



# STUDY GUIDE

## ORELA<sup>®</sup> Multiple Subjects Examination

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## • • • SECTION 1 • • •

### ABOUT THE ORELA PROGRAM

This section of the Oregon Educator Licensure Assessments® (ORELA®) Multiple Subjects Examination Study Guide provides general information about the ORELA program. Also included in this section is information about the test development process and the structure of the test for the Multiple Subjects Examination.

Complete registration and testing information for the ORELA program can be found in the current ORELA registration bulletin, available on the ORELA Web site at [www.orela.nesinc.com](http://www.orela.nesinc.com).

The Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) and the Evaluation Systems Group of Pearson are also available to answer any questions you may have. Select "Contacts" from the ORELA Web site at [www.orela.nesinc.com](http://www.orela.nesinc.com) for contact information.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

#### General Description of the Multiple Subjects Examination

The ORELA Multiple Subjects Examination is criterion referenced and objective based. A criterion-referenced test is designed to measure a candidate's knowledge and skills in relation to an established standard, rather than in relation to the performance of other candidates.

The test is based on content determined by input from Oregon educators, the TSPC, Oregon standards (i.e., the Oregon Content Standards and Benchmarks, Oregon Grade-Level Foundations, Oregon Grade-Level Standards, and the Common Curriculum Goals), and national standards when appropriate.

The content of the Multiple Subjects Examination is aligned with the Oregon focus areas for student learning and teacher preparation.

In order to pass the Multiple Subjects Examination, candidates must pass two subtests. The subtest selection depends on whether the candidate has received preparation at an approved Oregon institution or at an accredited out-of-state program. Candidates in any Oregon pre-service program who have never held a permanent teaching license (does not include administrative or personnel service license) must take Subtests I and II. These pre-service candidates must achieve passing scores on Subtests I and II of the Multiple Subjects Examination. All other candidates must achieve passing scores on Subtests II and III of the Multiple Subjects Examination.

Refer to "Structure of the Test" in this section for detailed information about the content and format of each subtest.

## TEST DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Creating the Oregon Educator Licensure Assessments is a complex, ongoing process. The major steps in the process are outlined below.

Task	Description
<p><b>Develop the Test Framework</b></p>	<p>The content of the ORELA Multiple Subjects Examination is documented in the test framework. The test framework consists of test subareas that each include a set of test objectives, along with a set of descriptive statements that further elaborate the content of each test objective.</p> <p>During preparation of the test framework, key state and national documents were consulted. Committees of Oregon educators reviewed the test framework and made revisions, as necessary, to ensure that the test framework was accurate, free of bias, job related, and important for the job of an entry-level teacher in Oregon.</p>
<p><b>Validate Test Content</b></p>	<p>A content validation survey was conducted using sampled practicing Oregon public school teachers and teacher preparation program faculty to ensure that the test framework reflects the knowledge and skills considered to be important for performing the job of a teacher in Oregon.</p>
<p><b>Develop Test Items</b></p>	<p>Next, test items were developed to assess the content defined by the test framework. Committees of Oregon educators were convened to review and approve the test items. Students preparing to teach at the appropriate authorization levels participated in field tests of the items at sites throughout Oregon.</p>
<p><b>Set Passing Scores</b></p>	<p>A committee of Oregon educators convenes following the first test administration to recommend the passing score for each ORELA Multiple Subjects Examination subtest. The final passing scores are determined by the TSPC.</p>

## STRUCTURE OF THE TEST

The content of the ORELA Multiple Subjects Examination is documented in its test framework. The Multiple Subjects Examination is divided into three subtests (see table below). Each subtest assesses three or four test framework subareas. Each of these subareas consists of a set of three or more test objectives.

<b>ORELA Multiple Subjects Examination Subtests</b>
Subtest I: Language Arts, Social Science, the Arts
Subtest II: Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education
Subtest III: Language Arts, Social Science, the Arts, Reading Instruction

Each of the Multiple Subjects Examination subtests consists of both multiple-choice items and constructed-response items.

Each multiple-choice item is written to assess understanding of a single test objective. Each constructed-response item is written to assess understanding of one or more test objectives.

Refer to the sections that follow for detailed information about the content of each subtest.

### Subtest I: Language Arts, Social Science, the Arts

Subtest I comprises approximately 60 multiple-choice items and 2 constructed-response items from 3 content subareas of the Multiple Subjects Examination test framework, as shown in the table below.

Subarea	Number of Multiple-Choice Items	Number of Constructed-Response Items
Language Arts	18–20	1
Social Science	27–29	1
The Arts	12–14	

### Subtest II: Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education

Subtest II comprises approximately 60 multiple-choice items and 2 constructed-response items from 3 content subareas of the Multiple Subjects Examination test framework, as shown in the table below.

Subarea	Number of Multiple-Choice Items	Number of Constructed-Response Items
Mathematics	30–32	1
Science	18–20	1
Health and Physical Education	9–11	

### Subtest III: Language Arts, Social Science, the Arts, Reading Instruction

Subtest III comprises approximately 80 multiple-choice items and 2 constructed-response items from 4 content subareas of the Multiple Subjects Examination test framework, as shown in the table below.

Subarea	Number of Multiple-Choice Items	Number of Constructed-Response Items
Language Arts	18–20	1
Social Science	27–29	1
The Arts	12–14	
Reading Instruction	19–21	

Candidates in any Oregon pre-service program who have never held a permanent teaching license (does not include administrative or personnel service license) must take Subtests I and II. These pre-service candidates must achieve passing scores on Subtests I and II of the Multiple Subjects Examination. All other candidates must achieve passing scores on Subtests II and III of the Multiple Subjects Examination.