

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Item
Consent Agenda
March 16, 2017

OFFICE OF EDUCATOR LICENSURE

- E. Begin the Administrative Procedures Act process: To establish a standard score of 165 for the Braille Praxis II exam

Background Information: On September 9, 2016, the Commission on Teacher and Administrator Education, Certification and Licensure and Development approved the recommendation by an Ad Hoc Committee to set a passing score of 165 for the newly revised version of the *Praxis* Braille Proficiency Assessment (Test Code 0633). In accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated §37-3-2, it is the purpose and duty of the commission to make recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding standards for the certification and licensure continuing professional development of those who teach.

The Braille Proficiency Assessment measures the necessary knowledge and skills that an entry-level teacher of visually impaired students (TVI) or an entry-level teacher of braille should possess. The braille rules that are assessed are established by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA).

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

The *Praxis*® Study Companion

Braille Proficiency

0633



Welcome to the *Praxis*® Study Companion

For a fully accessible version of this document, please contact ETS Disability Services:

http://www.ets.org/gre/contact#Contacting_ETS_Disability_Services. Phone: 1-609-771-7780 or 1-866-387-8602 (toll free for test takers in the United States, U.S. Territories, and Canada). Email: stassd@ets.org.

Prepare to Show What You Know

You have been working to acquire the knowledge and skills you need for your teaching career. Now you are ready to demonstrate your abilities by taking a *Praxis*® test.

Using the *Praxis*® Study Companion is a smart way to prepare for the test so you can do your best on test day. This guide can help keep you on track and make the most efficient use of your study time.

The Study Companion contains practical information and helpful tools, including:

- An overview of the *Praxis* tests
- Specific information on the *Praxis* test you are taking
- A template study plan
- Preparation resources
- Practice questions and explanations of correct answers
- Test-taking tips and strategies
- Frequently asked questions
- Links to more detailed information

So where should you start? Begin by reviewing this guide in its entirety and note those sections that you need to revisit. Then you can create your own personalized study plan and schedule based on your individual needs and how much time you have before test day.

Keep in mind that study habits are individual. There are many different ways to successfully prepare for your test. Some people study better on their own, while others prefer a group dynamic. You may have more energy early in the day, but another test taker may concentrate better in the evening. So use this guide to develop the approach that works best for you.

Your teaching career begins with preparation. Good luck!

Know What to Expect

Which tests should I take?

Each state or agency that uses the *Praxis* tests sets its own requirements for which test or tests you must take for the teaching area you wish to pursue.

Before you register for a test, confirm your state or agency's testing requirements at www.ets.org/praxis/states.

How are the *Praxis* tests given?

Almost all *Praxis* tests are given on computer. The *Praxis* Braille Proficiency test (0633) is an exception, as it is delivered on paper.

What should I expect when taking the test?

You can expect to be asked to provide proper identification at the test center. Watch the [What to Expect on Test Day](#) video to see what the experience is like. (Note that the earlier portion of the video shows check-in procedures applicable to all *Praxis* tests, but the later portion of that video applies only to computer-based tests).

Where and when are the *Praxis* tests offered?

You can select the test center that is most convenient for you. Most *Praxis* tests are administered through an international network of test centers, which includes Prometric® Testing Centers, some universities, and other locations throughout the world. The *Praxis* Braille Proficiency test is only administered in states where it is currently required for certification.

Testing schedules may differ, so see the *Praxis* Web site for more detailed test registration information at www.ets.org/praxis/register. The testing schedule for the *Praxis* Braille Proficiency test can be found at http://www.ets.org/praxis/register/braille_proficiency/.

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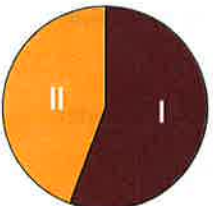
The Praxis® Study Companion guides you through the 10 steps to success

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1. Learn About Your Test

Learn about the specific test you will be taking

Braille Proficiency (0633)

| Test at a Glance | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Test Name | Braille Proficiency | | |
| Test Code | 0633 | | |
| Time | 4 hours | | |
| Number of Questions | 40 multiple-choice questions (Reading) 4 transcription assignments (Production) | | |
| Format | Two test booklets: Booklet 1 contains the 40 multiple-choice questions and 1 transcription assignment. The transcription assignment is completed using a traditional (right-to-left), not direct (left-to-right), 27- or 28-cell, 4-line slate and stylus. Booklet 2 contains the remaining 3 transcription assignments. The transcription assignments are completed using a Classic Perkins manual braillewriter. | | |
| Weighting | Multiple-choice questions: 55% of total score Transcription assignments: 45% of total score | | |
| Test Delivery | Paper delivered | | |
|  | Content Categories | Approximate Number of Questions | Approximate Percentage of Examination |
| | I. Reading | 40 | 55% |
| | II. Production | 4 | 45% |

About This Test

The purpose of the Braille Proficiency test is to measure the requisite braille knowledge and skills that an entry-level teacher of visually impaired students (TVI) or an entry-level teacher of braille must possess. The braille rules tested are those established by the Braille Authority of North America (BANA), www.brailleauthority.org.

