



PASSING THE PRAXIS

The “Study Smarter” Approach

Our Purpose

Make the path into
teaching in Philadelphia
clear, accessible, and
achievable

We connect aspiring and current educators to:



Teaching Jobs
Across Philadelphia



Certification
Pathways



Paid “Earn While You
Learn” Programs

Who's in the Room

82%

Have a degree and
ready to explore teaching

52%

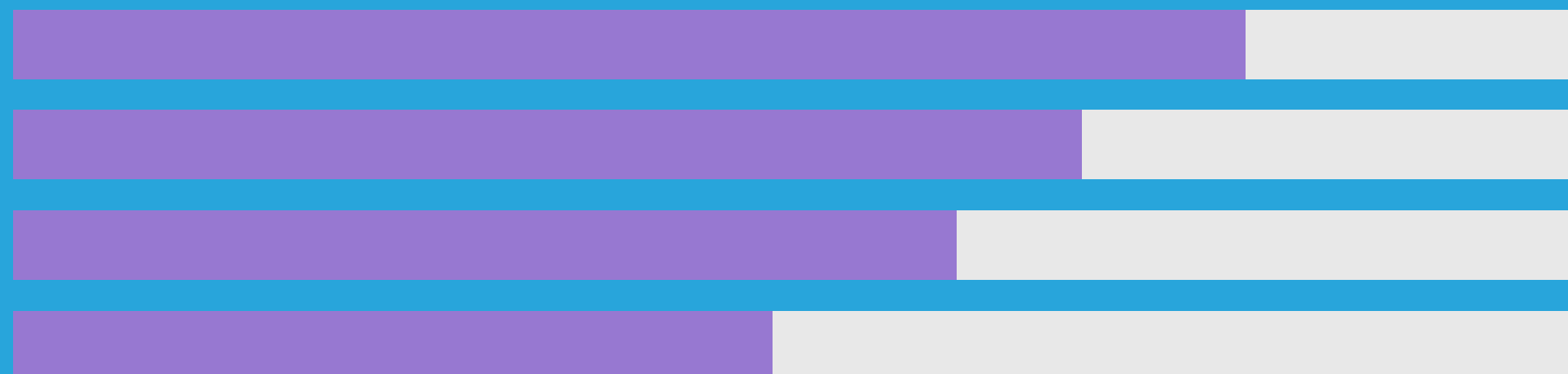
Have not started studying yet

12%

Retaking the Praxis

