

The *Praxis*® Study Companion

# Pennsylvania Grades 4–8 Subject Concentration: Mathematics

5158



# Welcome to *The Praxis*® Study Companion

## Prepare to Show What You Know

You have been working to acquire the knowledge and skills you need for your teaching career. Now you are ready to demonstrate your abilities by taking a *Praxis*® test.

Using the *Praxis*® Study Companion is a smart way to prepare for the test so you can do your best on test day. This guide can help keep you on track and make the most efficient use of your study time.

The Study Companion contains practical information and helpful tools, including:

- An overview of the *Praxis* tests
- Specific information on the *Praxis* test you are taking
- A template study plan
- Study topics
- Practice questions and explanations of correct answers
- Test-taking tips and strategies
- Frequently asked questions
- Links to more detailed information

So where should you start? Begin by reviewing this guide in its entirety and note those sections that you need to revisit. Then you can create your own personalized study plan and schedule based on your individual needs and how much time you have before test day.

Keep in mind that study habits are individual. There are many different ways to successfully prepare for your test. Some people study better on their own, while others prefer a group dynamic. You may have more energy early in the day, but another test taker may concentrate better in the evening. So use this guide to develop the approach that works best for you.

Your teaching career begins with preparation. Good luck!

## Know What to Expect

### Which tests should I take?

Each state or agency that uses the *Praxis* tests sets its own requirements for which test or tests you must take for the teaching area you wish to pursue.

Before you register for a test, confirm your state or agency's testing requirements at [www.ets.org/praxis/states](http://www.ets.org/praxis/states).

### How are the *Praxis* tests given?

*Praxis* tests are given on computer. Other formats are available for test takers approved for accommodations (see page 38).

### **What should I expect when taking the test on computer?**

When taking the test on computer, you can expect to be asked to provide proper identification at the test center. Once admitted, you will be given the opportunity to learn how the computer interface works (how to answer questions, how to skip questions, how to go back to questions you skipped, etc.) before the testing time begins. Watch the [What to Expect on Test Day](#) video to see what the experience is like.

### **Where and when are the *Praxis* tests offered?**

You can select the test center that is most convenient for you. The *Praxis* tests are administered through an international network of test centers, which includes Prometric® Testing Centers, some universities, and other locations throughout the world.

Testing schedules may differ, so see the *Praxis* web site for more detailed test registration information at [www.ets.org/praxis/register](http://www.ets.org/praxis/register).

# Table of Contents

*The Praxis® Study Companion guides you through the steps to success*

<b>1. Learn About Your Test</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<i>Learn about the specific test you will be taking</i>	
<b>2. Familiarize Yourself with Test Questions</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<i>Become comfortable with the types of questions you'll find on the Praxis tests</i>	
<b>3. Practice with Sample Test Questions</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<i>Answer practice questions and find explanations for correct answers</i>	
<b>4. Determine Your Strategy for Success</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<i>Set clear goals and deadlines so your test preparation is focused and efficient</i>	
<b>5. Develop Your Study Plan</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<i>Develop a personalized study plan and schedule</i>	
<b>6. Review Study Topics</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<i>Detailed study topics with questions for discussion</i>	
<b>7. Review Smart Tips for Success</b> .....	<b>36</b>
<i>Follow test-taking tips developed by experts</i>	
<b>8. Check on Testing Accommodations</b> .....	<b>38</b>
<i>See if you qualify for accommodations that may make it easier to take the Praxis test</i>	
<b>9. Do Your Best on Test Day</b> .....	<b>39</b>
<i>Get ready for test day so you will be calm and confident</i>	
<b>10. Understand Your Scores</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<i>Understand how tests are scored and how to interpret your test scores</i>	
<b>Appendix: Other Questions You May Have</b> .....	<b>43</b>

# 1. Learn About Your Test

Learn about the specific test you will be taking

## Pennsylvania Grades 4–8 Subject Concentration: Mathematics (5158)

Test at a Glance			
<b>Test Name</b>	Pennsylvania Grades 4-8 Subject Concentration: Mathematics		
<b>Test Code</b>	5158		
<b>Time</b>	2 hours		
<b>Number of Questions</b>	60		
<b>Format</b>	Selected-response questions; scientific or four-function calculator use permitted		
<b>Test Delivery</b>	Computer delivered		
	<b>Content Categories</b>	<b>Approximate Number of Questions</b>	<b>Approximate Percentage of Examination</b>
	I. Arithmetic and Algebra A. Numbers and Operations B. Algebra C. Functions and Their Graphs II. Geometry and Data A. Geometry and Measurement B. Probability, Statistics, and Discrete Math	11 15 12 12 10	18% 26% 20% 20% 16%

### About This Test

The purpose of the Pennsylvania Grades 4–8 Subject Concentration: Mathematics test is to assess whether the entry-level middle school teacher has the content knowledge that is important, necessary, and needed at time of entry to the profession in order to teach mathematics.

The test taker will be required to understand and work with mathematical concepts, to reason mathematically, to make conjectures, and to see patterns. Additionally, the test taker will be expected to solve problems by integrating knowledge from different areas of mathematics, to use various representations of concepts, to solve problems that have several solution paths, and to develop mathematical models and use them to solve real-world problems.

The test is not designed to be aligned with any particular school mathematics curriculum, but it is intended to be consistent with the recommendations of national studies on mathematics education such as *Principles and Standards for School Mathematics* (2000), by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), *Program Standards for the Initial Preparation of Middle Grades Mathematics Teachers* (2012), by the [Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation](#) (CAEP), and the *Pennsylvania Core Mathematics Standards* (2013).

The test taker may bring a scientific or four-function calculator to the test.

This test may contain some questions that will not count toward your score.

## Test Specifications

Test specifications in this chapter describe the knowledge and skills measured by the test. Study topics to help you prepare to answer test questions can be found on page 27.

### I. Arithmetic and Algebra

#### A. Numbers and Operations

1. Understands operations and properties of the real number system
  - a. solve problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers
  - b. describe the effect that an operation has on a given number (e.g., adding a negative, dividing by a fraction)
  - c. apply the order of operations
  - d. identify or apply properties of operations on a number system (i.e., commutative, associative, distributive, identity, closure)
  - e. compare, classify, and order real numbers
  - f. perform operations involving exponents, including negative exponents
  - g. simplify and approximate radicals
  - h. use scientific notation to represent and compare numbers
2. Understands the relationships among fractions, decimals, and percents
  - a. convert among fractions, decimals, and percents
  - b. represent fractions, decimals, and percents using various models
3. Understands how to use ratios and proportional relationships to solve problems
  - a. use ratio language and notation to describe a relationship between two quantities
  - b. recognize and represent proportional and inversely proportional relationships between two quantities
  - c. use proportional relationships to solve problems (e.g., rates, scale factors, percents)

4. Understands how to use basic concepts of number theory (e.g., divisibility, prime factorization, multiples) to solve problems
  - a. recognize characteristics of prime and composite numbers
  - b. recognize characteristics of odd and even numbers
  - c. solve problems involving factors, multiples, and divisibility
5. Knows how to use estimation strategies to determine the reasonableness of results
  - a. use estimation to solve problems
  - b. estimate absolute and relative error in the numerical answer to a problem

#### B. Algebra

1. Understands how to evaluate and manipulate algebraic expressions, equations, and formulas
  - a. perform arithmetic operations on polynomials
  - b. manipulate and perform arithmetic operations on rational expressions
  - c. evaluate, manipulate, and compare algebraic expressions involving radicals and exponents, including negative exponents
  - d. use variables to construct and solve equations in real-world contexts
  - e. translate verbal relationships into algebraic expressions or equations
2. Understands how to recognize and represent linear relationships algebraically
  - a. determine the equation of a line
  - b. recognize and use the basic forms of linear equations
  - c. convert among various forms of linear equations (e.g., slope-intercept, point-slope, standard)

3. Understands how to solve linear equations and inequalities
  - a. solve one-variable linear equations and inequalities algebraically
  - b. represent solutions to one-variable linear equations and inequalities on number lines and using set-builder notation
4. Knows how to represent and solve nonlinear equations and inequalities
  - a. solve one-variable nonlinear equations and inequalities (e.g., absolute value, quadratic) algebraically
  - b. represent solutions to one-variable nonlinear equations and inequalities on number lines and using set-builder notation
5. Knows how to represent and solve systems of equations and inequalities
  - a. represent and solve systems of linear equations and inequalities with two variables algebraically
  - b. represent and solve systems of linear equations and inequalities with two variables graphically
6. Understands how to recognize and represent simple sequences or patterns (e.g., arithmetic, geometric)
  - a. evaluate, extend, or algebraically represent rules involving number patterns
  - b. describe or extend patterns involving shapes or figures

### C. Functions and Their Graphs

1. Understands how to identify, define, and evaluate functions
  - a. use function notation
  - b. determine whether a relation is a function
  - c. evaluate functions for given values (algebraically, graphically, tabular)
2. Knows how to determine and interpret the domain and the range of functions represented numerically, graphically, or algebraically
  - a. determine the domain and range of a given table of values
  - b. determine the domain and range from a given graph of a function
  - c. determine the domain and range of a given function that is represented algebraically
  - d. interpret domain and range in real-world settings
3. Understands basic characteristics of linear functions (e.g., slope, intercepts)
  - a. determine the slope of a given linear function
  - b. interpret slope as a constant rate of change
  - c. determine the x- and y-intercepts of a given linear function
  - d. interpret the x- and y-intercepts of a given linear function
4. Understands the relationships among functions, tables and graphs
  - a. determine and interpret the x- and y-intercepts of a nonlinear function
  - b. given a graph (e.g., linear, quadratic, absolute value, simple exponential), determine an equation that best represents the graph
  - c. determine the graphical properties and sketch a graph given an equation of a linear, quadratic, absolute value, or simple exponential function

5. Knows how to analyze and represent functions that model given information
  - a. develop a model (e.g., graph, equation, table) of a given set of conditions
  - b. evaluate whether a particular mathematical model (e.g., graph, equation, table) can be used to describe a given set of conditions
  - c. interpret a particular mathematical model (e.g., graph, equation, table)
4. Knows the properties of lines (e.g., parallel, perpendicular, intersecting) and angles
  - a. solve problems involving parallel, perpendicular, intersecting, and skew lines
  - b. apply angle relationships (e.g., vertical, supplementary, alternate interior) to solve problems
  - c. use proper notation when solving problems involving lines and angles

