Welcome to The Praxis™ Study Companion

Prepare to Show What You Know

You have gained 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 tests
- Specific information on the Praxis test you are taking
- A template study plan
- 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!
# Table of Contents

The *Praxis™* Study Companion guides you through the 10 steps to success

1. **Know What to Expect** ......................................................... 4
   *Familiarize yourself with the Praxis tests so you know what to expect*

2. **Familiarize Yourself with Test Questions** ......................... 5
   *Become comfortable with the types of questions you’ll find on the Praxis tests*

3. **Understand Your Scores** .................................................... 9
   *Understand how tests are scored and how to interpret your test scores*

4. **Learn About Your Test** ...................................................... 11
   *Learn about the specific test you will be taking*

5. **Determine Your Strategy for Success** .................................. 15
   *Set clear goals and deadlines so your test preparation is focused and efficient*

6. **Develop Your Study Plan** .................................................. 18
   *Develop a personalized study plan and schedule*

7. **Review Smart Tips for Success** .......................................... 22
   *Follow test-taking tips developed by experts*

8. **Practice with Sample Test Questions** ................................ 24
   *Answer practice questions and find explanations for correct answers*

9. **Check on Testing Accommodations** ................................... 31
   *See if you qualify for accommodations that may make it easier to take the Praxis test*

10. **Do Your Best on Test Day** ................................................ 32
    *Get ready for test day so you will be calm and confident*

Appendix: Other Questions You May Have .................................. 34
1. Know What to Expect

Familiarize yourself with the Praxis tests so you know what to expect

Which test 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.

How are the Praxis tests given?
Praxis tests are given in both computer and paper formats. Note: Not all Praxis tests are offered in both formats.

Should I take the computer- or paper-delivered test?
You should take the test in whichever format you are most comfortable. Some test takers prefer taking a paper-and-pencil test, while others are more comfortable on a computer. Please note that not all tests are available in both formats. To help you decide, watch the What to Expect on Test Day video for computer-delivered tests.

If I’m taking more than one Praxis test, do I have to take them all in the same format?
No. You can take each test in the format in which you are most comfortable.

Is there a difference between the subject matter covered on the computer-delivered test and the paper-delivered test?
No. The computer-delivered test and paper-delivered test cover the same content.

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 some universities, high schools, Prometric® Testing Centers, and other locations throughout the world.

Testing schedules depend on whether you are taking computer-delivered tests or paper-delivered tests. See the Praxis Web site for more detailed test registration information at www.ets.org/praxis/register.
Step 2: Familiarize Yourself with Test Questions

2. Familiarize Yourself with Test Questions

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

The Praxis tests include two types of questions — multiple-choice (for which you select your answers from a list of choices) and constructed-response (for which you write a response of your own). 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 Multiple-Choice Questions

Many multiple-choice 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 one of 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 multiple-choice 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 multiple-choice 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, marking 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

From time to time, new question formats are developed to find new ways of assessing knowledge. The latest tests may include audio and video components, such as a movie clip or animation, instead of the more traditional map or reading passage. Other tests may allow you to zoom in on details of a graphic or picture. Tests may also include interactive questions that take advantage of technology to assess knowledge and skills. They can assess knowledge more than standard multiple-choice questions can. If you see a format you are not familiar with, **read the directions carefully.** They always give clear instructions on how you are expected to respond.

For most questions, you will respond by clicking an oval to select a single answer from a list of options. Other questions may ask you to respond in the following ways:
• **Typing in an entry box.** When the answer is a number, you may be asked to enter a numerical answer or, if the test has an on-screen calculator, you may need to transfer the calculated result from the calculator to the entry box. 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 options and drag your answers to the appropriate location in a table, paragraph of text or graphic.

• **Selecting options from a drop-down menu.** You may be asked to choose answers by selecting options from a drop-down menu (e.g., to complete a sentence).

Remember that with every question you will get clear instructions on how to respond. See the [Praxis Computer-delivered Testing Demonstration](https://www.praxis.org) on the [Praxis](https://www.praxis.org) website to learn more about Praxis tests and to see examples of some of the types of questions you may encounter.

**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 that accurately assess your knowledge.

### Understanding Constructed-Response Questions

Constructed-response questions require you to demonstrate your knowledge in a subject area by providing in-depth explanations on particular topics. Essay and problem solving 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.”

