

Introduction

Education is a profession that requires knowledge, skill, and dedication. Educators are expected to conduct on-going self-assessments, review personal philosophies, identify personal teaching styles, select methods of instruction, and accommodate diverse learners. The education field requires that individuals consistently increase their overall knowledge of the education field and be accountable to society for their instruction to children.

The Praxis II Fundamental Subjects exam has been identified as one method of ensuring that teachers have the basic and fundamental subject knowledge necessary to support this profession. Teachers who desire a promising career study and prepare for it on a regular basis. Using this study guide and taking this exam are just the beginning of pursuing this profession.

Effective educators work in a variety of educational settings using their content knowledge and applying that knowledge and the principles to classroom environments. This elementary Praxis II Fundamental Subjects exam is focused on the most basic content knowledge necessary for these teachers to better understand elementary students and the educational process.

Getting Started

Whether you are a recent college graduate or an experienced teacher, taking this Praxis II Fundamental Subjects exam accommodates certain state certification and licensure requirements. The final score on this exam will reflect what you have gained from teacher preparation courses and from utilizing instructional practices in the classroom. To prepare for the Praxis II 0511 exam, you may also want to review college texts, conduct Internet research, visit the library, or speak with other professionals.

Remember that the practice exams offered in this guide provide additional information about the questions and content included in the actual Praxis II Fundamental Subjects examination. After taking one of the practice exams in this guide, use those answers and detailed explanations to further study specific topics. Then take the second practice exam to determine areas that need additional review. The practice exams and the actual exams differ in both content and difficulty.

Format of the Exam

The Praxis II exam focused on within this guide refers to the elementary education Praxis II exam, 0511 Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge. It is intended to help examinees assess their own general content knowledge regarding instruction of elementary students. This exam has 100 multiple-choice questions. The exam questions are based on key indicators of general knowledge and understanding specific to the education of elementary students. The questions found within each subject area are designed to require that examinees utilize basic and fundamental skills, which are predicated upon broad concepts of each subject.

Multiple-Choice Questions

Multiple-choice questions are designed to assess detailed knowledge of the specific subject material. They include a *stem* (statement), which may be written in one of several formats, and four answer options with the correct answer being called the *key*. The four possible selections that follow the stem are identified by letter selections A, B, C, and D. The three *distractors*, the incorrect selections, may be related to the correct answer in some way, but examinees should select only the **best** possible answer.

Multiple-choice questions are factually written and generally do not include opinion statements. The examination questions reflect *best practices* recommended and utilized in elementary education.

In both the practice tests and the actual exam, some of the multiple-choice questions are based on possible classroom situations. Examinees should read the brief excerpts and think about how the posed question should be answered in reference to only the information that is provided. Consider what an educator should do if placed in this particular circumstance and think carefully when making final answer selections.

Multiple-Choice Strategy and Formats

Strong reading skills are a basic requirement for answering discrete multiple-choice questions correctly on an examination. Comprehending the basic premise of each question and retrieving content knowledge of the area tested is essential.

When taking an exam with multiple-choice questions, an examinee should read and then reread each question. The individual should think about the answer before looking at the four options provided. The examinee then may check to see whether her choice is listed in the four options, which will make selecting the best answer an easier task. If the information in the question is unknown, an examinee should look at all of the options and use the process of elimination to choose a response. In this situation, to help an examinee select a correct answer from fewer choices, she might first remove any choices that seem impossible or not probable. When an examinee is unsure of the correct response for a multiple-choice question, she should still select an answer to the question as there is no penalty for guessing an answer.

Following are the types of *multiple-choice* formats.

Fill-in-the-Blank or Complete the Statement

This type offers information through the delivery of a partial sentence that must be completed by the examinee using one of the proposed options. An individual should select the best option that completes the sentence, using facts, data, and knowledge about elementary education.