60% Navigating this without the support of an institution

Top barriers



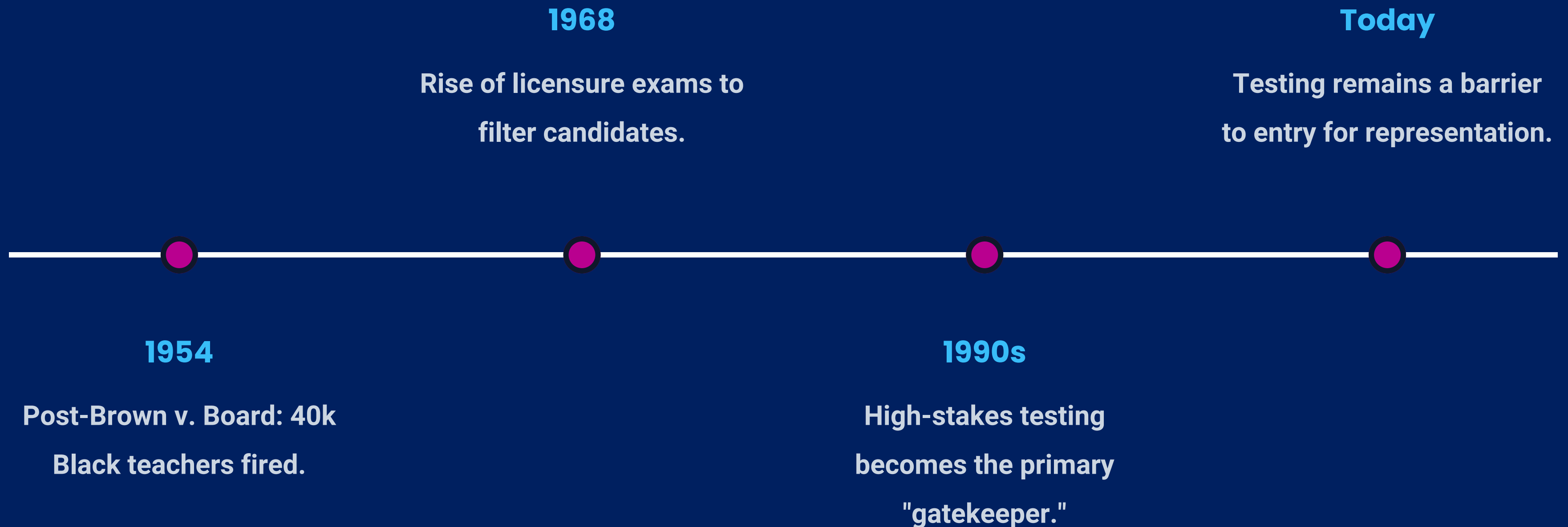
Knowing where to start

Understanding what is on the exam

Affording test prep resources

Testing Anxiety

The Gatekeeper Effect



Why This Session



Research confirms that test anxiety is one of the most common barriers for adult learners.

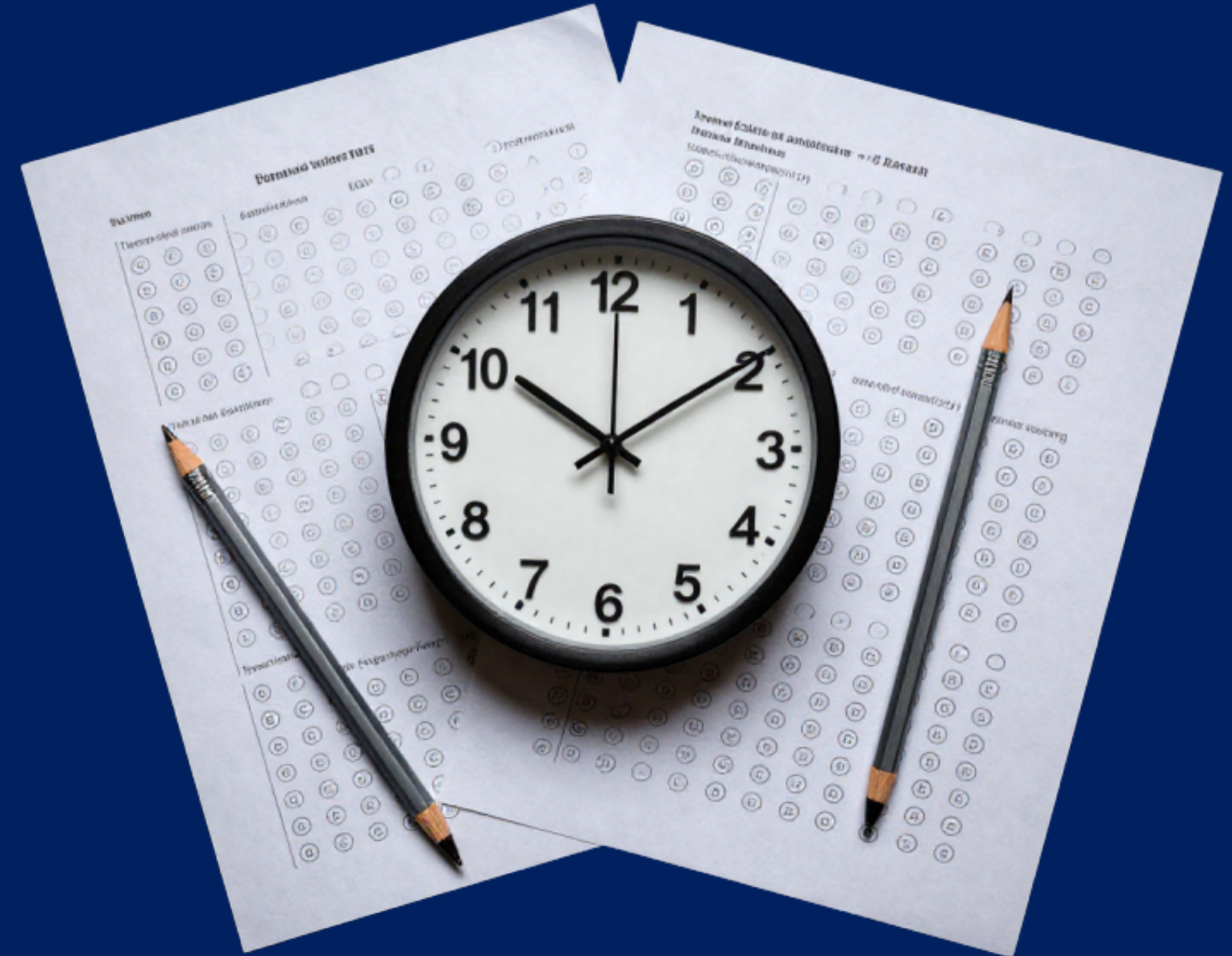
Most people who eventually pass DO NOT pass on their 1st attempt.