A problem-solving question might ask you to solve a mathematics problem such as the one below and show how you arrived at your solution:

a) In how many different ways can 700 be expressed as the product of two positive integers? Show how you arrived at your answer.

b) Among all pairs of positive integers whose product is 700, which pair has the maximum greatest common divisor? Explain how you arrived at your answer.
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 circle each of the details of the question in your test book or take notes on scratch paper so that you don't miss any of them. 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 in “4. Learn About Your Test” on page 11.

**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.

Interactive question types may ask you to respond by:

- Typing in an entry box, particularly for a constructed-response question.
- Clicking an oval answer option for a multiple-choice question.
- Clicking on sentences. In questions with reading passages, you may be asked to choose your answer by clicking on a sentence or sentences within the reading passage.

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.
3. 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 Series tests are part of a national testing program, meaning that they are required in more than one state 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 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.

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
- Your Recognition of Excellence (ROE) Award status, if applicable (found at [www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand/roe](http://www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand/roe))

If you have taken the same test or other tests in The Praxis Series over the last 10 years, your score report also lists the highest score you earned on each test taken.
Content category scores and score interpretation

On many of the Praxis tests, questions are grouped into content categories. 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. Updated tests cover the same content as the previous tests. However, scores might be reported on a different scale, so requirements may vary between the new and previous versions. All scores for previous, discontinued tests are valid and reportable for 10 years.

These resources may also help you interpret your scores:

- Understanding Your Praxis Scores (PDF), found at www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand
- The Praxis Series Passing Scores (PDF), found at www.ets.org/praxis/scores/understand
- State requirements, found at www.ets.org/praxis/states
Step 4: Learn About Your Test

4. Learn About Your Test

Learn about the specific test you will be taking

Teaching Reading (0204/5204)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test at a Glance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test Code</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
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<td>Number of Questions</td>
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<td>Format</td>
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<td>Test Delivery</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Categories</th>
<th>Approximate Number of Questions</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage of Examination</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Emergent Literacy</td>
<td>15 multiple choice</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Oral Language</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Concepts of Print</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Phonological Awareness</td>
<td>14 multiple choice</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Alphabetic Principle/Phonics and Word Analysis</td>
<td>14 multiple choice</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Comprehension and Fluency</td>
<td>30 multiple choice</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Vocabulary</td>
<td>17 multiple choice</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Instructional Processes</td>
<td>1 constructed response</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Instructional Practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Curriculum Materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Assessment</td>
<td>1 constructed response</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About This Test

The Praxis Teaching Reading test is designed to support both

- licensing an entry-level reading teacher
- adding a reading endorsement to an existing license

Teaching Reading is designed for individuals whose preparatory program has included intensive training in the teaching of reading.

The test content reflects the five essential components of effective reading instruction as identified by the National Reading Panel: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Comprehension, and Vocabulary.
Step 4: Learn About Your Test

Test questions call on the individual’s knowledge of reading theory and practice as well as the ability to apply knowledge and principles to instructional situations. The test taker will be required to analyze and respond to situations involving both classes and individual students for students at grade levels from kindergarten through high school, including students with diverse needs.

Note: The Teaching Reading test does not assume that the test taker has graduate-level preparation to be a reading specialist. It does not test the consulting, coordinating, and supervisory roles that might be part of the responsibility of a licensed reading specialist.

Topics Covered

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

I. Emergent Literacy

A. Oral Language

The reading teacher

• Understands the interrelatedness between oral language development and reading skills such as phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension
• Recognizes receptive and expressive components associated with stages of oral language development
• Understands how environmental influences affect students’ oral language development
• Knows how to model the rules of standard English while respecting regional and dialectical variations
• Understands appropriate techniques to assess students’ oral language development

B. Concepts of Print

The reading teacher

• Recognizes the interrelatedness between print and speech
• Understands how environmental print, pictures, and symbols contribute to literacy development
• Understands the importance of modeling one-to-one word correspondence and directionality, including left-to-right, top-to-bottom, front-to-back
• Understands how environmental influences affect students’ development of print awareness

II. Phonological Awareness

The reading teacher

• Understands the relationship between phonological and phonemic awareness
• Understands the fundamental relationship between phonemic awareness and the development of decoding and encoding skills
• Understands the progression of phonological awareness skills (e.g., manipulating sounds in spoken words, progressing from words in sentences to compound word parts and syllables, to onsets and rimes, and finally to phonemes)
• Knows the age ranges at which the various phonological awareness skills should be acquired and how that knowledge applies to instructional practice
• Knows systematic and explicit instructional strategies for teaching phonological awareness skills
• Understands the theory and practice of effective techniques to assess students’ phonological awareness

