



WGU Guide for Elementary Education Praxis and State Content Tests

Updated by the WGU Teachers College Team

Start here...

This guide will help you get started with your Praxis or state content test study with free online learning resources. While these resources are aimed at learners planning to teach grades K-6, an 8th grade knowledge level in each subject is recommended for best success. Work with a tutor if you can. Rely on your Mentor to help you stay on track with program requirements and deadlines. Passing high-stakes standardized tests is a team effort – you are not alone!

What are the topics covered in the guide?

Topics covered in this guide are:

- [FAQs: What to expect from any Elementary Education Praxis or State Content Test](#)
- **Discipline specific content: individual or combined subtests**
 - [Reading & Language Arts](#)
 - [Mathematics](#)
 - [Social Studies](#)
 - [Science](#)
 - [Arts, Health, Physical Education](#)
- **State content tests that require essays**
 - [Constructed response](#)
- **WGU-specific content**
 - [What are the cut scores needed?](#)

FAQs: What to expect from any Elementary Education Praxis or State Content Test

How do I know which test(s) to take?

Find your state on the [Teacher Licensure Home Page](#). If you haven't already, watch this video on the [Teacher Licensure Application](#) process. Work closely with your Mentor to monitor field experience deadlines and other program requirements.

Is this the same thing as the Praxis CORE or my state's basic skills tests?

No, Elementary Education Praxis or state content tests are subject assessments to be completed in addition to (and preferably after) the teacher candidate has passed CORE or basic skills tests in reading, writing, and math. Content knowledge expectations in English and math are higher for Elementary Education than basic skills and presume greater fluency with pedagogical methods for these subjects.

Khan Academy has [Praxis Core Math, Reading, and Writing](#) help. (Reminder: Khan Academy materials in other subjects are generally at advanced high school or college level. Please do not use those as learning resources for a Basic Skills or Elementary Education subject subtest.)

Visit the WGU [Teachers College Basic Skills exam prep](#) help article.

The [Praxis Core tests](#) are offered as a bundle (all 3 subtests combined) or as individual subtests. The same is true of state basic skills tests. Consider how challenging you may find these tests. We strongly recommend that you take each Praxis CORE or state basic skills test separately.

Where do I find resources for Special Education?

If you plan to take the [Praxis for Special Education 5543 \(Mild to Moderate\)](#), please use this [Special Education Praxis 5543: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications Study Guide](#). Start with the [self-assessment](#). You may find more materials at the [ETS site](#).

Should I take all subtests on the same day?

No, the subtests are challenging – you would do best to schedule only 1 or 2 per test day, such as English + Math or English + Social Studies. It will not save you money if you are too mentally exhausted to do well on all subtests in a single day and need to retake one or more tests anyway.

When should I take this test?

Please work closely with your Mentor to determine when in your degree plan to begin Praxis or state content test study. Many teacher candidates report best success soon after content courses or methods courses in relevant disciplines.

Where can I take the test?

You may take Praxis tests either at home with ProctorU or at a testing center; check sites for updated access and cost information. If you go to a testing center, then follow the [ETS Testing Center Guidelines](#). Please **test your system BEFORE exam day** – follow [ETS At Home Testing Guidance](#). Here is [WGU advice on Praxis@Home](#) – the [WGU System Check](#) includes operating system and bandwidth checks.

What COVID (or other disease) protocols should I be aware of?

Please check with your local testing center before test day. You may need to bring your own mask and wear it throughout the exam. Follow the [ETS testing center guidelines](#).

- If you are taking the Praxis at home, there may still be specific criteria to follow. Here is [WGU guidance for Praxis at home](#).

Can I use any calculator?

While Praxis and state content tests may allow you to use an on-screen calculator, **you will not be allowed a calculator from home**. You must use only those resources provided by the test vendor; ask your proctor for assistance as needed. Review this information page about [Calculator Use](#). Each state content test should have a similar guidance. You may want to [practice ahead](#) of test day.

