



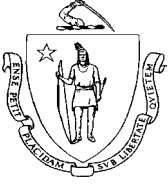
Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure™

TEST INFORMATION BOOKLET

**90 Foundations of Reading
(PreK–6)**

MA-SG-FLD090-02

Massachusetts Department of Education



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Education

350 Main Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-5023 • (781) 388-3300

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

Dear Candidate for Educator Licensure:

The Massachusetts Department of Education looks forward to welcoming bright, capable teachers and administrators who are entering the education profession. Being an educator requires a depth of knowledge and a range of skills. Educators must know their subject matter and be able to communicate effectively with students, parents, and others in the school community.

All Massachusetts educators who seek Massachusetts licensure are required to pass the Communication and Literacy Skills test and a subject matter test, where available. These tests have been carefully developed to measure subject matter knowledge expected of an educator in Massachusetts. This *Test Information Booklet* includes information that I hope you will find helpful in preparing for the tests.

In this booklet, you will find the following:

- 1) Suggestions for preparing to take the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.
- 2) Suggestions for approaching the test items you are likely to encounter on the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.
- 3) Description of the scoring process.
- 4) Test objectives for this subject matter test.
- 5) Sample multiple-choice items and a sample open-response item for the test.

Best wishes as you prepare to take the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David P. Driscoll".

David P. Driscoll
Commissioner of Education

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Introduction

Purpose of the Test Information Booklets

The Test Information Booklets are designed to help familiarize candidates with the format and content of the subject matter tests of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure™ (MTEL) program. Familiarity with test format and content may be a component of test preparation. The primary means of preparing for the tests is, however, the candidate's college education in the field of study.

Administrators at educator preparation institutions, as well as education faculty and arts and sciences faculty members whose students are enrolled in programs approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education (DOE) for educator preparation, may also find the information in these booklets useful as they help candidates prepare for the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL).

The Test Information Booklets

This Test Information Booklet provides information about the test for Foundations of Reading (PreK–6). Other booklets cover other test fields of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL).

The Test Information Booklets provide samples of test items that illustrate the types of test items that candidates may encounter while taking a subject matter test. Not all types of test items that may appear on a test are illustrated. Actual test items are not necessarily identical in wording or format to the sample items in this booklet.

Further Information

Further information about Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) registration and test administration procedures is available in the current version of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure Registration Bulletin. Readers may view the registration bulletin via the Internet at www.mtel.nesinc.com or www.doe.mass.edu/mtel or obtain copies of the registration bulletin from schools of education at Massachusetts colleges and universities, from the Massachusetts Department of Education, or from the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure program. Contact information is listed below.

Questions regarding **WHICH TEST(S)** a candidate must take should be directed to the contact person for educator licensure at that candidate's college or to:

**MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS
AND EDUCATOR LICENSURE
350 MAIN STREET
MALDEN, MA 02148-5023**

For information on **REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH LICENSE**, including which test to take, go to the educator licensure web site at www.doe.mass.edu/educators. Select "Licensure" and then "Licensure Help—On-Line."

**TELEPHONE: (781) 338-6600
(2:00–5:00 P.M., Monday, Wednesday, or
Friday, eastern time)
TTY—NET RELAY: (800) 439-2370**

**For Massachusetts Tests for Educator
Licensure program information and
updates, visit the web site at:**

www.doe.mass.edu/mtel/faq

Questions regarding **TEST REGISTRATION, DEADLINES AND FORMS, TEST ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES, ADMISSION TICKETS, and TEST RESULTS** should be directed to:

**MASSACHUSETTS TESTS FOR
EDUCATOR LICENSURE
NATIONAL EVALUATION SYSTEMS
P.O. BOX 660
AMHERST, MA 01004-9013
TELEPHONE: (413) 256-2892
FAX: (413) 256-8221**

**For operator assistance, call
9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. eastern time,
Monday–Friday, excluding holidays**

**Automated Information System available
24 hours daily**

**Telecommunications Device for the Deaf
(TDD): (413) 256-8032**

web site: www.mtel.nesinc.com

Table of Contents

How to Prepare for the Tests.....	1
Overview of the Subject Matter Tests.....	2
Development of the Subject Matter Tests.....	3
Structure of the Content of the Tests.....	3
Description of the Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) Test.....	6
Using the Test Objectives.....	6
Developing a Study Outline.....	7
Identifying Resources.....	8
Approaching the Test Items.....	12
Multiple-Choice Item Formats.....	12
Multiple-Choice Item Format One: The Single Test Item.....	12
Multiple-Choice Item Format Two: Test Items with Stimulus Material.....	14
Open-Response Item Formats.....	15
Scoring Open-Response Items.....	16
Sample Test Administration Documents.....	18
Sample Test Directions.....	18
Sample Directions for the Open-Response Item Assignments.....	19
Sample Answer Sheet.....	20
Sample Written Response Booklet.....	22
The Day of the Test Administration.....	28
Preparing for the Test Administration.....	28
Test-Taking Tips.....	28
After the Test Administration.....	30
Score Reporting.....	30
Interpreting Your Score Report.....	30
Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) (90).....	31
Test Overview Chart.....	33
Test Objectives.....	34
Sample Test Items.....	41
Answer Key and Sample Response.....	50
Test Information Booklet Order Form	

How to Prepare for the Tests

This section of the Test Information Booklet offers suggestions on how to prepare for a subject matter test in the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure™ program. Candidates planning to take a subject matter test may find the suggestions helpful. However, this booklet is not intended to address all possible strategies for preparation.

The primary approach to preparation for taking and passing one of the subject matter tests is adequate study at the collegiate level in the content defined by the Massachusetts licensure regulations and other state policies. This content is generally described by the test objectives. Candidates who determine that they have not yet studied this content should take courses or engage in other substantial preparation activities in order to master the subject matter knowledge that is expected for entry-level teaching in Massachusetts public schools. Reading this booklet does not substitute for coursework and other preparation activities.

Overview of the Subject Matter Tests

The subject matter tests include both multiple-choice and open-response test items. The number of multiple-choice and open-response test items varies across the tests.

Many fields include approximately 80 multiple-choice items and two open-response items requiring about 60 minutes each to prepare an adequate response. The multiple-choice items count for 75 percent of the total test score and the open-response items count for 25 percent of the total test score.

Some fields include approximately 100 multiple-choice items and two open-response items requiring about 30 minutes each to prepare an adequate response. For these tests, the multiple-choice items count for 80 percent of the total test score and the open-response items count for 20 percent of the total test score.

Both the Speech and Dance tests include approximately 55 multiple-choice items and two open-response items. The multiple-choice items count for 75 percent of the total test score and the open-response items count for 25 percent of the total test score.

The foreign language tests in Spanish, French, German, and Italian include approximately 55 multiple-choice items and two open-response items, one of which requires a written response and the other an oral response. The multiple-choice items count for approximately 67 percent of the total test score and the open-response items count for approximately 33 percent of the total test score.

The foreign language tests in Russian, Chinese, and Portuguese include approximately 55 multiple-choice items and short-answer items and four open-response items. The multiple-choice items and short-answer items count for approximately 33 percent of the total test score and the open-response items count for approximately 67 percent of the total test score.

The Latin test includes approximately 55 multiple-choice items and two open-response items. The multiple-choice items count for 75 percent of the total test score and the open-response items count for 25 percent of the total test score.

The Transitional Bilingual Education test for Spanish includes approximately 55 multiple-choice items and four open-response items. The multiple-choice items count for approximately 56 percent of the total test score and the open-response items count for approximately 44 percent of the total test score.

The Transitional Bilingual Education tests for Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Chinese, Haitian-Creole, Italian, Laotian, Portuguese, Russian, and Vietnamese include approximately 21 multiple-choice items and seven open-response items. The multiple-choice items count for approximately 22 percent of the total test score and the open-response items count for approximately 78 percent of the total test score.

The tests may include a number of test items that do not count toward a candidate's score because they are being tried out for future administrations of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. A more detailed description of the test for Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) follows.

