

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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Sacramento, California 94244-2700



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

93-9312

DATE: June 1, 1993

TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the Activities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

FROM: 
Philip A. Fitch, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Examination Changes for 1993-94

Educational Testing Service (ETS), which administers the Commission-approved subject matter examinations, is reorganizing its testing system and renaming a number of its tests effective the fall of 1993. The Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teachers (MSAT), the NTE Specialty Area tests, and the Content Area Performance Assessments (CAPAs) will be offered under the new title of "Praxis Series: Professional Assessments for Beginning Teachers™". *The content of the tests is not changing, only the titles.* This fall, candidates will simply register to take the appropriate examination(s) using a test bulletin that has the new Praxis Series title instead of the old NTE title.

The following pages contain charts which describe which test or tests are appropriate for California teaching credentials and the 1993-94 test dates, fees, and score reports.

The Commission has adopted CAPAs for ten of the Single Subject Teaching Credentials. Some of the two-hour CAPAs previously adopted have been reorganized and are now administered as two one-hour examinations. The chart on the following page shows the new names given to those examinations and indicates which exams are the multiple choice NTE Specialty Area tests and which are CAPA constructed response examinations. In addition, the chart gives the test numbers used in the registration bulletin and lists how many hours candidates are given to take each test.

The passing scores for the NTE Specialty Area tests remain unchanged for 1993-94. The reorganization of the CAPAs will require some adjustment to those scores. The Commission will establish the passing standards for the CAPAs at their July 15-16 meeting and the scores will be distributed immediately following that meeting.

Agencies that have automatically received packets of NTE bulletins in the past will receive the new Praxis Series bulletins and registration packets this summer. They will also receive the "California Supplement" which briefly describes the tests needed for a credential in California, and the new "Tests at a Glance" information. "Tests at a Glance" is a series of 13 publications which contain an outline of test content, sample test questions for each test, and sample responses for tests containing essay or constructed-response questions. If you call to order bulletins, be sure to ask for all three pieces of information. Candidates will not automatically get the "Tests at a Glance" when they register, so you may want to have them available.

If you have questions about the Praxis Series of examinations, please call the Commission Office at (916) 445-7254 and select the menu choice for examinations or write to Dr. Terry Janicki, at the above address.

Praxis II Subject Assessments effective Fall 1993

CREDENTIAL & SUBJECT	TEST TITLES	TEST # (Hours)
Multiple Subject Teaching General Subjects	Multiple Subject Assessment for Teachers (MSAT)	140 (2)
	Content Knowledge (Multiple Choice)	150 (2)
	Content Area Exercises 1	160 (1)
	Content Area Exercises 2	160 (1)
Single Subject Teaching	Agriculture	NTE 900 (2)
	Art Education	NTE 130 (2)
	Art Making	CAPA 131 (1)
	Content/Traditions/Aesthetics/Criticism of Art	CAPA 132 (1)
	Business Education	NTE 100 (2)
	English Language & Literature	NTE 040 (2)
	English Language, Literature & Composition: Essays	CAPA 042 (2)
	French	NTE 170 (2)
	French: Productive Language Skills	CAPA 171 (1)
	French: Linguistic, Literature, & Cultural Analysis	CAPA 172 (1)
	German	NTE 180 (2)
	German	NTE 190 (2)
	Spanish	CAPA 192 (1)
	Spanish: Productive Language Skills	CAPA 193 (1)
	Spanish: Linguistic, Literature, & Cultural Analysis	
	No Examination Available (see Social Science)	
	No Examination Available	
	No Examination Available (see Social Science)	
	Home Economics Education	NTE 120 (2)
	Technology Education	NTE 050 (2)
	Biology & General Science	NTE 030 (2)
	Biology: Content Essays	CAPA 233 (1)
General Science: Content Essays	CAPA 433 (1)	
Mathematics	NTE 060 (2)	
Mathematics: Proofs, Models, & Problems, Part 1	CAPA 063 (1)	
Mathematics: Proofs, Models, & Problems, Part 2	CAPA 064 (1)	
Music Education	NTE 110 (2)	
Music: Concepts & Processes	CAPA 111 (1)	
Music: Analysis	CAPA 112 (1)	
Physical Education	NTE 090 (2)	
Physical Education: Movement Forms-Analysis & Design	CAPA 092 (1)	
Physical Education: Movement Forms-Video Evaluation	CAPA 093 (1)	
Chemistry, Physics, & General Science	NTE 070 (2)	
Physical Science: Content Essays	CAPA 482 (1)	
General Science: Content Essays	CAPA 433 (1)	
Social Studies	NTE 080 (2)	
Social Studies: Analytical Essays	CAPA 082 (1)	
Social Studies: Interpretation of Materials	CAPA 083 (1)	

