

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

FROM: Sam W. Swofford, Ed.D.
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Implementation of the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET™)

Teacher candidates in California are required to demonstrate competence in the subject matter they will be authorized to teach. Candidates have two options available for satisfying this requirement. They can either complete a Commission-accredited subject matter preparation program or they can pass the appropriate Commission-adopted subject matter examination(s). Because they satisfy the same requirement, these two options are as aligned and congruent as possible.

In the late 1990s, the State Board of Education adopted K-12 student content standards in English, mathematics, science, and social science. These new standards have obvious and direct implications for the subject matter competence requirement of prospective teachers. This was recognized in SB 2042 (Alpert, 1998), which requires the Commission to ensure that subject matter program standards and examinations are aligned with the K-12 student content standards adopted by the State Board.

The Commission recently developed new subject matter requirements for the Multiple and Single Subject Teaching Credentials, and Education Specialist Instruction Credential, in light of the current K-12 California Student Academic Content Standards. The subject matter requirements for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential were adopted by the Commission in September 2001, and for the Single Subject Teaching Credential in June 2002. All sets of subject matter requirements are available on the Commission's web site at www.ctc.ca.gov. As a result, the Commission will implement a new examination program called the California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET). This program will, over the next four years, take the place of the current SSAT and Praxis II subject matter examinations. The CSET will be developed and administered by National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES®). The CSET contract will run through October 2006, and will include test administrations through June 2006. This correspondence describes the CSET and the transition from the SSAT and Praxis II to the new testing program.

California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET)

The first administration of the CSET is scheduled for January 2003, in multiple subjects (for the Multiple Subject Teaching and Education Specialist Instruction Credentials), English, mathematics, science, and social science. The CSET will be available in the remaining subject areas over the subsequent two years: tests in art, languages other than English, music, physical education, and

preliminary educational technology will first be administered in Spring 2004; tests in agriculture, business, health science, home economics, and industrial and technology education in Spring 2005.

CSET Testing Structures. Currently, for most subject areas, prospective teachers choosing to satisfy the subject matter competence requirement by examination must take multiple tests (Praxis II and SSAT), from two different test contractors (ETS and NES), on different dates. Most of the tests cover the entire subject area but consist of either all multiple-choice items or all constructed-response items. Diagnostic information is provided, but if an examinee fails a test, s/he must retake the entire test, even though the examinee may be strong in one or more of the domains tested.

Subject matter examinations offered through the CSET program will be designed as single, multi-part tests administered by a single contractor (NES). Test structures will emphasize content rather than item type. Each test will consist of subtests that cover specified domains of subject matter, and each will include multiple-choice and/or constructed-response test items. Examinees will be provided five uninterrupted hours of testing time in which to complete, in the order of their choice, any or all subtests for which they have registered. Because the tests are meant to be power tests (showing what an examinee knows and can do) rather than speeded tests (showing what an examinee knows and can do quickly), and to allow ample time for all examinees, including those for whom English is not their primary language, subtests will not be separately timed. An examinee who passes a subtest need not be tested again in the domains on that subtest and, conversely, an examinee who fails a subtest need only focus on the domains tested on that subtest.

Test structures for the CSET in multiple subjects, English, mathematics, science, and social science, are shown in Tables 1-5 below. Indications of time required for items are estimations only. Test structures in the remaining subject matter examinations have not yet been determined. Commission staff will examine options and develop these tests in consultation with subject matter advisory panels and the contractor. It is expected, however, that each test will consist of subtests based on content domains.

Table 1: Subtest Structure of the CSET: Multiple Subjects

Subtest	Number of Multiple-Choice Items per Test Form	Number of Constructed-Response Items per Test Form
I: Reading, Language, and Literature; History and Social Science	52 (26 in each area)	4 (2 in each area; 10 min. each)
II: Science; Mathematics	52 (26 in each area)	4 (2 in each area; 10 min. each)
III: Physical Education; Human Development; Visual and Performing Arts	39 (13 in each area)	3 (1 in each area; 10 min. each)
Total Items	143	11

Table 2: Subtest Structure of the CSET: English

Subtest	Number of Multiple-Choice Items per Test Form	Number of Constructed-Response Items per Test Form
I: Literature and Textual Analysis; Composition and Rhetoric	50	none
II: Language, Linguistics, and Literacy	50	none
III: Composition and Rhetoric; Literature and Textual Analysis	none	2 (1 based on literary text, 1 based on non-literary text; 45 min. each)
IV: Communications: Speech, Media, and Creative Performance	none	4 (15 min. each)
Total Items	100	6

Note. Subtest I tests the two domains of (a) Literature and Textual Analysis and (b) Composition and Rhetoric separately, using multiple-choice items. Subtest III tests the two domains in an integrated fashion, using constructed-response items.

