Table of Contents

Study Guide for the Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge Test
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Chapter 1**  
Introduction to the *Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge* Test and Suggestions for Using This Study Guide .......................... 1

**Chapter 2**  
Background Information on The Praxis Series™ Assessments ......................... 7

**Chapter 3**  
Succeeding on Multiple-Choice Questions .......................................... 11

**Chapter 4**  
Study Topics for the *Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge* Test ............ 21

**Chapter 5**  
Practice Questions for the *Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge* Test ........ 69

**Chapter 6**  
Right Answers and Explanations for the Practice Questions ......................... 107

**Chapter 7**  
Are You Ready? Last-Minute Tips .......................................................... 125

**Appendix A**  
Study Plan Sheet ...................................................................................... 129

**Appendix B**  
For More Information ............................................................................... 133
Chapter 1

Introduction to the *Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge* Test and Suggestions for Using This Study Guide
CHAPTER 1

Introduction to the *Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge* Test

The Praxis *Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge* test assesses beginning teachers’ understanding of general knowledge in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Citizenship and Social Science, and Science. In developing assessment material for this test, Educational Testing Service (ETS) works in collaboration with teacher educators, higher education content specialists, and accomplished practicing teachers to keep the test updated and representative of current standards.

The *Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge* test (0511) consists of 100 multiple-choice questions and covers four major areas, in the following proportions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Category</th>
<th>Number of Questions</th>
<th>Percentage of Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizenship and Social Science</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test takers have two hours to complete the test.

Questions are arranged in the test book by subject. An index on the back page of the test book identifies the page locations where you can find each subject. You may answer the questions in any order you choose. You may use a nonprogrammable calculator while taking the test; a basic four-function calculator will be adequate.

How to Use This Study Guide

This study guide gives you instruction, practice, and test-taking tips to help you prepare for taking the *Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge* test. In chapter 2 you will find a description of The Praxis Series™—what it is and how the tests in The Praxis Series are developed. In chapter 3 you will find information on how to answer multiple-choice questions. Then chapters 4, 5, and 6 will help you prepare for the test, give you the chance to answer practice questions, and provide you with explanations for the correct answers to these questions.
CHAPTER 1

Suggestions for Using the “Study Topics” Chapter

We recommend the following approach for using the “Study Topics” chapter to prepare for the test.

**Become familiar with the test content.** Learn what will be assessed in the test by reading chapter 4.

**Assess how well you know the content in each area.** After you learn what topics the test contains, you should assess your knowledge in each area. How well do you know the material? In which areas do you need to learn more before you take the test? It is quite likely that you will need to brush up on most or all of the areas.

**Develop a study plan.** Assess what you need to study and create a realistic plan for studying. You can develop your study plan in any way that works best for you. A “Study Plan” form is included in appendix A at the end of the book as a possible way to structure your planning. Remember that this is a licensure test and covers a great deal of material. Plan to review carefully. You will need to allow time to find the books and other materials, time to read the material and take notes, and time to go over your notes.

**Identify study materials.** The material covered by the test is at the level commonly covered in standard introductory textbooks. Books used in secondary classrooms may also prove useful to you, since they also present the material you need to know. If you do not own introductory texts that cover all the areas, you may want to borrow some from friends or from a library. You may also want to obtain a copy of your state’s academic standards from the state’s Department of Education Web site.

Use standard school and college introductory textbooks and other reliable, professionally prepared materials. Don’t rely heavily on information provided by friends or from searching the World Wide Web. Neither of these sources is as uniformly reliable as textbooks.

**Work through your study plan.** You may want to work alone, or you may find it more helpful to work with a group or with a mentor. Work through the topics and questions provided in chapter 4. Rather than memorizing definitions from books, be able to define and discuss the topics in your own words and understand the relationships between diverse topics and concepts. If you are working with a group or mentor, you can also try informal quizzes and questioning techniques.

**Proceed to the practice questions.** Once you have completed your review, you are ready to benefit from the “Practice Questions” portion of this guide.
Suggestions for Using the “Practice Questions” and “Right Answers and Explanations” Chapters

Read chapter 3. This chapter will sharpen your skills in reading and answering multiple-choice questions. For you to succeed on multiple-choice questions, you must focus carefully on the question, avoid reading things into the question, pay attention to details, and sift patiently through the answer choices.

Answer the practice questions in chapter 5. Work on the practice questions in a quiet place without distractions. Remember that the practice questions are only examples of the way the topics are covered in the test. The test will have different questions.