Praxis II -- Additional Information Fall 1993

TEST DATES:

Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teachers (MSAT)

October 23, 1993
January 22, 1994 (special California administration)
March 5, 1994
June 11, 1994

Specialty Area Tests and Praxis II: Subject Assessments (CAPA)

November 13, 1993
January 27, 1994 (special California administration)
March 26, 1994
July 9, 1994

TEST FEES:

Registration (per test date)	\$20
Multiple Subject Assessment for Teachers (MSAT)	
Content Knowledge	\$50
Content Area Exercises 1	\$35
Content Area Exercises 2	\$35
Praxis II: Subject Assessments	
Two-hour tests	\$50
One-hour tests	\$35
Specialty Area Tests	\$50
Service Fees	
Late Registration	\$15
Test or Center Change	\$15
Standby Registration	\$25
File Correction	\$20
Rescoring	\$25
Additional Score Reports	\$20 each

SCORE REPORTS:

Beginning with the 1993-94 testing year, the paper score reports for a current test administration will contain the test scores from that administration, plus examinees' highest scores from all tests taken within the past five years. The Commission will receive a tape of the scores for people taking the test in California after each administration and is developing a program to display them in the Credential Automation System (CAS). Please continue to have applicants include a copy of their paper score report with their applications until we notify you that those paper reports are no longer necessary. Some colleges and universities are eligible under ETS's policy to have scores reported to them. School districts and county offices of education which may have received scores directly from ETS in the past, may call for score information after October 1993: (609) 771-7395

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

9TH STREET

SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-7000



**Examinations and Assessments for
California Teaching Credentials:
Answers to Candidates' Questions**

Commission on Teacher Credentialing

State of California

June 1993

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing

State of California

Pete Wilson, Governor

June 1993

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David Wright, Ph.D.	Director, Professional Services Division
Terry Janicki, Ph.D.	Assessment Research and Development Consultant

Examinations and Assessments for California Teaching Credentials: Answers to Candidates' Questions

Commission on Teacher Credentialing
State of California
June 1993

Applicants for California Teaching Credentials (Single and Multiple Subjects) are required by state laws to verify their competence in the subject(s) they seek to teach. State laws give applicants two ways to verify this competence. The first option is completion of a subject matter program that has been approved by the Commission at a regionally accredited college or university. The second option is passage of an examination and assessment of knowledge and competence that has been adopted by the Commission. This document answers questions that candidates for credentials frequently ask about subject matter examinations and assessments.

QUESTION: *Why did the Commission develop the Content Area Performance Assessments (CAPAs) for Single Subject Credentials?*

The Commission assessed the validity of the NTE Specialty Area Tests by inviting more than 400 California teachers, curriculum specialists and university professors to evaluate the importance of each test question. At the conclusion of this study, the educators recommended that the Commission *supplement* the NTE Specialty Area Tests by requiring examinees to pass an *assessment* of their ability to *perform in a content area*. The educators recommended that the Commission assess the ability to perform basic intellectual exercises that reflect on an examinee's competence in the content area, *not* the ability to *teach* the content area. The Commission accepted the educators' recommendation in order to (1) maximize the validity of the examinations for teaching credentials, and (2) make the examinations more equivalent to the content area programs that are waived by the examinations.

