

Introduction to PRAXIS Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Tests

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Overview

- **The Praxis Series**
- **Licensure Tests**
- **Job Analysis**
- **The Audiology Test**
- **The Speech-Language Pathology Test**
- **Samples of Items & Item Types**
- **Test Preparation Products and Services**

The Praxis Series

Professional Assessment for Beginning Teachers

- **Licensure**
 - State regulated process
 - Grants permission/legal authority to practice
 - Indicates the professional has met the standards for training and practice experience
 - Indicates readiness for independent professional practice
 - Indicates minimal competence

The Praxis Series

- **Licensure Testing**
 - High stakes
 - Required, not voluntary
 - One of multiple requirements
 - Measure knowledge, skills, and abilities deemed important for professional practice
 - Does not predict performance
 - Must be legally defensible and professionally credible

The Praxis Series

- **Age of the program: over 55 years old**
- **User states & jurisdictions**
 - Each state or agency adopts the most appropriate tests for its licensure titles
 - Each state or agency sets its own cut score for each test
 - Praxis staff work with states and agencies to set cut scores (standard setting studies)
- **Number of test titles: 150+**

The Praxis Series

- Number of administrations per year: 8
- Number of test centers across the country: 650+
- Number of test takers for selected tests:
 - PPST > 150,000
 - Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment > 35,000
 - Speech-Language Pathology > 5,000
 - Audiology > 1,500

The Praxis Series

- **Test Offerings:**
 - **Praxis I: PPST (Pre-Professional Skills Tests)**
Measure basic proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics
Computer and paper/pencil delivery
 - **Praxis II: Subject Assessments**
 - Specialty Area tests (140+ titles)
 - Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) tests (4 titles)
 - Multiple Subjects Assessment for Teachers (MSAT) (2 titles)

The Praxis Series

- **Praxis III: Classroom Performance Assessments**
 - Direct observation in the classroom
- **Related Programs:**
 - **School Leaders Series**
 - School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)
 - School Superintendent Assessment (SSA)
 - **ParaPro Assessment**
 - **Ontario Teacher Qualifying Test (OTQT)**

The Praxis Series

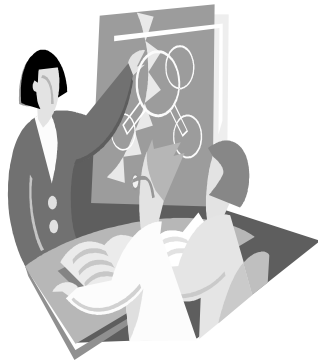
- **Test Development:**
 - Standards-based
 - Job relevant content
 - Focus on core knowledge in each discipline
 - Built with practitioner involvement
 - Dynamic representation on tests on a regular basis

Job Analysis

- **To identify occupationally important knowledge areas and skills**
- **To define content domain of a licensure test**
- **To support the validity of the assessment it is based on**
 - standards from professional organizations
 - state standards
 - research and literature in the domain
 - sample curricula

Job Analysis

TEST DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



- **Analyze Standards**
- **Analyze Domain**
- **Define Subset of Domain**
- **Draft Test Specifications**
- **Recommend Test Design**



- ETS RESEARCH**
- **Format outcomes of the domain analysis into a survey**
 - **Conduct a large-scale confirmation survey**

- Test Development Committee consists of ASHA representatives, content experts, and higher education faculty.
- The committee is diverse in terms of race, gender, and educational setting (elementary, secondary, college, etc.)

Job Analysis

- **Confirmation survey**
 - Respondents are asked to rate the individual knowledge and skills statements using a 5-point importance scale.

“We need to see if the student can...”

- Inventories of evidence of knowledge and skills that are important for competent beginning professional practice
- Used in creating test specifications and scoring guides

Job Analysis

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE



- **Review outcomes of the confirmation survey**
- **Confirm Subset of Domain to Be Tested**
- **Review, Revise, and Approve Test Specifications**
- **Confirm Test Design**

Audiology Test at a Glance

- **Intended primarily for examinees who have completed a master's degree program**
- **Recognized as the national examination in audiology**
 - **The test is one of several requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)**
- **Some states use the examination as part of the licensure procedure**
 - **Complete information about certification or licensure from the authority (ASHA or state agency) from which certification/licensure is sought.**

<<http://ftp.ets.org/pub/tandl/0340.pdf>>

Test Specifications

- I. Basic Human Communication Processes**
- II. Prevention/ID**
- III. Behavioral Assessment/ Interpretation**
- IV. Electrophysiological Measurement/
Interpretation**
- V. Rehabilitative Assessment**
- VI. Rehabilitative Technology**
- VII. Rehabilitative Management**
- VIII. Professional Issues, Psychometrics,
Research**

Speech-Language Pathology Test at a Glance

- Intended for examinees who have completed a master's degree program.
- Recognized as the national examination in speech-language pathology
 - The test is one of several requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence issued by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).
- Some states use the examination as part of the licensure procedure.
 - Complete information may be about certification/licensure from the authority (ASHA or state agency) from which certification or licensure is sought.

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Test Specifications

- I. Basic Human Communication Processes**
- II. Phonological and Language Disorders**
- III. Speech Disorders**
- IV. Neurogenic Disorders**
- V. Audiology/Hearing**
- VI. Clinical Management**
- VII. Professional Issues/Psychometrics/Research**

Item Types

- Discrete multiple choice
- Case studies
 - Assess knowledge of possible applications to clinical situations and issues.
- Research articles
 - Assess ability to synthesize information and to apply it to specific examples

Sample of Items

Praxis Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

- **2 hours**
- **120 Multiple Choice Questions**
 - **Audiology will be 120 Questions beginning September, 2005**
 - **Cost \$75**

Registration

- Registration Bulletin Call ETS at 1-800-772-9476 (U.S., U.S. Territories, and Canda) or 1-609-771-7395 (all other locations).

Test Takers with Disabilities

- All requests for testing accommodations are subject to approval by ETS and must meet ETS documentation criteria.
- Reasonable testing accommodations are provided to allow candidates with documented disabilities (recognized under the ADA) an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and knowledge.
- <http://www.ets.org/disability/index.html>

Test Dates

- November 20, 2004
- January 8, 2005
- March 5, 2005
- April 16, 2005
- June 11, 2005
- August 6, 2005

<http://ets.org/praxis/prxdates.html>

Test Preparation Products and Services

- **“Test at a Glance” available free on line**
 - Test specifications
 - Sample questions, answers with explanations
- **Study Guides available for 63 tests**
- **Workshops available for faculty of institutions of higher education**
- **“Praxis Diagnostic Preparation Program” available for 18 test titles**
- **New service next year: “Praxis Practice Test”**
- **New service next year: “Praxis Quick Guides”**

Questions and Comments