

# Introduction

As you know, teaching English to middle or secondary school students is a rewarding and challenging profession. One way you will demonstrate that you are ready for your teaching license is to pass your state’s required Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment test. To show that you *definitely* are ready for your teaching career, use this book to thoroughly prepare for your teaching licensure test. Successful teachers like you do their homework, so let’s get started.

## Format of the Test

This book contains information about the five tests that make up the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment series. Each of these tests has a different test registration code, testing time, and format, as detailed in the following table.

<b>Test</b>	<b>Registration Code</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Format</b>
English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge	0041	2 hours; about 1 minute per question	120 multiple-choice questions
English Language, Literature, and Composition: Essays	0042	2 hours; about 30 minutes per question	4 essay questions
English Language, Literature, and Composition: Pedagogy	0043	1 hour; about 30 minutes per question	2 constructed-response questions
Teaching Foundations: English	0048	4 hours; about 1 hour for each constructed-response question and 2 minutes for each multiple-choice question	50 multiple-choice questions and 2 constructed-response questions
Middle School English Language Arts	0049	2 hours; about 1 minute for each multiple-choice question and 15 minutes for each constructed-response question	90 multiple-choice questions and 2 constructed-response questions

The tests that include constructed-response questions require you to read a passage—about a literary work or a teaching situation, for example—and respond to a short-answer question. Chapter 1 of this book offers sample constructed-response questions and responses, as well as specific strategies to help you prepare for this type of test question.

Multiple-choice questions appear on three of the five Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests. These questions require you to quickly read a portion of a literary work, a synopsis of a teaching situation, or a question about teaching English and then choose the “credited response.” The credited response is the answer that gets you points on the Praxis II. Chapter 2 provides suggested strategies for approaching the multiple-choice questions.

Only one of the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessments (test 0042, English Language, Literature, and Composition: Essays) requires you to respond to essay questions. If you must take this exam, Chapter 3 is dedicated to essay questions and strategies for success on the essay questions.

When you take your Praxis II test, the proctor will give you a test booklet, and you will determine how much time you spend on each item during the test. In other words, the sections of each test are not independently timed, so you can work on any part of the test at any time you choose. As a result, you most likely will want to work on your pacing for the specific format of your test. This opportunity is provided in Part III of this book, which contains full-length practice tests for each of the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests.

## Content of the Test

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Now that you've got a general idea of the format and pacing of the test, let's take a closer look at the test's content. Each of the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests is designed to measure your knowledge of a broad range of topics related to the teaching of English. Your knowledge of these topics is usually developed in undergraduate or teacher-certification teaching methods courses, as well as in English courses. Each test covers specific content categories with which you'll want to become familiar.

First, let's take a look at the four broad content categories: Reading and Understanding Text, Language and Linguistics, Composition and Rhetoric, and Teaching English. The following table shows you the frequency of each content category on your Praxis II English test. As you can see, Reading and Understanding Text and Composition and Rhetoric are assessed on every Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment test. Clearly, you will want to study these two content categories carefully to assess your areas of strength and weakness.

<i>Test Number</i>	<i>Reading and Understanding Text</i>	<i>Language and Linguistics</i>	<i>Composition and Rhetoric</i>	<i>Teaching English</i>
0041	X	X	X	
0042	X		X	
0043	X		X	X
0048	X	X	X	X
0049	X	X	X	

In the next section, we'll take a closer look at the specific content categories covered on each of the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests to help you better understand what will be assessed on the specific test you must take.

## Specific Praxis II English Test Descriptions

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This section provides you with an overview of the content covered on your Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment test in order to help you acquaint yourself with the specific content categories in relation to the broad content categories. This will be helpful to know as you assess what content you need to study. In addition, I'll share the number of questions usually asked in each content category, as well as the approximate percentage of the test each content category comprises. This information will help you anticipate the question types and length of the exam, while also helping you feel more prepared for your test.