## II. Geometry and Data

### A. Geometry and Measurement

1. Understands how to solve problems involving perimeter and area of plane figures
  - a. calculate and interpret perimeter and area of geometric shapes
  - b. calculate changes in perimeter and area as the dimensions of geometric shapes change
  - c. use correct units of measurement in problems involving perimeter and area
2. Knows how to solve problems involving surface area and volume of solids
  - a. calculate and interpret surface area and volume of geometric shapes
  - b. calculate changes in surface area and volume as the dimensions of a solid change
  - c. use correct units of measurement in problems involving surface area and volume
  - d. use two-dimensional representations of three-dimensional objects to visualize and solve problems
3. Understands the concepts of similarity and congruence
  - a. determine whether two figures are similar or congruent
  - b. use similarity and congruence to solve problems with two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
  - c. use proper notation when solving problems involving similarity and congruence
5. Understands properties of triangles
  - a. solve problems involving sides (e.g., Pythagorean theorem) and angles
  - b. recognize characteristics of special triangles (e.g., isosceles, right, 30-60-90)
6. Knows properties of quadrilaterals (e.g., rectangle, rhombus, trapezoid) and other polygons
  - a. identify geometric properties of various quadrilaterals and the relationships among them (e.g., parallelogram, trapezoid)
  - b. solve problems involving sides, angles, or diagonals of polygons
7. Understands properties of circles
  - a. solve problems involving circumference and area of a circle
  - b. solve problems involving diameter and radius of a circle
  - c. solve basic problems involving central angles, arcs, chords, and sectors
8. Knows how to interpret geometric relationships in the  $xy$ -plane (e.g., transformations, distance, midpoint)
  - a. identify the characteristics of ordered pairs located in quadrants and on the axes of the coordinate plane
  - b. use coordinate geometry to represent and identify the properties of geometric shapes (e.g., Pythagorean theorem, area of a rectangle)
  - c. determine the distance between two points
  - d. determine the midpoint of a line segment given its endpoints
  - e. interpret and solve problems involving transformations (i.e., translations, reflections, rotations, dilations)



9. Understands systems of measurement (e.g., metric, customary)
  - a. solve measurement and estimation problems involving time, length, temperature, volume, and mass in both United States customary and metric systems
  - b. convert units within the United States customary system or the metric system
  - c. convert units between the United States customary and metric systems
10. Is familiar with how geometric constructions are made
  - a. identify formal geometric constructions made with a variety of tools and methods (e.g., copying a segment, bisecting an angle, constructing parallel and perpendicular lines)
11. Is familiar with the basic concepts of right triangle trigonometry
  - a. use trigonometric ratios in right triangles to solve problems

**B. Probability, Statistics, and Discrete Math**

1. Understands how to interpret, analyze, and represent data presented in a variety of displays
  - a. analyze and interpret various displays of data (e.g., box plots, histograms, scatterplots, stem-and-leaf plots)
  - b. draw conclusions based on graphical displays (e.g., misleading representation of data, line of best fit, interpolation)
  - c. choose appropriate graphs based on data (e.g., represent data accurately, choose correct types of graphs)
2. Knows how to develop, use, and evaluate probability models
  - a. use counting techniques (e.g., the counting principle, permutations, combinations) to answer questions involving a finite sample space
  - b. solve probability problems involving independent and dependent events
  - c. use geometric probability to solve problems
3. Understands concepts associated with measures of central tendency and dispersion (spread)
  - a. solve for the mean and weighted average of given sets of data
  - b. determine and interpret mean, median, and mode in a variety of problems
  - c. determine and interpret common features of sets of data (e.g., range and outliers)
  - d. choose appropriate measures of central tendency to represent given sets of data
  - e. recognize standard deviations on the normal curve
4. Is familiar with how to use visual representations to model and solve problems
  - a. use and interpret simple diagrams (e.g., Venn diagrams, flowcharts) to solve problems
5. Is familiar with logical reasoning and proofs
  - a. evaluate the truth of conditional relationships expressed as if-then statements
  - b. use if-then statements to construct simple valid arguments
  - c. draw inductive and deductive conclusions within mathematical contexts
  - d. complete simple algebraic and geometric proofs
  - e. identify errors in simple algebraic and geometric proofs

## 2. Familiarize Yourself with Test Questions

*Become comfortable with the types of questions you'll find on the Praxis tests*

The *Praxis* assessments include a variety of question types: constructed response (for which you write a response of your own); selected response, for which you select one or more answers from a list of choices or make another kind of selection (e.g., by clicking on a sentence in a text or by clicking on part of a graphic); and numeric entry, for which you enter a numeric value in an answer field. You may be familiar with these question formats from taking other standardized tests. If not, familiarize yourself with them so you don't spend time during the test figuring out how to answer them.

### Understanding Computer-Delivered Questions

Questions on computer-delivered tests are interactive in the sense that you answer by selecting an option or entering text on the screen. If you see a format you are not familiar with, read the directions carefully. The directions always give clear instructions on how you are expected to respond.

For most questions, you respond by clicking an oval to select a single answer from a list of answer choices.

However, interactive question types may also ask you to respond by:

- **Clicking more than one oval** to select answers from a list of answer choices.
- **Typing in an entry box.** When the answer is a number, you may be asked to enter a numerical answer. Some questions may have more than one place to enter a response.
- **Clicking check boxes.** You may be asked to click check boxes instead of an oval when more than one choice within a set of answers can be selected.
- **Clicking parts of a graphic.** In some questions, you will select your answers by clicking on a location (or locations) on a graphic such as a map or chart, as opposed to choosing your answer from a list.
- **Clicking on sentences.** In questions with reading passages, you may be asked to choose your answers by clicking on a sentence (or sentences) within the reading passage.
- **Dragging and dropping answer choices into targets on the screen.** You may be asked to select answers from a list of choices and drag your answers to the appropriate location in a table, paragraph of text or graphic.
- **Selecting answers from a drop-down menu.** You may be asked to choose answers by selecting choices from a drop-down menu (e.g., to complete a sentence).

Remember that with every question you will get clear instructions.

Perhaps the best way to understand computer-delivered questions is to view the [Computer-delivered Testing Demonstration](#) on the Praxis web site to learn how a computer-delivered test works and see examples of some types of questions you may encounter.

## Understanding Selected-Response Questions

Many selected-response questions begin with the phrase “which of the following.” Take a look at this example:

**Which of the following is a flavor made from beans?**

- (A) Strawberry
- (B) Cherry
- (C) Vanilla
- (D) Mint

### How would you answer this question?

All of the answer choices are flavors. Your job is to decide which of the flavors is the one made from beans.

Try following these steps to select the correct answer.

- 1) **Limit your answer to the choices given.** You may know that chocolate and coffee are also flavors made from beans, but they are not listed. Rather than thinking of other possible answers, focus only on the choices given (“which of the following”).
- 2) **Eliminate incorrect answers.** You may know that strawberry and cherry flavors are made from fruit and that mint flavor is made from a plant. That leaves vanilla as the only possible answer.
- 3) **Verify your answer.** You can substitute “vanilla” for the phrase “which of the following” and turn the question into this statement: “Vanilla is a flavor made from beans.” This will help you be sure that your answer is correct. If you’re still uncertain, try substituting the other choices to see if they make sense. You may want to use this technique as you answer selected-response questions on the practice tests.

### Try a more challenging example

The vanilla bean question is pretty straightforward, but you’ll find that more challenging questions have a similar structure. For example:

**Entries in outlines are generally arranged according to which of the following relationships of ideas?**

- (A) Literal and inferential
- (B) Concrete and abstract
- (C) Linear and recursive
- (D) Main and subordinate

You’ll notice that this example also contains the phrase “which of the following.” This phrase helps you determine that your answer will be a “relationship of ideas” from the choices provided. You are supposed to find the choice that describes how entries, or ideas, in outlines are related.

Sometimes it helps to put the question in your own words. Here, you could paraphrase the question in this way: “How are outlines usually organized?” Since the ideas in outlines usually appear as main ideas and subordinate ideas, the answer is (D).

**QUICK TIP:** Don't be intimidated by words you may not understand. It might be easy to be thrown by words like "recursive" or "inferential." Read carefully to understand the question and look for an answer that fits. An outline is something you are probably familiar with and expect to teach to your students. So slow down, and use what you know.

### Watch out for selected-response questions containing "NOT," "LEAST," and "EXCEPT"

This type of question asks you to select the choice that does not fit. You must be very careful because it is easy to forget that you are selecting the negative. This question type is used in situations in which there are several good solutions or ways to approach something, but also a clearly wrong way.

### How to approach questions about graphs, tables, or reading passages

When answering questions about graphs, tables, or reading passages, provide only the information that the questions ask for. In the case of a map or graph, you might want to read the questions first, and then look at the map or graph. In the case of a long reading passage, you might want to go ahead and read the passage first, noting places you think are important, and then answer the questions. Again, the important thing is to be sure you answer the questions as they refer to the material presented. So read the questions carefully.

### How to approach unfamiliar formats

New question formats are developed from time to time to find new ways of assessing knowledge. Tests may include audio and video components, such as a movie clip or animation, instead of a map or reading passage. Other tests may allow you to zoom in on details in a graphic or picture.

Tests may also include interactive questions. These questions take advantage of technology to assess knowledge and skills in ways that standard selected-response questions cannot. If you see a format you are not familiar with, **read the directions carefully**. The directions always give clear instructions on how you are expected to respond.

**QUICK TIP:** Don't make the questions more difficult than they are. Don't read for hidden meanings or tricks. There are no trick questions on *Praxis* tests. They are intended to be serious, straightforward tests of your knowledge.

## Understanding Constructed-Response Questions

Constructed-response questions require you to demonstrate your knowledge in a subject area by creating your own response to particular topics. Essays and short-answer questions are types of constructed-response questions.

For example, an essay question might present you with a topic and ask you to discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the opinion stated. You must support your position with specific reasons and examples from your own experience, observations, or reading.

Take a look at a few sample essay topics:

- "Celebrities have a tremendous influence on the young, and for that reason, they have a responsibility to act as role models."
- "We are constantly bombarded by advertisements—on television and radio, in newspapers and magazines, on highway signs, and the sides of buses. They have become too pervasive. It's time to put limits on advertising."
- "Advances in computer technology have made the classroom unnecessary, since students and teachers are able to communicate with one another from computer terminals at home or at work."

### Keep these things in mind when you respond to a constructed-response question

- 1) **Answer the question accurately.** Analyze what each part of the question is asking you to do. If the question asks you to describe or discuss, you should provide more than just a list.
- 2) **Answer the question completely.** If a question asks you to do three distinct things in your response, you should cover all three things for the best score. Otherwise, no matter how well you write, you will not be awarded full credit.
- 3) **Answer the question that is asked.** Do not change the question or challenge the basis of the question. You will receive no credit or a low score if you answer another question or if you state, for example, that there is no possible answer.
- 4) **Give a thorough and detailed response.** You must demonstrate that you have a thorough understanding of the subject matter. However, your response should be straightforward and not filled with unnecessary information.
- 5) **Reread your response.** Check that you have written what you thought you wrote. Be sure not to leave sentences unfinished or omit clarifying information.