QUESTION: *Why did the Commission develop the Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teaching (MSAT)?*

When the Commission awards a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, the Commission is responsible for verifying that the individual possesses the knowledge that is most important for California elementary teachers. This body of knowledge has changed recently because California school districts have been making significant changes in the curriculum of elementary schools. Colleges and universities throughout the state have been responding to these changes by restructuring their undergraduate programs for prospective elementary teachers (Liberal Studies Programs). The Commission developed the MSAT in order to use an assessment that (1) validly assesses the most important knowledge that elementary teachers need in California, (2) is aligned with the curriculum of elementary schools in the state, (3) is aligned with the curriculum of teacher education in California colleges and universities, and (4) responds to a recent act of the California Legislature, which expanded the scope of the subject matter examination.

QUESTION: *How did the Commission develop the MSAT and the CAPAs? Who was responsible for writing the assessment questions?*

Each of these assessments was developed by a panel of California school teachers, curriculum specialists and university professors, which was appointed by the Commission. Each expert panel developed a content outline for the assessment, which was reviewed by hundreds of other teachers, principals and curriculum specialists in California schools, who recommended necessary changes in the content outlines. Then the expert panels developed assessment questions, exercises and problems, which were pilot tested (tried out) on four occasions. Thousands of candidates for California teaching credentials participated in these pilot tests of the CAPAs and the MSAT. The expert panels of California educators reviewed the results of each pilot test and modified all of the assessment questions, exercises and problems, as necessary. The expert panels also recommended passing standards on the CAPAs and the MSAT, based on the results of the fourth pilot test of each assessment. To set these passing standards, the educators asked themselves: "How well should a credential candidate do on this assessment in order to serve as a minimally competent, entry-level teacher in a California public school?" The recommendations by California educators were adopted by the Commission, which also consists of California school teachers and administrators, university professors and representatives of the general public.

QUESTION: *Which Examination or Assessment Must I Pass for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential?*

For the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, the relevant assessment is the Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teachers (MSAT). It has a multiple-choice test section and two short-response sections as follows:

- Content Knowledge Section (Test 14)
- Content Area Exercises 1 (Test 15)
- Content Area Exercises 2 (Test 16)

The Content Area Exercises (Tests 15 and 16) must be taken on the same day.

QUESTION: *What are the passing standards on the Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teaching (MSAT)?*

Test Dates	MSAT Test Sections	Passing Scores	Minimum Allowable Scores	Overall Scores
October 92	Content Knowledge Section	156	148	308
	Content Area Exercises	152	143	
January 93	Content Knowledge Section	156	148	311
March 93	Content Area Exercises	155	147	

The MSAT can be passed by achieving a passing score on each section. Alternatively, you can also pass by earning a minimum allowable score (or above) in each section *and* earning a total score that equals or exceeds the required total. These passing standards will be reviewed once again by the Commission before the June test date.

QUESTION: What are the passing standards on the Content Area Performance Assessments (CAPAs)?

CAPAs Effective 11-91	Number of Questions	Total Possible Score Entire Test	Current Passing Standard
Subject of Assessment			
English (45)	2	24	15
Life Science (47)	4	40	22
Mathematics (44)	4	40	23
Physical Sciences (48)	4	40	22
Social Sciences (46)	2	24	15

CAPAs Effective 11-92	Number of Questions	Total Possible Score	Module Passing Score	Module Minimum Score ¹	Current Passing Score (Total)
Subject of Assessment					
Art (61)					
Module 1	3	30	17	14	
Module 2	4	26	16	13	33
French (63)					
Module 1	12	30	20	n / a	
Module 2	3	26	16	n / a	n / a
Music (68)					
Module 1	2	20			
Module 2	3	20	n / a	n / a	24
Physical Educ. (74)					
Module 1	2	24	5	14	
Module 2	2	24	5	14	30
Spanish (76)					
Module 1	12	30	20	n / a	
Module 2	3	26	16	n / a	n / a

¹ A module minimum score is acceptable if the total passing score is achieved.

