



STUDY GUIDE

ORELA™ 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 an introduction to the Multiple Subjects Examination, including who must take it, how it is developed and administered, and the specifics of its content.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For current information on requirements and program policies for the ORELA, see the most recent version of the ORELA Registration Bulletin. The Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) and National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES®), are also available to answer any questions you may have.

If you have questions about the ORELA Multiple Subjects Examination after reading this study guide, contact:

ORELA Program
National Evaluation Systems, Inc.
P.O. Box 340219
Sacramento, CA 95834-0219

Web site: www.orela.nesinc.com

Telephone: (916) 928-4017
9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Pacific time, Monday–Friday,
excluding holidays; 7:30 A.M.–3:00 P.M. Pacific time,
Saturday test dates only

Fax: (916) 928-6110

Automated Information System:

(916) 928-4017 (available 24 hours daily)

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD):

(916) 928-4191
9:00 A.M.–5:00 P.M. Pacific time, Monday–Friday,
excluding holidays; 7:30 A.M.–3:00 P.M. Pacific time,
Saturday test dates only

If you have questions about ORELA policies, contact:

Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices
Commission (TSPC)
465 Commercial Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Web site: www.tspc.state.or.us

Telephone: (503) 378-6813
7:30 A.M.–5:30 P.M. Pacific time,
Monday–Friday, excluding holidays

Fax: (503) 378-4448

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program Background and Purpose

Effective January 15, 1999, the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) established a four-tier licensure structure for educators, aligned with the development levels of students. After pre-service preparation (and/or receiving a transitional license), every educator must meet the standards for an initial license, which authorizes the educator to work with a specific authorization level in the Oregon school system and recognizes the competencies the educator has demonstrated.

Beginning in February 2005, the Multiple Subjects Examination will be available for candidates to meet the testing requirement for Oregon initial licensure with authorization at the early childhood, elementary, and middle school levels. As of July 2005, the Multiple Subjects Examination will be required of candidates for initial licensure at the same three authorization levels.

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
Develop the Test Framework	<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>
Validate Test Content	<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>
Develop Test Items	<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>
Set Passing Scores	<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>

Test Administration

The ORELA Multiple Subjects Examination is offered several times a year at a number of testing sites across the state. The test session reporting time is 1:30 P.M.; the session will end at approximately 6:00 P.M. For current information about test dates, test site areas, and fees and registration procedures and policies, refer to the current ORELA Registration Bulletin.

Test sessions provide examinees with four uninterrupted hours of testing time. Examinees are permitted to work at their own pace. The test schedule has been developed to allow sufficient time for examinees to complete two subtests. The subtests are not individually timed, however, and examinees who are taking two subtests may spend as much of the four hours as they need on each subtest. Examinees are free to leave at any time during the test session once their materials have been collected and they have been released by the test administrator.

Score Reports

Unofficial scores will be available on the Internet by 5:00 P.M. Pacific time on the score report mailing date for each test administration. To access unofficial scores, go to www.orela.nesinc.com and follow the score retrieval instructions provided.

Official scores will be mailed approximately four weeks after the test date. Refer to the registration bulletin for official examinee score report mailing dates.

The score report will indicate whether or not the examinee passed and will provide a total score for each subtest. The total score will be based on the combined scores from the multiple-choice section and the constructed-response section of each subtest. Passing status for each subtest is determined on the basis of the total score. Please refer to the examinee score report for further information.

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.

ORELA Multiple Subjects Examination Subtests	
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 two constructed-response items from three 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 two constructed-response items from three 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 two constructed-response items from four 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.