**QUICK TIP:** You may find that it helps to take notes on scratch paper so that you don't miss any details. Then you'll be sure to have all the information you need to answer the question.

For tests that have constructed-response questions, more detailed information can be found on page 5.

## 3. Practice with Sample Test Questions

Answer practice questions and find explanations for correct answers

### Sample Test Questions

The sample questions that follow illustrate the kinds of questions on the test. They are not, however, representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. Answers with explanations follow the questions.

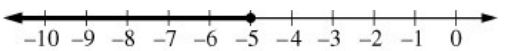
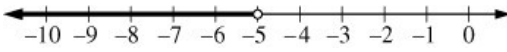
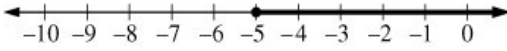
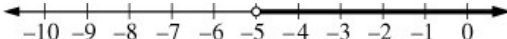
**Directions:** Each of the questions or statements below is followed by four suggested answers or completions. Select the one that is best in each case.

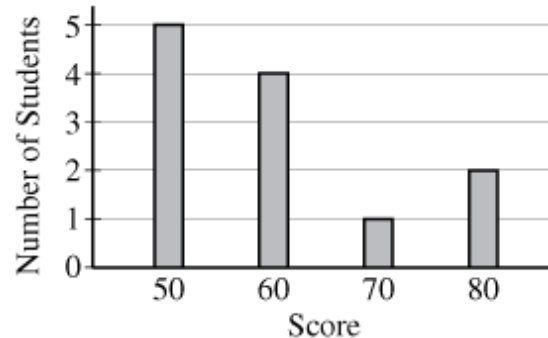
$x$	$y$
-4	-2
-3	$-\frac{3}{2}$
-2	-1
-1	$-\frac{1}{2}$
0	0

- Which of the following is true about the data in the table above?
  - As  $x$  decreases,  $y$  increases.
  - As  $x$  increases,  $y$  does not change.
  - As  $x$  increases,  $y$  decreases.
  - As  $x$  increases,  $y$  increases.

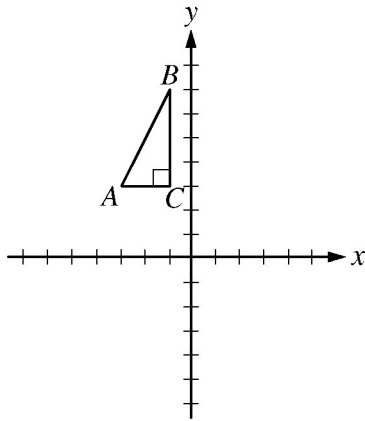
$$-4x + 1 \geq 21$$

- Which of the following represents the solution set for the inequality shown?

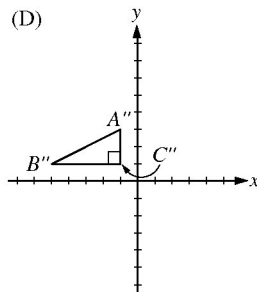
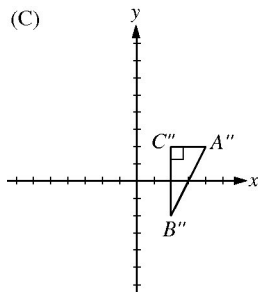
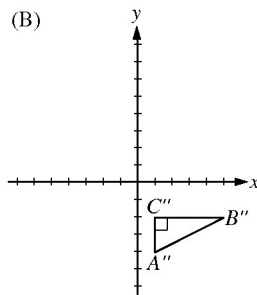
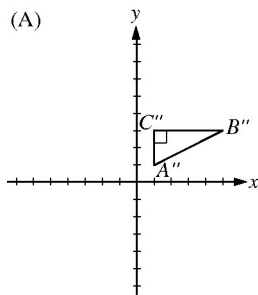
- (A) 
- (B) 
- (C) 
- (D) 



- Twelve students took a quiz in a certain science class. The graph above shows the quiz scores and the number of students that received each score. What is the average (arithmetic mean) of the 12 scores?
  - 55
  - 57
  - 60
  - 65



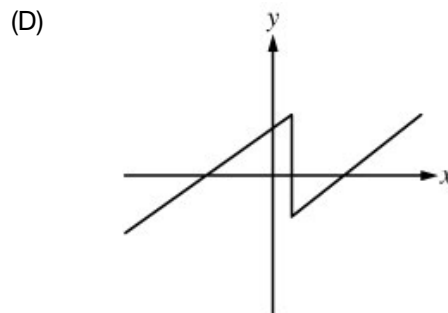
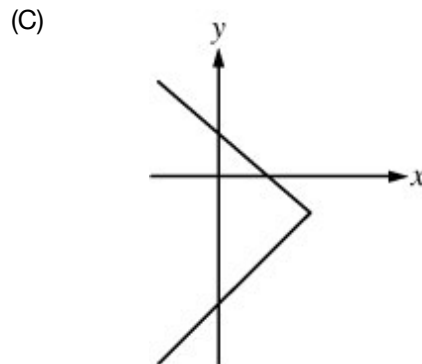
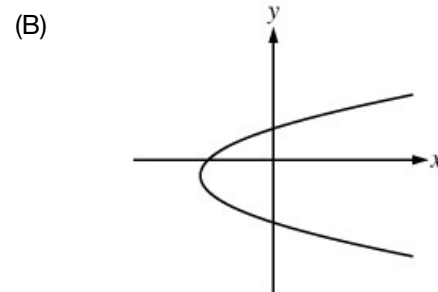
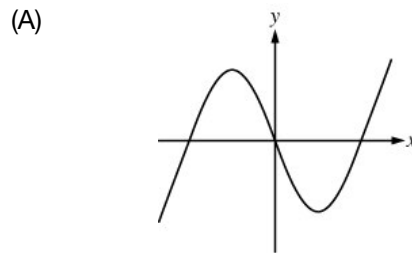
4. Which of the following figures results if right triangle  $ABC$ , shown in the figure above, is flipped (reflected) across the  $y$ -axis and then turned (rotated) clockwise about point  $C'$  by 90 degrees?

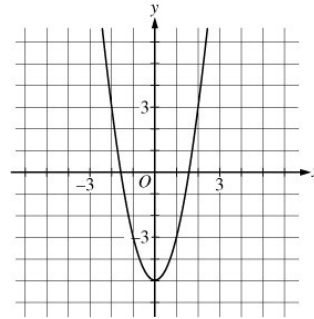
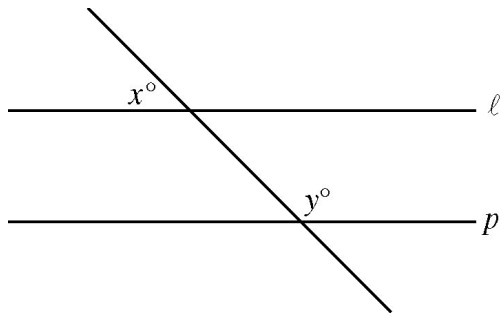


5. Which of the following sets of numbers must be included with the set of whole numbers  $\{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots\}$  to achieve closure under subtraction?

- (A) The set of negative integers
- (B) The set of negative rational numbers
- (C) The set of positive integers
- (D) The set of positive rational numbers

6. Which of the following graphs in the  $xy$ -plane represents the graph of a function?





7. In the figure above, line  $\ell$  and line  $p$  are parallel, and  $y = 3x$ . What is the value of  $x$ ?
- (A) 30  
(B) 45  
(C) 60  
(D) 75
8. A student took 1 hour to finish an exam. The student spent  $\frac{1}{5}$  of the total time answering multiple-choice questions and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the remaining time answering free-response questions. The time that was left was spent answering an essay question. What is the ratio of the time spent on the multiple-choice questions to the time spent on the free-response questions to the time spent on the essay question?
- (A) 1 to 3 to 1  
(B) 1 to 3 to 2  
(C) 2 to 2 to 3  
(D) 2 to 3 to 1
9. The figure shows the graph of a quadratic equation in the  $xy$ -plane. Which of the following is an equation of the graph?
- (A)  $y = x^2 - 5$   
(B)  $y = x^2 + 5$   
(C)  $y = 2x^2 - 5$   
(D)  $y = 2x^2 + 5$
10. On a map,  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch corresponds to an actual distance of 5 miles. If a rectangular region on the map measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 4 inches, how many square miles of actual area does this region represent?
- (A) 450 square miles  
(B) 500 square miles  
(C) 550 square miles  
(D) 600 square miles
11. If a student takes a test consisting of 20 true-false questions and randomly guesses at all of the answers, what is the probability that all 20 guesses will be correct?
- (A)  $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{20}$   
(B)  $\frac{1}{2(20)}$   
(C)  $\frac{1}{20}$   
(D)  $\frac{1}{2}$



12. Ernesto bought 2 sport coats for \$88.95 each. One of the coats needed alterations that cost \$15.50. If a 6% sales tax is applied to the cost of the coats but not to the alterations, which of the following is closest to the total cost to Ernesto for the sport coats and the alterations?

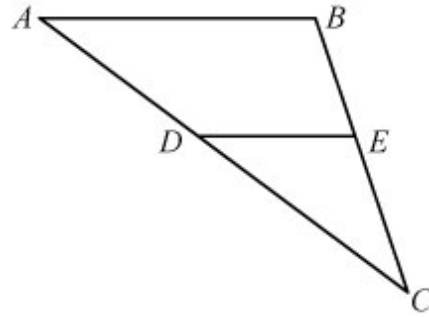
(A) \$190  
 (B) \$200  
 (C) \$205  
 (D) \$215

13. What is the slope of a line that is perpendicular to the line with the equation  $2x - 3y = 6$ ?

(A)  $-\frac{3}{2}$   
 (B)  $\frac{2}{3}$   
 (C)  $\frac{3}{2}$   
 (D) 3

14. What is the units digit of  $3^{43}$ ?

(A) 1  
 (B) 3  
 (C) 7  
 (D) 9



15. In triangle  $ABC$  shown,  $AB = 21$ ,  $AD = 15$ ,  $DE = 12$ , and  $\overline{AB}$  is parallel to  $\overline{DE}$ . What is the value of  $AC$ ?

(A) 20.0  
 (B) 23.6  
 (C) 31.8  
 (D) 35.0

## Answers to Sample Questions

1. Option (D) is correct. As  $x$  moves from  $-4$  to  $0$  (that is, from left to right on the number line), its value increases. Similarly, the value of  $y$  increases from  $-2$  to  $0$ . Thus, it can be seen that as  $x$  increases,  $y$  increases.