III. Alphabetic Principle/Phonics and Word Analysis

The reading teacher

• Understands the differences between phonics and phonological awareness
• Understands the developmental stages that readers of all ages progress through when learning to decode and encode (spell)
• Understands that the instruction of phonics for decoding and encoding progresses from simple to more complex (e.g., letter-sound correspondences, blends, and digraphs)
• Understands how to differentiate between phonetically regular and irregular words
• Knows syllable types and syllabication principles
• Understands systematic and explicit instructional strategies for teaching phonics and word analysis
• Understands instructional strategies for reading and spelling multisyllabic words using meaningful units, such as morphemes, syllables, and accenting principles
• Understands that the use of decodable text, writing practice, and spelling practice can reinforce specific phonics skills
• Knows effective techniques to assess students’ phonics and word analysis skills (e.g., formal and informal phonics and spelling inventories)

IV. Comprehension and Fluency

A. Comprehension

The reading teacher

• Understands the relationship between students’ background knowledge and comprehension
• Understands that vocabulary is an important part of comprehension
• Understands the relationship between comprehension and students’ cultural and linguistic backgrounds
• Understands how to use systematic and explicit instruction to develop comprehension skills (i.e., self-monitoring, using graphic organizers and story structures, generating questions, and summarizing)
• Understands that students should use multiple strategies to enhance reading comprehension
• Understands the role of language structures of text (e.g., sentence, phrase, paragraph) in comprehension
• Understands the role that features of text (e.g., headings, subheadings) play in comprehension
• Understands how to use genres of written text that have recognizable structures to enhance comprehension
• Understands how to use writing activities to support reading comprehension
• Knows how to model effective strategies for comprehending a variety of writing styles, such as narrative, expository, descriptive, and persuasive
• Knows how to choose appropriate text for students, taking into account interest and ability level
• Understands effective formal and informal methods to assess students’ reading comprehension

B. Fluency

The reading teacher

• Understands that fluency with all components of reading acts as a bridge to the comprehension of text
• Understands that oral reading fluency consists of accuracy, appropriate rate, automaticity, and prosody (i.e., intonation, expression, and flow)
• Understands that fluency in the different components of reading can be developed through various strategies such as blending, repeated use of word lists, phrases, and passages at appropriate instructional levels
• Understands how to use effective instructional strategies to improve oral reading fluency
• Understands how to use formal and informal methods of assessing reading fluency

V. Vocabulary

The reading teacher

• Knows how to model the use of context as a strategy to confirm word meaning
• Understands how common prefixes, suffixes, and roots affect the meaning of English words
• Understands basic word relationships such as synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms
• Understands how to use direct and indirect methods to teach vocabulary
• Understands how to select appropriate words for vocabulary instruction
• Understands how grammatical functions and word forms affect meaning
• Understands the importance of both offering a wide range of reading opportunities and providing materials with rich contextual support for vocabulary development
• Understands how to assess and monitor vocabulary knowledge
VI. Instructional Processes

A. Instructional Practices

The reading teacher

- Creates a learning environment that supports literacy development by incorporating motivational strategies that encourage active student engagement
- Understands a variety of strategies to differentiate instruction

B. Curriculum Material

The reading teacher

- Recognizes the differences in kinds of texts and their various uses
- Understands how to select instructional materials that reflect societal diversity
- Understands how to integrate appropriate technology to support literacy instruction

C. Assessment

The reading teacher

- Understands how to use a variety of types of assessments
- Uses assessment data to inform instruction
- Communicates students’ progress in reading to stakeholders (i.e., parents and administration)
5. 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. A helpful resource is the Strategies for Success video, which includes tips for preparing and studying, along with tips for reducing test anxiety.

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 in “4. Learn About Your Test” on page 11, which outlines the content categories that the test measures and what percentage of the test covers each topic. Visit 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 college library have a good introductory college-level textbook in this area?
- Does your local library have a high school-level textbook?

Study guides are available for purchase for many Praxis tests at www.ets.org/praxis/testprep. Each guide provides a combination of test preparation and practice, including 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 at 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 in “3. Understand Your Scores” on page 9.