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| <p>1. Graphs and tables are used to record _____ and specific historical information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. mathematicalB. statisticalC. scientificD. economic |
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1. **B.** Statistical information is used on graphs and tables to aid an individual in obtaining factual content. Often, tables and graphs are used to record populations, weather temperatures, historical dates, and events.

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|---|
| <p>2. President Lyndon Johnson became president when</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. President Kennedy was assassinated.B. The Cold War ended.C. President Lincoln died.D. The Civil War concluded. |
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2. **A.** President Kennedy was assassinated During a visit to Texas, by Lee Harvey Oswald. Lyndon Johnson was the vice president at the time of Kennedy's death and by law was immediately sworn in as president.

Question/Statement or Which of the Following?

This type poses a short question or delivers a statement that must be answered by selecting one of the four options provided. The most frequently used phrase is the question that begins with "Which of the following . . ." To answer these questions, examinees should read the question or statement carefully and think about all the given options, finally choosing the one that is **best** suited as an answer.

1. Which of the following fractions is equal to 55%?

- A. $11/20$
- B. $1/2$
- C. $5/11$
- D. $3/5$

1. **A.** In order to find the percentage that a fraction yields, divide the numerator (top number) by the denominator (bottom number) to obtain the decimal and then multiply by 100 to calculate the percent. 11 divided by 20 equals 0.55 and then 0.55 multiplied by 100 equals 55%.

Least/Not/Except

This type requires that an examinee select an answer that is considered *incorrect*, or *least likely* to be correct. These questions place a negative slant on the outcome of the answer, so examinees should be particularly careful in choosing a response. These questions require the examinee to first decide which of the three options provided are correct answers and then eliminate those options in order to determine the one that is incorrect, which is the answer being sought. One strategy to use is to restate the question in a positive way to help select the three correct answers, thereby leaving the fourth choice as the best answer.

Following are examples of least/not/except formats:

- Which of the following is **NOT** included on . . .
- Which is the **LEAST** likely to . . .
- All of the following are true **EXCEPT** . . .
- Which choice is **NOT** a component of . . .

The multiple-choice questions that use the terms “Least,” “Not,” or “Except” are included on the actual Praxis exams, but samples of these questions are **not** included in this study guide. It is important that examinees study only the most accurate information in preparation for the Praxis II Fundamental Subjects exam. This type of question, used on the actual exam, should be considered tricky, so use caution when selecting an answer.

Time Frame

The amount of time permitted to take the Praxis II Fundamental Subjects exam is based on the specific format of the test. Examinees are allowed up to 2 hours to answer 100 multiple-choice questions.

Examinees should use the practice exams to pace themselves in preparation for the actual exam. When taking the Praxis II Fundamental Subjects exam, examinees will need time to read each question, consider an answer, and review the final answers before submitting the test for a score.

Content of the Exam

The Fundamental Subjects exam covered in this guide is comprised of four content categories. The actual Praxis II exam assesses an examinee’s understanding of the concepts and applications of the concepts that are related to these specific categories.

This list outlines these four broad topics, the number of questions, and the percentages of the final score that are dedicated to each of these sections.

English Language Arts	25	25%
Mathematics	25	25%
Citizenship and Social Science	25	25%
Science	25	25%

Frequently Asked Questions

As an examinee prepares to take a Praxis II exam, questions may arise. Some of the most common questions have been answered here. However, if you need further assistance, contact the Educational Testing Services at 1-800-772-9476 or check their website at www.ets.org.

Q: What are the Praxis II exams?

A: The Praxis II exams were developed by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to measure the general knowledge in specific education subject areas of prospective teachers. Many states require these examinations in order to complete the certification or licensure process for professional practice, and some professional organizations require the completion of a Praxis II exam for membership.

Q: What is the best method for registering to take a Praxis II exam?