Can I use formula sheets?

There will be **no math or science formula sheets** for Elementary Education Praxis tests. State content tests may provide online formula sheets or tables of information with different formats or topics.

May I use anything else to help me?

You may use scratch paper at a testing center or a whiteboard at home. Be prepared to show both sides of the whiteboard to the proctor to show it is clean; if the whiteboard is bolted to the wall, show that it cannot be removed. You may use only those materials provided to you or approved by the proctor, such as pencils or whiteboard pens and erasers. Otherwise, your work area must be completely clean.

What question formats are on the test? Multiple choice, short answer, essay, etc.?

Each test or subtest will be comprised of mostly of multiple-choice test items. Most questions will be standard: select one answer from four options. Some will have multiple correct answers. You may also encounter at least one “drag & drop” test item where you are asked to move answer options to various parts of the screen.

While Elementary Education Praxis tests do not contain short answer or essay items, some state content tests do. For example, California’s CSET exams are famous for challenging essay items on a variety of topics in multiple disciplines.

Is there partial credit for answers that have multiple correct answers?

More than 10% of each test may involve multiple choice items where you select more than one answer option; all responses must be correct, or the entire test item will be marked wrong. There is no partial credit.

Where can I get information about accommodations?

If you need accommodation for medical or language concerns, please refer to the test site for further guidance. Testing center locations or dates may be limited. See the [ETS Disabilities page](#) and the [ETS Bulletin Supplement for Test Takers with Disabilities or Health-Related Needs](#).

If your primary language is not English (PLNE), then go to the **bottom of page 12** of the [ETS Praxis Tests Information Bulletin](#) for guidance how to request extended testing time.

Praxis tests require a lot of documentation for an accommodation request. ETS may take weeks to review those documents and not every request for accommodation is granted.

Is there a waiting period in between attempts?

There is usually a mandatory waiting period between attempts at the Praxis or state content tests. Check exam sites for more specific information.

Are there additional study guides?

Each Elementary Education Praxis subtest or state content test has a study guide or study companion provided by the publisher or state at no cost. If you need help locating the appropriate site for study materials, please ask your Mentor. You may also reach out to contenttests@wgu.edu for further assistance.



Discipline Specific Content: *English Language Arts*

Get organized: What do you know and need to know?

The [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects \(5001\)](#) Praxis includes very helpful information about all four subtests. We recommend reviewing these topics and identifying areas requiring further study.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 6-7 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic, which include:
 - Reading (47%)
 - Foundational Skills: phonological awareness, phonics and word analysis, and fluency
 - Literature and Informational Text: key ideas and details, features and structure of texts, point of view, integrate and compare written, visual, and oral information from texts, and text complexity
 - Writing, Speaking, and Listening (53%)
 - Writing: common writing, effective writing, developmental stages of writing, digital tools for writing, and the research process
 - Language: conventions of standard English, determine the meaning of words and phrases, conventional academic, and domain-specific language
 - Speaking and Listening: effective collaboration, oral presentations,
- Pages 44-54 go into even more detail for each content area in Reading and Language Arts, including an example reading prompts with a visual breakdown of literary elements and example writing samples

The [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Content Knowledge \(5018\)](#) Praxis provides another view of the same content.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 6-8 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic in Reading and Language Arts.
- Pages 37-40 go into more detail and provide discussion prompts.

Use key resources: How can you fill key knowledge gaps?

Work through the course modules in each area to deepen your understanding of the concept.

Reading Components:

- [Print Awareness \(Concepts of Print\)](#)
- [Phonological and Phonemic Awareness](#)
- [Phonics](#)
- [Fluency](#)
- [Vocabulary](#)
- [Comprehension](#)

Spelling and Writing:

- [Spelling](#)
- [Writing](#)

Literacy Assessment:

- [Assessment](#)

Teaching English Language Learners:

- [ELL Strategies & Best Practices](#)

Literacy-Rich Environments:

Explore the virtual classrooms to see literacy-rich classrooms and hear from experts. (Click the picture underneath the heading "Classroom Preview".) Explore the 360 view of the classroom and click on the red information dots to hear the experts.