The Praxis is a test of strategy as much as it is a test of knowledge.

Praxis 5511 Break Down

The Praxis 5511 is a **High-Breadth, Low-Depth** filter. It doesn't test if you are a great teacher; it tests if you can pivot between subjects under pressure.

- **The 1-Minute Trap:** You have roughly 60 seconds per question. ETS uses long "narrative stems" specifically to eat your clock.
- **Linguistic Filtering:** The difficulty isn't in the math or history—it's in the **distractor logic** designed to confuse a stressed brain.
- **The "Ideal" Bias:** Answers often reflect "Laboratory Classroom" scenarios that ignore real-world constraints.



The "ETS Speak" Dictionary



The Qualifiers

When you see **MOST**, **EXCEPT**, or **PRIMARY**, the question has changed from "find the right answer" to "find the *best* among three right answers."



Developmental Fit

ETS often includes high-school level activities for 2nd grade questions. If it isn't **age-appropriate**, it is a distractor, no matter how "good" it sounds.



Scarcity Myths

Ignore real-world "scarcity." On the test, you always have a library, a supportive principal, and zero budget constraints. Choose the **ideal** pedagogic path.

Anatomy of an ETS Trap

The 5511 Sample Question

*"A 5th-grade teacher wants to promote critical thinking during a history unit. Which of the following should be the **initial** step?"*

- A) Read a chapter and memorize dates.
- B) Watch a video of a famous battle.
- C) Brainstorm what is 'known' vs 'needed'.
- D) Assign a 3-page research project.

The Strategic Breakdown

- 1. Identify the Trigger Word:** The word '**Initial**' is the filter. It asks for the absolute first step, not the most complex one.
- 2. The 'Great Teaching' Distractor:** Option D sounds like great teaching, but it is a "capstone" activity. It is a trap because it is too far down the line.
- 3. Rule of Thumb:** Inquiry-based learning and discovery always win for initial steps.

Strategy > Knowledge

"The barrier to passing the 5511 isn't a lack of content knowledge. It's the trap of answering as a **Real-World Educator** instead of a **Test Strategist**."

**LET'S START THINKING LIKE THE
TEST-MAKERS.**

High-Impact Strategy Sprint



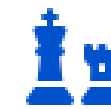
Bucket 1: Know Yourself

Identify your "Why," your learning baseline, and your ideal testing environment.