2. Option (A) is correct. To determine which option represents the solution set for the inequality, subtract 1 from each side of the inequality and then divide each side of the inequality by  $-4$ . Remember that when multiplying or dividing both sides of an inequality by a negative number, the direction of the inequality symbol needs to be reversed. Thus, the equivalent inequality is  $x \leq -5$ . The option that represents the set of all real numbers less than or equal to  $-5$  is (A).

3. Option (C) is correct. Based on the information in the graph, the average of the 12 scores is

$$\frac{(5)(50) + (4)(60) + (1)(70) + (2)(80)}{12} = \frac{720}{12} = 60.$$

4. Option (A) is correct. When triangle  $ABC$  is reflected across the  $y$ -axis, the figure formed is located in quadrant I and is the mirror image of the given figure. Rotating the triangle 90 degrees clockwise about vertex  $C'$  yields (A).

5. Option (A) is correct. To achieve closure under subtraction, when two numbers in a set are subtracted, the difference must also be a number in the set. If two integers  $x$  and  $y$  are subtracted, the answer is a positive integer when  $x > y$ , a negative integer when  $x < y$ , and 0 when  $x = y$ . The set of whole numbers is made up of the positive integers and 0, so the negative integers are needed to achieve closure under subtraction.

6. Option (A) is correct. The vertical line test can be used to see whether a graph in the  $xy$ -plane represents the graph of a function. The test consists of taking a vertical line and moving it across the graph in the  $xy$ -plane. If the vertical line touches the graph at only one point across the entire graph, then that graph is the graph of a function. As you move left to right over the graph in (A), a vertical line would only contact the graph at a single point across the entire graph, thus it is the graph of a function. As you move left to right over the graph in (B), a vertical line would touch at two points over most of the graph, hence it is not a function. (C) is not a function for the same reason that (B) is not a function. (D) is not a function because of the vertical part of the graph to the right of the  $y$ -axis.

7. Option (B) is correct. The properties of angles associated with parallel and transversal lines can be used to show that the angle with measure  $x$  degrees and the angle with measure  $y$  degrees are supplementary angles. Recall that the sum of the measures of supplementary angles is  $180^\circ$ . That is,  $x + y = 180$ . It is given that  $y = 3x$ . Substituting for  $y$ , you get  $4x = 180$ . Hence,  $x = 45$ .

8. Option (A) is correct. The time spent answering multiple-choice questions was  $\frac{1}{5}$  of 1 hour, or  $\frac{1}{5}$  of 60 minutes, which is 12 minutes. The remaining time was  $60 - 12 = 48$  minutes, and  $\frac{3}{4}(48) = 36$  minutes were

spent answering free-response questions. The time left is  $60 - (12 + 36) = 12$  minutes. The ratio of the time spent on the multiple-choice questions to the time spent on the free-response questions to the time spent on the essay question is 12 to 36 to 12, or 1 to 3 to 1.

9. Option (C) is correct. Since the graph of the equation intersects the  $y$ -axis at the point  $(0, -5)$ , the constant term in the equation must be  $-5$ . One method to determine the coefficient of the  $x^2$  term is to substitute the coordinates from another point on the graph into the equation  $y = ax^2 - 5$  and solve for  $a$ . Then, using the point  $(2, 3)$ , it can be determined that  $3 = a(2^2) - 5$ , so  $4a - 5 = 3$ . To solve this equation for  $a$ , add 5 to both sides of the equation, and then divide both sides of the equation by 4, which leads to the answer  $a = 2$ , which means that the equation of the graph is  $y = 2x^2 - 5$ .

10. Option (D) is correct. It is given that  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch on the map corresponds to an actual distance of 5 miles, so 1 inch on the map represents an actual distance of 10 miles. Thus,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches on the map represents an actual distance of  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 10 = 15$  miles, and 4 inches on the map represents an actual distance of  $4 \times 10 = 40$  miles. Thus, a rectangular region on the map measuring  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 4 inches represents an actual rectangular region measuring 15 miles by 40 miles. To find the actual area, in square miles, multiply the two dimensions, 15 miles and 40 miles. The actual area is 600 square miles.

11. Option (A) is correct. The probability that the student guesses any one answer correctly is  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and since the student is randomly guessing, the guesses are independent events, so  $\frac{1}{2}$  needs to be multiplied by itself 20 times. Thus, the probability of guessing all 20 answers correctly is  $\left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{20}$ .

12. Option (C) is correct. Based on the information in the question, calculate the total cost:  
 $(\$88.95)(2)(1.06) + \$15.50 = \$204.07$ . (C) is the option that is closest to the total cost.

13. Option (A) is correct. The slope of the given equation can be found by solving the equation for  $y$ , which gives the equation  $y = \frac{2}{3}x - 2$ . This equation is in slope-intercept form, so it can be determined that the slope is  $\frac{2}{3}$  and the  $y$ -intercept is  $-2$ . A perpendicular line will have a slope that is the negative reciprocal of  $\frac{2}{3}$ , which is  $-\frac{3}{2}$ , since  $\left(\frac{2}{3}\right)\left(-\frac{3}{2}\right) = -1$ .

14. Option (C) is correct. In order to solve this problem, the sequence of powers  $3^n$  in relation to the exponent  $n$  needs to be examined.

$n$	$3^n$	Units Digit
0	1	1
1	3	3
2	9	9
3	27	7
4	81	1
5	243	3
6	729	9
7	2,187	7
8	6,561	1

Note that the units digit of  $3^4$  is 1, which is equal to the units digit of  $3^0$ , and then the sequence of units digits repeats itself in sets of four, with the following pattern (where  $k$  is some positive integer):

- If  $n$  is of the form  $n = 4k$ , the units digit of  $3^n$  is 1.
- If  $n$  is of the form  $n = 4k + 1$ , the units digit of  $3^n$  is 3.
- If  $n$  is of the form  $n = 4k + 2$ , the units digit of  $3^n$  is 9.
- If  $n$  is of the form  $n = 4k + 3$ , the units digit of  $3^n$  is 7.

In the problem, the value of the exponent is 43, and since  $43 = 4 \times 10 + 3$ , the units digit of  $3^{43}$  is the same as the units digit of  $3^3$ , which is 7.

15. Option (D) is correct. Since  $\overline{AB}$  is parallel to  $\overline{DE}$ , triangle  $ABC$  is similar to triangle  $DEC$ , which means the ratios of the lengths of corresponding sides of the two triangles are equal. Since  $\overline{AC} = \overline{AD} + \overline{DC}$  and the lengths of  $\overline{AB}$ ,  $\overline{AD}$ , and  $\overline{DE}$  are given, the

proportion  $\frac{AC}{DC} = \frac{AB}{DE}$  can first be used to find the

value of  $DC$ , which can then be used to find the value of  $AC$ . Substituting into the proportion gives

$$\frac{15 + DC}{DC} = \frac{21}{12}. \text{ Therefore,}$$

$$12(15 + DC) = 21DC \Rightarrow 180 + 12DC = 21DC \Rightarrow 180 = 9DC \Rightarrow DC = 20.$$

Then, since  $\overline{AC} = \overline{AD} + \overline{DC}$ , it can be determined that  $AC = 35$ .

## 4. Determine Your Strategy for Success

*Set clear goals and deadlines so your test preparation is focused and efficient*

Effective *Praxis* test preparation doesn't just happen. You'll want to set clear goals and deadlines for yourself along the way. Otherwise, you may not feel ready and confident on test day.

### 1) Learn what the test covers.

You may have heard that there are several different versions of the same test. It's true. You may take one version of the test and your friend may take a different version a few months later. Each test has different questions covering the same subject area, but both versions of the test measure the same skills and content knowledge.

You'll find specific information on the test you're taking on page 5, which outlines the content categories that the test measures and what percentage of the test covers each topic. Visit [www.ets.org/praxis/testprep](http://www.ets.org/praxis/testprep) for information on other *Praxis* tests.

### 2) Assess how well you know the content.

Research shows that test takers tend to overestimate their preparedness—this is why some test takers assume they did well and then find out they did not pass.

The *Praxis* tests are demanding enough to require serious review of likely content, and the longer you've been away from the content, the more preparation you will most likely need. If it has been longer than a few months since you've studied your content area, make a concerted effort to prepare.

### 3) Collect study materials.

Gathering and organizing your materials for review are critical steps in preparing for the *Praxis* tests. Consider the following reference sources as you plan your study:

- Did you take a course in which the content area was covered? If yes, do you still have your books or your notes?
- Does your local library have a high school-level textbook in this area? Does your college library have a good introductory college-level textbook in this area?

Practice materials are available for purchase for many *Praxis* tests at [www.ets.org/praxis/testprep](http://www.ets.org/praxis/testprep). Test preparation materials include sample questions and answers with explanations.

### 4) Plan and organize your time.

You can begin to plan and organize your time while you are still collecting materials. Allow yourself plenty of review time to avoid cramming new material at the end. Here are a few tips:

- Choose a test date far enough in the future to leave you plenty of preparation time. Test dates can be found at [www.ets.org/praxis/register/centers\\_dates](http://www.ets.org/praxis/register/centers_dates).
- Work backward from that date to figure out how much time you will need for review.
- Set a realistic schedule—and stick to it.

### 5) Practice explaining the key concepts.

*Praxis* tests with constructed-response questions assess your ability to explain material effectively. As a teacher, you'll need to be able to explain concepts and processes to students in a clear, understandable way. What are the major concepts you will be required to teach? Can you explain them in your own words accurately, completely, and clearly? Practice explaining these concepts to test your ability to effectively explain what you know.

### 6) Understand how questions will be scored.

Scoring information can be found on page 41.

### 7) Develop a study plan.

A study plan provides a road map to prepare for the *Praxis* tests. It can help you understand what skills and knowledge are covered on the test and where to focus your attention. Use the study plan template on page 25 to organize your efforts.

And most important—get started!

## Would a Study Group Work for You?

### Using this guide as part of a study group

People who have a lot of studying to do sometimes find it helpful to form a study group with others who are working toward the same goal. Study groups give members opportunities to ask questions and get detailed answers. In a group, some members usually have a better understanding of certain topics, while others in the group may be better at other topics. As members take turns explaining concepts to one another, everyone builds self-confidence.

If the group encounters a question that none of the members can answer well, the group can go to a teacher or other expert and get answers efficiently. Because study groups schedule regular meetings, members study in a more disciplined fashion. They also gain emotional support. The group should be large enough so that multiple people can contribute different kinds of knowledge, but small enough so that it stays focused. Often, three to six members is a good size.