Score the practice questions. Go through the detailed answers in chapter 6 (“Right Answers and Explanations”). Mark the questions you answered correctly, as well as the ones you missed. Look over the explanations of the questions you missed and see if you understand them.

Decide whether you need more review. After you have looked at your results, decide whether there are areas that you need to brush up on before taking the actual test. Go back to your textbooks and reference materials to see if the topics are covered there. You might also want to go over your questions with a friend or teacher who is familiar with the subjects.

Assess your readiness. Do you feel confident about your level of understanding in each of the areas? If not, where do you need more work? If you feel ready, complete the checklist in chapter 7 (“Are You Ready? Last-Minute Tips”) to double-check that you’ve thought through the details. If you need more information about registration or the testing situation itself, use the resources in appendix B: “For More Information.”

Note: Every effort is made to provide the most recent information in this study guide. However, The Praxis Series tests are continually evaluated and updated. You will always find the most recent information about this test, including the topics covered, number of questions, and time allotted, in the Test at a Glance booklet available online at http://www.ets.org/praxis.
Chapter 2
Background Information on The Praxis Series™ Assessments
CHAPTER 2

What Are The Praxis Series™ Subject Assessments?

The Praxis Series™ Subject Assessments are designed by Educational Testing Service (ETS) to assess your knowledge of subjects that are relevant to your teaching career, and they are a part of the licensing requirements in many states. This study guide, for example, covers an assessment that tests your general understanding of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Citizenship and Social Science, and Science. Your state has adopted this Praxis test because it wants to be certain that you have achieved a specified level of understanding in these subjects before it grants you a license to teach in a classroom.

The passing score for each test is set by the state. You can find the passing scores online at www.ets.org/praxis/prxstate.html or in the Understanding Your Praxis Scores pamphlet, available in your college’s School of Education or by calling ETS at 609-771-7395 or 800-772-9476.

What Is Licensure?

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 person holding the license can be trusted to educate children competently and professionally.

Because a license makes such a serious claim about its holder, licensure requirements can be 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. Preparing for a licensure exam takes planning, discipline, and sustained effort. Studying thoroughly is highly recommended.

Why Does My State Require The Praxis Series Assessments?

Your state chose The Praxis Series Assessments because the tests 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 knowledge, reflected in each test’s 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.

What Kinds of Tests Are The Praxis Series Subject Assessments?

Two kinds of tests comprise The Praxis Series Subject Assessments: multiple-choice (for which you select your answer from a list of choices) and constructed-response (for which you write a response of your own). Multiple-choice tests can measure a wider area of content knowledge because they can ask more questions in a limited period of time. Constructed-response tests have fewer questions, but the questions require you to demonstrate the depth of your knowledge in the area covered.
CHAPTER 2

How Were These Tests Developed?

ETS began the development of The Praxis Series Subject Assessments with a survey. For each subject, teachers around the country in various teaching situations were asked to judge what knowledge and skills a beginning teacher needs to possess. Professors in schools of education who prepare teachers were asked the same questions. These responses were ranked in order of importance and sent out to hundreds of teachers for review. All of the responses to these surveys (called “job analysis surveys”) were analyzed to summarize the judgments of these professionals. From their consensus, ETS developed the specifications (guidelines) for the multiple-choice and constructed-response tests. Each subject area had a committee of practicing teachers and teacher educators who wrote the specifications, which were reviewed and eventually approved by teachers. From the test specifications, groups of teachers and professional test developers created test questions.

When your state adopted The Praxis Series Subject Assessments, local panels of practicing teachers and teacher educators in each subject area met to examine each test and to evaluate its relevance to beginning teachers in your state. This is called a “validity study” because local practicing professionals validate that the test content is relevant to the job. During the validity study, the panel also provides a passing-score recommendation. This process includes a rigorous review to determine how many test questions a beginning teacher in that state would be able to answer correctly. The state or licensing agency then reviewed the study recommendations and made a final determination of the passing-score requirement.

Throughout the development process, practitioners in the teaching field—teachers and teacher educators—participated in defining what the tests would cover, which tests would be used for licensure, and what score(s) would be needed to achieve licensure. This practice is consistent with how licensure works in most fields: those who are already licensed oversee the licensing of new practitioners. When you pass The Praxis Series Subject Assessments, you and the practitioners in your state will have evidence that you have the knowledge required to begin practicing your profession.