Bucket 2: Know the Test

Master the Blueprint and the Essay Mapping Concept. Move from "facts" to "layout."



Bucket 3: Play the Test

Execution: The Two-Fold Strategy, aggressive elimination, and spotting test-maker traps.

Bucket 1 – Know Yourself First

Clarify your Why:
your reason is your fuel
when studying gets hard

Know how you learn best:
visual, auditory,
reading/writing, or hands-on

Know your test taking style:
Do you rush?
Freeze?
Name it to manage it

Choose home vs. test center:
practice in the same
conditions
you plan to test in

Bucket 2 – Know the Test

**Take a diagnostic practice test
first — before you study
anything**

**Study the content AND the
blueprint**

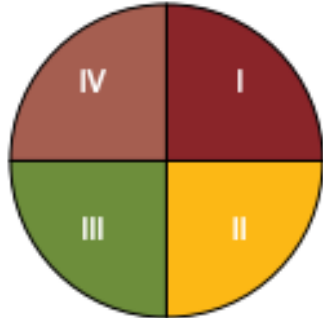
**Focus on your weakest areas,
not the topics you already
know**

Study the Content AND the Blueprint

Know what ETS tests, how they test it, and where your points come from



Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (5511)

Test at a Glance			
Test Name	Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge		
Test Code	5511		
Time	2 hours		
Number of Questions	120		
Format	Selected-response questions; on-screen scientific calculator provided		
Test Delivery	Computer delivered		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	I. English Language Arts	30	25%
	II. Mathematics	30	25%
	III. Citizenship and Social Science	30	25%
	IV. Science	30	25%

120 Questions

4 equal sections: ELA, Math, Social Science, and Science — 30 questions each.

2 Hours

That's 1 minute per question. No time to second-guess — practice pacing early.

Cut Score: 160

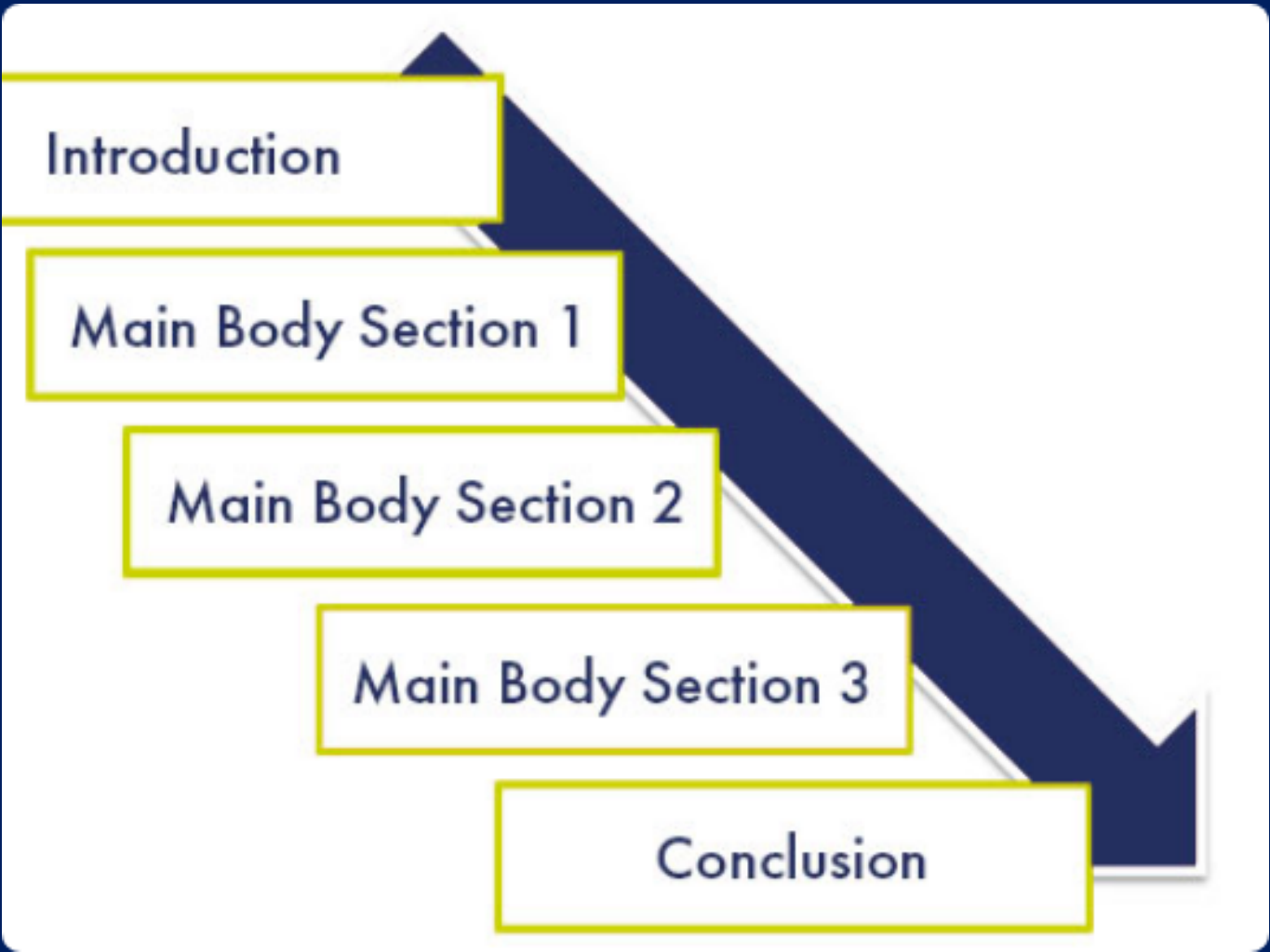
PA requires one of the highest passing scores in the country. Every point matters.