- [Pre-K and Kindergarten](#)
- [First and Second Grade](#)
- [Third and Fourth Grade](#)
- [Fifth and Sixth Grade](#)

15 Minute Review:

Take **15 minutes each day** review foundations of literacy skills.

1. Visit the Balanced Literacy Diet website to review the "[Food Groups for Literacy](#)."
2. Review any "Food Group" for literacy skill you would like to learn more about.
 - Hover your cursor over "Food Groups" and a drop down list will appear with different literacy skills.
 - Choose a topic, ex. Motivation for Literacy, Writing Conventions, etc.
3. Watch three videos that show application of each selected literacy skill.

Review Student Writing Samples:

Explore student writing samples and observations about their writing to learn more about the progression of writing skills.

1. Visit Reading Rocket's "[Looking at Writing](#)."
2. On the left rail of the page, select a grade level(s) under "See Writing Samples" (Pre-K to 3rd Grade).
3. Choose two writing samples to review. (Click on the red bubbles to read the observations about the child's writing sample.)

Target the Problem:

Explore key areas of reading difficulty and strategies to support.

1. Visit Reading Rockets' "[Target the Problem](#)."
2. Click "Let's Go".
3. Click an area to learn more about where children often have reading difficulties.

Work through practice questions: Did you master the concepts?

Content knowledge is not enough – you need to practice applying content knowledge and solving sample test items. Consider your test-taking strategy while you work through sample questions from reliable sources.

- Start with the [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects \(5001\)](#): take the sample test on pages 22-26.
 - ETS offers one full length practice test available to purchase at the [Elementary Education 5001 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).
- Continue with the [ETS Elementary Education 5018 Study Companion](#): take the Language Arts section of the sample test on pages 21-22.
 - ETS offers one full length practice test available to purchase at the [Elementary Education 5018 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).

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Discipline Specific Content: *Mathematics*

Get organized: What do you know and need to know?

The [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects \(5001\)](#) Praxis includes very helpful information about all four subtests. We recommend reviewing these topics and identifying areas requiring further study.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 9-13 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic, which include the following:
 - Numbers and operations (40%)
 - Algebraic thinking (30%)
 - Geometry and measurement, data, statistics and probability (30%)
- Pages 55-60 go into even more detail for each content area in Math, including discussion prompts to help you integrate facts, concepts, and skills. Factual recall alone is not sufficient to pass a Praxis exam; for best success, you should be able to analyze and apply content knowledge.

The [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Content Knowledge \(5018\)](#) Praxis provides another view of the same content.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 8-10 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic in Math.
- Pages 40-44 go into more detail and provide discussion prompts.

Use key resources: How can you fill key knowledge gaps?

Once you determine concept areas requiring review, here are some recommended resources:

- [State Teacher Certification Exam Help - WGU help article](#)
- [Preparing for Your Praxis 5003 Subtest - WGU Math Center](#) – Includes lesson practice sets & full-length practice tests.
- [EdReady Learning Resource](#)
- [WGU Math Center Cohort Schedule](#)

Work through practice questions: Did you master the concepts?

Content knowledge is not enough – you need to practice applying content knowledge and solving sample test items. Consider your test-taking strategy while you work through sample questions from reliable sources.

- Start with the [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects \(5001\)](#) take the sample test on pages 27-29.
 - ETS offers one full length practice test available to purchase at the [Elementary Education 5001 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).
- Continue with the [ETS Elementary Education 5018: Content Knowledge Study Companion](#): take the Math section of the sample test on pages 22-24.
 - ETS offers one full length practice test available to purchase at the [Elementary Education 5018 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).

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Discipline Specific Content: *Social Studies*

Get organized: What do you know and need to know?