Development of the Subject Matter Tests

Creating the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure is a complex, ongoing process. During the development of the test objectives, the Massachusetts Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, the Curriculum Frameworks, and other key state and national documents as well as Massachusetts educators were consulted. The objectives for each test field were reviewed and validated by an advisory panel of licensed and practicing Massachusetts school and university educators. A content validation survey was conducted, using randomly sampled, practicing Massachusetts public school educators and faculty members in educator preparation programs and in the arts and sciences. Each survey participant reviewed the test objectives in his or her field to ensure that the objectives are important to the job of a Massachusetts educator and reflect the subject matter knowledge necessary for entry-level teaching in Massachusetts public schools. The test questions were aligned with both the test objectives and the educational materials relevant to Massachusetts, including the state's licensure regulations and the curriculum frameworks. The test questions were reviewed and verified by Massachusetts educators for inclusion on the test.

An individual's performance on a test is evaluated against an established standard or qualifying score. The qualifying score for each test is established by the Massachusetts Board of Education and is based in part on the professional judgments and recommendations of Massachusetts educators. Candidates who do not achieve the passing score on a test may retake it at any of the subsequent test administrations at which the test is offered.

Structure of the Content of the Tests

While the content covered by each test in the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure program is different, the structure that underlies the content of the tests is similar. In general, the structure is as follows:

- The content of each subject matter test field is organized into three to nine subareas. These subareas define the major content domains of the test.
- Each subarea includes one or more test objectives. The test objectives are broad, conceptual statements, written in language that reflects some of the skills, knowledge, and understanding that an educator needs in order to teach the test field in Massachusetts public schools.
- Each test objective is clarified and further described by a descriptive statement, providing **examples** of the types of content covered by the test objective.
- Each multiple-choice item is written to assess understanding of a test objective.
- Each open-response item is written to assess understanding of one or more test objectives.
- The number of test objectives within a given subarea generally determines the proportion of multiple-choice items that will address that subarea on a test. In other words, subareas with a greater number of test objectives will generally receive more emphasis (i.e., have a greater number of corresponding multiple-choice items) on the test than those with fewer test objectives.

The chart on the following page illustrates the relationship among subareas, test objectives, descriptive statements, and test items in a typical test field; it is followed by a sample page from the Biology test objectives that shows each element of a set of test objectives (i.e., subarea, test objective, and descriptive statement).

Organization of Content Within a Test Field

Example	Description
Biology (Field 13)	<p>Test Field This is the name and code number of the test field. The test field corresponds to a particular Massachusetts licensure area.</p>
Principles of Heredity and the Evolution of Life (Subarea V)	<p>Subarea Each test field is divided into major content subareas—broad content domains within the test field that reflect an organizational principle that is understandable to individuals studying and working in the field. The number of test objectives within each subarea may vary, depending on the breadth of content contained within the subarea.</p>
Understand the synthesis of DNA, RNA, and protein. (Test Objective 0023)	<p>Test Objective Each subarea contains several test objectives that define subject matter knowledge Massachusetts educators determined to be important to the job of an educator in this field. Test objectives are broad, conceptual statements that reflect some of the skills, knowledge, and understanding needed by educators in Massachusetts public schools.</p>
For example: processes of replication, transcription, and translation; the relationship of molecular structure to these processes; and the genetic code (including analysis of problems involving codons and anticodons). (Descriptive Statement for Test Objective 0023)	<p>Descriptive Statement Each test objective is further elaborated by a descriptive statement that provides examples of the range of knowledge and skill included within the test objective. The examples that are provided in descriptive statements are not inclusive of all content that may be covered.</p>
<p>A team of researchers has isolated a chemical from a tropical tree that causes insects to die when they ingest it. The researchers determine that the chemical deactivates the enzyme RNA polymerase. Based on this information, it is most reasonable to conclude that the chemical leads to the death of the insects by interfering directly with:</p> <p>A. transcription of RNA from the DNA template.</p> <p>B. transport of RNA from the nucleus to the cytoplasm.</p> <p>C. translation of polypeptides from RNA molecules.</p> <p>D. excision of transcribed introns from an RNA molecule.</p>	<p>Multiple-Choice Item Each multiple-choice item corresponds to one test objective and typically presents candidates with introductory information, a statement or question to be answered, and a choice of four responses, one of which is the best choice of the responses given.*</p> <p>*The correct response to the sample item, which corresponds to Test Objective 0023, is A.</p>

**Field 13: Biology
Test Objectives (Excerpt)**

SUBAREAS:

- I. SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY**
- II. CELLS AND CELL THEORY**
- III. CHARACTERISTICS OF ORGANISMS**
- IV. HUMAN BIOLOGY**
- V. PRINCIPLES OF HEREDITY AND THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE**
- VI. MATTER AND ENERGY IN ECOSYSTEMS**

EXCERPT: SUBAREA V

PRINCIPLES OF HEREDITY AND THE EVOLUTION OF LIFE

0022 Understand the principles of Mendelian and non-Mendelian genetics.

For example: evidence that certain characteristics are inherited; basic principles of heredity (e.g., independent assortment); the relationship of Mendelian genetics to the structure and behavior of chromosomes; crossing-over and its effect on genotype and phenotype; sex-linked characteristics; incomplete dominance and co-dominance; polygenic inheritance; non-nuclear inheritance; and application of genetic principles to solve problems involving genetic crosses.

0023 Understand the synthesis of DNA, RNA, and protein.

For example: processes of replication, transcription, and translation; the relationship of molecular structure to these processes; and the genetic code (including analysis of problems involving codons and anticodons).

0024 Understand genes, chromosomes, and changes in genetic material.

For example: modern theories regarding gene structure and function; the relationship between genes and chromosomes; types of mutations and their consequences; the influence of environment on heredity; basic methods used in genetic engineering; and applications of genetic engineering/recombinant DNA technology (including positive effects and potential risks).

0025 Analyze the process of natural selection.

For example: the concept of variation in populations (including genetic and phenotypic variation); the concept of selection pressure; the influence of selection pressure on species adaptations; the concept of biological fitness; and the role of selection pressure on the survival of organisms and species and on the evolution of species.

0026 Analyze the theory of evolution.

For example: evidence that species change over time; research methods used to investigate evolutionary history; evolutionary relationships among familiar species and taxonomic groups, including hominids; and modern and historic theories of evolution.

Description of the Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) Test

The design of the Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) test will be similar to the design of tests that are currently in place for the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. Each test will be consistent with paper-based (or audio-based for sections of selected fields such as music or foreign languages) test administration procedures and will fit within an administration of up to four hours.

The Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) test comprises 100 multiple-choice items and two (2) open-response items. The multiple-choice section will account for 80 percent of the points available and the constructed-response section will account for 20 percent of the points available. Each open-response item is expected to take a typical examinee response time of about 30 minutes.

The number of multiple-choice test items on the test in a given subarea will be based on the weight assigned to the subarea for the multiple-choice section by the DOE. For example, approximately 20 of the multiple-choice items on a test form will be selected for a subarea with an assigned weight of 20 percent for the multiple-choice section. The multiple-choice items will be selected to measure the test objectives included in the subarea. The Test Overview Chart on page 33 includes information about the number of test items and subarea weighting.

Approximately 15 percent of the multiple-choice item section of each test form will include items that are nonscorable. Nonscorable items will be included so that data can be collected on their psychometric characteristics for consideration of their use as scorable items on future test forms.

For each multiple-choice item there are four response options, one of which is the best response of the choices given. There is no penalty for guessing. Candidates record their responses to the multiple-choice items on a scannable answer sheet.

The subject matter tests contain two open-response items for which candidates are typically asked to prepare a written response or to solve a problem for each assignment. These items are designed to measure the depth and breadth of the candidate's knowledge in the subject area, the candidate's understanding of fundamental concepts of the discipline, and the candidate's familiarity with field-specific methodologies. In tests of foreign languages (including transitional bilingual education tests), the open-response items typically assess speaking, writing, listening, reading, and/or cultural understanding.