The Essay Blueprint: A Formulaic Map

Stop Freezing, Start Mapping

Use this literal template:

- 1. **Introduction:** Thesis + Roadmap of 3 points.
- 2. **Body Paragraphs:** Clear transition word + Support.
- 3. **Conclusion:** Restate thesis + "So What?".



Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing (5723)

Test at a Glance

Test Name	Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing		
Test Code	5723		
Time	100 minutes, divided into a 40-minute selected-response section and two 30-minute essay sections		
Number of Questions	40 selected-response questions and two essay questions		
Format	Selected-response questions involving usage, sentence correction, revision-in-context, and research skills; 2 essay topics as the basis for writing samples.		
Test Delivery	Computer Delivered		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	I. Text Types, Purposes, and Production	6–12 selected-response and 2 essays	60%
	II. Language and Research Skills for Writing	28–34 selected-response	40%
	* Includes both scored and unscored (pretest) questions. Depending on the number of pretest questions included in each scoring category, the total number of questions in that category may vary from one form of the test to another.		

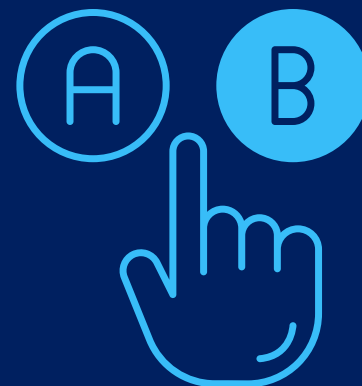
Bucket 3 – Play the Test Well



**Practice with timed sets —
replicate real test
conditions every time**



**Answer every question —
there is no penalty for
guessing**



**Use elimination
aggressively: rule out two,
then choose between what
remains**

The "Two-Fold" Question Strategy

Every practice question is an opportunity to learn the test-maker's mind. Ask yourself 'What is the rule?' and then 'Why does ETS think this is the winner?'. Understanding the 'Test-maker Logic' is how you beat the distractors.

Question 1

"What is the actual rule or answer here?"