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 20 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 18 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 11 to select topics, and then select practice questions, beginning on page 24.

- **Prepare your presentation for the group.** When it’s your to turn 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.
Step 5: Determine Your Strategy for Success

- **Take the practice test together.** The idea of the 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.** Score one another’s answer sheets. 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.
6. 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 Praxis I® Pre-Professional Skills Test: 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 “Topics Covered” information beginning on page 11 to help complete it.

Use this worksheet to:
1. Define Content Areas: List the most important content areas for your test as defined in the Topics Covered section.
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.

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<tr>
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<td>Test Date:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literal Comprehension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Ideas</td>
<td>Identify summaries or paraphrases of main idea or primary purpose of reading selection</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Middle school English text book</td>
<td>College library, middle school teacher</td>
<td>9/15/12</td>
<td>9/15/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Ideas</td>
<td>Identify summaries or paraphrases of supporting ideas and specific details in reading selection</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Middle school English text book</td>
<td>College library, middle school teacher</td>
<td>9/17/12</td>
<td>9/17/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Identify how reading selection is organized in terms of cause/effect and compare/contrast</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Middle and high school English text book</td>
<td>College library, middle and high school teachers</td>
<td>9/20/12</td>
<td>9/21/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocabulary in Context</td>
<td>Identify meanings of words as used in context of reading selection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Middle and high school English text book, dictionary</td>
<td>College library, middle and high school teachers</td>
<td>9/25/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Determine whether evidence strengthens, weakens, or is relevant to arguments in reading selection</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
<td>10/1/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Determine role that an idea, reference, or piece of information plays in author’s discussion/argument</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
<td>10/1/12</td>
<td>10/1/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Determine if information presented is fact or opinion</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
<td>10/1/12</td>
<td>10/1/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Identify relationship among ideas presented in reading selection</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
<td>10/1/12</td>
<td>10/1/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inferential Reasoning</td>
<td>Draw inferences/implications from directly stated content of reading selection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
<td>10/8/12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inferential Reasoning</td>
<td>Determine logical assumptions on which argument or conclusion is based</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
<td>10/8/12</td>
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<td>Inferential Reasoning</td>
<td>Determine author’s attitude toward materials discussed in reading selection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
<td>10/15/12</td>
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<td>Generalization</td>
<td>Recognize or predict ideas/situations that are extensions of, or similar to, what has been presented in reading selection</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
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<td>10/24/12</td>
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<td>Generalization</td>
<td>Draw conclusions from materials presented in reading selection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Generalization</td>
<td>Apply ideas presented in a reading selection to other situations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>High school text book, college course notes</td>
<td>College library, course notes, high school teacher, college professor</td>
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My Study Plan

Use this worksheet to:
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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?
Yes. You can go through the questions from beginning to end, as many test takers do, or you can create your own path. Perhaps you will want to answer questions in your strongest area of knowledge first and then move from your strengths to your weaker areas. On computer-delivered tests, you can use the “Skip” function to skip a question and come back to it later. There is no right or wrong way. Use the approach that works best for you.

Are there trick questions on the test?
No. There are no hidden meanings or trick wording. 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 multiple-choice tests follow patterns. Another myth is that there will never be more than two questions with the same lettered answer following each other. Neither myth is true. Select the answer you think is correct based on your knowledge of the subject.

Can I write in the test booklet or, for a computer-delivered test, on the scratch paper I am given?
Yes. You can work out problems right on the pages of the booklet or scratch paper, make notes to yourself, mark questions you want to review later or write anything at all. Your test booklet or 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 mark your answers on the answer sheet or enter them on the computer.

Smart Tips for Taking the Test

1. For a paper-delivered test, put your answers in the right bubbles. It seems obvious, but be sure that you fill in the answer bubble that corresponds to the question you are answering. A significant number of test takers fill in a bubble without checking to see that the number matches the question they are answering.

2. Skip the questions you find extremely difficult. Rather than trying to answer these on your first pass through the test, leave them blank and mark them in your test booklet. 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.

3. **Keep track of the time.** Bring a watch to the test, just in case the clock in the test room is difficult for you
to see. Keep the watch as simple as possible—alarms and other functions may distract others or may violate
test security. If the test center supervisor suspects there could be an issue with your watch, they will ask you
to remove it, so simpler is better! You will probably have plenty of time to answer all of the questions, but if
you find yourself becoming bogged down in one section, you might decide to move on and come back to
that section later.

