

## Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0280)

<i>Test at a Glance</i>			
Test Name	Teaching Students with Visual Impairments		
Test Code	0280		
Time	2 hours		
Number of Questions	120		
Format	Multiple-choice questions		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Questions
	I. General Knowledge	15	13%
	II. Impairing Conditions As They Affect Students' Lives and Development	28	23%
	III. Legal Considerations and Professional Ethics	12	10%
	IV. Planning and Implementation of Instruction	53	44%
	V. Professional Interactions and Relationships in the Educational Process	12	10%

### About This Test

The Teaching Students with Visual Impairments test is designed for prospective teachers of students with visual impairments and for prospective consultants to teachers of students with visual impairments. It assesses the knowledge and skills necessary for safe and effective practice at the time of entry into the profession.

The 120 multiple-choice questions focus on knowledge of basic facts and principles of special education as a discipline and on the application of that knowledge in working with students with visual impairments. The test content is appropriate for examinees who have completed bachelor's degree programs relevant to the focus of the test. The questions relate to students in the preschool, elementary, and secondary school years.

The five content categories cover general knowledge of special education and visual impairment; impairing conditions as they affect students' lives and development; legal considerations and professional ethics; planning and implementation of instruction; and the special education teacher's relationship with families, classroom teachers, administrators, peers, and other professionals.

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

## Topics Covered

Representative descriptions of topics covered in each category are provided below.

### I. General Knowledge

- Generic special education: other disabling conditions, multiple impairments, definitions, screening procedures/recognition of conditions
- Specific visual disabilities: structure and function of the eye, general characteristics of students with visual impairments, types of programs, screening and referral, professional organizations and publications

### II. Impairing Conditions As They Affect Students' Lives and Development

- Patterns of development exhibited by normally sighted individuals and individuals with visual impairments
- Effects of visual impairment on the socialization and self-image of children
- Development and socialization of children with other impairing conditions and/or with multiple impairments

### III. Legal Considerations and Professional Ethics

- Legislation that has influenced educational programs for students with visual and other impairments, such as PL 94-142 and subsequent related federal legislation
- Definitions and terminology related to special education and visual impairments
- Ethical constraints that apply to special education programs

### IV. Planning and Implementation of Instruction

- Knowledge of daily living skills for students with visual impairments
- Assessment of students with visual impairments
- Program planning, including the individualized education program (IEP)
- Instructional methodology, including instructional strategies and sequences
- Sources of instructional materials, media, technological aids, optical aids, and braille skills
- Structuring the learning environment

### V. Professional Interactions and Relationships in the Educational Process

- General principles of counseling disabled students and their families
- Team approaches to providing services
- Interpreting visual and medical reports
- Interacting with classroom teachers from all areas in the curriculum
- Awareness of agencies that provide vocational and rehabilitation services

## Sample Test Questions

The sample questions that follow illustrate the kinds of questions in 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.

1. Which of the following is the most common refractive error occurring among children with visual disabilities?
  - (A) Myopia
  - (B) Hyperopia
  - (C) Diplopia
  - (D) Astigmatism
  
2. Which of the following concepts would be most difficult to acquire for elementary school children who have been totally blind from birth?
  - (A) Pieces of corn grow in rows on a round axis known as a cob.
  - (B) The horizon is the point where earth and sky meet.
  - (C) Water is a liquid that can become a solid by the process of freezing.
  - (D) A songbird can be identified by the song it sings.
  
3. Which of the following is an essential communication skill to learn for a preschool child who is totally blind?
  - (A) Localizing the speaker's voice by sound and facing the speaker
  - (B) Touching the speaker to communicate that the speaker is being heard
  - (C) Maintaining expressionless features to show concentration on what is being said
  - (D) Repeating everything a speaker says to indicate that it was comprehended
  
4. The term "legally blind" applies to individuals with corrected central visual acuity in the better eye at or below which of the following levels?
  - (A) 20/50
  - (B) 20/70
  - (C) 20/100
  - (D) 20/200
  