The open-response items on the test will comprise a separate, independent subarea. The open-response items may be designed to require the integration of knowledge from one or several subareas and to be comparable to each other in terms of information presented, the type of response required, and the difficulty of the items from one test form to the next. Responses to each open-response item will require about 30 minutes to complete.

Using the Test Objectives

The test objectives may be useful to candidates preparing to take one of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. The test objectives are based on Massachusetts licensure regulations and other state policies. They reflect subject matter knowledge that the Massachusetts Department of Education has determined to be important for educators entering teaching in Massachusetts public schools. The content described in the test objectives is typically learned through college-level coursework and other educational experiences at Massachusetts educator preparation institutions.

The test objectives are organized in such a way that each element of the test objectives can be helpful in one or more aspects of test preparation. Test objectives for each of the tests can be obtained from the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure Web site (www.mtel.nesinc.com), from the Massachusetts Department of Education Web site (www.doe.mass.edu/mtel), or from schools of education at Massachusetts colleges and universities. The test objectives for the test covered in this booklet are provided in the section of the booklet titled "Test Objectives."

Review the test objectives. The first step in preparing for one of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure is to identify the information the test will cover. The test objectives can be a helpful study tool because they define the content that will be assessed by the test you are preparing to take.

Read the entire set of test objectives for your test field to get a general picture of the material the test covers. Remember that the number of test objectives within a subarea broadly reflects the emphasis given to that subarea on the test; the weighting for the subarea is listed in the Test Overview Chart. In general, subareas with greater weightings will include a greater number of test objectives and will be covered by more multiple-choice items on the test.

Focus your studies. When you have become familiar with the test objectives, make a list of those test objectives about which you feel you know the least. A suggested approach for outlining the content of the test objectives and identifying those on which you need to concentrate is presented below, under the heading "Developing a Study Outline." This approach can help you set priorities for your study time. You should leave time to review the content of all test objectives, both the familiar and the less familiar ones, but you may wish to prioritize your studying and pay more attention to those test objectives about which you are least confident. However, any area in which you prepare fully will contribute to your score and your ability to meet the qualifying score for the test.

Developing a Study Outline

You may wish to use the test objectives and descriptive statements to prepare an outline of the content likely to be covered on the test(s), especially the content about which you are unsure. The process described here, which is designed to be used with the Study Outline Chart on pages 9 to 11 of this booklet, may help you organize your thoughts and your future studies for the test(s) both in college coursework and through other educational activities.

You may follow this process by yourself or with others in your program, such as the members of a study group. As you read the test objectives, remember that some of the test objectives may refer to content that you are currently learning or will learn in the near future during your college preparation, while other test objectives may refer to content you may have learned earlier or elsewhere.

1. The first column of the chart lists test objective numbers, from 1 to 35. In the second column, briefly summarize the topic of each test objective, using a two- or three-word phrase (e.g., "Reading Comprehension," "Statistics and Probability").
2. Read and consider each test objective and its associated descriptive statement and envision the content likely to be covered. Try to imagine the types of questions that might be asked about that content. Consider the content in relation to courses or other educational activities that you have undertaken in college or that you might undertake in the future. Brainstorm as many ideas as you can. Participation in a study group may be particularly helpful for this task.

3. In the fourth column, indicate the extent of your knowledge and educational preparation regarding the content of each test objective. Use symbols such as "✓" to indicate adequate knowledge and preparation, "X" to indicate partial knowledge and preparation, and "?" to indicate little or no knowledge and preparation. In cases of partial knowledge and preparation, circle in the third column particular aspects of the test objective that you need to study further.
4. Beginning with areas you identified where you have partial (X) or little or no (?) knowledge and preparation, devise a plan to increase your knowledge or enhance your preparation. See the next section on "Identifying Resources" to help you find solutions to your individual needs. Note in this column resources that may be particularly useful to you.

At the conclusion of this process you will have a chart listing the test objectives (and parts of test objectives) about which you will need to learn more in preparing for the test. You will also have a plan for addressing your preparation needs.

Identifying Resources

After you have identified the test objectives on which you will focus your time, consider the resources you may use in studying the content of those test objectives. You may determine that you have not taken some relevant courses that would have covered content that will be assessed on the test. Consult with your advisor and, on his or her recommendation, take courses that will help you strengthen those areas where your content knowledge may be less strong.

Other resources include written materials, such as textbooks from relevant classes, your class notes and assignments, textbooks currently in use in Massachusetts public elementary and secondary schools, state curriculum frameworks, and publications from local, state, and national professional organizations. In addition, people can be important resources, including other students who have taken courses related to your needs and instructors who teach such courses. Instructors may be able to guide you in finding and reviewing notes and textbooks.

Review the sample test items. This guide contains examples of the formats of multiple-choice items and open-response items that you may encounter on the test. It also presents sample test items and correct responses. The sample items are designed to illustrate the nature of the test items; they should not be used as a diagnostic tool to determine your individual strengths and weaknesses.

Develop study techniques. It is usually best to approach preparing for a test with a study plan in mind, together with a schedule for accomplishing what you need to do to feel prepared. You may also wish to obtain from either your school's library or a bookstore one of the many books available on study skills.

For some people, study groups are particularly helpful; you may want to form or join a study group with others who will be taking the test at the same time. Find out if your school sponsors study groups. Study groups are more effective once you have identified the test objectives with which you are less familiar.

A gradual study pattern over an appropriate period of time can be effective for learning unfamiliar or difficult content. In the last few days before the test, take time to review those topics with which you feel most comfortable and avoid "cramming"—trying to learn too much new material quickly.

Use subarea information. If you are retaking a test, the information from your score report that indicates subarea-level strengths and weaknesses may further help you determine areas for additional preparation. You may be able to improve your performance on the test by studying in those areas in which you did well in addition to studying those areas for which your performance was weak.

STUDY OUTLINE CHART

Test Field: _____ Test Date: _____

Obj. #	Topic	Notes on Test Content, Knowledge, and Courses	✓, X, ?	Resources
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				

✓ = adequate knowledge and preparation; X = partial knowledge and preparation; ? = little or no knowledge and preparation

STUDY OUTLINE CHART (continued)

Obj. #	Topic	Notes on Test Content, Knowledge, and Courses	✓, X, ?	Resources
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
21.				
22.				
23.				

✓ = adequate knowledge and preparation; X = partial knowledge and preparation; ? = little or no knowledge and preparation

STUDY OUTLINE CHART (continued)

Obj. #	Topic	Notes on Test Content, Knowledge, and Courses	✓, X, ?	Resources
24.				
25.				
26.				
27.				
28.				
29.				
30.				
31.				
32.				
33.				
34.				
35.				

✓ = adequate knowledge and preparation; X = partial knowledge and preparation; ? = little or no knowledge and preparation

Approaching the Test Items

Multiple-Choice Item Formats

The purpose of this section is to describe and give examples of multiple-choice item formats that you may see on the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. This section also suggests possible ways to approach thinking about and answering the multiple-choice items. The approaches described in this section are intended as suggestions; you may want to try using them on the sample items included in this Test Information Booklet. However, these approaches are not intended to replace test-taking strategies with which you are already comfortable and that work for you.

The multiple-choice items in the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure program are designed to assess subject matter knowledge described in the set of test objectives for each test field. You will be expected to demonstrate more than your ability to recall factual information; you may be asked to think critically about information, analyze it, apply it, consider it carefully, compare it with other knowledge you have, or make a judgment about it.

Each test covered in this volume of the Test Information Booklet includes multiple-choice items for which you must choose one of four response options, labeled A, B, C, and D, and fill in the corresponding circle in the correct row on your answer sheet.

You may see several multiple-choice item formats in the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. Not every test will include all the item formats discussed in this section, but it is in your best interest to be prepared to answer all types of items in the event that they are included on the test(s) you elect to take. On the following pages, you will find examples of the most common multiple-choice item formats and descriptions of approaches you might use to answer the items.