The Braille Proficiency test has two booklets: Booklet 1 contains a multiple-choice section assessing examinees' ability to read braille (using simulated braille for examinees who do not have a visual impairment) and a production section assessing examinees' ability to transcribe into embossed braille from printed text using a traditional (not direct) 27- or 28-cell, 4-line slate and stylus. Booklet 2 is a production section assessing examinees' ability to transcribe into embossed braille from printed text using a manual braillewriter. You will be given four hours to complete the entire test; the multiple-

1. Learn About Your Test

choice and transcription assignments are not separately timed. Once you begin working on Booklet 2, you cannot return to Booklet 1.

The test may contain some questions that will not count toward your score.

For the *Praxis* Braille Proficiency test, you must bring the following to the testing center:

1. A manual (nonelectric) braillewriter that accommodates standard 11½-by-11-inch braille paper
2. A traditional (not direct) 27- to 28-cell, 4-line slate and stylus that accommodates 8½-by-11-inch braille paper
3. Several No. 2 pencils and an eraser

You should also bring a braille eraser.

Please note the following important information about taking the *Praxis* Braille Proficiency test:

- **If you do not bring an appropriate braillewriter and slate and stylus with you to the test center, you will not be permitted to test.**
- In advance of test day, make sure your braillewriter is functioning properly; problems caused by malfunctioning braillewriters (e.g., ghost/shadow dots) might negatively affect the scoring of your transcriptions.
- For each of the four transcription assignments, you must use the device specified in the test instructions. A transcription that is completed using a device other than the one specified will receive a score of zero.
- Unreadable transcriptions (e.g., too lightly embossed, overlapping lines of text, prevalent ghost/shadow dots, etc.) will receive a score of zero.
- Braille paper will be provided at the test center; you may not bring your own braille paper.
- All equipment is subject to inspection before being allowed into the testing room.

Topics Covered

I. Reading

- A. UEB (Non-Technical Text)
 - determine the correct UEB transcription of non-technical text
 - identify and describe errors in a UEB transcription of non-technical text
 - read and comprehend short passages of non-technical text presented in UEB
- B. UEB (Math)
 - determine the correct UEB transcription of math expressions and math problems containing both text and math expressions
- C. Nemeth Code
 - determine the correct Nemeth Code transcription of math expressions

II. Production

- A. Transcribe short selections into UEB using a 27- or 28-cell, 4-line traditional slate and stylus and 8½-by-11-inch paper
- B. Transcribe sentences containing non-technical text into UEB using a Classic Perkins manual braillewriter
- C. Transcribe math problems and statements into UEB using a Classic Perkins manual braillewriter
- D. Transcribe math problems and statements into Nemeth Code using a Classic Perkins manual braillewriter
- E. Correctly load and remove 11½-by-11-inch paper from the braillewriter

III. Knowledge of Unified English Braille (UEB) and Nemeth Code

Content listed in this category will be tested throughout the test. This category is intended to provide you with a potentially helpful breakdown of the aspects of UEB and Nemeth Code you can expect to read or produce. Some of the content is included in the Reference Guide provided with the test. The Reference Guide can be found on page 40 in this Study Companion.

- **Unified English Braille (UEB)**

- A. Punctuation: period, question mark, exclamation point, comma, semicolon, colon, hyphen, quotation marks (double and single), apostrophe, dash, ellipsis, and forward slash;
- B. Enclosures: parentheses, square brackets, angle brackets, and curly braces;
- C. Other symbols: at sign/commercial at (@), percent (%), dollars (\$), cents (¢), feet (′), inches (″), bullet (·), degrees (°), ampersand (&), and asterisk (*);
- D. Simple formats: center heading, paragraph indentation, pagination (braille page numbers and print page numbers), transcriber's note indicators (opening and closing);
- E. Indicators and typeforms: capitalization (including capital letter indicator, capitalized word indicator, capitalized passage indicator, terminator); grade 1 mode (including grade 1 symbol, grade 1 word indicator, grade 1 passage indicator, terminator, and the use of grade 1 mode for initials); and typeforms, including the symbols for italics (symbol, word, passage, terminator), bold (symbol, word, passage, terminator), and underlined (symbol, word, passage, terminator);
- F. Alphabetic wordsigns: *but, can, do, every, from, go, have, just, knowledge, like, more, not, people, quite, rather, so, that, us, very, will, it, you, as*;
- G. Strong contractions: *and, for, of, the, with* as both wordsigns (i.e., standing alone) and groupsigns (i.e., as parts of words);
- H. Strong wordsigns: *child, shall, this, which, out, still*;
- I. Strong groupsigns: *ch, gh, sh, th, wh, ed, er, ou, ow, st, ing, ar*;
- J. Lower wordsigns: *be, enough, were, his, in, was*;
- K. Lower groupsigns: *ea, be, bb, con, cc, dis, en, ff, gg, in*;
- L. Initial-letter contractions both as groupsigns and when standing alone: *upon, these, those, whose, word, cannot, had, many, spirit, their, world, day, ever, father, here, know, lord, mother, name, one, part, question, right, some, time, under, young, there, character, through, where, ought, work*;