5. Under federal law, which of the following is NOT a right guaranteed to parents of students with disabilities?
  - (A) To examine all educational records relevant to their child's evaluation and placement
  - (B) To obtain an independent evaluation if they are dissatisfied with the data collected by the school
  - (C) To receive the program placement that they requested for their child
  - (D) To receive written notice in their primary language prior to the initial evaluation of their child
  
6. Which of the following is the most inexpensive magnifying device?
  - (A) A set of clip-on microscopic or telescopic lenses
  - (B) A hand-held bar magnifier
  - (C) A rear-view projection screen
  - (D) An overhead projector
  
7. Joan, a bright eleventh-grade student who is totally blind, is enrolled in a chemistry class. She is experiencing difficulty with her experiments and requests assistance from her chemistry teacher. Which of the following strategies would be most effective in helping Joan learn chemistry?
  - (A) Relieving Joan of the responsibilities of participating in the experiments since she is an A student on tests
  - (B) Assigning Joan a sighted partner and having Joan act as the recorder in experiments done with the partner
  - (C) Selecting sighted team members willing to work along with Joan to allow her to be involved in every phase of the lessons
  - (D) Having Joan work with the teacher of students with visual impairments and do the experiments outside of the regular class
  
8. A wide variety of reading materials in braille appropriate for children and youths is available without charge to educational facilities on a quota basis from which of the following sources?
  - (A) The American Printing House for the Blind
  - (B) Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation
  - (C) Recording for the Blind
  - (D) The American Foundation for the Blind

9. A medical description of a blind child with multiple disabilities defines the disabilities in two ways: by etiology, the physiological condition of the child, and by current functioning as determined by normal child growth and development scales. Additional information is needed to make decisions about the educational services to be provided for the child. It would be appropriate to include in the additional information all of the following EXCEPT
- (A) a school psychologist's evaluation of the child's current academic abilities
  - (B) a social worker's description of the child's previous developmental opportunities
  - (C) a clinical psychologist's analysis of the child's social skills
  - (D) the physician's opinion of the child's ability to achieve academically

## Answers

1. Nearsightedness or myopia is the most common refractive error. The best answer is A.
2. An elementary school child totally blind from birth can gain a knowledge of the world through use of his or her remaining senses—touch, smell, hearing, and taste. Many things, such as the horizon, are inaccessible because they depend on the physical process of seeing, although they can be explained. The best answer is B.
3. The young child who is totally blind lacks the advantage of the visual cues utilized by the sighted child to identify where a speaker is. The child who is blind must auditorily locate the speaker. Both blind and sighted children must learn that communication involves action, such as turning to the speaker, that indicates attention to what is being said. Choice A is the best answer.
4. The most widely used definition of blindness, applied largely for legal purposes, describes a person as blind if that person has central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with correcting glasses; or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees. The best answer is D.
5. According to federal laws pertinent to individuals with disabilities, such as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, parents are to be involved in the evaluation and placement of their children, including being given notice in their primary language that an evaluation will take place, access to all records relevant to the evaluation and placement, and recourse to appeal for an independent evaluation if they are dissatisfied with the initial evaluation and placement. The placement is decided on the basis of the evaluation, not on what the parents request. Therefore, the best answer is C.
6. The most inexpensive magnifying device is a simple hand-held magnifier, such as a bar magnifier, because this device does not require special fitting or expensive production and/or installment costs. The best answer is B.
7. By conducting experiments in chemistry class, students learn from each other as well as from the activity in a way not readily achieved through other activities. Therefore, active participation in conducting experiments in class should be a part of Joan's learning experiences. Having sighted team members willing to work along with Joan allows her the experience. The best answer is C.
8. Established as a national agency in 1858, the American Printing House for the Blind annually registers all blind children and youths enrolled in public educational facilities and determines on the basis of congressional appropriations an annually current per capita quota for each student. Educational facilities are assigned a multiple of that quota corresponding to their enrollment and can order books and materials according to their needs. The best answer is A.
9. Evaluation of blind children with additional disabilities appropriately involves medical professionals, psychologists, and social workers, who provide information specifically related to their respective fields of expertise. However, in making a decision about a child's educational services, it is not appropriate to consider a professional person's opinion when that opinion is not relevant to that person's training. Therefore, the best answer is D.



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