Multiple-Choice Item Format One: The Single Test Item

In the single test-item format, a problem is presented as a direct question or an incomplete statement, and four response options (A, B, C, and D) appear below the question. The following sample test item from an Elementary test is an example of this type. (The * indicates the best response of the choices given.)

Example of multiple-choice item format one: a single test item

A town planning committee must decide how to use a 110-acre piece of land. The committee sets aside 20 acres of the land for watershed protection and an additional 46 acres for recreation. What percentage of the land is set aside for either watershed protection or recreation?

- A. 19%
- B. 44%
- *C. 60%
- D. 66%

For test items in this format, a suggested approach is to read the entire item carefully and critically. Think about what it is asking and the situation it is describing. It is best to read and evaluate *all* four response options to find the best answer; you should not stop at the first answer that seems reasonable. After reading all four response options, eliminate any obviously wrong answers, and select the best choice from the remaining answers. There is no penalty for guessing.

Multiple-Choice Item Format Two: Test Items with Stimulus Material

Some test items are preceded by stimulus material to which the test items relate. Some examples of stimulus material that may be included on a test are maps, charts, tables, graphs, reading passages, and descriptions of classroom situations. In some cases, there is only one test item related to the stimulus provided. In other cases, two or more test items are related to a single stimulus. Each stimulus is preceded by a direction line indicating how many items are related to that stimulus. The following sample from an English test includes an excerpt from a poem as the stimulus for one sample test item. (The * indicates the best response of the choices given.)

Example of multiple-choice item format two: a test item with stimulus material

Use the excerpt below from a poem by Queen Elizabeth I of England to answer the question that follows.

I grieve and dare not show my discontent,
I love and yet am forced to seem to hate,
I do, yet dare not say I ever meant,
I seem stark mute but inwardly do prate.
 I am and not, I freeze and yet am burned,
 Since from myself another self I turned.

In this work, the poet constructs meaning by using:

- A. understatement to emphasize the speaker's sense of incompleteness.
- B. allusion to elevate the speaker's situation.
- C. onomatopoeia to heighten the dramatic effect.
- * D. antithesis to dramatize the speaker's inner conflict.

The following approach is suggested when responding to test items with stimulus material. First, examine the stimulus. Note how the information is presented. In this test item, the stimulus is a poetic excerpt and must be read carefully and slowly to gain a sense of the meaning of the words and their artistic use in the passage.

Now you are prepared to address the sample test item associated with this stimulus. As you consider each response option, look back at the stimulus to determine which literary device is chiefly used in the excerpt. The device that is most clearly used to construct meaning in the excerpt is antithesis, the juxtaposition of contrasting ideas. Therefore D is the correct response.

Open-Response Item Formats

All Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure include at least two open-response items. For this test, each test form contains two open-response items for which you are asked to prepare a written response of approximately 150 to 300 words. Each open-response item will typically include:

1. contextual or background information that presents the topic of the open-response item; and
2. one or more specific directions or assignments that advise you of the elements that you are expected to provide in your response.

The following open-response item from a Political Science test illustrates the components of a typical open-response item. The first paragraph introduces the topic of the assignment—the checks and balances that regulate the exercise of power among the three branches of the U.S. government. The second paragraph, and accompanying bulleted instructions, describe the writing task candidates must undertake and what elements to include in their response.

Sample open-response item

Read the information below; then complete the exercise that follows.

The U.S. Constitution creates a government of checks and balances in which legislative, executive, and judicial authority reside in separate branches of the government.

Using your knowledge of the U.S. government, write a response in which you:

- describe the powers that are given to each of the three branches of the government under the Constitution; and
- discuss how these powers enable each branch of the government to check the activities of each of the other two branches.

Scoring Open-Response Items

Open-response items are scored holistically according to standardized procedures, using scoring scales that have been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education. In judging the overall effectiveness of each response, scorers use scoring scales that describe varying levels of performance.

As a whole, the response to each assignment must demonstrate an understanding of the content of the field. Responses are scored on the extent to which they achieve the purpose of the assignment, are appropriate and accurate in the application of subject matter knowledge, provide high-quality and relevant supporting evidence, and demonstrate a soundness of argument and understanding of the subject area.

Open-response items are scored holistically by two or more qualified educators during scoring sessions held after each administration of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure. Scorers are oriented before the scoring session to ensure that all responses are scored according to standardized procedures.

Performance characteristics. The following performance characteristics guide scorers in considering responses to the open-response items. It may be helpful for you to be aware of these performance characteristics as you prepare for and take the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.

Performance Characteristics	Definitions
Purpose	The extent to which the response achieves the purpose of the assignment.
Subject Matter Knowledge	Accuracy and appropriateness in the application of subject matter knowledge.
Support	Quality and relevance of supporting details.
Rationale	Soundness of argument and degree of understanding of the subject matter.

Scoring scale. The scoring scale below, which is related to the performance characteristics for the tests, is used by scorers in assigning scores to responses to the open-response items.

Score Point	Score Point Description
4	<p>The "4" response reflects a thorough knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the assignment is fully achieved. • There is substantial, accurate, and appropriate application of subject matter knowledge. • The supporting evidence is sound; there are high-quality, relevant examples. • The response reflects an ably reasoned, comprehensive understanding of the topic.
3	<p>The "3" response reflects an adequate knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the assignment is largely achieved. • There is a generally accurate and appropriate application of subject matter knowledge. • The supporting evidence is adequate; there are some acceptable, relevant examples. • The response reflects an adequately reasoned understanding of the topic.
2	<p>The "2" response reflects a limited knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the assignment is partially achieved. • There is a limited, possibly inaccurate or inappropriate application of subject matter knowledge. • The supporting evidence is limited; there are few relevant examples. • The response reflects a limited, poorly reasoned understanding of the topic.
1	<p>The "1" response reflects a weak knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the assignment is not achieved. • There is little or no appropriate or accurate application of subject matter knowledge. • The supporting evidence, if present, is weak; there are few or no relevant examples. • The response reflects little or no reasoning about or understanding of the topic.

A response to an open-response item is designated "unscorable" if it is unrelated to the assigned topic, illegible, not in the appropriate language, of insufficient length to score, or merely a repetition of the assignment. If there is no response to an open-response item, it is designated "blank."

Sample Test Administration Documents

Sample Test Directions

This test booklet contains two sections: (1) a multiple-choice section and (2) an open-response item assignment section. You may complete the sections of the test in any order you choose. The directions for the open-response item assignments appear before that section.

Each question in the first section of this booklet is a multiple-choice question with four answer choices. Read each question carefully and choose the ONE best answer. Record your answer on the answer sheet in the space that corresponds to the question number. Completely fill in the space having the same letter as the answer you have chosen. *Use only a No. 2 lead pencil.*

- Sample Question: 1. What is the capital of Massachusetts?
- A. Worcester
 - B. New Bedford
 - C. Boston
 - D. Springfield

The correct answer to this question is C. You would indicate that on the answer sheet as follows:

1. (A) (B) ● (D)

Try to answer all questions. In general, if you have some knowledge about a question, it is better to try to answer it. You will NOT be penalized for guessing. **You may use the margins of the test booklet for scratch paper, but only the answers that you record on your answer sheet will be scored.**

After you have completed a section, you may go on to the next section. You may go back and review your answers, but be sure you have answered all questions before raising your hand for dismissal.

FOR TEST SECURITY REASONS, YOU MAY NOT REMOVE YOUR NOTES OR ANY OF THE TEST MATERIALS FROM THE ROOM. Your test materials must be returned to a test administrator when you finish the test.

If you have any questions, please ask them now before beginning the test.



DO NOT GO ON UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

DIRECTIONS FOR THE OPEN-RESPONSE ITEM ASSIGNMENTS

This section of the test consists of two open-response item assignments that appear on the following pages. You will be asked to prepare a written response of approximately 150 to 300 words (1 to 2 pages) for each assignment. You should use your time to plan, write, review, and edit your response for each assignment. **You must write responses to both of the assignments. You must respond to the first assignment on pages 3 to 4 of the answer document and to the second assignment on pages 7 to 8 of the answer document.**

For each assignment, read the topic and directions carefully before you begin to work. Think about how you will organize your response. You may use any blank space in this test booklet to make notes, write an outline, or otherwise prepare your response. **However, your score will be based solely on the version of your response that is written in the answer document.**

As a whole, your response to each assignment must demonstrate an understanding of the knowledge of the field. In your response to each assignment, you are expected to demonstrate the depth of your understanding of the subject area by applying your knowledge rather than by merely reciting factual information.