(Content Mastery)

Question 2

"How do I know the test-maker considers this 'right'?"

(Strategy & Logic)

Apply this to every multiple-choice practice question you try.

Bonus: If You Need to Retake the Praxis

Get better fast with this 3-step retake approach

Step 1 — Analyze, do not avoid

- Carefully read your score report
- Identify your weakest content area — that is where your time goes first
- Do not re-study everything. Focus your time where it will move the needle most

Step 2 — Practice under real conditions

- Take full-length timed practice tests every week until your next test date
- Review every missed question — understand WHY you got it wrong, not just what the right answer was

Step 3 — Protect your mindset

- Reconnect with your Why before every study session
- Find a study partner or group — isolation makes retakes harder
- Remember: the score you earned before is not the score you are capable of

MEET OUR PANEL SPEAKERS



JONATHAN MARSHALL

Senior Academic Advisor & Operations
Coordinator
Eastern University



ADIA HAGANS-PAIGE

Managing Director of HR
Belmont Charter Network

Panel Discussion

3 Questions You NEED to Answer

1

Which test
do you need?

2

How will you
prepare for it?

3

When & where
will you take it?

Don't wait. Start now.

Your Free Resource: The Praxis Pass Plan Kit



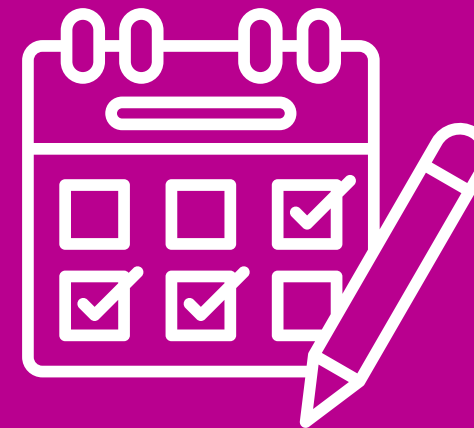
Test Identification Guide



Fee Waivers



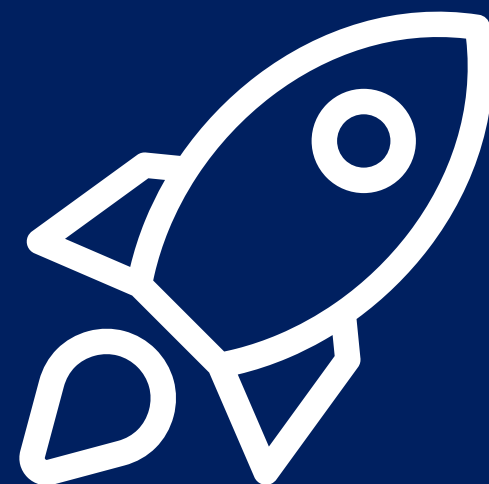
Links to Resources



**Study Calendar
Template**

Resource Giveaway: Praxis Pass Plan Kit

Week	Focus Area	Strategic Activity
Week 1	Foundation & Audit	Take diagnostic test; identify lowest-performing categories.
Week 2	Deep Content Review	Review concepts for high-weight domains Master the Essay Blueprint formulas if needed
Week 3	Simulated Practice	Fully timed mock test with no distractions imitating your ideal testing conditions
Week 4	Confidence & Refine	Review missed questions, apply the "Two-Fold Strategy" to missed questions and practice time-management tactics.



Before You Go...

Philadelphia Needs **YOU** in the Classroom.

THIS WEEK

- Identify your test
- Download the study companion
- Take a diagnostic test

THIS MONTH

Build your study plan using your blueprint and calendar and study

BY YOUR TEST DATE

You will have replaced exam anxiety with a clear, formulaic game plan

[TeachPHL.org](https://teachphl.org) | teachphl@elevate215.org | [@TeachPHL](https://www.instagram.com/TeachPHL) on Instagram

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THANK YOU!

PLEASE SHARE YOUR
THOUGHTS!