A: Many individuals find that registering online is easy since it is available 7 days a week; however, it is not intended for those who may need special accommodations due to a disability or primary language need or for those with religious or military requirements. Registration may also be conducted via U.S. mail or by calling the company. Registration must be finalized prior to taking a Praxis II exam, and it is recommended that examinees complete this 1–3 months ahead of the proposed testing date. For further information, contact the Educational Testing Services on their website or at the telephone number listed previously.

Q: Where should an examinee take a Praxis II exam?

A: Testing locations have been identified in many states and several regions across the country. A list of these centers is available online.

Q: What if an examinee misses the registration period for a test date?

A: Late registration may be allowed, but there could be an additional fee for late registration. Examinees should expedite their registration in order to be considered for the correct exam and obtain a seat at the specific testing location. Check for information about late registration on the ETS website.

Q: Can the registration date be changed if needed?

A: Contact ETS as soon as possible if a conflict or problem arises with a confirmed registration date; however, changes in dates may impose an additional fee.

Q: Which states require the Praxis II exams for certification or licensure?

A: Contact a specific state department of education or check the ETS website to determine which exams are required in each state. Some states use examinations developed by that state and may not require the use of the Praxis II exams. Checking with a specific state department of education would offer the most up to date information.

Q: How does an examinee know which particular Praxis exam should be taken?

A: States that mandate Praxis II examinations for certification or licensure do not always require the same tests. Examinees should research the state requirements by contacting the specific department of education. The teacher certification office in each state should have information to help examinees select the correct exam or combination of exams.

Q: What scores are considered as passing for teacher certification or licensure?

A: Acceptable scores differ in each state, so contacting a state department of education would provide the most accurate score information. If an examinee took a Praxis II exam in one state and then moved to another state, she should ask whether the current score may be acceptable. Most states allow the transfer of a score as long as it is recent and meets the requirement in that state.

Q: When might an examinee expect to receive the scores?

A: ETS provides the scoring results for examinees. They try to expedite this information and scores may be expected within 4 to 6 weeks, pending no major holidays. A list of scoring dates is available on the ETS website, as well as an informational guide on how to interpret an individual's scores.

Q: Are accommodations allowed for an examinee with a documented disability?

A: For individuals with disabilities, reasonable accommodations may be provided and the process to apply for these accommodations is identified online at the ETS website, under Resources for Test Takers with Disabilities. This supplemental guide is available to aid an examinee in registration and apply for support. For telephone contact, examinees may call 1-866-387-8602 Monday through Friday (8:30 A.M.–5 P.M. EST).

Q: On the day of the examination, what should an examinee plan to bring to the testing site?

A: Examinees must bring the following:

- Proof of registration—the admission ticket
- Identification that includes name, a photo, and signature
- Several sharpened soft-lead (No. 2 or HB) pencils and good eraser
- Blue or black ink pens for some exams

Other considerations include the following:

- An additional form of identification
- A watch
- Extra clothing as room temperatures may vary.

Other personal belongings may not be allowed in the testing center, so examinees should be careful of the items they bring.

Q: In what ways should an examinee prepare to take a Praxis II exam?

A: This study guide was designed to help an examinee improve the chances of receiving a passing score on a specific Praxis II exam(s). An examinee should review the testing format, and the practice exams, as well as study the content of the guide to reinforce an overall general base of knowledge.

Using this Study Guide

CliffsNotes Praxis II: Fundamental Subjects Content Knowledge (0511) includes several supports to help guide examinees.

1. **Introduction:** Included for overall information that supports the fundamental subject areas of elementary education.
2. **Subject Area Review:** A comprehensive section for each content area that includes these four major subjects: English language arts, mathematics, citizenship and social science, and science. The headings are designed as guides to those select topics identified in the examination. This section should be the focus of intense study and review.
3. **Practice Exams:** Sample full-length tests provided as a guide to the content and format of the actual Praxis II exam. In addition to the practice exams are answers with detailed explanations as an added study tool.
4. **Final Thoughts and Tips:** A summary of the test-taking strategies provided, along with tips for test preparation, which should aid an examinee in achieving exam success.