4. **Read all of the possible answers before selecting one.** Then reread the question to be sure the answer
you have selected really answers 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.

5. **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.

6. **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 similar-looking
(but in fact very different) 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 Series tests at
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.

7. **Use your energy to take the test, not to get angry at it.** Getting angry at the test 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. 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.

1. Parents can most effectively help preschoolers develop phonemic awareness for later success in reading by
   (A) encouraging development of sight vocabulary
   (B) reading aloud many rhyming stories and poems
   (C) teaching preschoolers letter names and sounds
   (D) providing computer learning games on letter identification

2. Many school districts have the goal of implementing technology to bring a variety of alternative texts into the classroom. Which of the following is the most essential literacy skill for a student researcher to develop when using this technology?
   (A) The ability to assess the credibility of an electronic source
   (B) The ability to locate the origin of a source found on the Internet
   (C) The ability to use software to enhance reports and projects
   (D) The ability to navigate hyperlinks on the Internet without going off-task

3. Which of the following is the best way for a teacher to provide a positive reading environment for English-language learners?
   (A) Sending home books for students and their parents to practice reading together
   (B) Reading aloud whenever possible to give the students practice in hearing proper pronunciation
   (C) Including multicultural literature in the curriculum
   (D) Providing audiobooks of class texts for the student to listen to at home

4. When a student who is reading aloud substitutes a word with a similar meaning for a word that appears in print, the teacher’s most appropriate response would be to
   (A) ask the student to reread the word correctly
   (B) correct the miscue by pronouncing the correct word aloud
   (C) write both words down, and have the student identify the word as it appears in the text
   (D) allow the student to continue reading

5. The primary purpose of administering a miscue analysis assessment is to determine
   (A) the cause of a student’s visual or auditory impairment
   (B) the nature of a student’s oral reading difficulties
   (C) a student’s ability to draw conclusions from a text
   (D) a student’s approximate grade level for comprehension
6. As part of a reading class, a teacher requires students to keep a response journal for the texts they have read. The teacher’s purpose in having the students write their response is that writing can
   (A) focus students’ attention on facts and eliminate feelings
   (B) keep students engaged in independent work and limit free time
   (C) help students discover more of what they think and feel about a text
   (D) make students keep track of the books they read and share them

7. Students in a science class are reading a chapter on symbiosis. Which of the following strategies is likely to help the students understand and remember different kinds of symbiotic relationships?
   (A) Making flash cards so the students can practice the vocabulary
   (B) Having the students identify the main idea in each paragraph
   (C) Putting the students in pairs to quiz each other
   (D) Assisting the students in creating a graphic organizer of the important concepts

8. Research shows that fluency increases when readers frequently engage in easy reading. Which of the following is most likely to be effective in making easy books acceptable to a nonfluent older student?
   (A) Providing opportunities for the older student to discuss with classmates the experience of reading self-selected books to a younger student
   (B) Asking a much younger, fluent reader to read an easy book aloud to the older student
   (C) Assigning an easy-to-read nonfiction book to the older student for independent reading
   (D) Encouraging other older students to interrupt and correct when the student is reading easy books aloud

9. Which of the following is a characteristic of the language experience approach to teaching reading to beginning readers?
   (A) Emphasis on letter/sound relationships in isolation from other skills
   (B) Instruction and experience in writing before reading
   (C) Emphasis on the connection between oral and written language
   (D) Reliance on classic children’s literature rather than on books with a controlled vocabulary

10. The best way to develop students’ metacognitive skills is for teachers to do which of the following?
    (A) Give the students a few global prereading questions to guide their reading
    (B) Advocate and model self-questioning during reading
    (C) Have the students memorize the new vocabulary words needed to comprehend the reading selection
    (D) Provide opportunities for students to write comprehension questions for each other

11. Which of the following procedures, specifically designed to increase sight vocabulary and fluency and accuracy of oral reading, has research shown to be particularly effective?
    (A) Using a repeated reading program and easy reading materials
    (B) Using an analytic phonics approach to teaching decoding
    (C) Introducing all new words using a kinesthetic method
    (D) Introducing all new words in context and having the students read silently
12. A teacher is concerned that his intermediate-level students use nonstandard English patterns in their speech and writing. A colleague who has kept abreast of recent trends would be most likely to advise the teacher to

(A) provide extensive practice using written exercises that require students to make choices between standard and nonstandard word forms
(B) insist that students be more consistent in using standard forms in oral communications at school
(C) provide experiences from which the students can conclude that different usage styles are appropriate in different situations
(D) encourage students to be more consistent in using standard forms in oral communications outside of school

13. • Bandwagon
• Testimonial
• Rewards
• Glittering generality

The above mentioned devices should most likely be taught when studying which of the following genres?