Here are some ways to use this guide as part of a study group:

- **Plan the group's study program.** Parts of the study plan template, beginning on page 25, can help to structure your group's study program. By filling out the first five columns and sharing the worksheets, everyone will learn more about your group's mix of abilities and about the resources, such as textbooks, that members can share with the group. In the sixth column ("Dates I will study the content"), you can create an overall schedule for your group's study program.
- **Plan individual group sessions.** At the end of each session, the group should decide what specific topics will be covered at the next meeting and who will present each topic. Use the topic headings and subheadings in the Test at a Glance table on page 5 to select topics, and then select practice questions, beginning on page 14.
- **Prepare your presentation for the group.** When it's your turn to present, prepare something that is more than a lecture. Write two or three original questions to pose to the group. Practicing writing actual questions can help you better understand the topics covered on the test as well as the types of questions you will encounter on the test. It will also give other members of the group extra practice at answering questions.

- **Take a practice test together.** The idea of a practice test is to simulate an actual administration of the test, so scheduling a test session with the group will add to the realism and may also help boost everyone's confidence. Remember, complete the practice test using only the time that will be allotted for that test on your administration day.
- **Learn from the results of the practice test.** Review the results of the practice test, including the number of questions answered correctly in each content category. For tests that contain constructed-response questions, look at the Sample Test Questions section, which also contain sample responses to those questions and shows how they were scored. Then try to follow the same guidelines that the test scorers use.
- **Be as critical as you can.** You're not doing your study partner(s) any favors by letting them get away with an answer that does not cover all parts of the question adequately.
- **Be specific.** Write comments that are as detailed as the comments about the sample responses. Indicate where and how your study partner(s) are doing an inadequate job of answering the question. Writing notes in the margins of the answer sheet may also help.
- **Be supportive.** Include comments that point out what your study partner(s) got right.

Then plan one or more study sessions based on aspects of the questions on which group members performed poorly. For example, each group member might be responsible for rewriting one paragraph of a response in which someone else did an inadequate job.

Whether you decide to study alone or with a group, remember that the best way to prepare is to have an organized plan. The plan should set goals based on specific topics and skills that you need to learn, and it should commit you to a realistic set of deadlines for meeting those goals. Then you need to discipline yourself to stick with your plan and accomplish your goals on schedule.

## 5. Develop Your Study Plan

### *Develop a personalized study plan and schedule*

Planning your study time is important because it will help ensure that you review all content areas covered on the test. Use the sample study plan below as a guide. It shows a plan for the *Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading* test. Following that is a study plan template that you can fill out to create your own plan. Use the "Learn about Your Test" and "Test Specifications" information beginning on page 5 to help complete it.

#### Use this worksheet to:

1. **Define Content Areas:** List the most important content areas for your test as defined in chapter 1.
2. **Determine Strengths and Weaknesses:** Identify your strengths and weaknesses in each content area.
3. **Identify Resources:** Identify the books, courses, and other resources you plan to use for each content area.
4. **Study:** Create and commit to a schedule that provides for regular study periods.

**Praxis Test Name (Test Code):** Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading (5712)

**Test Date:** 9/15/15

Content covered	Description of content	How well do I know the content? (scale 1–5)	What resources do I have/need for the content?	Where can I find the resources I need?	Dates I will study the content	Date completed
<b>Key Ideas and Details</b>						
Close reading	Draw inferences and implications from the directly stated content of a reading selection	3	Middle school English textbook	College library, middle school teacher	7/15/15	7/15/15
Determining Ideas	Identify summaries or paraphrases of the main idea or primary purpose of a reading selection	3	Middle school English textbook	College library, middle school teacher	7/17/15	7/17/15
Determining Ideas	Identify summaries or paraphrases of the supporting ideas and specific details in a reading selection	3	Middle and high school English textbook	College library, middle and high school teachers	7/20/15	7/21/15
<b>Craft, Structure, and Language Skills</b>						
Interpreting tone	Determine the author's attitude toward material discussed in a reading selection	4	Middle and high school English textbook	College library, middle and high school teachers	7/25/15	7/26/15
Analysis of structure	Identify key transition words and phrases in a reading selection and how they are used	3	Middle and high school English textbook, dictionary	College library, middle and high school teachers	7/25/15	7/27/15
Analysis of structure	Identify how a reading selection is organized in terms of cause/effect, compare/contrast, problem/solution, etc.	5	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/1/15	8/1/15
Author's purpose	Determine the role that an idea, reference, or piece of information plays in an author's discussion or argument	5	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/1/15	8/1/15

(continued on next page)

Content covered	Description of content	How well do I know the content? (scale 1–5)	What resources do I have/need for the content?	Where can I find the resources I need?	Dates I will study the content	Date completed
Language in different contexts	Determine whether information presented in a reading selection is presented as fact or opinion	4	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/1/15	8/1/15
Contextual meaning	Identify the meanings of words as they are used in the context of a reading selection	2	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/1/15	8/1/15
Figurative Language	Understand figurative language and nuances in word meanings	2	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/8/15	8/8/15
Vocabulary range	Understand a range of words and phrases sufficient for reading at the college and career readiness level	2	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/15/15	8/17/15
<b>Integration of Knowledge and Ideas</b>						
Diverse media and formats	Analyze content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words	2	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/22/15	8/24/15
Evaluation of arguments	Identify the relationship among ideas presented in a reading selection	4	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/24/15	8/24/15
Evaluation of arguments	Determine whether evidence strengthens, weakens, or is relevant to the arguments in a reading selection	3	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/27/15	8/27/15
Evaluation of arguments	Determine the logical assumptions upon which an argument or conclusion is based	5	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/28/15	8/30/15
Evaluation of arguments	Draw conclusions from material presented in a reading selection	5	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	8/30/15	8/31/15
Comparison of texts	Recognize or predict ideas or situations that are extensions of or similar to what has been presented in a reading selection	4	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	9/3/15	9/4/15
Comparison of texts	Apply ideas presented in a reading selection to other situations	2	High school textbook, college course notes	College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor	9/5/15	9/6/15



## My Study Plan

Use this worksheet to:

1. **Define Content Areas:** List the most important content areas for your test as defined in chapter 1.
2. **Determine Strengths and Weaknesses:** Identify your strengths and weaknesses in each content area.
3. **Identify Resources:** Identify the books, courses, and other resources you plan to use for each content area.
4. **Study:** Create and commit to a schedule that provides for regular study periods.

Praxis Test Name (Test Code): \_\_\_\_\_

Test Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Content covered	Description of content	How well do I know the content? (scale 1–5)	What resources do I have/need for this content?	Where can I find the resources I need?	Dates I will study this content	Date completed

(continued on next page)



## 6. Review Study Topics

*Detailed study topics with questions for discussion*

### Using the Study Topics That Follow

The Pennsylvania Grades 4-8 Subject Concentration: Mathematics test is designed to measure the knowledge and skills necessary for a beginning teacher.

This chapter is intended to help you organize your preparation for the test and to give you a clear indication of the depth and breadth of the knowledge required for success on the test.

Virtually all accredited programs address the topics covered by the test; however, you are not expected to be an expert on all aspects of the topics that follow.

You are likely to find that the topics below are covered by most introductory textbooks. Consult materials and resources, including lecture and laboratory notes, from all your coursework. You should be able to match up specific topics and subtopics with what you have covered in your courses.

Try not to be overwhelmed by the volume and scope of content knowledge in this guide. Although a specific term may not seem familiar as you see it here, you might find you can understand it when applied to a real-life situation. Many of the items on the actual test will provide you with a context to apply to these topics or terms.

### Discussion Areas

Interspersed throughout the study topics are discussion areas, presented as open-ended questions or statements. These discussion areas are intended to help test your knowledge of fundamental concepts and your ability to apply those concepts to situations in the classroom or the real world. Most of the areas require you to combine several pieces of knowledge to formulate an integrated understanding and response. If you spend time on these areas, you will gain increased understanding and facility with the subject matter covered on the test. You may want to discuss these areas and your answers with a teacher or mentor.

Note that this study companion *does not provide answers for the discussion area questions*, but thinking about the answers to them will help improve your understanding of fundamental concepts and will probably help you answer a broad range of questions on the test.

## Study Topics

An overview of the areas covered on the test, along with their subareas, follows.

### I. Arithmetic and Algebra

#### A. Numbers and Operations

1. Understands operations and properties of the real number system
  - a. solve problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers
  - b. describe the effect that an operation has on a given number (e.g., adding a negative, dividing by a fraction)
  - c. apply the order of operations
  - d. identify or apply properties of operations on a number system (i.e., commutative, associative, distributive, identity, closure)
  - e. compare, classify, and order real numbers
  - f. perform operations involving exponents, including negative exponents
  - g. simplify and approximate radicals
  - h. use scientific notation to represent and compare numbers
2. Understands the relationships among fractions, decimals, and percents
  - a. convert among fractions, decimals, and percents
  - b. represent fractions, decimals, and percents using various models
3. Understands how to use ratios and proportional relationships to solve problems
  - a. use ratio language and notation to describe a relationship between two quantities
  - b. recognize and represent proportional and inversely proportional relationships between two quantities
  - c. use proportional relationships to solve problems (e.g., rates, scale factors, percents)
4. Understands how to use basic concepts of number theory (e.g., divisibility, prime factorization, multiples) to solve problems
  - a. recognize characteristics of prime and composite numbers
  - b. recognize characteristics of odd and even numbers
  - c. solve problems involving factors, multiples, and divisibility
5. Knows how to use estimation strategies to determine the reasonableness of results
  - a. use estimation to solve problems
  - b. estimate absolute and relative error in the numerical answer to a problem

#### Discussion areas

- Be able to correctly solve problems involving the basic operations, including problems with fractions.
- Can you describe common mistakes students make when performing basic operations, including operations with fractions?
- Can you describe the result when an expression is divided by a proper fraction, or multiplied by a negative number?
- Do you know what order of operations your calculator uses?
- Identify proper uses of the commutative, associative, distributive, and identity properties.
- Can you give examples where you might use additive or multiplicative inverses?
- Identify and determine additive and multiplicative inverses of numbers.
- Can you explain the difference between a rational and an irrational number?
- Be able to simplify expressions of the form  $(3^2)(3^4)$ ,  $\frac{x^3}{x^5}$ ,  $\frac{\sqrt{8}}{2}$
- Can you give other representations of  $x^{\frac{2}{3}}$ ,  $x^{\frac{5}{2}}$ , and  $x^{-2}$ ?
- Do you recall that  $(x^3)^{-1} = (x)^{-3} = \frac{1}{x^3}$ ?

- Can you describe real-life scenarios that are best modeled using expressions containing powers and roots?
- Be able to recognize and use multiple representations of fractions, decimals, percents, and integers
- Can you give examples where different representations would be useful in developing deeper understanding of mathematical concepts?
- Be able to convert from fractions to decimals, decimals to fractions, and fractions to percents
- Be able to place fractions and/or decimals in the proper order on the number line
- Can you describe the difference between a ratio and a rate?
- Can you describe several real-world applications of proportional reasoning?
- Use unit rates, scale factors, map legends, etc., to answer problems
- Can you use percents to answer problems involving tax, discounts, gratuities, commissions, etc.?
- Can you calculate percent change and percent of percents?
- Be able to express relationships in terms of ratios
- Use unit analysis to convert measurement units, e.g., miles per hour to feet per second
- Can you find prime factorizations, greatest common factors, and least common multiples?
- Can you describe real-world contexts where these concepts might be used?

