

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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August 5, 1983

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TO: All Those Interested in Activities of the
Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: John F. Brown, Executive Secretary *John F. Brown*

SUBJECT: Passing Score on the NTE General Knowledge Test

On August 5, 1983, the Commission set the passing score on the NTE General Knowledge Test at 660. This passing score will be in effect for one year. At the direction of the Commission, the passing score will be reviewed to determine if it should be maintained or changed for 1984-85. The General Knowledge Test yields only a single score.

Applicants for the Multiple Subjects Credential may satisfy the subject matter requirements for the credential by obtaining a passing score on the General Knowledge Test. Passing scores obtained on the three sections of the NTE Common Examination previously used by the Commission will continue to be accepted for a period of five years from the date on which the scores were obtained. The passing scores on these three sections remain unchanged. They are: English Language and Literature, 60; Social Science, Literature and Fine Arts, 62; Science and Mathematics, 62.

The subject matter requirements for the Multiple Subjects Credential may also be satisfied by completion of a Commission-approved program of diversified liberal studies.

The newly adopted passing score for the General Knowledge Test was set by the Commission using information provided by an Advisory Panel of experienced, currently practicing elementary school teachers and teacher educators. The practicing teachers constituted approximately 80 percent of the panel membership; these teachers have had experience in teaching at all elementary grade levels. The Advisory Panel reviewed all the questions on one form of the test to provide the information used by the Commission in arriving at its decision.

Since the General Knowledge Test has not been used previously in California, and has been available nationally for only one year, no meaningful normative data were available for use by the Commission. However, the use of judgments by practicing teachers and teacher educators about the relevance and difficulty of the actual test question is generally considered to be a more educationally sound approach to setting passing scores.

If credential applicants have taken and passed one or two sections of the Common Examinations, it will still be necessary to take all of the General Knowledge Test. There is no way that partial passing scores on the Common Examinations can be used.