(A) Narrative
(B) Biographical
(C) Persuasive
(D) Poetry

14. A teacher is designing an instructional plan for a small group of students who are having difficulty decoding unfamiliar multisyllabic words. The most appropriate approach to address the students’ need is to teach them to

(A) sound out multisyllabic words phoneme by phoneme
(B) clap out the number of syllables in multisyllabic words
(C) memorize grade appropriate word lists that contain multisyllabic words
(D) look for affixes and morphemes in multisyllabic words

15. Which of the following best describes the purpose of reading response journals?

(A) Documenting the number and titles of books students read at home
(B) Showing parents evidence of students’ reading growth and improved writing skills
(C) Allowing students to reflect on and explore the meaning of the stories read
(D) Providing students with an opportunity to write about their feelings

16. Which of the following is an effective instructional strategy for helping kindergarten students develop an understanding of concepts of print?

(A) Exposing students to a variety of rhyming texts
(B) Finger tapping to count phonemes in words
(C) Facilitating guided practice of visualization techniques
(D) Modeling how to track during shared reading
17. When teaching students how to use structural analysis to learn new words, which of the following words would best lend itself to this skill?
   (A) Help
   (B) Abnormal
   (C) Maintain
   (D) Detail

18. Which of the following teacher prompts would best assess a first-grade student’s phonemic awareness?
   (A) Say to the student, “Sound out the separate sounds in the word ‘bat.’”
   (B) Ask the student, “Which letter begins the word ‘bat’?”
   (C) Point to the word “bat” in a book. Ask the student, “Can you sound out this word?”
   (D) Give the student “b,” “a,” and “t” letter cards. Say, “Make a word with these cards.”
Answers to Sample Questions

1. The best answer is (B). Research supports the view that phonemic awareness, including the ability to hear whether or not words rhyme, is critical to success in beginning reading. One of the ways it is gained is through repeated exposure to nursery rhymes and other rhyming text.

2. The best answer is (A). Reading and evaluating the credibility of an electronic source develops critical thinking skills. Students will develop skills to consider the purpose, audience, and validity of the source and consider if there is any bias in the way the information is presented.

3. The best answer is (C). “Many researchers have reported that the single most important factor that enables an ESL student to succeed academically in a target language is the socio-emotional climate of the classroom. ESL students … international themes, allow students to see themselves in literature, thus personalizing the learning of English.”

4. The best answer is (D). According to Ken Goodman, the developer of miscue analysis, miscues are not random and have a variety of causes. They are the result of reader’s constructions of the linguistic message and therefore are made by everyone when reading aloud.

5. The best answer is (B). Miscue analysis is used to give the teacher information about the kind of miscues a student is making. The three cueing systems are graphophonemic, syntactic, and semantic. An analysis of a student’s patterns of miscues can lead to effective intervention that focuses on his/her current reading needs.

6. The best answer is (C). Response journals will offer students an opportunity to connect their lives to the text and also deepen their understanding.

7. The best answer is (D). Graphic organizers provide a visual representation of facts and concepts from a text and their relationships within an organized frame to better understand and relate ideas.

8. The best answer is (A). Fluency refers to reading smoothly, quickly, and with expression. (A) offers the older student opportunities to engage in meaningful literary experiences while gaining courage, self-esteem, and experiencing ownership.

9. The best answer is (C). In addition to providing enthusiasm for reading and writing, the language experience approach helps students make the connection that words on paper are really just “talk written down.” The motto of the language experience approach is “Anything I can say, I can write; anything I can write, I can read.”

10. The best answer is (B). In order to create strategic readers, it is important to show students how to use the strategy and be explicit about why the strategy is helpful to them.

11. The best answer is (A). Research indicates that repeated readings will improve fluency. The repetition of these materials will also help students improve their recognition and recall of sight words.

12. The best answer is (C). Providing examples of standard English and allowing students to explicitly learn the differences between their home language and school language without judgment allows students to transition more easily.

13. The best answer is (C). The four devices are used to persuade readers. Narrative, biographical, and poetry do not utilize the devices.