Your response to each assignment will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

- **PURPOSE:** the extent to which the response achieves the purpose of the assignment
- **SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE:** appropriateness and accuracy in the application of subject knowledge
- **SUPPORT:** quality and relevance of supporting evidence
- **RATIONALE:** soundness of argument and degree of understanding of the subject area

The open-response item assignments are intended to assess subject knowledge. Your responses must be communicated clearly enough to permit valid judgment of the evaluation criteria by scorers. Your responses should be written for an audience of educators in this field. The final version of each response should conform to the conventions of edited American English. Your responses should be your original work, written in your own words, and not copied or paraphrased from some other work.

Be sure to write about the assigned topics. Please write legibly. You may not use any reference materials during the test. Remember to review your work and make any changes you think will improve your responses.

Write your response to the **FIRST** assignment on pages 3 to 4 of the answer document.

Write your response to the **SECOND** assignment on pages 7 to 8 of the answer document.

**Massachusetts
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Seat Number

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Form Number

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ID Number

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Social Security Number

Test Booklet Letter Code (Select only one letter)
(A) (H) (R)
(B) (J) (S)
(C) (K) (T)
(D) (L) (U)
(E) (M) (V)
(F) (N) (W)
(G) (P)

AFFIX BAR CODE LABEL
FOR ANSWER DOCUMENT
EXACTLY IN THIS AREA

ANSWER DOCUMENT D

You must sign your agreement here to the Rules of Test Participation before you begin testing, and you must write out the identity certification statement in order for your answer document to be scored.

I hereby agree to abide by the conditions set forth in the current registration bulletin for the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure™, including the Rules of Test Participation.

PRINT NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

IDENTITY CERTIFICATION STATEMENT
Please write (do not print) the following statement in the space below.
"I certify that I am the person whose name and signature appear on this form."

- DIRECTIONS FOR MARKING MULTIPLE-CHOICE ANSWERS**
- Use black soft lead pencil only.
 - Do NOT use ink or ballpoint pen.
 - Make heavy black marks that fill circle completely.
 - Erase cleanly any answer you wish to change.
 - Make no stray marks.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 10 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 19 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 28 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 37 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 46 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 11 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 20 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 29 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 38 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 47 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 12 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 21 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 30 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 39 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 48 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 13 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 22 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 31 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 40 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 49 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 14 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 23 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 32 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 41 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 50 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 6 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 15 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 24 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 33 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 42 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 51 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 16 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 25 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 34 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 43 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 52 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 8 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 17 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 26 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 35 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 44 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 53 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 9 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 18 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 27 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 36 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 45 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 54 (A) (B) (C) (D) |

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|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 55 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 63 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 71 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 79 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 87 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 95 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 56 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 64 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 72 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 80 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 88 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 96 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 57 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 65 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 73 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 81 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 89 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 97 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 58 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 66 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 74 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 82 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 90 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 98 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 59 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 67 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 75 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 83 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 91 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 99 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 60 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 68 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 76 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 84 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 92 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 100 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 61 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 69 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 77 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 85 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 93 (A) (B) (C) (D) | |
| 62 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 70 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 78 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 86 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 94 (A) (B) (C) (D) | |

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DO NOT MAKE ANY MARKS BELOW THIS LINE

PAGE 2



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**TURN TO PAGE 7
FOR OPEN-
RESPONSE ITEM 2**

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PAGE 5

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PAGE 6

The Day of the Test Administration

This section provides suggestions for preparing for the experience of the test administration as well as strategies you may wish to employ while taking the test.

Preparing for the Test Administration

This section offers tips that you can use to prepare for the test day.

Start early.

- Make sure you leave plenty of time to have a good breakfast and to get to the test center.
- Arrive on time so that you are relaxed and ready to begin the test when instructed to do so.

Dress comfortably.

- Wear layers of clothing that you can easily remove or add on (e.g., sweater, sweatshirt). This will allow you to make personal adjustments for fluctuations in room or body temperature.
- Wear soft-soled shoes so that you will not disturb other candidates when you leave your seat.

Take something to eat between sessions.

- If you are scheduled to take tests at both the morning and afternoon sessions, it is recommended that you take along something to eat at the break between the two sessions.
- Eating and drinking will be permitted **ONLY** outside the test room; no food or drink may be consumed inside.

Test-Taking Tips

The following tips for taking standardized tests are offered as suggestions that may contribute to your success and confidence during the test session.

Follow directions.

- At the beginning of the session and throughout the test, follow all directions carefully. This includes oral directions read by the test administrators and any written directions in the test booklet.
- The test booklet will contain general directions for the test as a whole and specific directions for individual test items or groups of test items.
- If you do not understand something about the directions, raise your hand and ask a test administrator.

Pace your work.

- Each test session is four hours long. The test schedule is designed to allow sufficient time for most candidates to complete the test.
- Before starting a test, flip through the booklet to determine how many test items there are and to set the pace at which you should answer them.
- You may find that you need less time than the four hours in a test session, but be prepared to stay for the entire time.
- Do not make any other commitments for this time period that may cause you to work more quickly than you should.
- Do not spend a lot of time on a test item that you cannot answer promptly; skip that item and move on.
- If you skip a test item, mark it in your test booklet so that you can return to it later.
- If you skip a multiple-choice item, be sure to skip the corresponding row of answer choices on your answer sheet.

Read carefully.

- Read the directions and the test items carefully.
- Read all response options.
- Remember that the test items call for the "best answer." Do not choose the first response option that seems reasonable; read and evaluate all choices to find the best answer.
- Read the test items closely so you understand what they ask.
- Do not skim the test items in an effort to save time; you may misread key words and select the wrong answer or spend more time than needed on a test item. For example, if a test item calls for an approximate answer and you skip over that detail, you could waste time performing a long computation.
- Read the test items, but don't read *into* them. The test items are designed to be straightforward, not tricky. Often your first and most direct answer, based on your knowledge, is the best response.

Mark your answers carefully.

- Your answers to the multiple-choice items will be scored by a machine; therefore, the answer you select must be clearly marked and the only answer marked.
- If you change your mind about an answer, erase the old answer completely.
- Do not make any stray marks on the answer sheet.
- You may use any available space in the test booklet for notes, but your answers must be clearly marked on your answer sheet.

IF YOU SKIP A MULTIPLE-CHOICE ITEM, BE SURE TO SKIP THE CORRESPONDING ROW OF ANSWER CHOICES ON YOUR ANSWER SHEET.

- Your answer(s) to the written open-response item(s) must be recorded in the appropriate section of the answer document. Responses to the written open-response items that are recorded in the test booklet will not be scored.

REMEMBER TO RECORD YOUR RESPONSE(S) TO THE OPEN-RESPONSE ITEM(S) IN THE APPROPRIATE SECTION OF THE ANSWER DOCUMENT. **If you write your response to the written open-response items in the test booklet, it will not be scored.**

Guess wisely.

- As you read through the multiple-choice item response options, try to find the best answer. If you cannot quickly determine the best answer, try to eliminate as many of the options as possible. Then, guess among the remaining answer choices.
- Your score on each test will be based on the number of multiple-choice items you have answered correctly, in combination with your score(s) on the open-response items.
- There is no penalty for incorrect multiple-choice item answers; therefore, it is better to guess than not to respond at all.

Check your accuracy.

- Use any remaining time at the end of the test session to check your work.
- Go back to the test items that gave you difficulty and verify your work on them.
- Check the answer sheet to be sure that you have marked your answers accurately and have completely erased changed answers.