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- M. Final-letter groups/signs: *ound, ance, sion, less, ount; ence, ong, ful, tion, ness, ment, ity*;
- N. Shortforms, including all 75 as words standing alone and the special rules for the use of 10 of them within a longer word (i.e., *braille, great, children, blind, first, friend, good, letter, little, quick*), as well as shortform use with the grade 1 indicator (e.g., *hm, sh, CD*); and
- O. General contraction rules, including preference rules for contractions (when there is a choice), no use of contractions between unhyphenated compound words, the aspirated h rule, syllable bridging with contractions, words containing hyphens (e.g. *merry-go-round, father-in-law*), and the use of contractions in electronic addresses (but not shortforms or contractions that have to stand alone).
- **UEB (Math)**
 - A. Signs of operation/comparison: plus (+), minus (−), multiplication cross (×), multiplication dot (·), division (÷, $\overline{\hspace{1cm}}$, /), square root ($\sqrt{\hspace{1cm}}$), equals (=), less than (<), greater than (>);
 - B. Numbers and numeric mode: Arabic numbers, dates with slash (e.g., 3/15/2015), time with colon (e.g., 9:15 a.m.), common fractions with fraction written vertically (e.g., $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$), mixed numbers (e.g., $4\frac{1}{2}$), pi (π);
 - C. Grouping symbols: parentheses;
 - D. Signs of omission;
 - E. Superscripts and subscripts;
 - F. Miscellaneous signs and symbols: percent (%), dollars (\$), cents (¢), degrees (°), feet (′), inches (″);
 - G. Punctuation: comma, colon, decimal point;
 - H. Algebraic expressions and equations, for example:
$$2x + 3 = 12, \text{ OR}$$
$$x + 3x^2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \text{ (underline indicates sign of omission is needed);}$$
 - I. Geometry shape symbols and symbols of comparison: triangle (Δ), square (\square), angle (\angle), parallel (\parallel), perpendicular (\perp), and congruent (\cong).

- **Nemeth Code**

- A. Signs of operation/comparison: plus (+), minus (−), multiplication cross (×), multiplication dot (·), division (÷, $\overline{)$, /), square root ($\sqrt{}$), equals (=), less than (<), greater than (>);
- B. Numbers and numeric mode: Arabic numbers, dates with slash (e.g., 3/15/2015), time with colon (e.g., 9:15 a.m.), common fractions with fraction written vertically (e.g., $\frac{1}{2}$ OR $\frac{1}{2}$), mixed numbers (e.g., $4\frac{1}{2}$), pi (π);
- C. Grouping symbols: parentheses;
- D. Signs of omission;
- E. Superscripts and subscripts;
- F. Miscellaneous signs and symbols: percent (%), dollars (\$), cents (¢), degrees (°), feet (′), inches (″);
- G. Punctuation: comma, colon, ratio, decimal point, punctuation indicator;
- H. Algebraic expressions and equations, for example:
$$2x + 3 = 12, \text{ OR}$$
$$x + 3x^2 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \text{ (underline indicates sign of omission is needed);}$$
- I. Geometry shape symbols and symbols of comparison: triangle (Δ), square (\square), angle (\angle), parallel (\parallel), perpendicular (\perp), and congruent (\cong).

The Test Questions

This test contains 40 multiple-choice questions and four transcription assignments.

The non-technical text you will encounter in the multiple-choice questions and the transcription assignments is representative of the types of material a TVI may be called on to transcribe into Unified English Braille (UEB) for a K-12 student with a visual impairment.

The math problems and statements you will encounter in the multiple-choice questions and the transcription assignments are representative of the types of math problems and statements that a TVI may be called on to transcribe into Unified English Braille (UEB) or Nemeth Code for a K-12 student with a visual impairment.

The content of the math problems and statements will not be beyond beginning algebra and basic geometry. You will not be required to solve the problems.

Multiple-Choice Questions

There are 40 multiple-choice questions on this test. The multiple-choice questions assess your ability to read Unified English Braille (UEB) and Nemeth Code. The questions are distributed as follows:

- **Nemeth Code** (5 questions)

Each question consists of a math problem or statement followed by four braille transcriptions. You must choose which of the four transcriptions is the correct Nemeth Code transcription of the math problem or statement.