14. The best answer is (D). Research suggests that teaching students to recognize affixes or morphemes is an effective way to aid students in decoding multisyllabic words.

15. (C) is the best answer. This is the primary purpose of using reading response journals in the classroom. Students record predictions, personal or textual connections, inferences, summaries, evaluations, and more. Teachers can direct students to share their responses with one another, creating a dialogue about the text. Students deepen their comprehension of text by responding in a variety of ways to what they read.

16. The best answer is (D). Children are more likely to attend to print when engaged in shared reading with an adult who uses print referencing behavior. The other options are not print awareness instructional strategies.

17. (B) is the best answer. Structural analysis is the use of prefixes, suffixes, and root words to understand the meaning of an unknown word. The word “abnormal” is the only word that has a prefix and a root word and so would be useful in teaching structural analysis.

18. (A) is the best answer. A child who possesses phonemic awareness can manipulate the sounds in spoken words. The other options involve connecting spoken sounds to corresponding printed letters, which takes them out of the range of phonemic awareness.
About the Constructed-Response Questions

The Teaching Reading test consists of three constructed-response questions that require the candidate to demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge and theory of reading to specific students' needs and classroom scenarios.

Each task will be scored on a 0–3 scale using the following general scoring guide.

General Scoring Guide for Constructed-Response Questions

Score of 3

The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of the elements of reading and reading instruction relevant to the question.

A response in this category:
- Clearly and specifically answers all parts of the question in a way that directly addresses the instructional situation described.
- Shows strong knowledge of concepts, theories, facts, procedures, or methodologies relevant to the question. Any errors of fact or terminology are minor and do not detract from the understanding shown.
- Provides a strong explanation that is well supported by relevant evidence.

Score of 1

The response demonstrates a weak or limited understanding of the elements of reading and reading instruction relevant to the question.

A response in this category:
- Answers some part (or parts) of the question at a basic level.
- Has one or more of the following weaknesses:
  - fails to answer most parts of the question and/or fails to address crucial aspects of the instructional situation described
  - shows weak or limited knowledge of concepts, theories, facts, procedures, or methodologies relevant to the question. The weakness may be indicated by errors or misconceptions
  - provides no explanation or an explanation that is weak and inadequately supported by evidence

Score of 0

The response demonstrates no understanding of the elements of reading and reading instruction relevant to the question.

A response in this category:
- Fails to respond appropriately to any part of the question.
- Shows no knowledge of concepts, theories, facts, procedures, or methodologies relevant to the question; or any information presented about reading and reading instruction is seriously in error.

Note: The mere presence of reading-specific words or phrases that might be used in an adequate response does not by itself indicate knowledge.

Also receiving a score of 0 would be responses that are blank, completely off-topic, or not written in English.
Sample Question

Directions:
Read the scenario and then respond to all parts of the task on the lined pages provided. The suggested time to spend on this question is 10 minutes.

Scenario:
The early childhood teachers in a school have decided to implement interdisciplinary science units with a focus on reading. The district has implemented a policy that all schools must include a technology component that will support reading instruction.

Task:
Be sure to respond to both of the following:
- Briefly describe an instructional material the teachers would use within these units to support the reading focus. Explain the criteria used to evaluate the material in meeting these instructional needs.
- Briefly describe an activity using technology with the interdisciplinary science units. Specify how the activity supports student reading goals.

Sample Response That Received a Score of 3:
Teachers can use tradebooks to help integrate reading into a science unit. The instructional material that is needed is a variety of books on the differing reading levels of the students. An example of this would be teaching a science unit on deserts. The teacher would collect books at different readability levels on living in a desert, animals in a desert, or any other related topics to use with the class. The criteria used to ensure the books meet instructional needs are that they are at an appropriate reading level for the students, have a connection to the topic being studied, and contain accurate information.

A technological activity the students could do would be an online net lab. The students would, for example, be required to follow written instructions as they completed a simulation of a lab activity such as the dissection of an owl pellet. Reading skills such as cause and effect could be reinforced with a webquest through which students discovered and observed relationships between actions. Related hands-on activities could be linked to the webquest tasks. By using these methods of integrating science and reading, the teachers can meet the technology component mandated by the district and further support students’ reading development.