### English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge (0041)

This teaching licensure test is intended to measure the broad base of your knowledge and competencies related to those required of a beginning teacher of English in a secondary school. Test 0041 contains 120 multiple-choice questions that you must answer in a two-hour period. The following table provides an overview of this test's specific content categories, the related broad content categories and chapters in this book that can help you study this content, the approximate number of questions from each category, and the overall percentage of questions usually presented in each category.

<b><i>Specific Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Broad Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter to Help You Study This Content</i></b>	<b><i>Typical Number of Questions from This Category</i></b>	<b><i>Approximate Percentage of the Test</i></b>
Reading and Understanding Text	Reading and Understanding Text	Chapter 4	66	55%
Language and Linguistics	Language and Linguistics	Chapter 5	18	15%
Composition and Rhetoric	Composition and Rhetoric	Chapter 6	36	30%

## **English Language, Literature, and Composition: Essays (0042)**

This teaching licensure test is designed to assess the knowledge of future teachers of English at the secondary school level. Test 0042 is comprised of four essay questions that you must answer in a two-hour period. Of the five tests discussed in this book, this test is the only one that requires essay responses. The following table provides an overview of this test's specific content categories, the related broad content categories and chapters in this book that can help you study this content, the approximate number of questions from each category, and the overall percentage of questions usually presented in each category.

<b><i>Specific Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Broad Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter(s) to Help You Study This Content</i></b>	<b><i>Typical Number of Questions from This Category</i></b>	<b><i>Approximate Percentage of the Test</i></b>
Interpreting Literature: Poetry	Reading and Understanding Text	Chapter 4	1	25%
Interpreting Literature: Prose	Reading and Understanding Text	Chapter 4	1	25%
Issues in English: Understanding Literary Issues	Composition and Rhetoric, Reading and Understanding Text	Chapters 4 and 5	1	25%
Issues in English: Literary Issues and Literary Texts	Composition and Rhetoric, Reading and Understanding Text	Chapters 4 and 5	1	25%

## **English Language, Literature, and Composition: Pedagogy (0043)**

This teaching licensure test is designed for beginning teachers of English in a secondary school. It measures two areas required of English teachers—teaching literature and responding to student writing. Test 0043 contains two constructed-response questions that you must answer in a one-hour period. The following table provides an overview of this test's specific content categories, the related broad content categories and chapters in this book that can help you study this content, the approximate number of questions from each category, and the overall percentage of questions usually presented in each category.

<b><i>Specific Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Broad Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter to Help You Study This Content</i></b>	<b><i>Typical Number of Questions from This Category</i></b>	<b><i>Approximate Percentage of the Test</i></b>
Teaching Literature	Reading and Understanding Text	Chapter 4	1	50%
Responding to Student Writing	Composition and Rhetoric	Chapter 6	1	50%

## Teaching Foundations: English (0048)

This teaching licensure test assesses English teacher candidates' knowledge of teaching foundations, human development, modifying instruction for learning differences and special needs, teaching students whose primary language is not English, teaching reading, assessing students' progress, managing a classroom, and teaching methods in the English language arts middle- and secondary-school classroom. Test 0048 contains 50 multiple-choice questions and two constructed-response questions to be completed in a four-hour period. The following table provides an overview of this test's specific content categories, the related broad content categories and chapters in this book that can help you study this content, the approximate number of questions from each category, and the overall percentage of questions usually presented in each category.