The [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects \(5001\)](#) Praxis includes very helpful information about the exam and preparation. We recommend reviewing these topics and identifying areas requiring further study.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 13-14 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic, which include the following:
 - U.S. history, government, and citizenship (45%)
 - Citizenship is also called civics.
 - Geography, Anthropology, and Sociology (30%)
 - Anthropology refers to traditional peoples and practices; Sociology covers rural and urban concerns. Neither topic is likely to comprise more than 5% of an exam.
 - World history and economics (25%)
- Pages 61-69 go into even more detail for each content area in Social Studies, including discussion prompts to help you integrate facts, concepts, and skills. Factual recall alone is not sufficient to pass a Praxis; for best success, you should be able to analyze and apply content knowledge.
 - It helps to synthesize information across topics – for example, a question about the Cold War involves content from geography, U.S. history, and world history.

The [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Content Knowledge \(5018\)](#) Praxis provides another view of the same content.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 10-12 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic in Social Studies.
- Pages 44-48 go into more detail and provide discussion prompts.

Use key resources: How can you fill key knowledge gaps?

Once you determine areas requiring review, here are some recommended resources to help you deepen your content & conceptual understanding:

History:

- [U.S. Civil War](#)
- [Colonialism vs. Imperialism](#)
- [Cold War \(9m\)](#)

Government:

- [Three Branches of U.S. Government](#)
- [U.S. Federal Budget](#)
- [Amendments to the U.S. Constitution](#)
- [Bill of Rights on 10 fingers \(2m\)](#)

Geography:

- [Latitude & Longitude \(3m\)](#)
- [Interactive maps – US, world, and by region](#)
- [Interactive world map](#) - Focus on major countries in each continent – know at least 3 countries per continent

Economics:

- [Economics A-Z Glossary](#)
- [Understanding U.S. Taxes - IRS](#)
- [Economics and Types of Economies](#)
- [American Socialism - description, benefits, drawbacks, discussion questions, and resources](#)
- [Capitalism - description and types, benefits, and drawbacks](#)

Overall:

- Download and use the Study Resources (Word document) and Study Plan (Word document) for ETS for the [Social Studies section of the 5001 Praxis](#) (also known as the 5004 Praxis subtest).

- Download and use the Study Plan (Word document) from ETS for the [Social Studies section of the 5018 Praxis exam](#).
- Use content knowledge videos from [Teacher Test Prep](#) – Free materials only, please. You will not be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses.

News Review Assignment:

Take **15 minutes each day** to research a news item to see social studies in context:

- Where in the US or around the world does this news item occur? **Look at a map** to find it to place it in context.
- Why is this news-worthy? Does it pertain to US government, history, or economics?
 - Look up vocabulary words, such as impeachment or tariff.
- Connect the current events news item to other social studies knowledge or earlier historical events.
 - Ex. A recent event might be tied back to an earlier event, conflict, or era.

Timeline Assignment:

Please **make a TIMELINE with US history (starting in 1750) on one side and US Presidents on the other**. Start with 1 big idea for each decade and 1 big idea for each President.

- Example: *George Washington – 1st US President – Set example that US Presidents should step down peacefully and allow other elected officials to take political power in accordance with the Constitution.*
 - Use a [Mindmap](#) or Timeline tool, such as [TimeGraphics](#), to assist, if you find this helpful
- You may work on this timeline right up until exam day. Start with the following resources:
 - [US History.org](#)
 - [BBC News overview of US history](#)
 - [White House Presidential History Timeline](#)
 - [ThoughtCo.com list of US Presidents](#)

Work through practice questions: Did you master the concepts?

Content knowledge is not enough – you need to practice applying content knowledge and solving sample test items. Consider your test-taking strategy while you work through sample questions from reliable sources.

- Start with the [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects \(5001\)](#): take the sample test on pages 30-32.
 - ETS offers one full length practice exam available to purchase at the [Elementary Education 5001 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).
- Continue with the [ETS Elementary Education 5018 Study Companion](#): take the Social Studies section of the sample test on pages 24-28.
 - ETS offers one full length practice exam available to purchase at the [Elementary Education 5018 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).