Table 3: Subtest Structure of the CSET: Mathematics

Subtest	Number of Multiple-Choice Items per Test Form	Number of Constructed-Response Items per Test Form
I: Algebra; Number Theory	30 (inc. 10 “enhanced” items)	4 (3 in Algebra, 1 in Number Theory; 10 min. each)
II: Geometry; Probability and Statistics	30 (inc. 10 “enhanced” items)	4 (3 in Geometry, 1 in Probability and Statistics; 10 min. each)
III: Calculus; History of Mathematics	30 (inc. 10 “enhanced” items)	4 (3 in Calculus, 1 in History of Mathematics; 10 min. each)
Total Items	90	12

Note. “Enhanced” multiple-choice items are more complex items requiring 2.5 minutes each on average. Examinees will be able to use graphing calculators while taking Subtest II. No calculators will be allowed for Subtests I and III.

Table 4: Subtest Structure of the CSET: Science

Subtest	Number of Multiple-Choice Items per Test Form	Number of Constructed-Response Items per Test Form
I: General Science: Astronomy; Dynamic Processes of the Earth; Earth Resources; Waves; Forces and Motion; Electricity and Magnetism	58	2 (10 min. each)
II: General Science: Ecology; Genetics and Evolution; Molecular Biology and Biochemistry; Cell and Organismal Biology; Heat Transfer and Thermodynamics; Structure and Properties of Matter	58	2 (10 min. each)
III: Concentration: Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Planetary Science, or Physics	50	3 (10 min. each)
Total Items	166	7

Note. A candidates must complete all parts of Subtests I and II, but need only complete Subtest III in his/her area of concentration.

Table 5: Subtest Structure of the CSET: Social Science

Subtest	Number of Multiple-Choice Items per Test Form	Number of Constructed-Response Items per Test Form
I: World History; Geography	39	1 (World History; 30 min.) 2 (1 in World History, 1 in Geography; 10 min. each)
II: U.S. History; Geography	39	1 (U.S. History; 30 min.) 2 (1 in U.S. History, 1 in Geography; 10 min. each)
III: Civics; Economics; California History	40	3 (1 in each domain; 10 min. each)
Total Items	118	9

Transition from PRAXIS II and SSAT to the CSET

Given the significant differences in content and test structures between the new examinations of the CSET program and the Praxis II and SSAT, it is not appropriate to combine scores across the old and new testing programs. Examinees who have already had partial, but not complete, success on the relevant Praxis II and/or SSAT (prior to January 25, 2003) will be provided with three final opportunities (i.e., test administrations) to earn the required passing Praxis II and/or SSAT scores. A candidate has achieved partial success, and is thus eligible to use passing scores from the final three test administrations of the Praxis II or SSAT towards California certification, if s/he has satisfied the following criteria between February 1, 1998, and January 25, 2003. (For qualifying test scores, see Table 6: Eligibility Scores for "Partial Success.")

- at least the passing score in effect at the time the score was earned on an SSAT examination, or on a pair of SSAT examinations that have a single passing standard; or
- at least the passing score in effect at the time the score was earned on a Praxis II examination, or on a pair of Praxis II examinations that have a single passing standard; or
- at least the minimum score that was in effect on January 1, 1999 on a Praxis II examination that does not currently have a separate passing score.

During the final three Praxis II and SSAT test administrations, an examinee may take any examination in a subject in which s/he has achieved "partial success." Multiple subjects, English, mathematics, science, and social science candidates who have not met at least one of the above criteria for "partial success" will be required to pass the appropriate examination in the new CSET program. **If an examinee does not meet any of the above criteria and takes the Praxis II or SSAT during any of the final three test administrations, that test score will not be accepted towards California certification.** Some of the examinations may be administered after June 2003 for use in other states, but scores obtained at those later administrations will not be accepted for California certification. All passing test scores must be used for California certification within five years of the individual test date.

A candidate may take any of the last three administrations of the MSAT or the Praxis II and SSAT in English, mathematics, science, and social science if s/he has achieved "partial success" by obtaining the eligibility score(s) in the subject as listed in Table 6.

Table 6: Eligibility Scores for “Partial Success”