QUESTION: What are the dates of the examinations and assessments?

The 1993-94 schedule will be available from ETS in August 1993.

QUESTION: How do I register to take the examinations and assessments?

Registration materials are available in the 1992-93 *NTE Programs Bulletin of Information*, which you can request from your employer, college or university, or directly from NTE at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

National Teacher Examinations	
Educational Testing Service	
P.O. Box 23470	or 2 North Lake Avenue, Suite 510
Oakland, CA 94623-0470	Pasadena, CA 91101
(510) 654-1200	(818) 578-1971

QUESTION: Where can I find study materials?

You could begin your preparations for an examination or assessment by studying the descriptive information in pages 18 through 29 of the *NTE Programs Bulletin of Information* for 1992-93. When you register for an examination or assessment, you will receive in the mail (with your test registration materials) a descriptive leaflet that further describes the exam or assessment that you will be taking. This leaflet will also include sample questions (with answers) that represent the problems included in your exam or assessment. In the case of the Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teaching (MSAT), this leaflet provides 31 pages of information. You may also obtain the leaflet from the credentialing office at your college, university, school district or county office of education.

After examining this descriptive information, you may find appropriate study materials in the bookstore of any university or college (including most two-year or four-year institutions). You may gain a systematic introduction to a subject by purchasing a textbook that is currently used in an undergraduate "survey" course for students who are majoring in that subject. Look for a text in which the contents are aligned with the descriptive information in the *NTE Bulletin of Information* or the ETS leaflet. Although such a textbook is likely to provide a most systematic overview of the subject, you may also find useful preparation materials in a test study guide, which may also be available in the college bookstore.

QUESTION: Once I earn a passing score, for how long is my score valid?

Passing scores must be used for credentialing purposes within five years of the test date. The five-year policy applies to the Specialty Area Examinations, the Content Area Performance Assessments, the Multiple Subject Assessment for Teaching, and the formerly used Core Battery Test of General Knowledge.

QUESTION: *How do I apply for the credential once I have passed the appropriate examination and assessment?*

Official examination score reports must be submitted with your completed credential application form, other required supporting materials, and appropriate fees. In addition to the current credential application fee, there is a thirty dollar (\$30) test development and administration fee for each NTE Specialty Area Examination and for the Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teaching. There is no separate processing fee for the Content Area Performance Assessment.

QUESTION: *What can I do if I am not able to pass the appropriate examinations before my Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential expires?*

If you are *not* currently employed in a position that requires the credential, you may let the credential expire and apply to renew it when you pass the examinations.

If you *are* employed, you may ask your employer about the possibility of applying for an emergency credential that would enable you to continue your service until you are able to pass the examinations. However, your employer is obligated under the law to seek a fully qualified person to fill every position, and can only request an emergency credential if no such person is available or deemed qualified to hold the position.

If you hold a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential that was issued between September 1, 1991 and October 1, 1992 and you have completed the U.S. Constitution and reading requirements for the credential, you may apply for a one-year extension of your credential. The one-year extension will be part of the total five-year preliminary time period in which all requirements for the professional clear credential must be met. The expiration date of the extension will be one year from the expiration date of the original preliminary Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. This extension was established by the Commission on November 6, 1992, to accommodate credential holders who may have been adversely affected by the change from the General Knowledge Test to the Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teaching.

If you have additional questions, you may call the Commission's Information Services Office at (916) 445-7254 between 12:30 and 4:30 any workday afternoon. Please select the menu choice for examinations. Thank you very much.