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Discipline Specific Content: *Science*

Get organized: What do you know and need to know?

The [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects \(5001\)](#) Praxis exam includes very helpful information about the exam and preparation. We recommend reviewing these topics and identifying areas requiring further study.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 15-16 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic, which include:
 - Earth Science (33%)
 - Earth science includes geology, meteorology (weather & climate), and astronomy (space science).
 - Life Science (30%)
 - Life science includes biology, botany, and ecology.
 - Physical Science (33%)
 - Physical science includes chemistry and physics.
- Pages 69-74 go into even more detail for each content area in Science, including discussion prompts to help you integrate facts, concepts, and skills. Factual recall alone is not sufficient to pass a Praxis exam; for best success, you should be able to analyze and apply content knowledge.
 - It helps to synthesize information across topics – for example, a question about environmental pollution may involve content from Earth science, life science, and physical science.

The [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Content Knowledge \(5018\)](#) Praxis exam provides another view of the same content.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 12-15 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic in Science.
- Pages 48-52 go into more detail and provide discussion prompts.

Use key resources: How can you fill key knowledge gaps?

Once you determine concept areas requiring review, here are some recommended resources:

Earth science:

- [Crash Course Kids – Natural Resources](#)
- [Crash Course Kids – Solar System](#)
- [Crash Course Kids - Astronomy](#)
- [Vision Learning – Earth Sciences](#)
- [Bozeman Science – Earth Sciences](#)
- [PBS – Surface Processes](#)
- [NWS - Meteorology](#)
- [Physical Geology textbook](#)
- [Earth & Space Science textbook](#)

Physical Science:

- [Crash Course Kids – Properties of Matter](#)
- [Crash Course Kids - Gravity](#)
- [Penguin Prof](#) – Watch only *Chemistry Basics Part I + Chemistry Basics Part II*
- [Bozeman Science – Chemistry](#)
- [OpenStax Chemistry Textbook](#) - Use 'view online' mode for best results.
- [Hewitt Drew-It - Physics](#)
- [Bozeman Science – Physics](#)

Life science:

- [Crash Course Kids – Life Science](#)
- [Amoeba Sisters - Biology](#)
 - [Ameoba Sisters Handouts](#)
- [Bozeman Science - Biology](#)
- [Crash Course - Ecology](#)

Math Concepts in Science:

Math Basics:

- [Metric System - Vision Learning](#)
- [Metric System - Math Antics](#)
- [Units of Distance – Math Antics](#)
- [Scientific Notation – Tyler DeWitt](#)
- [Significant Figures – Tyler DeWitt](#)

Math in Science:

- [Math in Science – Vision Learning](#)
- [Data Analysis & Interpretation – Vision Learning](#)
- [Graphs & Visual Data – Vision Learning](#)
- [Statistics & Graphing — Bozeman Science](#)

Accuracy and Precision

- [Accuracy & Precision – TED Ed](#)
- [Accuracy & Precision – Tyler DeWitt](#)
- [Sources of Error – James Budarz](#)
- [Uncertainty, Error, Confidence – Vision Learning](#)

Science Inquiry, Engineering, and Society:

There is no one way to approach scientific inquiry; what you may have learned as “scientific method” is general guidance rather than a one-size-fits-all rule regardless of discipline.

Science and Engineering practices:

- [HHMI BioInteractive – How Science Works](#)
- [Vision Learning – Scientific Method](#)
- [Vision Learning – Process of Science](#)
- [Crash Course Kids - Engineering](#)
- [Teach Engineering - Engineering Design Process](#)

Educational Standards:

- Since 2012, most states revised their science education standards to align with [A Framework for K-12 Science Education](#). Click on “Contents” to browse and skim the following concepts so you can be prepared to learn about the following:
 - [Nature of science](#)
 - [Crosscutting relationships](#) among disciplines
 - [Science and engineering practices](#) in the classroom
 - The role of [science, engineering, or technology in society](#).