Test Title	Test Code	Date Score Earned ¹	Eligibility Score
MSAT			
Praxis II: MSAT Content Knowledge	10140		156
Praxis II: MSAT Content Area Exercises	20151		155
English			
SSAT: Literature and English Language	01		220
Praxis II: English Language, Literature and Composition: Essays	20042	before 4/15/99	160
Praxis II: English Language, Literature and Composition: Essays	20042	beginning 4/16/99	155
Mathematics			
SSAT: Mathematics	02		220
Praxis II: Mathematics: Proofs, Models, and Problems, Part 1	20063		165
Praxis II: Mathematics: Proofs, Models, and Problems, Part 2	30064		152
Science			
Science: Biological Science			
SSAT: Biology	05		220 ²
SSAT: General Science	04		220 ²
Praxis II: Biology: Content Essays	30233	before 8-31-99	157 ³
Praxis II: General Science: Content Essays	30433	before 8-31-99	150 ³
Praxis II: Biology: Content Essays	30233	beginning 9-1-99	161
Praxis II: General Science: Content Essays	30433	beginning 9-1-99	135
Science: Chemistry			
SSAT: Chemistry	06		220 ⁴
SSAT: General Science	04		220 ⁴
Praxis II: Chemistry: Content Essays	30242	before 8-31-99	155 ⁵
Praxis II: General Science: Content Essays	30433	before 8-31-99	150 ⁵
Praxis II: Chemistry: Content Essays	30242	beginning 9-1-99	150
Praxis II: General Science: Content Essays	30433	beginning 9-1-99	135

¹ For all tests, unless otherwise indicated, the eligibility score must be earned between February 1, 1998, and January 25, 2003. Any passing score must be used for California certification within five years of the test date.

² **Science: Biological Science (SSAT).** A combined score of 440 is also acceptable if you obtained at least the minimum scores of 208 on Test #05 and 208 on Test #04, and both scores were obtained before 8-31-99.

³ **Science: Biological Science (Praxis II).** A combined score of 307 is also acceptable if you obtained at least the minimum scores of 150 on Test #30233 and 140 on Test #30433, and both scores were obtained before 8-31-99.

⁴ **Science: Chemistry (SSAT).** A combined score of 440 is also acceptable if you obtained at least the minimum scores of 208 on Test #06 and 208 on Test #04, and both scores were obtained before 8-31-99.

⁵ **Science: Chemistry (Praxis II).** A combined score of 305 is also acceptable if you obtained at least the minimum scores of 145 on Test #30242 and 140 on Test #30433, and both scores were obtained before 8-31-99.

Table 6: Eligibility Scores for “Partial Success” (continued)

Test Title	Test Code	Date Score Earned ¹	Eligibility Score
<i>Science: Geoscience</i>			
SSAT: Geosciences	07		220 ⁶
SSAT: General Science	04		220 ⁶
Praxis II: General Science: Content Essays	30433	before 8-31-99	150
Praxis II: General Science: Content Essays	30433	beginning 9-1-99	135
<i>Science: Physics</i>			
SSAT: Physics	08		220 ⁷
SSAT: General Science	04		220 ⁷
Praxis II: Physics: Content Essays	30262	before 8-31-99	160 ⁸
Praxis II: General Science: Content Essays	30433	before 8-31-99	150 ⁸
Praxis II: Physics: Content Essays	30262	beginning 9-1-99	160
Praxis II: General Science: Content Essays	30433	beginning 9-1-99	135
Social Sciences			
SSAT: Social Studies	03		220
Praxis II: Social Studies: Analytical Essays	20082		150
Praxis II: Social Studies: Interpretation of Materials	20083		161

2002-2003 Test Dates: Praxis II, SSAT, and CSET

Table 7 lists the 2002-2003 dates associated with the Praxis II, SSAT, and CSET administrations. Scores from the last three administrations of the MSAT and SSAT and Praxis II in English, mathematics, science, and social science may be used for California certification only if a candidate had prior “partial success.”

Following the initial administration of the CSET, standard-setting studies will be conducted with an independent review panel for each new test to develop recommended passing scores. The results of these studies will be presented to the Commission for adoption of passing standards. It is possible that score reporting (including Internet posting of unofficial results) for initial test administrations may be delayed for a short period pending determination of a passing standard.

⁶ ***Science: Geoscience (SSAT).*** A combined score of 440 is also acceptable if you obtained at least the minimum scores of 208 on Test #07 and 208 on Test #04, and both scores were obtained before 8-31-99.

⁷ ***Science: Physics (SSAT).*** A combined score of 440 is also acceptable if you obtained at least the minimum scores of 208 on Test #08 and 208 on Test #04, and both scores were obtained before 8-31-99.

⁸ ***Science: Physics (Praxis II).*** A combined score of 310 is also acceptable if you obtained at least the minimum scores of 150 on Test #30262 and 140 on Test #30433, and both scores were obtained before 8-31-99.

