

Computer-Based Pre-Professional Praxis Writing and Reading Skills Tests

Writing Essay Description (Test # 5720)

- ✓ You will be given one essay topic.
- ✓ You will have 30 minutes to write this essay.

Strategies for taking the essay section of the test

- ✓ Obtain The Praxis Series “Tests at a Glance” booklet.
- ✓ Evaluate the scoring guide and sample responses in the booklet.
- ✓ Read the section on writing.
- ✓ Randomly select a sample test question. Practice your writing skills by creating an essay based on the question or topic selected.
- ✓ Use the following guidelines:
 1. Read the topic and question carefully.
 2. Create a sketch outline (5 minutes) and remember to address all aspects of your topic or question.
 3. Plan your paragraphs (25 minutes):
 - Paragraph #1: Create a topic sentence by restating the sample test question or topic. Compose two more sentences that develop the topic sentence.
 - Paragraphs #2-3: Create the main body paragraph(s) by using supporting sentences that incorporate facts, examples, arguments, or supporting details.
 - Paragraph #4: Create a summary sentence and closing paragraph.
 4. Proofread your essay (5 minutes). Use the following tips:
 - Refer to your outline as you write.
 - Confirm that you have responded to all aspects of the test question.
 - Avoid using slang or colloquialisms; use formal language.
 - Check for proper grammar and punctuation.
- ✓ **Make an appointment with a CAE tutor to review your essay.**

Description of the Error Recognition English Usage and Sentence Correction Test

Usage Section:

- ✓ You will be given a variety of multiple choice usage questions that assess your ability to recognize errors of word choice, mechanics, and grammar

- ✓ You will select either the underlined portion of the sentence that contains the error or the “No error” option.

Sentence Correction Section:

- ✓ You will be given sentences with some part of the sentence underlined. Under the sentence, you will have five options of rewriting the underlined segment.
- ✓ Select the best option to replace the underlined section.

Topics to review for both tests

- ✓ Structure: nouns and pronouns; verbs; modifiers and predication; coordination, subordination, parallelism and comparisons
- ✓ Word Choice: homonyms and idioms
- ✓ Mechanics: punctuation and capitalization

Test-Taking Tips

- ✓ Read the entire sentence or passage carefully.
- ✓ Know that punctuation rules are seldom assessed.
- ✓ Eliminate incorrect answers; if you cannot pick out the correct answer, choose from the remaining choices.
- ✓ Never leave an item blank.
- ✓ Visit ACES (203-407-4448) in Hamden, LEARN (860-434-4890) in New London, or CES (203-365-8856) in Trumbull to practice The Praxis Series tests.
- ✓ Visit the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) to review the skills and concepts (such as grammar, word choice, and mechanics) that you need to know in order to pass the English section of the Praxis test.

Reading Test Description (Test # 5710)

- ✓ You will be given 46 computer-generated test questions; 60% comprehension and 40% analysis and application.
- ✓ You will have 75 minutes to complete the test.
- ✓ Your selections will consist of 100 word passages, 200 word passages, and short statements of one or more sentences.
- ✓ You will be required to choose from five answer choices.

Topics to review

- ✓ Practice your ability to understand information directly presented in passages.
- ✓ Practice your ability to respond to a variety of categorical questions: main idea, summary, detail, organization, and vocabulary.
- ✓ Practice your ability to analyze material and respond to a variety of questions: argument, logic, application, evaluation, and inferential reasoning.

Test-Taking Tips

- ✓ Visit the CAE to receive sample tests with explanatory answers.
- ✓ Complete a practice test, check your answers, and refer to explanatory materials for review before you take a second practice test.
- ✓ You should repeat this procedure with additional tests monitoring changes in your performance from test to test.
- ✓ If your performance is not satisfactory and or you feel the strategies being used are not working, contact a CAE tutor for additional support and strategies.
- ✓ For maximum study results, take several practice tests until you feel you have achieved satisfactory performance that will allow you to pass the Praxis Series tests

Reading Comprehension Test Strategy #1 (additional strategies available at the CAE):

1. Skim or read to find the main idea.
2. Read the questions and answers.
3. Eliminate incorrect answers.
4. Scan the details to find the answer.
5. Choose the answer that is absolutely correct.