Work through practice questions: Did you master the concepts?

Content knowledge is not enough – you need to practice applying content knowledge and solving sample test items. Consider your test-taking strategy while you work through sample questions from reliable sources.

- Start with the [ETS Study Companion for the Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects \(5001\)](#): take the sample test on pages 33-35.
 - ETS offers one full length practice exam available to purchase at the [Elementary Education 5001 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).
- Continue with the [ETS Elementary Education 5018 Study Companion](#): take the Science section of the sample test on pages 25-28.
 - ETS offers one full length practice exam available to purchase at the [Elementary Education 5018 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).

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State Content Exams: Arts, Health, Physical Education

What about Arts, Health, and Physical Education content in some state content exams?

Depending on your state, you may be asked to answer multiple choice or essay questions regarding these topics. There are no test items regarding arts, health or physical education on the Elementary Education Praxis exam.

Arts:

- [J. Paul Getty Museum Curricula & Guides](#)
- [Elements of visual art](#)
- [Principles of design](#)
- [Core music standards glossary](#)
- [Instruments of the orchestra](#)
- [Elements of dance](#)
- [Drama elements](#)
- [Theater design](#)

Health:

- [Benefits of exercise video](#) (10m)
- [Health Education textbook](#)
- [“Lifetime Health” textbook](#)

Physical Exercise:

- [Health & PE Quizlets for Praxis exam preparation](#)
- [Mometrix Praxis preparation video](#) (25m)
- [Mometrix practice test](#)

Get organized: What do you know and need to know?

The [ETS Study Companion for the Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge \(5857\) Praxis](#) exam includes very helpful information about the exam and preparation. We recommend reviewing these topics and identifying areas requiring further study.

- Page 5 describes the overall test, such as number of questions and time allowed.
- Pages 6-10 provide a detailed breakdown of content with each topic, which include:
 - Health education as a discipline/Health instruction (20%)
 - Health education content (25%)
 - Physical education content knowledge and Student growth & development (17%)
 - Management, motivation, communication/collaboration, reflection & technology (22%)
 - Planning, instruction, and student assessment (16%)
- Pages 34-40 go into even more detail for each content area in Health and Physical Education, including discussion prompts to help you integrate facts, concepts, and skills. Factual recall alone is not sufficient to pass a state content exam; for best success, you should be able to analyze and apply content knowledge.
 - It helps to synthesize information across topics – for example, a question about coaching strategy may involve content from health instruction, management/motivation, and student assessment.

Work through practice questions: Did you master the concepts?

Content knowledge is not enough – you need to practice applying content knowledge and solving sample test items. Consider your test-taking strategy while you work through sample questions from reliable sources.

- Start with the [ETS Praxis Study Companion: Health and Physical Education Content Knowledge \(5857\)](#): take the sample test on pages 16-22.
 - ETS offers one full length practice exam available to purchase at the [Health and Physical Education 5857 Praxis Preparation Materials page](#).

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State Content Exams that require constructed responses

How best to prepare for constructed-response questions?

Like multiple choice questions, you should practice and prepare how to organize what you know quickly to develop constructed responses under timed conditions. Use the tips below to help.

Practice & Analyze: How can I study & prepare for constructed response questions?

- Practice writing short answers (up to 50 words) or essays (up to 150 words) under timed conditions. As you get closer to your exam date, start timing yourself – allow up to 10 minutes per short answer or 30 minutes per essay.
- Practice organizing your thoughts quickly. Use scratch paper or your whiteboard to organize your ideas, thoughts, and what you know.
- Practice answering the prompts directly. Start with a general response, then go into specific details. Analyze the structure of your practice answers.
- Practice avoiding fluff or filler. Focus on the question and answer it. Analyze your practice responses for keeping the content meaningful and descriptive.
- Practice supporting your statements with descriptive details. Use the data provided in the prompt. Analyze your practice responses for the quality of your evidence.
- Practice addressing each prompt. An incomplete answer is better than no answer. Analyze practice responses for how fully you answered each prompt.