<b><i>Specific Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Broad Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter(s) to Help You Study This Content</i></b>	<b><i>Typical Number of Questions from This Category</i></b>	<b><i>Approximate Percentage of the Test</i></b>
Human Development	Teaching English	Chapter 7	8 or 9 multiple-choice questions	5-6%
Addressing Differences and Special Needs	Teaching English	Chapter 7	8 or 9 multiple-choice questions	5-6%
Working with English Learners	Teaching English	Chapter 7	8 or 9 multiple-choice questions	5-6%
Reading Instruction	Reading and Understanding Text	Chapter 4	8 or 9 multiple-choice questions	5-6%
Assessment of Student Progress	Teaching English	Chapter 7	8 or 9 multiple-choice questions	5-6%
Classroom Management Techniques	Teaching English	Chapter 7	8 or 9 multiple-choice questions	5-6%
Teaching Methods in English, Middle/Junior High Level	Reading and Understanding Text, Composition and Rhetoric, Teaching English	Chapters 4, 6, and 7	1 constructed-response question	33%
Teaching Methods in English, High School Level	Reading and Understanding Text, Composition and Rhetoric, Teaching English	Chapters 4, 6, and 7	1 constructed-response question	33%

## Middle School English Language Arts (0049)

This teaching licensure test measures the knowledge and competencies required of a beginning teacher of English at the middle school level. Test 0049 contains 90 multiple-choice questions and two constructed-response questions that must be answered in a two-hour period. The following table provides an overview of this test's specific content categories, the related broad content categories and chapters in this book that can help you study this content, the approximate number of questions from each category, and the overall percentage of questions usually presented in each category.

<b><i>Specific Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Broad Content Category</i></b>	<b><i>Chapter to Help You Study This Content</i></b>	<b><i>Typical Number of Questions from This Category</i></b>	<b><i>Approximate Percentage of the Test</i></b>
Reading and Literature	Reading and Understanding Text	Chapter 4	37	31%
Language and Linguistics	Language and Linguistics	Chapter 5	16	13%
Composition and Rhetoric	Composition and Rhetoric	Chapter 6	37	31%
Constructed Response: Literary Analysis	Reading and Understanding Text	Chapter 4	1	12.5%
Constructed Response: Rhetorical Analysis	Composition and Rhetoric	Chapter 6	1	12.5%

## Frequently Asked Questions

You've already started on the path to success by orienting yourself with the format of the questions, planning to pace yourself, and becoming familiar with the content covered on the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests, but you probably still have several questions about your test. In this last section of the chapter, I'll answer some frequently asked questions about the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests.

**Q. How do I register for a Praxis II Subject Assessment test?**

**A.** Contact the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis). My students and I have found that online registration is the easiest and least expensive way to register.

**Q. How do I know which Praxis II test to take?**

**A.** Contact the department of education for the state in which you seek teacher licensure. If you are enrolled in a school of education, the education department or office of teacher certification also may be able to help, so check their website or contact your advisor. I recommend that you use your favorite Internet search engine to locate your state department of education's teaching certification office. For example, for Rhode Island's teacher licensure information, I would search by the keywords "Rhode Island Department of Education." Once you know which test you need to take, go to the ETS website and select the Praxis II. At this time, the Praxis II tests are available only in paper-and-pencil format, not on the computer.

**Q. How much does it cost to take the Praxis II tests?**

**A.** There is both a registration fee and a testing fee. For the current cost of your test, visit the ETS website. At the time of publication, the registration fee for a Praxis II test is \$40. Each test has its own additional fee schedule based on the format of the test, the complexity of the scoring process (for example, multiple-choice questions are less expensive to score than essay questions), and the testing time. Note that each Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment test has a 1, 2, or 3 before the test code. This number relates to the cost of the test and is required when you register. Below, you'll find the testing fees (at the time of this book's publication) by test code:

<b>Test Number</b>	<b>Test Title</b>	<b>Fee</b>
10041	English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge	\$75
20042	English Language, Literature, and Composition: Essays	\$90
30043	English Language, Literature, and Composition: Pedagogy	\$90
10048	Teaching Foundations: English	\$115
10049	Middle School English Language Arts	\$85

**Q. What score do I need to earn my teaching license?**

**A.** Each state department of education sets its own passing score. Contact your state department of education for this answer.