## B. Algebra

1. Understands how to evaluate and manipulate algebraic expressions, equations, and formulas
  - a. perform arithmetic operations on polynomials
  - b. manipulate and perform arithmetic operations on rational expressions
2. Understands how to recognize and represent linear relationships algebraically
  - a. determine the equation of a line
  - b. recognize and use the basic forms of linear equations
  - c. convert among various forms of linear equations (e.g., slope-intercept, point-slope, standard)
3. Understands how to solve linear equations and inequalities
  - a. solve one-variable linear equations and inequalities algebraically
  - b. represent solutions to one-variable linear equations and inequalities on number lines and using set-builder notation
4. Knows how to represent and solve nonlinear equations and inequalities
  - a. solve one-variable nonlinear equations and inequalities (e.g., absolute value, quadratic) algebraically
  - b. represent solutions to one-variable nonlinear equations and inequalities on number lines and using set-builder notation
5. Knows how to represent and solve systems of equations and inequalities
  - a. represent and solve systems of linear equations and inequalities with two variables algebraically
  - b. represent and solve systems of linear equations and inequalities with two variables graphically
6. Understands how to recognize and represent simple sequences or patterns (e.g., arithmetic, geometric)
  - a. evaluate, extend, or algebraically represent rules involving number patterns
  - b. describe or extend patterns involving shapes or figures

**Discussion areas**

- Can you demonstrate the similarities between arithmetic operations with real numbers and the corresponding operations with algebraic (symbolic) representations?
- Can you explain how the “FOIL” method of multiplying two binomials is an example of the distributive property of multiplication over addition?
- Are you able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide polynomials?
- Can you add, subtract, multiply, and divide algebraic fractions such as  $\frac{6-x}{5x-30}$  or  $\frac{c^2+5c}{c^2+12c+35}$  ?
- Can you simplify  $\frac{2b-3ab}{9a^2-4}$  ?
- Be able to translate verbal expressions and relationships into algebraic expressions and equations
- Be able to solve linear and quadratic equations
- Recognize and use the slope-intercept, point-slope, and standard forms of linear equations
- Can you determine the equation of a line, given any two points on the line?
- Can you determine the equation of a line, given the slope of the line and one point on the line?
- Can you determine the equation of a line if you are given the x- and y-intercepts?
- Be able to solve linear equations for a given variable. For example, can you solve the equation  $y = mx + b$  for  $x$  ?
- Can you solve quadratic equations and equations and inequalities containing absolute values of algebraic expressions?
- Can you identify quadratic equations that can be solved by factoring?
- Can you use the quadratic formula to solve quadratic equations?
- Can you solve equations such as  $|2x + 4| = 12$  and  $|2x - 5| = 3x + 4$  ?
- Can you solve inequalities, such as  $-3|x + 4| > 15$ , and graph their solutions?
- Can you graph the solution to an inequality in one variable on a number line?
- Can you describe what the graph of the solution of an inequality in two variables (in the  $xy$ -plane) looks like?
- Can you describe, in words, what it means to be the algebraic solution of a system of linear equations?
- Can you describe, in words, what it means to be the graphical solution of a system of linear equations?
- Be able to find the value of a term in a sequence or pattern
- Be able to write an expression or equation that represents a sequence or pattern
- Be able to extend patterns of shapes to solve problems

**C. Functions and Their Graphs**

1. Understands how to identify, define, and evaluate functions
  - a. use function notation
  - b. determine whether a relation is a function
  - c. evaluate functions for given values (algebraically, graphically, tabular)
2. Knows how to determine and interpret the domain and the range of functions represented numerically, graphically, or algebraically
  - a. determine the domain and range of a given table of values
  - b. determine the domain and range from a given graph of a function
  - c. determine the domain and range of a given function that is represented algebraically
  - d. interpret domain and range in real-world settings

3. Understands basic characteristics of linear functions (e.g., slope, intercepts)
    - a. determine the slope of a given linear function
    - b. interpret slope as a constant rate of change
    - c. determine the x- and y-intercepts of a given linear function
    - d. interpret the x- and y-intercepts of a given linear function
  4. Understands the relationships among functions, tables and graphs
    - a. determine and interpret the x- and y-intercepts of a nonlinear function
    - b. given a graph (e.g., linear, quadratic, absolute value, simple exponential), determine an equation that best represents the graph
    - c. determine the graphical properties and sketch a graph given an equation of a linear, quadratic, absolute value, or simple exponential function
  5. Knows how to analyze and represent functions that model given information
    - a. develop a model (e.g., graph, equation, table) of a given set of conditions
    - b. evaluate whether a particular mathematical model (e.g., graph, equation, table) can be used to describe a given set of conditions
    - c. interpret a particular mathematical model (e.g., graph, equation, table)
- Be able to evaluate functions represented in algebraic, graphical, or tabular form for given values in their domains.
  - Be able to find the domain (x-values) and range (y-values) of a function.
  - Be able to find the slope and intercepts of a linear equation and interpret the slope and intercepts in the context of a real-world problem.
  - When given a linear, quadratic, or exponential equation, be able to describe some important characteristics of the graph of the equation (e.g., x- and y-intercepts).
  - Given the graph of a line, a parabola, a step function, an absolute value function, or an exponential function, be able to select the equation that best represents the graph.
  - Can you identify a graph, equation (e.g., linear, quadratic, exponential), or table that matches a given description of a function?
  - Given a quadratic equation of the form  $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ , can you describe the shape of the graph of the equation? Can you explain what characteristic of the graph is determined by whether the coefficient  $a$  is positive or negative?
  - Can you describe and sketch the graph of the function  $y = |x|$ ?
  - Can you identify the intervals of increase and decrease of a function?
  - Can you identify the axis of symmetry of the graph of a quadratic function?
  - Can you identify the roots of a quadratic equation from its graph?
  - Given one representation (algebraic, numeric, geometric, or verbal) of a situation, be able to provide other representations or models of the situation.
  - Can you describe a situation that is best modeled by a linear equation? By a quadratic equation? By an exponential equation?

#### Discussion areas

- Can you give an algebraic definition of a function?
- Can you decide if a given set of conditions determines a function?
- Can you explain why  $(1, 2), (2, 0), (-1, -2), (1, 3)$  is not a function, but  $(1, -1), (2, -2), (3, 5), (4, 10), (5, 12)$  is a function?
- Be able to identify the graph of a function by performing the vertical line test.
- Can you explain why  $y = x^2$  is the graph of a function of  $x$ , while  $x = y^2$  is not the graph of a function of  $x$ ?

## II. Geometry and Data

### A. Geometry and Measurement

1. Understands how to solve problems involving perimeter and area of plane figures
  - a. calculate and interpret perimeter and area of geometric shapes
  - b. calculate changes in perimeter and area as the dimensions of geometric shapes change
  - c. use correct units of measurement in problems involving perimeter and area
2. Knows how to solve problems involving surface area and volume of solids
  - a. calculate and interpret surface area and volume of geometric shapes
  - b. calculate changes in surface area and volume as the dimensions of a solid change
  - c. use correct units of measurement in problems involving surface area and volume
  - d. use two-dimensional representations of three-dimensional objects to visualize and solve problems
3. Understands the concepts of similarity and congruence
  - a. determine whether two figures are similar or congruent
  - b. use similarity and congruence to solve problems with two-dimensional and three-dimensional figures
  - c. use proper notation when solving problems involving similarity and congruence
4. Knows the properties of lines (e.g., parallel, perpendicular, intersecting) and angles
  - a. solve problems involving parallel, perpendicular, intersecting, and skew lines
  - b. apply angle relationships (e.g., vertical, supplementary, alternate interior) to solve problems
  - c. use proper notation when solving problems involving lines and angles
5. Understands properties of triangles
  - a. solve problems involving sides (e.g., Pythagorean theorem) and angles
  - b. recognize characteristics of special triangles (e.g., isosceles, right, 30-60-90)
6. Knows properties of quadrilaterals (e.g., rectangle, rhombus, trapezoid) and other polygons
  - a. identify geometric properties of various quadrilaterals and the relationships among them (e.g., parallelogram, trapezoid)
  - b. solve problems involving sides, angles, or diagonals of polygons
7. Understands properties of circles
  - a. solve problems involving circumference and area of a circle
  - b. solve problems involving diameter and radius of a circle
  - c. solve basic problems involving central angles, arcs, chords, and sectors
8. Knows how to interpret geometric relationships in the  $xy$ -plane (e.g., transformations, distance, midpoint)
  - a. identify the characteristics of ordered pairs located in quadrants and on the axes of the coordinate plane
  - b. use coordinate geometry to represent and identify the properties of geometric shapes (e.g., Pythagorean theorem, area of a rectangle)
  - c. determine the distance between two points
  - d. determine the midpoint of a line segment given its endpoints
  - e. interpret and solve problems involving transformations (i.e., translations, reflections, rotations, dilations)
9. Understands systems of measurement (e.g., metric, customary)
  - a. solve measurement and estimation problems involving time, length, temperature, volume, and mass in both United States customary and metric systems
  - b. convert units within the United States customary system or the metric system
  - c. convert units between the United States customary and metric systems



10. Is familiar with how geometric constructions are made
  - a. identify formal geometric constructions made with a variety of tools and methods (e.g., copying a segment, bisecting an angle, constructing parallel and perpendicular lines)
11. Is familiar with the basic concepts of right triangle trigonometry
  - a. use trigonometric ratios in right triangles to solve problems

#### Discussion areas

- Be able to compute and apply basic formulas for deriving perimeter and area for various figures
- Can you find the area of a square when its perimeter is given?
- Can you describe real-life applications that involve finding perimeter or area?
- Be able to compute and apply basic formulas for volume and surface area of various figures
- Can you describe real-life applications that involve finding surface area or volume?
- Can you use the fact that the lengths of corresponding sides of similar polygons are proportional to solve problems involving missing measurements?
- Be able to identify congruent triangles using the triangle congruence theorems and postulates, such as Side-Angle-Angle or Side-Angle-Side
- Do you recall the relationships between the ratio of corresponding sides of similar figures and the corresponding ratios of perimeters, areas, and volumes of the similar figures?
- Be able to identify congruent and supplementary angles given two parallel lines and a transversal
- Do you recall the different types of triangles, such as isosceles, equilateral, scalene, acute, right, and obtuse?
- Be able to find missing lengths of sides or measures of angles in triangles
- Can you find the length of a side of a right triangle when the other two sides are given?
- Do you recall the triangle inequality?
- Do you know how to find the medians, angle bisectors, and altitudes of a triangle?
- Be able to identify and use special characteristics of the square, rectangle, rhombus, parallelogram, and trapezoid to solve problems involving lengths of sides and measures of angles
- Be able to recognize distinctions among the different types of quadrilaterals
- Be able to find missing angle measures or side lengths in polygons with more than four sides
- Be able to find the measures of interior and exterior angles of regular polygons
- Be able to compute and apply basic formulas for finding circumference, area, diameter, or radius of a circle
- Do you recall the relationship between the central angle of a sector, the length of the sector's arc, and the circumference of the circle?
- Do you recall the relationship between the central angle of a sector, the area of the sector, and the area of the circle?
- Be able to find the distance between any two points in the  $xy$ -plane.
- Be able to find the coordinates of the midpoint of a line segment.
- Be able to reflect, rotate, translate, and dilate figures in the  $xy$ -plane
- Be able to identify images of points that have been reflected, rotated, and/or translated in the  $xy$ -plane
- Be able to solve measurement problems in context
- Use provided conversion factors and/or formulas to solve measurement problems
- Can you convert centimeters to meters, inches to feet, and hours to seconds?

