

Praxis I Test Workshop

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Schedule Plan

- Setup a schedule prior to your test date
 - At least 1 month
- This many hours each day or each week on this topic...
- Determine what topics are most familiar and what are least familiar.
 - Focus on least familiar topics.

Test Taking Strategies

- Multiple Choice Questions:
 - Read the Directions!!!!
 - Read each question & Choices
 - Underline key words and phrases
 - Identify words that could throw you off
 - Which of the following is not...
 - If you do not know the answer eliminate those that are for sure wrong
 - Look for qualifiers
 - Absolute qualifiers-always, never, all, none or every typically makes the answer incorrect
 - Conservative Qualifiers-often, most, rarely, or may are often correct.

Test Taking Strategies, cont.

- Essay
 - Start by Reading the question
 - Watch for Action Verbs-Underline Words & make sure understand meaning
 - Analyze, Explain, Compare, Contrast, Illustrate, Interpret, Outline, Criticize, Define, Prove, Describe, Review, Discuss, State, Identify, Summarize, Evaluate, Trace
 - Plan: Brainstorm Ideas & Examples (Informal Outline 1,2,3...)
 - Intro, Body, Conclusion
 - Draft: Write a thesis statement that clearly states what your essay will say & compose your essay
 - Revise/Edit: Review for grammar errors & make sure answered fully

ANXIETY



- **Prepare Well**
- **Use Relaxation Strategies**
 - Start to have heavy breathing & heart rate increases-Take a deep breath & then blow it out slowly, as if you had built a house of cards and don't want to blow it over
- **Avoid ALL negative thoughts**
- **Use Visualization:** Put yourself in the testing situation, giving out the test, room, having the test, practice stress techniques
- **Don't Arrive too Early:** Enter room 5-10 minutes before the test starts, sit down, take a deep breath & relax
- **Identify Your Triggers:** Reading the first question (start at the end or question 2), changing the time on the board (look but don't panic or keep track on your own watch)

Anxiety Strategies Cont...

- Don't let test anxiety become an **excuse**
 - Get caught so much in the stress cycle, use anxiety as an excuse-test anxiety instead of lack of preparation.
- Budget your **Time**
- **Look for clues** in other questions, may not have known a question but then remember how to from another question
- Do a **dry run**: sit down with a practice essay question and time yourself 30 minutes and actually write your answer

Identify the Test Type & Materials Covered

- The topics the test will cover
 - Talk with people who already took the test
- The types of questions on the test
 - Look at Practice Tests: Multiple Choice & Essay
- The materials you will be tested on
 - Reading
 - Math
 - Writing
- Paper Version vs. Computer Based Version

Reading

- Test Code: 0710
- Testing Time: 60 minutes
- Number of Questions: 40
- Format: Multiple Choice
- Materials Covered:
 - Literal Comprehension: 18 Qs (45%)
 - Critical & Inferential Comprehension: 22 Qs (55%)

Reading Questions

- Measures the ability to understand, analyze, and evaluate written messages.
- What kind of questions????
 - Contains long passages of approx. 200 words with 4-7 questions
 - Short passages of approx. 100 words with 2 or 3 questions
 - Brief statements followed by a single question.

Mathematics-No Calculators

- Test Code: 0730
- Testing Time: 60 minutes
- Number of Questions: 40
- Format: Multiple Choice
- Materials Covered:
 - Number & Operations: 13 Qs (32.5%)
 - Algebra: 8 Qs (20%)
 - Geometry & Measurement: 9 Qs (22.5%)
 - Data Analysis & Probability: 10 Qs (25%)

Mathematics Questions

- Measures Mathematic Skills & Concepts that an educated adult might need.
Ability to solve problems and to reason in a quantitative context
- Multiple Skills to come to a solution
- Computation is held to a minimum
- **NO CALCULATORS ALLOWED!!**

Writing

- Test Code: 0720
- Testing Time: 60 minutes
 - (2-30 minute sessions)
- Number of Questions: 39
- Format: 38 Multiple Choice Qs, 1 Essay Q
- Materials Covered:
 - Grammatical Relationships- 13 Qs (17%)
 - Structural Relationships-14 Qs (18.5%)
 - Word Choice & Mechanics- 11 Qs (14.5 %)
 - Essay- 1 Q (50 %)

Writing Questions

- Assess the **ability to use grammar and language appropriately** and the ability to **communicate effectively in writing**.
- **Multiple Choice Section**: ability to use standard written English correctly
- **Essay Section**: Ability to write effectively in a limited period of time.
 - Draw from personal experiences, observation & readings to support a position

How to Register?????

- Written Version
 - Go online to www.ets.org/praxis
- Computer Based Version
 - Call: 1-800-853-6773 press option 3
- Use handout as a guide....

Scores

- A paper copy of the scores will no longer be mailed to you. Instead you must access them online at the ETS website after your test date.

Resources

- Student Affairs Praxis Website:
<http://www.d.umn.edu/cehsp/studentaffairs/licensure/tests.html>
- Prepare for the Praxis Test:
<http://www.d.umn.edu/cehsp/studentaffairs/licensure/praxis/praxisprep.html>
- Education Dept: 150 EduE, Chris Peterson
 - Check out a Praxis Preparation Book
- Online Practice Tests: UMD Library & Duluth Public Library

Conclusion

- Register Sooner Rather than Later
 - Next test November 14th, Register by October 15th
- Prepare for the test
 - Take information from this workshop and DO SOMETHING!!!
- Go Online to the Praxis Website:
 - www.ets.org/praxis

Questions?????