- **UEB Math** (5 questions)

Each question consists of a math problem or statement followed by four braille transcriptions. You must choose which of the four transcriptions is the correct UEB transcription of the math problem or statement.

- **UEB (Non-Technical)** (22 questions)

Each question consists of a sentence followed by four braille transcriptions. You must choose which of the four transcriptions is the correct UEB transcription of the sentence.

- **UEB Rules** (4 questions)

These questions assess your ability to identify rule violations in a transcription. Each question presents a UEB transcription of a sentence, a question about that transcription, and four answer choices. You are to select the answer choice that best describes the error, if any, in the transcription.

- **Reading UEB** (4 questions)

This group of questions consists of reading passages and questions about the content of those passages. The passages, questions, and answer choices are all presented in UEB.

Transcription Assignments

General Information

There are four transcription assignments in the test. The transcription assignments assess your ability to produce UEB and Nemeth Code. The assignments are as follows.

1. Producing UEB with a Slate and Stylus
2. Producing UEB with a Braillewriter
3. Producing Math Problems and Statements in UEB with a Braillewriter
4. Producing Math Problems and Statements in Nemeth Code with a Braillewriter

The score scale shown below will be used to score each of the 4 transcription assignments. Each response will be scored based on the number of transcription errors you make.

| Score Point | Score Point Description |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 4 | 3 or fewer errors |
| 3 | 4-7 errors |
| 2 | 8-11 errors |
| 1 | 12 or more errors |
| 0 | blank or unscorable |

More about the Transcription Assignments

1. Producing UEB with a Slate and Stylus

You will be asked to use a slate and stylus to transcribe a set of three short selections into UEB.

Each set of selections includes a name, address, phone number, and e-mail address; a shopping list; and a brief note to a student.

Errors that will be counted as incorrect in your transcription include

1. contractions, indicators, or shortforms omitted or misused;
2. characters misbrailled (including added or omitted dots);
3. characters omitted or extra ones inserted (including hyphenation of words not hyphenated in the text);
4. words omitted or repeated;
5. indicators or punctuation marks omitted or misused or extra ones inserted;
6. spacing errors (including improper spacing between words, lines, or selections);
7. formatting errors (including improper line breaks or margins); and
8. erasures detectable by touch.

1. Learn About Your Test

2. Producing a Passage in UEB with a Braillewriter

You will be presented with a short (80–100 word) passage to transcribe into UEB using a manual (nonelectric) braillewriter.

Errors that will be counted as incorrect in your transcription include

1. contractions, indicators, or shortforms omitted or misused;
2. characters misbrailled (including added or omitted dots);
3. characters omitted or extra ones inserted (including hyphenation of words not hyphenated in the text);
4. words omitted or repeated;
5. indicators or punctuation marks omitted or misused or extra ones inserted;
6. spacing errors (including improper spacing between words or lines);
7. formatting errors (including improper line breaks and margins); and
8. erasures detectable by touch.

3. Producing Math Problems and Statements in UEB with a Braillewriter

You will be presented with six math problems and statements to transcribe into UEB using a manual (nonelectric) braillewriter. Some of them will be word problems. The content of the math problems and statements will not be beyond beginning algebra and basic geometry. You will not be required to solve the problems.

Errors that will be counted as incorrect in your transcription include

1. contractions, indicators, or shortforms omitted or misused;
2. characters, numerals, or symbols misbrailled (including added or omitted dots);
3. characters, numerals, or symbols omitted or misused or extra ones inserted (including hyphenation of words not hyphenated in the text);
4. characters, numerals, or symbols in the number of the problem omitted or misused or extra ones inserted;
5. words omitted or repeated;
6. indicators, omission marks, or punctuation marks omitted or misused or extra ones inserted;
7. spacing errors (including improper spacing between words, lines, or problems);
8. formatting errors (including improper line breaks or margins); and
9. erasures detectable by touch.

4. Producing Math Problems and Statements in Nemeth Code with a Braillewriter

You will be presented with six math problems and statements to transcribe into Nemeth Code using a manual (nonelectric) braillewriter. None of them will be word problems. The content of the math problems and statements will not be beyond beginning algebra and basic geometry. You will not be required to solve the problems.

Errors that will be counted as incorrect in your transcription include

1. contractions, indicators, or shortforms omitted or misused;
2. characters, numerals, or symbols misbrailled (including added or omitted dots);
3. characters, numerals, or symbols omitted or misused or extra ones inserted;
4. characters, numerals, or symbols in the number of the problem omitted or misused or extra ones inserted;
5. Nemeth Code indicators, punctuation marks, composition signs, or the general omission symbol omitted or misused or extra ones inserted;
6. spacing errors (including improper spacing between words, lines, or problems);
7. formatting errors (including improper line breaks or margins); and
8. erasures detectable by touch.