Review key components: What makes a successful constructed response?

Be as honest and as accurate as you can. This is your opportunity to demonstrate what you know in your own words.

Constructed-response questions are generally scored on:

- Content knowledge – What do you know about this topic?
 - Stay true and stick to the facts. Emphasize accurate subject matter knowledge.
- Support – How do you know this is the right approach?
 - Provide examples or additional details. You will be scored on how effectively you analyze and apply information as well as the quality of your evidence.
- Purpose – Answer the question being asked.
 - Information appropriate to this topic is best. If necessary, tie in related subject matter to the topic and be clear about its relevance to the prompt.

Review this sample strategy for composing a constructed response.

Each constructed response question in a state content exam generally includes a prompt providing a scenario or graphic or both. You might see some data (quantitative or qualitative) but not always.

Please see test items #16-18 in the [CSET Test Guide: Subtest III](#) for examples of constructed response prompts. Detailed answers and explanations of grading are provided in the answer key.

Sample constructed response prompt:

Use your knowledge of the water cycle and cause-and-effect relationships to explain all pathways of the cycle and the physical processes involved.

1. **Brainstorm what you know quickly.**
 - a. On your scratch paper or white board, draw and label all parts of the water cycle.
2. **Develop your response.**

- a. If you cannot recall the name of a particular process (like deposition), you can still describe it: "Sometimes frost develops directly on power lines or black ice forms on a highway at night."
- b. When you are really stuck, talk about something related: "Water is a molecule made of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom. This is relevant because its stable nature allows phase changes to occur."
- c. Be sure to define all terms you use to aid in fully developing your thoughts.

3. Finalizing your response.

- a. Read over what you write before you hit submit. While you will not be graded directly for spelling or grammar, you will be assessed for readability, so be sure to use complete sentences.
- b. Consider your audience as you review your work. It is highly likely that an actual human will read your work after it is scored first by the software, so please keep that person in mind as you write

Review this rubric: What is required on Constructed Responses?

Here is a sample rubric for your benefit only to help self-assess your response. For directives pertaining to your specific exam, you may want to check your state content exam study guide.

	Score of 3	Score of 2	Score of 1	Score of 0
General	Response demonstrates thorough understanding of the aspects relevant to the question	Response demonstrates a basic or general understanding of the aspects relevant to the question	Response demonstrates a weak or limited understanding of the aspects relevant to the question	The response demonstrates little or no understanding of the aspects relevant to the question
Address the entire question	All parts of the question are appropriately addressed	Most parts of the question are appropriately addressed	Some parts of the question are appropriately addressed	Fails to address the question or restates the prompt.
Understands the material in the prompt	Thorough understanding	General understanding	Weak understanding	No understanding or serious misconceptions
Knowledge of subject matter, pedagogy, facts relevant to the prompt.	Strong	Basic	Weak	None
Explain and support with details	Strong	Basic	Weak	None

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WGU-specific content

What are the cut scores needed?

WGU pays careful attention to constantly evolving state requirements for licensure or endorsement. For the latest update on specific program Praxis or state content test requirements (ex. CSET, NES, FTCE, GACE, etc.), please refer to this [WGU Handbook page](#).

Unless your licensing state requires a higher score, a passing score for WGU is the same as the Utah score. Elementary education licensure and endorsement scores are listed on the [ETS Utah Requirements page](#).

Current Praxis Cut Scores	
English Language Arts 5002 Praxis Subtest	157
Math 5003 Praxis Subtest	157
Social Studies 5004 Praxis Subtest	155
Science 5005 Praxis Subtest	159
Elementary Education 5018 Praxis Test	163

Need help? Reach out for assistance, if needed:

Talk to your Mentor if you need further resources. Take a sample Praxis or state content test to determine your readiness and to identify what more to study. Best luck on your 1st attempt of the actual test!