After the Test Administration

Score Reporting

After you have taken a test in the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure program, you will receive a score report indicating:

- whether or not you met the qualifying score on the test;
- your total test score; and
- information about your performance on the subareas of the test.

Score reports will be mailed according to the schedule published in the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) Registration Bulletin. Your score(s) will not be released over the telephone or via fax.

Your test scores will be released to you and to the Massachusetts Department of Education. The score report you receive is for your information and for your personal records. Your test score(s) will also be reported directly to the Massachusetts Department of Education and will be added to your licensure application file, based on your social security number.

Your test results will also be released to the Massachusetts institution(s) of higher education that you indicated on your registration form. The institution(s) will receive information about whether you passed the test and your total test score. Information about your performance on the individual subareas of the test will be released to the institution(s) only if you give explicit permission on your registration form.

Interpreting Your Score Report

Many tests are administered as part of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure program. Each test includes a set of multiple-choice items and at least two open-response items. Each test has its own qualifying score (i.e., passing score) set by the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education.

In order to report test scores in a consistent way, the scores for all the tests are reported on the same scale. Test results are reported as scores in a range of 0 to 100, with a score of 70 representing the qualifying, or passing, score. A total test scaled score of 70 or higher is required to meet the qualifying score for each test.

Your total test score is based on your performance on all sections of the test. Your multiple-choice score and scores on open-response items are combined to obtain your total score, reported on the 0 to 100 scale.

For each test, the total test scaled score is derived by combining the scaled scores for the multiple-choice items and the open-response items. The scaled score for the multiple-choice items is obtained from the number of test items answered correctly. The scaled score for the open-response items is obtained from the scores assigned to the candidate's written or oral responses. If a candidate does not attempt an open-response item on the test, no points are contributed to the candidate's score for that test item.

The Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) test includes multiple-choice items and two open-response items. The open-response section counts for 20 percent of the total test score.

Foundations of Reading (PreK–6)
(Field 90)

Test Overview Chart

Test Objectives

Sample Test Items

Answer Key and Sample Response

***Test Overview Chart:
Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) (90)***

Subareas	Approximate Number of Multiple-Choice Items	Number of Open-Response Items
I. Foundations of Reading Development	43–45	
II. Development of Reading Comprehension	33–35	
III. Reading Assessment and Instruction	21–23	
IV. Integration of Knowledge and Understanding		2

The Foundations of Reading test is designed to assess the candidate's knowledge of reading/language arts required for the Massachusetts Early Childhood, Elementary, and Moderate Disabilities licenses. This subject matter knowledge is delineated in the Massachusetts Department of Education's *Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval (7/2001)*, 603 CMR 7.06 "Subject Matter Knowledge Requirements for Teachers."

The Foundations of Reading test assesses the candidate's proficiency and depth of understanding of the subject of reading and writing development based on the requirement that the candidate has participated in seminars or courses that address the teaching of reading. Candidates are typically nearing completion of or have completed their undergraduate work when they take the test.

The multiple-choice items on the test cover the subareas as indicated in the chart above. The open-response items may relate to topics covered in any of the subareas and will typically require breadth of understanding of the field and the ability to relate concepts from different aspects of the field. Responses to the open-response items are expected to be appropriate and accurate in the application of subject matter knowledge, to provide high-quality and relevant supporting evidence, and to demonstrate a soundness of argument and understanding of the field.

Test Objectives:
Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) (90)

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure™

FIELD 90: FOUNDATIONS OF READING (PreK–6)
TEST OBJECTIVES

Subarea

	Multiple-Choice	Range of Objectives	Approximate Test Weighting
I.	Foundations of Reading Development	01–04	35%
II.	Development of Reading Comprehension	05–07	27%
III.	Reading Assessment and Instruction	08–09	<u>18%</u>
			80%
	Open-Response		
IV.	Integration of Knowledge and Understanding	10	20%

SUBAREAS:

FOUNDATIONS OF READING DEVELOPMENT
DEVELOPMENT OF READING COMPREHENSION
READING ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

FOUNDATIONS OF READING DEVELOPMENT [35%]

0001 Understand phonological and phonemic awareness.

For example: the distinction between phonological awareness (i.e., the awareness that oral language is composed of smaller units, such as spoken words and syllables) and phonemic awareness (i.e., a specific type of phonological awareness involving the ability to distinguish the separate phonemes in a spoken word); the role of phonological awareness and phonemic awareness in reading development; the difference between phonemic awareness and phonics skills; levels of phonological and phonemic awareness skills (e.g., rhyming, segmenting, blending, deleting, substituting); strategies (e.g., explicit, implicit) to promote phonological and phonemic awareness (e.g., distinguishing spoken words, syllables, onsets/rimes, phonemes); and the role of phonological processing in the reading development of individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

0002 Understand concepts of print and the alphabetic principle.

For example: development of the understanding that print carries meaning; strategies for promoting awareness of the relationship between spoken and written language; the role of environmental print in developing print awareness; development of book handling skills; strategies for promoting an understanding of the directionality of print; techniques for promoting the ability to track print in connected text; strategies for promoting letter knowledge (e.g., skill in recognizing and naming uppercase and lowercase letters); letter formation; strategies for promoting understanding of the alphabetic principle (i.e., the recognition that phonemes are represented by letters and letter pairs); use of reading and writing strategies for teaching letter-sound correspondence; and development of alphabetic knowledge in individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

0003 Understand the role of phonics in promoting reading development.

For example: explicit and implicit strategies for teaching phonics; the role of phonics in developing rapid, automatic word recognition; the relationship between decoding and reading comprehension; the interrelationship between letter-sound correspondence and beginning decoding (e.g., blending letter sounds); strategies for helping students decode single-syllable words that follow common patterns (e.g., CVC, CVCC, CVVC, CVCe) and multisyllable words; methods for promoting and assessing the use of phonics generalizations to decode words in connected text; use of semantic and syntactic cues to help decode words; the relationship between decoding and encoding (e.g., analyzing the spellings of beginning readers to assess phonics knowledge, using spelling instruction to reinforce phonics skills); the relationship between oral vocabulary and the process of decoding written words; specific terminology associated with phonics (e.g., phoneme, morpheme, consonant digraph, consonant blend); and development of phonics skills in individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

0004 Understand word analysis skills and strategies.

For example: development of word analysis skills and strategies in addition to phonics, including structural analysis; the relationship between word analysis skills and reading comprehension; identification of common morphemes (e.g., base words, roots, inflections and other affixes); recognition of common prefixes (e.g., un-, re-, pre-) and suffixes (e.g., -tion, -able) and their meanings; knowledge of Latin and Greek roots that form English words; use of syllabication as a word identification strategy; analysis of syllables and morphemes in relation to spelling patterns; techniques for identifying compound words; identification of homographs (i.e., words that are spelled the same but have different meanings and may be pronounced differently [e.g., *bow*, part of a ship/*bow*, to bend from the waist; *tear*, a drop of water from the eye/*tear*, to rip]); use of context cues (e.g., semantic, syntactic) to help identify words and to verify the pronunciation and meaning of words; and development of word analysis skills in individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

DEVELOPMENT OF READING COMPREHENSION [27%]

0005 Understand vocabulary development.

For example: the relationship between oral and written vocabulary development and reading comprehension; the role of systematic, noncontextual vocabulary strategies (e.g., grouping words based on conceptual categories and associative meanings) and contextual vocabulary strategies (e.g., paraphrasing); the relationship between oral vocabulary and the process of identifying and understanding written words; strategies for promoting oral language development and listening comprehension (e.g., read-alouds, word explanation strategies); knowledge of common sayings, proverbs, and idioms (e.g., raining cats and dogs, better safe than sorry); knowledge of foreign words and abbreviations commonly used in English (e.g., RSVP); criteria for selecting vocabulary words; strategies for clarifying and extending a reader's understanding of unfamiliar words encountered in connected text (e.g., use of semantic and syntactic cues, use of word maps, use of the dictionary); strategies for promoting comprehension across the curriculum by expanding knowledge of content-area vocabulary (e.g., focus on key words); the importance of frequent, extensive, varied reading experiences in vocabulary development; and development of vocabulary knowledge and skills in individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