**Q. Why do I need to take a teaching licensure test?**

**A.** The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is a federal education policy that calls for teachers to be “highly qualified” to teach in their area(s) of teacher certification. One way teachers can demonstrate that they are highly qualified to teach English is to earn a passing score on one or more of the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests. While the federal government sets the requirements for federal funding for education programs, each state government is responsible for the education of its schoolchildren. Your state has determined which teaching licensure tests and/or other requirements are required to obtain a teaching license in that state. Your state’s department of education also has set the passing score for any teaching licensure test required.

**Q. Do all states require the Praxis II for teacher licensure?**

**A.** No, but several states do. Some states have created their own teaching licensure tests. Some states use other Praxis II tests. Again, contact your state department of education for specifics. States that require the same Praxis II test you take will accept your Praxis II scores no matter where you take the test, provided that you meet that state’s passing score requirement and that you did not take the test too long ago (usually five or more years).

**Q. How long does it take to get my scores back?**

**A.** ETS usually mails your scores to you in four to six weeks. You can also pay a fee to ETS to be able to phone for your scores about a week earlier than the date you would receive them by mail. The fee schedule is available at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).

**Q. Are any accommodations available to test-takers?**

**A.** Yes. Test-takers with disabilities and those whose primary language is not English may apply for test-taking accommodations. More information is available at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) or in the Praxis series registration booklet. The general procedure is to complete a form documenting your learning difference or status as a person whose primary language is not English and to include a document from an individual (there are specific rules as to whom you can request this documentation from) who can attest to your learning difference or status as a person whose primary language is not English. A variety of appropriate accommodations are available to test-takers with learning disabilities or differences. The one accommodation available to test-takers whose primary language is not English is 50 percent more testing time. A word of advice: Look into this information three months before you plan to take your Praxis II test to allow yourself time to complete the appropriate documentation and ensure that registration at a test center that allows for these accommodations is available to you.

**Q. What do I need on the day of the test?**

**A.** You need

1. A photo identification with your name, photograph, and signature
2. A second form of identification with your name, photograph, and signature—just to be safe!
3. Your admission ticket, printout of your registration, letter of authorization, mailgram, or telegram showing your test registration

4. Several #2 pencils and an eraser
5. Two blue or black pens for constructed-response or essay questions
6. A watch without calculator functions (optional, but advised)

You are *not* allowed to bring a calculator to any of these tests.

**Q. What's the best way to prepare for the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests?**

- A.** Do just what you're doing. Become familiar with the format, types of questions, and content of the test. After you're familiar with what will be on the test, complete several practice tests, correct them yourself, and study the content related to the questions you answered incorrectly.

## Suggestions for Using This Study Guide

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This book offers various levels of support to make your test preparation efforts more successful.

### Part I: Preparing for the Format of the Praxis II

This section provides step-by-step instruction and specific strategies for each of the three question types—constructed response, multiple choice, and essay—on the five Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests.

### Part II: Preparing for the Content of the Praxis II

As you know, the Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment tests have four broad categories of content: Reading and Understanding Text, Language and Linguistics, Composition and Rhetoric, and Teaching English. In this part of the book, detailed outlines have been prepared to save you time (no need to go through all those methods and English textbooks!) and offer a concise overview of the key theories and practices used in teaching English today. Each practice test question from Part III is linked to a chapter in Part II to provide the information you need to learn to be more successful on the actual test.

### Part III: Full-Length Practice Tests

This part offers you the opportunity to apply all that you've learned—in this book and in your English teacher education coursework. Complete the practice test for your specific Praxis II English Subject Area Assessment test, check your answers, and then study the detailed explanations. You can even practice your pacing for the Praxis II—be sure to know whether your test is a one-hour, two-hour, or four-hour session. If you'd like, you can make the most of your studying by completing any of the other four full-length practice tests to give yourself additional practice on the English content covered on your test.

### Part IV: Closing Thoughts

The last part of this book offers you study-planning options to guide you to successful and efficient test preparation for your teaching licensure test. In addition, you will find a list of resources and literary works that will give you a sense of the content covered on your test and where to get more information if you need it.