Study Guide for the Physical Education: Content Knowledge Test
Table of Contents
Study Guide for the Physical Education: Content Knowledge Test
Chapter 1
Background Information on The Praxis Series™ Assessments ........................................... 1

Chapter 2
Introduction to the Physical Education: Content Knowledge Test and Suggestions for Using This Study Guide ................................................................. 5

Chapter 3
Study Topics for the Physical Education: Content Knowledge Test ...................................... 9

Chapter 4
Don't Be Defeated by Multiple-Choice Questions ................................................................. 24

Chapter 5
Practice Questions for the Physical Education: Content Knowledge Test .......................... 31

Chapter 6
Right Answers and Explanations for the Physical Education: Content Knowledge Test Practice Questions ................................................................. 49

Chapter 7
Are You Ready? Last-minute Tips ................................................................. 57

Appendix A
Study Plan Sheet ................................................................. 60

Appendix B
For More Information ................................................................. 62
Chapter 1
Background Information on The Praxis Series™ Assessments
What Are The Praxis Series™ Subject Assessments?

The Praxis Series™ Subject Assessments are designed by Educational Testing Service (ETS) to assess your knowledge of specific subject areas. They are a part of the licensing procedure in many states. This study guide covers an assessment that tests your knowledge of the actual content you will be expected to teach once you are licensed. Your state has adopted The Praxis Series tests because it wants to confirm that you have achieved a specified level of mastery in your subject area before it grants you a license to teach in a classroom.

The Praxis Series tests are part of a national testing program, meaning that the test covered in this study guide is required in more than one state for licensure. The advantage of a national program is that if you want to move to another state, you can transfer your scores from one state to another. However, each state has specific test requirements and passing scores. If you are applying for a license in another state, you will want to verify the appropriate test and passing score requirements. This information is available online at www.ets.org/praxis or on the website of the state for which you are seeking certification/licensure.

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 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 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 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. You can find out the passing score required for The Praxis Series Subject Assessments in your state online or by looking in the pamphlet Understanding Your Praxis Scores, which is free from ETS (www.ets.org/praxis). If you look through this pamphlet, you will see that not all states use the same test modules, and even when they do, the passing scores can differ from state to state.
What Kinds of Tests Are The Praxis Series Subject Assessments?

*The Praxis Series* Subject Assessments generally include two types of test questions: 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 survey a wider domain because they can ask more questions in a limited period of time. Constructed-response tests have far fewer questions, but the questions require you to demonstrate the depth of your knowledge in the area covered.

What Do the Tests Measure?

*The Praxis Series* Subject Assessments are tests of content knowledge. They measure your understanding and skills in a particular subject area. 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 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. They measure your knowledge of a subject and of how to teach it. The teachers in your field who help us design and write these tests, and the states that require them, do so in the belief that knowledge of your subject area is the first requirement for licensing. Teaching combines many complex skills, only some of which can be measured by a single test. While *The Praxis Series* Assessments are designed to measure how thoroughly you understand the material in the subject area(s) in which you want to be licensed to teach, your teaching ability is a skill that is typically measured in other ways; for example, through observation, videotaped practice, or portfolios.

How Are These Tests Developed and How Are Passing Scores Recommended?

ETS begins the development of each new subject test in *The Praxis Series* by assembling a test committee of practicing teachers and teacher educators from among the states that may use the test in their licensure process. The committee reviews and revises a draft domain of knowledge and/or skills developed by ETS subject experts. The revised domain is then sent as a web-based survey to a national sample of practicing teachers representing a variety of teaching settings, and faculty members from schools of education who prepare teachers in that subject area. These educators are asked to judge the importance of each of the knowledge and/or skill statements that define the domain. The results of this “job analysis survey” are used to identify those statements that have been verified to be important for entering practice. These verified statements are then used by the test committee, under the guidance of ETS test developers, to develop test content specifications. Teams of teachers then work with ETS test developers to write questions that align with the content specifications and meet ETS’s rigorous requirements for quality and fairness—ETS Standards for Quality and Fairness.**

When your state adopts a Praxis Subject Assessment, a cut score needs to be defined; the cut score is the minimum test score required to pass the test. ETS has pioneered a multi-state process to recommend passing scores. In this process, up to 50 educators (teachers and faculty members) from across the states that have adopted the test participate in a standard setting process to recommend a passing score. Each specific state is encouraged to review the multi-state recommendation with a small state-specific group of educators to decide on the final passing score for the state. During the multi-state study, the educators also judge the importance of the test content specifications for entering practice. This serves as an additional source of evidence of the job-relevance of the tested content.

Practicing teachers and faculty members are involved in all major phrases of test development and the standard setting process. Such expert involvement is needed to develop high-quality and job-relevant licensure assessments. This practice is consistent with how professional 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 and skills required for beginning teaching practice.