- Can you construct a flow chart of the steps in a geometric construction?
- Can you justify why a particular construction produces the desired results?
- Can you use right triangle trigonometry to find measures of angles and lengths of sides of right triangles?

## **B. Probability, Statistics, and Discrete Math**

1. Understands how to interpret, analyze, and represent data presented in a variety of displays
  - a. analyze and interpret various displays of data (e.g., box plots, histograms, scatterplots, stem-and-leaf plots)
  - b. draw conclusions based on graphical displays (e.g., misleading representation of data, line of best fit, interpolation)
  - c. choose appropriate graphs based on data (e.g., represent data accurately, choose correct types of graphs)
2. Knows how to develop, use, and evaluate probability models
  - a. use counting techniques (e.g., the counting principle, permutations, combinations) to answer questions involving a finite sample space
  - b. solve probability problems involving independent and dependent events
  - c. use geometric probability to solve problems
3. Understands concepts associated with measures of central tendency and dispersion (spread)
  - a. solve for the mean and weighted average of given sets of data
  - b. determine and interpret mean, median, and mode in a variety of problems
  - c. determine and interpret common features of sets of data (e.g., range and outliers)
  - d. choose appropriate measures of central tendency to represent given sets of data
  - e. recognize standard deviations on the normal curve
4. Is familiar with how to use visual representations to model and solve problems
  - a. use and interpret simple diagrams (e.g., Venn diagrams, flowcharts) to solve problems
5. Is familiar with logical reasoning and proofs
  - a. evaluate the truth of conditional relationships expressed as if-then statements
  - b. use if-then statements to construct simple valid arguments
  - c. draw inductive and deductive conclusions within mathematical contexts
  - d. complete simple algebraic and geometric proofs
  - e. identify errors in simple algebraic and geometric proofs

### **Discussion areas**

- Can you decide which form of data representation is appropriate for different purposes and explain why the choice is appropriate?
- Be able to understand and present data in various forms, including tables, charts, histograms, line graphs, bar graphs, double bar graphs, double line graphs, circle graphs, scatterplots, stem-and-leaf plots, line plots, and box plots.
- Be able to use interpolation and extrapolation to make predictions based on real-world data.
- Be able to compare distributions from 2 populations
- Be able to solve problems by actually counting individual outcomes or by using counting techniques.
- Can you identify all possible outcomes from tossing a pair of numbered cubes?
- Can you describe two problems that can be solved using counting methods: one in which order is important (permutations) and one in which it is not (combinations)?
- Be able to construct or interpret a tree diagram that models a sample space.

- Be able to solve probability problems involving independent and dependent events.
- Be able to find and interpret common measures of central tendency, including arithmetic mean, weighted mean, median, and mode.
- Be able to know which measure of central tendency is most meaningful to use in a given situation.
- Be able to find and interpret common measures of dispersion such as range, interquartile range, and outliers.
- Be able to use Venn diagrams to answer problems.
- Do you recall how to form the contrapositive of an if-then statement?
- Can you recognize examples of deductive reasoning and examples of inductive reasoning?given situation.

## 7. Review Smart Tips for Success

### *Follow test-taking tips developed by experts*

Learn from the experts. Take advantage of the following answers to questions you may have and practical tips to help you navigate the *Praxis* test and make the best use of your time.

#### **Should I guess?**

Yes. Your score is based on the number of questions you answer correctly, with no penalty or subtraction for an incorrect answer. When you don't know the answer to a question, try to eliminate any obviously wrong answers and then guess at the correct one. Try to pace yourself so that you have enough time to carefully consider every question.

#### **Can I answer the questions in any order?**

You can answer the questions in order or skip questions and come back to them later. If you skip a question, you can also mark it so that you can remember to return and answer it later. Remember that questions left unanswered are treated the same as questions answered incorrectly, so it is to your advantage to answer every question.

#### **Are there trick questions on the test?**

No. There are no hidden meanings or trick questions. All of the questions on the test ask about subject matter knowledge in a straightforward manner.

#### **Are there answer patterns on the test?**

No. You might have heard this myth: the answers on tests follow patterns. Another myth is that there will never be more than two questions in a row with the correct answer in the same position among the choices. Neither myth is true. Select the answer you think is correct based on your knowledge of the subject.

#### **Can I write on the scratch paper I am given?**

Yes. You can work out problems on the scratch paper, make notes to yourself, or write anything at all. Your scratch paper will be destroyed after you are finished with it, so use it in any way that is helpful to you. But make sure to select or enter your answers on the computer.

### **Smart Tips for Taking the Test**

- 1. Skip the questions you find extremely difficult.** Rather than trying to answer these on your first pass through the test, you may want to leave them blank and mark them so that you can return to them later. Pay attention to the time as you answer the rest of the questions on the test, and try to finish with 10 or 15 minutes remaining so that you can go back over the questions you left blank. Even if you don't know the answer the second time you read the questions, see if you can narrow down the possible answers, and then guess. Your score is based on the number of right answers, so it is to your advantage to answer every question.

2. **Keep track of the time.** The on-screen clock will tell you how much time you have left. You will probably have plenty of time to answer all of the questions, but if you find yourself becoming bogged down, you might decide to move on and come back to any unanswered questions later.
3. **Read all of the possible answers before selecting one.** For questions that require you to select more than one answer, or to make another kind of selection, consider the most likely answers given what the question is asking. Then reread the question to be sure the answer(s) you have given really answer the question. Remember, a question that contains a phrase such as “Which of the following does NOT . . .” is asking for the one answer that is NOT a correct statement or conclusion.
4. **Check your answers.** If you have extra time left over at the end of the test, look over each question and make sure that you have answered it as you intended. Many test takers make careless mistakes that they could have corrected if they had checked their answers.
5. **Don’t worry about your score when you are taking the test.** No one is expected to answer all of the questions correctly. Your score on this test is not analogous to your score on the *GRE*® or other tests. It doesn’t matter on the *Praxis* tests whether you score very high or barely pass. If you meet the minimum passing scores for your state and you meet the state’s other requirements for obtaining a teaching license, you will receive a license. In other words, what matters is meeting the minimum passing score. You can find passing scores for all states that use the *Praxis* tests at [http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/passing\\_scores.pdf](http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/passing_scores.pdf) or on the web site of the state for which you are seeking certification/licensure.
6. **Use your energy to take the test, not to get frustrated by it.** Getting frustrated only increases stress and decreases the likelihood that you will do your best. Highly qualified educators and test development professionals, all with backgrounds in teaching, worked diligently to make the test a fair and valid measure of your knowledge and skills. Your state painstakingly reviewed the test before adopting it as a licensure requirement. The best thing to do is concentrate on answering the questions.

## 8. Check on Testing Accommodations

*See if you qualify for accommodations that may make it easier to take the Praxis test*

### What if English is not my primary language?

*Praxis* tests are given only in English. If your primary language is not English (PLNE), you may be eligible for extended testing time. For more details, visit [www.ets.org/praxis/register/plne\\_accommodations/](http://www.ets.org/praxis/register/plne_accommodations/).

### What if I have a disability or other health-related need?

The following accommodations are available for *Praxis* test takers who meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act disability requirements:

- Extended testing time
- Additional rest breaks
- Separate testing room
- Writer/recorder of answers
- Test reader
- Sign language interpreter for spoken directions only
- Perkins Braille
- Braille slate and stylus
- Printed copy of spoken directions
- Oral interpreter
- Audio test
- Braille test
- Large print test book
- Large print answer sheet
- Listening section omitted

For more information on these accommodations, visit [www.ets.org/praxis/register/disabilities](http://www.ets.org/praxis/register/disabilities).

**Note:** Test takers who have health-related needs requiring them to bring equipment, beverages, or snacks into the testing room or to take extra or extended breaks must request these accommodations by following the procedures described in the *Bulletin Supplement for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-Related Needs* (PDF), which can be found at [http://www.ets.org/s/disabilities/pdf/bulletin\\_supplement\\_test\\_takers\\_with\\_disabilities\\_health\\_needs.pdf](http://www.ets.org/s/disabilities/pdf/bulletin_supplement_test_takers_with_disabilities_health_needs.pdf).

You can find additional information on available resources for test takers with disabilities or health-related needs at [www.ets.org/disabilities](http://www.ets.org/disabilities).

## 9. Do Your Best on Test Day

*Get ready for test day so you will be calm and confident*

You followed your study plan. You prepared for the test. Now it's time to prepare for test day.

Plan to end your review a day or two before the actual test date so you avoid cramming. Take a dry run to the test center so you're sure of the route, traffic conditions, and parking. Most of all, you want to eliminate any unexpected factors that could distract you from your ultimate goal—passing the *Praxis* test!

On the day of the test, you should:

- be well rested
- wear comfortable clothes and dress in layers
- eat before you take the test
- bring an acceptable and valid photo identification with you
- bring an approved calculator only if one is specifically permitted for the test you are taking (see Calculator Use, at [http://www.ets.org/praxis/test\\_day/policies/calculators](http://www.ets.org/praxis/test_day/policies/calculators))
- be prepared to stand in line to check in or to wait while other test takers check in

You can't control the testing situation, but you can control yourself. Stay calm. The supervisors are well trained and make every effort to provide uniform testing conditions, but don't let it bother you if the test doesn't start exactly on time. You will have the allotted amount of time once it does start.

You can think of preparing for this test as training for an athletic event. Once you've trained, prepared, and rested, give it everything you've got.