0006 Understand how to apply reading comprehension skills and strategies to imaginative/literary texts.

For example: knowledge of reading as a process to construct meaning; knowledge of levels of reading comprehension (i.e., literal, inferential, and evaluative) and strategies for promoting comprehension of imaginative/literary texts at all three levels; development of literary response skills (e.g., connecting elements in a text to prior knowledge and other sources, using evidence from a text to support responses); development of literary analysis skills (e.g., identifying features of different literary genres, analyzing story elements, analyzing character development, interpreting figurative language, identifying literary allusions, analyzing the author's point of view); use of comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading (e.g., predicting, visualizing, reviewing, self-monitoring and other metacognitive strategies); use of oral language activities to promote comprehension (e.g., retelling, discussing); the role of oral reading fluency in facilitating comprehension; use of writing activities to promote literary response and analysis (e.g., creation of story maps and other relevant graphic organizers); and development of the reading comprehension skills and strategies of individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

0007 Understand how to apply reading comprehension skills and strategies to informational/expository texts.

For example: knowledge of levels of reading comprehension (i.e., literal, inferential, and evaluative) and strategies for promoting comprehension of informational/expository texts at all three levels; strategies for identifying point of view, distinguishing facts from opinions, and detecting faulty reasoning in informational/expository texts; use of reading strategies for different texts and purposes (e.g., adjusting reading rate based on text difficulty, skimming/scanning); use of comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading (e.g., predicting, visualizing, self-questioning, paraphrasing); use of oral language activities to promote comprehension (e.g., oral preview/review); the role of oral reading fluency in facilitating comprehension of informational/expository texts; use of writing activities to promote comprehension (e.g., student-generated questioning, note taking, outlining, summarizing, semantic maps, K-W-L charts); knowledge of text structures (e.g., chronological, comparison/contrast, cause/effect); use of text features (e.g., index, glossary), graphic features (e.g., charts, maps), and reference materials; application of comprehension strategies to electronic texts; development of students' ability to apply reading comprehension skills for varied purposes; and development of the reading comprehension skills and strategies of individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

READING ASSESSMENT AND INSTRUCTION [18%]

0008 Understand formal and informal methods for assessing reading development.

For example: the use of data and ongoing reading assessment to adjust instruction to meet students' reading needs; the characteristics and uses of standardized criterion-referenced and norm-referenced tests to assess reading development and identify reading difficulties; concepts of validity, reliability, and bias in testing; the characteristics and uses of formal and informal reading-related assessments (e.g., assessment of phonemic awareness, miscue analyses, Informal Reading Inventories, running records, use of rubrics, portfolio assessment, assessment of authentic tasks); characteristics and uses of group versus individual reading assessments; techniques for assessing particular reading skills (e.g., oral or written retellings to assess reading comprehension, dictated word lists to test letter-sound knowledge); awareness of text leveling; awareness of the challenges and supports in a text (e.g., pictures, predictability, decodability); techniques for determining students' independent, instructional, and frustration reading levels; and assessment of the reading development of individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

0009 Understand multiple approaches to reading instruction.

For example: knowledge of the significant theories, approaches, practices, and programs for developing reading skills and reading comprehension; strategies for planning, organizing, managing, and differentiating reading instruction to support the reading development of all students; adjustment of reading instruction based on ongoing assessment; instructional strategies for promoting development of particular reading skills (e.g., phonemic awareness, phonics skills, word identification, automatic recognition of sight words, vocabulary knowledge); the uses of large-group, small-group, and individualized reading instruction; strategies for selecting and using meaningful reading materials at appropriate levels of difficulty; creation of an environment that promotes love of reading; strategies for promoting independent reading in the classroom and at home; uses of instructional technologies to promote reading development; and awareness of strategies and resources for supporting individual students (e.g., English Language Learners, struggling readers through highly proficient readers).

INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING [20%]

In addition to answering multiple-choice items, candidates will prepare written responses to questions addressing content from the preceding objectives, which are summarized in the objective and descriptive statement below.

0010 Prepare an organized, developed analysis on a topic related to one or more of the following: foundations of reading development; development of reading comprehension; reading assessment and instruction.

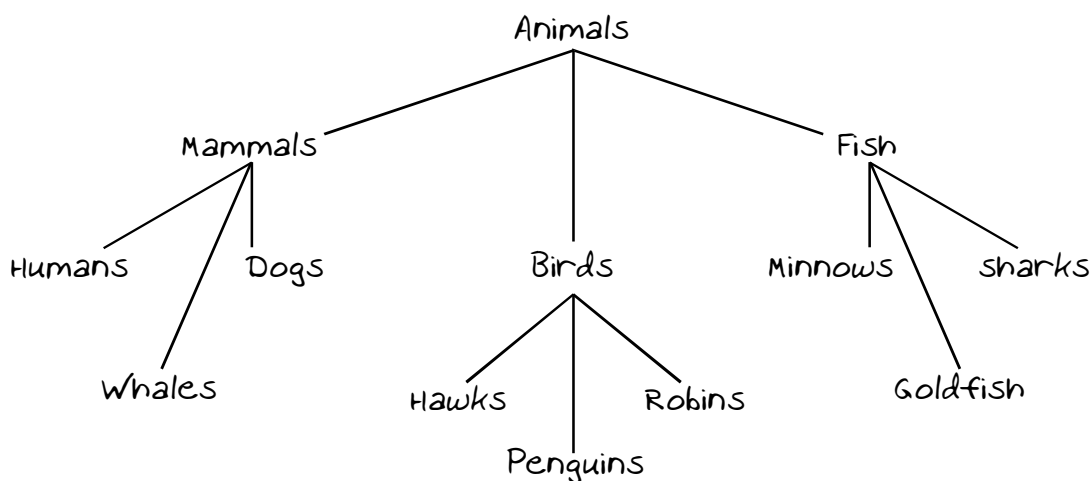
For example: the role of phonological and phonemic awareness in reading development; development of alphabetic knowledge; role of phonics in developing rapid, automatic word recognition; development of word analysis skills and strategies in addition to phonics, including structural analysis; the relationship between vocabulary development and reading comprehension; use of comprehension strategies before, during, and after reading imaginative/literary texts; knowledge of organizational patterns in informational/expository texts; techniques for assessing particular reading skills; and strategies for planning, organizing, managing, and differentiating reading instruction to support the reading development of all students.

Sample Test Items:
Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) (90)

1. Which of the following statements best explains the difference between phonemic awareness and phonics skills?
 - A. Phonemic awareness is the general understanding that spoken language can be represented by print, while phonics requires knowledge of particular letter-sound associations.
 - B. Phonemic awareness is the ability to associate sounds with letters, while phonics refers to knowledge of common spelling patterns.
 - C. Phonemic awareness involves a general understanding of the alphabetic principle, while phonics includes letter-blending skills.
 - D. Phonemic awareness is the ability to distinguish individual speech sounds, while phonics requires knowledge of letter-sound correspondence.
2. Which of the following describes the most likely source of phonics difficulties for English Language Learners whose primary language is alphabetic?
 - A. Other languages tend to use letter combinations to represent individual phonemes.
 - B. The letters of the English alphabet may represent different phonemes in other languages' writing systems.
 - C. Other languages rely more heavily on the use of context cues in decoding than English does.
 - D. English contains words that have been adopted from many other languages.

3. In which of the following nonsense words is the vowel sound likely to be the same as the vowel sound in the word *on*?
- A. goan
 - B. goble
 - C. gobb
 - D. gowl
4. Students in an upper-elementary class examine and discuss paired words such as *compete* and *competition*, *inflame* and *inflammation*, and *magic* and *magician*. Word pairings such as these are most likely to promote students' reading development by increasing their awareness that:
- A. most phonic generalizations have at least a few exceptions.
 - B. syllabication can help a reader identify the meaning of an unfamiliar word.
 - C. the spelling of a word may give clues to its meaning as well as to its sound.
 - D. some phonemes are represented by more than one letter combination.