Table 7: 2002-2003 Subject Matter Examination Dates

Examination Program	Examination Administration Date	Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline	Emergency Registration Deadline	Score Reports Mailed
PRAXIS	9-21-02	8-20-02	8-27-02	-	10-22-02
SSAT^{ab}	10-26-02	9-20-02	10-10-02	10-22-02	12-6-02
PRAXIS	11-23-02	10-22-02	10-29-02	-	12-24-02
PRAXIS	1-11-03	12-10-02	12-17-02	-	2-11-03
SSAT/CSET^{abcd}	1-25-03	12-27-02	1-14-03	1-21-03	2-24-03
PRAXIS^c	3-8-03	2-4-03	2-11-03	-	4-8-03
SSAT/CSET^{abcd}	3-22-03	2-21-03	3-11-03	3-8-03	4-21-03
PRAXIS^c	4-26-03	3-25-03	4-1-03	-	5-27-03
SSAT/CSET^{abcd}	5-17-03	4-18-03	5-6-03	5-13-03	6-16-03
PRAXIS^c	6-28-03	5-27-03	6-3-03	-	7-29-03
CSET^d	7-19-03	6-20-03	7-8-03	7-15-03	8-18-03

Notes. ^aSSAT exams in German, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Punjabi, Russian, and Vietnamese only offered on October 2002 and May 2003. ^bIncludes the test of preliminary education technology. ^cMSAT and SSAT and Praxis II in English, mathematics, science, and social science examinations only available to candidates with prior "partial success." Other subjects offered are available to all candidates. ^dCSET offered in multiple subjects, English, mathematics, science, and social science.

Examination Fees

There will be several changes to the examination fees for the 2002-2003 testing year. All of the Praxis II fees will remain the same except the surcharge (program management fee) required for each MSAT examination. This has increased from \$15 to \$21. The SSAT regular registration fees have increased as shown below. The CSET fees for each subject matter examination are based on a total cost of \$216. Candidates pay only for the subtest(s) for which they registered: \$72 per subtest for each subject matter test that is comprised of three subtests (e.g., multiple subjects, mathematics, science, and social science), \$54 per subtest for a test comprised of four subtests (e.g., English). There is no additional registration fee for the CSET. See Table 8 for specific test and service fees.

Table 8: Subject Matter Exam Fees for the 2002-2003 Testing Year

Fees	Praxis II	SSAT	CSET
Regular Registration	MSAT: Content Knowledge \$70 MSAT: Content Area Exercises..... \$110 1-hour constructed-response Subject Assessment test...\$70 2-hour constructed-response Subject Assessment test ...\$85 Registration fee (per test date, in addition to test fees) . \$35 Program Management Fee (per MSAT test)..... \$21	Multiple-Choice test. \$64 Multiple-Choice and Constructed-Response test \$88 Foreign Language Multiple-Choice & Constructed-Response test\$125 Registration Processing Fee (per test date, in addition to test fees) \$51	Each subtest (except English) \$72 Each English subtest \$54
Late Reg.	\$35*	\$25*	\$25*
Emergency Reg.	(not available)	\$50*	\$50*
Stand-by Reg.	\$60*	(not available)	(not available)
Change of Reg. (test date, location)	\$35	No fee	No fee
Adding a Test	\$35*	Free*	Free*
Telephone Re-registration	\$25*	\$25*	\$25*
Additional Score Report (per report)	\$30	\$15	\$15
Score Verification	Multiple-choice test..... \$35 Constructed-response test\$50 MSAT: Content Area Exercises..... \$75	\$25 (multiple-choice components only)	\$25 (multiple-choice components only)
Clear an Account	\$20	\$20	\$20
Preparation Guide Booklet (per booklet)	free	\$6	Free, only available from CSET web site
Unofficial Score Results	Phone: \$20 per request	Internet: free (one-time access)	Internet: free (one-time access)
File Correction	\$30	none	none

*In addition to the appropriate "Regular Registration Fee."

Questions

For questions concerning the subject matter requirements or other credentialing issues discussed in this correspondence, contact the Commission's Information Services Office at (916) 445-7256, (888) 921-2682, or credentials@ctc.ca.gov. Examination and credentialing information can also be found on the Commission's web site at www.ctc.ca.gov.

If you have questions regarding test registration, administration procedures, or score reports, contact the appropriate testing agency as follows.

The Praxis Series

Educational Testing Service

P.O. Box 6051

Princeton, NJ 08541-6051

Telephone customer service: (609) 771-7395

Monday-Friday, 5:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., PST

Test administration dates, 6:00 a.m. - 1:45 p.m., PST

To change registration / additional score report: 800-772-9476

Monday - Friday, 5:00 a.m. - 4:45 p.m., PST

TTY: 609-771-7714

Monday-Friday, 5:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., PST

Disability Services: 609-771-7780

Fax: 609-530-0581 and 609-771-7906

Internet site: www.teachingandlearning.org

E-mail: praxis@ets.org

CSET/SSAT

National Evaluation Systems, Inc.

P. O. Box 340789

Sacramento, CA 95834-0789

Telephone registration and customer service: 916/928-4003

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., PST

Test administration dates, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., PST

Pre-recorded information / order a registration bulletin*: 1-800-205-3344

TDD: 916/928-4191

Fax: 916/928-6110

Internet site and access to e-mail: www.cset.nesinc.com (available in July 2002)

* CSET/SSAT 2002-2003 Registration bulletin available August 2002.