Sample Response That Received a Score of 2:
I would begin by finding books on insects. Every day we would read books and discuss reading techniques and skills. We would also collect bugs and caterpillars to study. Using PowerPoint, we would make slides that compared and contrasted different insects as a class. Each student would then choose a bug to study and make a slide with a picture and sentence about their insect. I will evaluate the students’ ability to use PowerPoint and make notes on which students need a little more help. We will then make a CD with all the insect slides and burn copies of it so that each student can take one home. We will then have a short quiz on the reading to check for comprehension.

Sample Response That Received a Score of 1:
An instructional material that teachers would use for the unit could be how a butterfly grows. The kids are learning reading and science at the same time. They could have a computer in the classroom and have Leapfrog Interactive Reading on the computer. The technology would be helping the kids to read and they would be having fun while doing it.
9. 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/accommodations/plne.

What if I cannot take the paper-based test on Saturday?

Monday is the alternate paper-delivered test day for test takers who can’t test on Saturday due to:

- religious convictions
- duties as a member of the United States armed forces

Online registration is not available for Monday test takers. You must complete a registration form and provide a photocopy of your military orders or a letter from your cleric. You’ll find details at www.ets.org/praxis/register/accommodations/monday_testing.

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 Brailler
- Braille slate and stylus
- Printed copy of spoken directions
- Oral interpreter
- Audio test
- Braille test
- Large print test book (14 pt.)
- Large print answer sheet
- Listening section omitted

For more information on these accommodations, visit 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/praxis/register/disabilities.

You can find additional information on available resources for test takers with disabilities or health-related needs at www.ets.org/disabilities.
10. Do Your Best on Test Day

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

You followed your study plan. You are 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 and bring food with you to eat during break to keep your energy level up
- bring an acceptable and valid photo identification with you
- bring a supply of well-sharpened No. 2 pencils (at least 3) and a blue or black pen for the essay or constructed-response questions for a paper-delivered test
- be prepared to stand in line to check in or to wait while other test takers check in
- select a seat away from doors, aisles, and other high-traffic areas

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 necessary 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
- scrap paper
- any electronic, photographic, recording, or listening devices

Note: All cell phones, smart phones (e.g., BlackBerry® devices, iPhones®, etc.), PDAs, 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.
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 items?

☐ 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!
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 pedagogical skills and knowledge that beginning teachers need. The tests do not measure an individual's disposition toward teaching or potential for success. 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.

What are the Praxis I tests?
The Praxis I tests measure basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. All these tests include multiple-choice questions and the Writing test also includes an essay question. Praxis I tests are designed to evaluate whether you have the academic skills needed to prepare for a career in education.

What are the Praxis II tests?
Praxis II Subject Assessments measure knowledge of specific subjects that K–12 educators teach, as well as general and subject-specific teaching skills and knowledge. Ranging from Agriculture to World Languages, there are more than 130 Praxis II tests, which contain multiple-choice or constructed-response questions, or a combination of both.

What is the difference between Praxis multiple-choice and constructed-response tests?
Multiple-choice tests measure a broad range of knowledge across your content area. Constructed-response tests measure your ability to provide in-depth explanations of a few essential topics in a given subject area. Content-specific Praxis II pedagogy tests, most of which are constructed-response, measure your understanding of how to teach certain fundamental concepts in a subject area.

The tests do not measure your actual teaching ability, however. Teaching combines many complex skills that are typically measured in other ways, including classroom observation, videotaped practice, or portfolios not included in the Praxis test.

Who takes the tests and why?
Some colleges and universities use the Praxis I tests to evaluate individuals for entry into teacher education programs. The assessments are generally taken early in your college career. Many states also require Praxis I scores as part of their teacher licensing process.

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

Do all states require these tests?
The Praxis Series 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.
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 it assesses the entire body of knowledge for the field you are entering, preparing for a licensure exam takes planning, discipline, and sustained effort.

Why does my state require The Praxis Series tests?

Your state chose The Praxis Series 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 Series test development process. First, ETS asked them which 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 multiple-choice 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 existing test specifications and to evaluate test forms for alignment with the specifications.

How long will it take to receive my scores?

Scores for computer-delivered tests are available faster than scores for paper-delivered tests. Scores for most computer-delivered multiple-choice tests are reported on the 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 scores for computer-delivered tests are reported to you and your designated score recipients approximately two to three weeks after the test date. Scores for paper-delivered tests will be available within four weeks after the test date. 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 their *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 in to your *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.
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

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

www.ets.org/praxis/store