5. A fourth-grade teacher leads a class discussion about different types of animals. As students name various animals, the teacher draws on the board the diagram shown below.



This type of activity is most likely to promote students' reading proficiency in which of the following ways?

- A. helping them recognize that a word's meaning may shift when the context changes
- B. enriching their vocabulary knowledge by relating familiar words to larger conceptual categories
- C. helping them recognize that every word has links to many other types of words
- D. enriching their vocabulary skills by demonstrating that many single words have both denotative and connotative meanings

Use the information below to answer the two questions that follow.

A fifth-grade student has been reading a novel set in the early nineteenth century. Shown below is an excerpt from a chapter of the novel. In this excerpt, Thomas and his family are travelling across the United States in a covered wagon to settle in California.

As the peaks of the Sierra Nevadas came into view, Thomas began to understand why his parents wanted to make it here earlier in the fall. The mountains were covered in a thick blanket of white. Each time they stopped, Flip jumped out and ran around the wagon, letting out frightened little yelps, as if he knew what lay ahead, and was just as worried as anyone.

Thomas and his parents, and even little Adele, understood that there was no choice but to go on. Here they were in the middle of nowhere—dry desert and more mountains behind them, and nothing, no signs of human life, as far as the eye could see. Everyone in the family stopped talking. There was nothing to talk about, just a heavy fear in the pit of everyone's stomach. Every so often, Thomas's mother or father would disappear into the back of the wagon, checking on the provisions and busying themselves with final preparations for the trip through the pass. Nothing they could do would change the fact that there were five, ten, fifteen feet of snow in some places up there, and more coming.

When the student finishes reading the chapter, the teacher asks questions about this passage. Printed below is an excerpt from their conversation.

Teacher: So what's this chapter about?

Student: Thomas and his family are still trying to get to California. But now they're worried.

Teacher: Why are they worried?

Student: I'm not sure. They're all alone, and it's cold. And there are mountains too, I guess. And they're all feeling sad and scared.

Teacher: What makes them feel that way?

Student: I think maybe they wish they could go back home. Maybe they don't have enough supplies.

Teacher: Do you remember anything else about this part of the story?

Student: Not really . . . nobody's talking about anything.

6. In this conversation, the student most clearly demonstrates which of the following reading skills?
- A. making predictions based on information in a passage
 - B. understanding the author's point of view in a literary passage
 - C. interpreting the mood of a literary text
 - D. identifying the main idea of a passage
7. This conversation suggests that the student would benefit from instruction to help the student:
- A. understand cause-and-effect relationships in a literary text.
 - B. analyze the development of the main character in a literary text.
 - C. identify the sequence of events in a literary text.
 - D. recognize the emotional responses of characters in a literary text.

Use the information below to answer the two questions that follow.

Students in a fourth-grade class read the following passage from their science textbook.

You can sometimes feel static electricity in action. As you take off a sweater over your head, some of the negatively charged particles from the sweater rub onto your hair. This gives your hair extra negative charges, while your sweater is left with extra positive charges. Notice how your hair sticks to the sweater as you pull it over your head.

8. This passage illustrates which of following types of text structure?
- A. comparison and contrast
 - B. cause and effect
 - C. thesis and evidence
 - D. problem and solution
9. Which of the following student responses to the passage most clearly suggests that the student is applying inferential comprehension skills?
- A. "I guess positive charges stick to negative charges."
 - B. "My hair always sticks straight up when I take off my sweater."
 - C. "I think all my sweaters must have lots of negative charges."
 - D. "I think there are other kinds of electricity besides the static kind."

10. Use the sentences with missing letters below to answer the question that follows.

1. W_ll y__ r__d th_s?

2. _i__ _ou _ea_ __i?

Reading researchers have observed that while sentence 1 is easily understood by most readers, sentence 2 is not. This observation best supports which of the following conclusions about effective phonics instruction?

- A. Capitalization and punctuation help determine the meaning of a sentence but are not relevant to decoding.
- B. Students should be encouraged to guess at a word's identity once they have decoded part of the word.
- C. Context cues are as important as phonics knowledge in enabling a reader to decode connected text.
- D. Students' ability to decode connected text will develop most quickly if phonics instruction begins with consonants.

11. Use the information below to complete the exercise that follows.

Jonathan, a third-grade student, reads aloud a passage from an unfamiliar story. As he reads, the teacher notes his performance on a separate copy of the story. Printed below is an excerpt from the teacher's record of Jonathan's oral reading performance.

All^{sum-mer} summer Karen had|wished for a new bike. She was|tired of|riding her older
 |sister's||worn-out bike. ^{went} What she really wanted was all|sleek, shiny ^{moun-tain} mountain bike
 that would^{will} perform well on the dirt roads and|paths near her house. All ^{though} through
 the school year she had done|chores for the^{nēg nīg} neighbors to earn some|extra money.
 In May, Karen looked in the^{shoe-box were} shoebox where she put|half of every^{ever all-ow-ance} allowance and
 any|extra money she had^{near-ly any} earned. It was not nearly enough to buy the bike.
 What^{can} could she do? Just then Rob|Jones rode by on his bike^{dealing} delivering the
^{news-paper} newspaper. An|idea^{can deal} popped into Karen's head. Maybe she|could deliver
 newspapers herself and|earn the rest of the money. She would have to get up
 |early and work hard. It might take a long time, but^{some-day} someday Karen would have
 that shiny^{moun-tain} mountain bike!

Key:

- deletion | short pause ← repetition © self-correction
- ^ insertion || long pause ^{cat}/_{cow} substitution

Using your knowledge of **word identification strategies** (e.g., use of phonics, analysis of word structure, use of context clues, identification of sight words), write a response in which you:

- identify one of Jonathan's *strengths* in using word identification strategies; and
- identify one of Jonathan's *weaknesses* in using word identification strategies.

Be sure to cite specific evidence from the information shown to support your response.

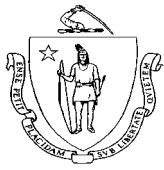
***Answer Key and Sample Response:
Foundations of Reading (PreK–6) (90)***

Question Number	Correct Response	Test Objective
1.	D	Understand phonological and phonemic awareness.
2.	B	Understand the role of phonics in promoting reading development.
3.	C	Understand the role of phonics in promoting reading development.
4.	C	Understand word analysis skills and strategies.
5.	B	Understand vocabulary development.
6.	C	Understand how to apply reading comprehension skills and strategies to imaginative/literary texts.
7.	A	Understand how to apply reading comprehension skills and strategies to imaginative/literary texts.
8.	B	Understand how to apply reading comprehension skills and strategies to informational/expository texts.
9.	A	Understand how to apply reading comprehension skills and strategies to informational/expository texts.
10.	D	Understand multiple approaches to reading instruction.

The sample response below reflects a strong knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.

This record of Jonathan's oral reading suggests that one of his word identification strengths is the ability to apply knowledge of word structure. The teacher's notes suggest that Jonathan divides multisyllable words into smaller units to identify them. In some cases the smaller units are syllables (e.g., sum-mer, moun-tain, all-ow-ance). First he uses knowledge of phonics to sound out individual syllables. He is then able to identify the word as a whole. In other cases the smaller units are the two words that make up a compound word. The teacher's notes suggest that Jonathan looks for and recognizes the constituent words that form the compound words shoe-box, news-paper, and some-day.

The teacher's notes also suggest that Jonathan has some weaknesses in word identification. One weakness relates to identification of high-frequency words with irregular spellings. Such words are usually referred to as "sight words." Readers need to learn to recognize these words automatically (i.e., memorize them) because the words cannot be identified by applying common phonics generalizations or by analyzing the word's structure. The passage that Jonathan reads aloud includes a number of these words: what, would, through, where, enough, could. Notice the miscues he makes (without self-correcting) for each of these words: went for what, will for would, though for through, were for where, any for enough, can for could. The word neighbor is also a sight word, and he makes two unsuccessful efforts to decode it by using phonics.



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