilation of the results will lead to the calculation of a risk coefficient that takes into account, for each scale selected for the admission requirements, the difference between your result and the result above which there is a risk of influencing the success of the program. This coefficient will be subtracted from the ranking score.