### What items am I restricted from bringing into the test center?

You cannot bring into the test center personal items such as:

- handbags, knapsacks, or briefcases
- water bottles or canned or bottled beverages
- study materials, books, or notes
- pens, pencils, scrap paper, or calculators, unless specifically permitted for the test you are taking (see Calculator Use, at [http://www.ets.org/praxis/test\\_day/policies/calculators](http://www.ets.org/praxis/test_day/policies/calculators))
- any electronic, photographic, recording, or listening devices

Personal items are not allowed in the testing room and will not be available to you during the test or during breaks. You may also be asked to empty your pockets. At some centers, you will be assigned a space to store your belongings, such as handbags and study materials. Some centers do not have secure storage space available, so please plan accordingly.

Test centers assume no responsibility for your personal items.

If you have health-related needs requiring you to bring equipment, beverages or snacks into the testing room or to take extra or extended breaks, you need to request accommodations in advance. Procedures for requesting accommodations are described in the [Bulletin Supplement for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-related Needs \(PDF\)](#).

**Note:** All cell phones, smart phones (e.g., Android® devices, iPhones®, etc.), and other electronic, photographic, recording, or listening devices are strictly prohibited from the test center. If you are seen with such a device, you will be dismissed from the test, your test scores will be canceled, and you will forfeit your test fees. If you are seen *using* such a device, the device will be confiscated and inspected. For more information on what you can bring to the test center, visit [www.ets.org/praxis/test\\_day/bring](http://www.ets.org/praxis/test_day/bring).

### Are You Ready?

Complete this checklist to determine whether you are ready to take your test.

- Do you know the testing requirements for the license or certification you are seeking in the state(s) where you plan to teach?
- Have you followed all of the test registration procedures?
- Do you know the topics that will be covered in each test you plan to take?
- Have you reviewed any textbooks, class notes, and course readings that relate to the topics covered?
- Do you know how long the test will take and the number of questions it contains?
- Have you considered how you will pace your work?
- Are you familiar with the types of questions for your test?
- Are you familiar with the recommended test-taking strategies?
- Have you practiced by working through the practice questions in this study companion or in a study guide or practice test?
- If constructed-response questions are part of your test, do you understand the scoring criteria for these questions?
- If you are repeating a *Praxis* test, have you analyzed your previous score report to determine areas where additional study and test preparation could be useful?

If you answered “yes” to the questions above, your preparation has paid off. Now take the *Praxis* test, do your best, pass it—and begin your teaching career!



# 10. Understand Your Scores

*Understand how tests are scored and how to interpret your test scores*

Of course, passing the *Praxis* test is important to you so you need to understand what your scores mean and what your state requirements are.

## What are the score requirements for my state?

States, institutions, and associations that require the tests set their own passing scores. Visit [www.ets.org/praxis/states](http://www.ets.org/praxis/states) for the most up-to-date information.

## If I move to another state, will my new state accept my scores?

The *Praxis* tests are part of a national testing program, meaning that they are required in many states for licensure. The advantage of a national program is that if you move to another state that also requires *Praxis* tests, you can transfer your scores. Each state has specific test requirements and passing scores, which you can find at [www.ets.org/praxis/states](http://www.ets.org/praxis/states).

## How do I know whether I passed the test?

Your score report will include information on passing scores for the states you identified as recipients of your test results. If you test in a state with automatic score reporting, you will also receive passing score information for that state.

A list of states and their passing scores for each test are available online at [www.ets.org/praxis/states](http://www.ets.org/praxis/states).

## What your *Praxis* scores mean

You received your score report. Now what does it mean? It's important to interpret your score report correctly and to know what to do if you have questions about your scores.

Visit [http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/sample\\_score\\_report.pdf](http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/sample_score_report.pdf) to see a sample score report.

To access *Understanding Your Praxis Scores*, a document that provides additional information on how to read your score report, visit [www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand](http://www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand).

## Put your scores in perspective

Your score report indicates:

- Your score and whether you passed
- The range of possible scores
- The raw points available in each content category
- The range of the middle 50 percent of scores on the test

If you have taken the same *Praxis* test or other *Praxis* tests in the last 10 years, your score report also lists the highest score you earned on each test taken.

## Content category scores and score interpretation

Questions on the *Praxis* tests are categorized by content. To help you in future study or in preparing to retake the test, your score report shows how many raw points you earned in each content category. Compare your “raw points earned” with the maximum points you could have earned (“raw points available”). The greater the difference, the greater the opportunity to improve your score by further study.

## Score scale changes

ETS updates *Praxis* tests on a regular basis to ensure they accurately measure the knowledge and skills that are required for licensure. When tests are updated, the meaning of the score scale may change, so requirements may vary between the new and previous versions. All scores for previous, discontinued tests are valid and reportable for 10 years, provided that your state or licensing agency still accepts them.

These resources may also help you interpret your scores:

- *Understanding Your Praxis Scores* (PDF), found at [www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand](http://www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand)
- *The Praxis Passing Scores* (PDF), found at [www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand](http://www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand)
- State requirements, found at [www.ets.org/praxis/states](http://www.ets.org/praxis/states)

# Appendix: Other Questions You May Have

Here is some supplemental information that can give you a better understanding of the *Praxis* tests.

## What do the *Praxis* tests measure?

The *Praxis* tests measure the specific knowledge and skills that beginning teachers need. The tests do not measure an individual's disposition toward teaching or potential for success, nor do they measure your actual teaching ability. The assessments are designed to be comprehensive and inclusive but are limited to what can be covered in a finite number of questions and question types. Teaching requires many complex skills that are typically measured in other ways, including classroom observation, video recordings, and portfolios.

Ranging from Agriculture to World Languages, there are more than 80 *Praxis* tests, which contain selected-response questions or constructed-response questions, or a combination of both.

## Who takes the tests and why?

Some colleges and universities use the *Praxis* Core Academic Skills for Educators tests (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) to evaluate individuals for entry into teacher education programs. The assessments are generally taken early in your college career. Many states also require Core Academic Skills test scores as part of their teacher licensing process.

Individuals entering the teaching profession take the *Praxis* content and pedagogy tests as part of the teacher licensing and certification process required by many states. In addition, some professional associations and organizations require *Praxis*® Subject Assessments for professional licensing.

## Do all states require these tests?

The *Praxis* tests are currently required for teacher licensure in approximately 40 states and United States territories. These tests are also used by several professional licensing agencies and by several hundred colleges and universities. Teacher candidates can test in one state and submit their scores in any other state that requires *Praxis* testing for licensure. You can find details at [www.ets.org/praxis/states](http://www.ets.org/praxis/states).

## What is licensure/certification?

Licensure in any area—medicine, law, architecture, accounting, cosmetology—is an assurance to the public that the person holding the license possesses sufficient knowledge and skills to perform important occupational activities safely and effectively. In the case of teacher licensing, a license tells the public that the individual has met predefined competency standards for beginning teaching practice.

Because a license makes such a serious claim about its holder, licensure tests are usually quite demanding. In some fields, licensure tests have more than one part and last for more than one day. Candidates for licensure in all fields plan intensive study as part of their professional preparation. Some join study groups, others study alone. But preparing to take a licensure test is, in all cases, a professional activity. Because a licensure exam surveys a broad body of knowledge, preparing for a licensure exam takes planning, discipline, and sustained effort.

## Why does my state require the *Praxis* tests?

Your state chose the *Praxis* tests because they assess the breadth and depth of content—called the “domain”—that your state wants its teachers to possess before they begin to teach. The level of content knowledge, reflected in the passing score, is based on recommendations of panels of teachers and teacher educators in

each subject area. The state licensing agency and, in some states, the state legislature ratify the passing scores that have been recommended by panels of teachers.

### How were the tests developed?

ETS consulted with practicing teachers and teacher educators around the country during every step of the *Praxis* test development process. First, ETS asked them what knowledge and skills a beginning teacher needs to be effective. Their responses were then ranked in order of importance and reviewed by hundreds of teachers.

After the results were analyzed and consensus was reached, guidelines, or specifications, for the selected-response and constructed-response tests were developed by teachers and teacher educators. Following these guidelines, teachers and professional test developers created test questions that met content requirements and [\*ETS Standards for Quality and Fairness\*](#).\*

When your state adopted the research-based *Praxis* tests, local panels of teachers and teacher educators evaluated each question for its relevance to beginning teachers in your state. During this “validity study,” the panel also provided a passing-score recommendation based on how many of the test questions a beginning teacher in your state would be able to answer correctly. Your state’s licensing agency determined the final passing-score requirement.

ETS follows well-established industry procedures and standards designed to ensure that the tests measure what they are intended to measure. When you pass the *Praxis* tests your state requires, you are proving that you have the knowledge and skills you need to begin your teaching career.

### How are the tests updated to ensure the content remains current?

*Praxis* tests are reviewed regularly. During the first phase of review, ETS conducts an analysis of relevant state and association standards and of the current test content. State licensure titles and the results of relevant job analyses are also considered. Revised test questions are then produced following the standard test development methodology. National advisory committees may also be convened to review and revise existing test specifications and to evaluate test forms for alignment with the specifications.

### How long will it take to receive my scores?

Scores for tests that do not include constructed-response questions are available on screen immediately after the test. Scores for tests that contain constructed-response questions or essays aren’t available immediately after the test because of the scoring process involved. Official score reports are available to you and your designated score recipients approximately two to three weeks after the test date for tests delivered continuously, or two to three weeks after the testing window closes for other tests. See the test dates and deadlines calendar at [www.ets.org/praxis/register/centers\\_dates](http://www.ets.org/praxis/register/centers_dates) for exact score reporting dates.

### Can I access my scores on the web?

All test takers can access their test scores via My *Praxis* Account free of charge for one year from the posting date. This online access replaces the mailing of a paper score report.

The process is easy—simply log into My *Praxis* Account at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) and click on your score report. If you do not already have a *Praxis* account, you must create one to view your scores.

**Note:** You must create a *Praxis* account to access your scores, even if you registered by mail or phone.

\*[\*ETS Standards for Quality and Fairness\*](#) (2014, Princeton, N.J.) are consistent with the [\*Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing\*](#), industry standards issued jointly by the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education (2014, Washington, D.C.).

Your teaching career is worth preparing for, so start today!  
Let the *Praxis*® *Study Companion* guide you.

To search for the *Praxis* test prep resources  
that meet your specific needs, visit:

[www.ets.org/praxis/testprep](http://www.ets.org/praxis/testprep)

To purchase official test prep made by the creators  
of the *Praxis* tests, visit the ETS Store:

[www.ets.org/praxis/store](http://www.ets.org/praxis/store)

Copyright © 2016 by Educational Testing Service. All rights reserved. ETS, the ETS logo, GRE,  
and PRAXIS are registered trademarks of Educational Testing Service (ETS). MEASURING THE POWER OF LEARNING is a trademark of  
ETS. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.

