

# PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR VIRGINIA LICENSURE

## VIRGINIA TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Section [22.1-298.2](#) of the *Code of Virginia* requires that the Virginia Board of Education prescribe assessments for individuals seeking admission into an approved teacher preparation program. On March 18, 2010, the Board approved a recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to allow the use of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (Reading and Writing) as an optional test for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests for individuals seeking entry into a teacher preparation program. **An individual choosing to use the VCLA (Reading and Writing) as an optional assessment for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests will be required to meet the Praxis I Mathematics assessment (or equivalent SAT or ACT test scores).**

The Board of Education will continue to allow the use of a composite score of the Praxis Reading, Writing, and Mathematics tests to meet the Praxis I assessment requirement and the use of the SAT and ACT as substitute tests for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) for individuals seeking admission into a teacher preparation program.

<b>Pre-professional Skills Test (paper/pencil PPST)</b>			<b>Pre-professional Skills Test (Computerized-PPST)*</b>		
PRAXIS I (paper/pencil)	<u>TEST CODE</u>	<u>PASSING SCORES</u>	<u>PRAXIS I C-PPST</u>	<u>TEST CODE</u>	<u>PASSING SCORES</u>
Mathematics	10730	178	Mathematics	5730	178
Reading	10710	178	Reading	5710	178
Writing	20720	<u>176</u>	Writing	5720	<u>176</u>
PPST Composite Score		532	C-PPST composite Score		532

### **SAT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST FOR PRAXIS I**

The board approved the following scores:

**SAT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995**—a score of **1000** with at least **450** on the verbal and **510** on the mathematics tests;

**SAT Taken After April 1, 1995**—a score of **1100** with at least **530** on the verbal and **530** on the mathematics tests as a substitute for Praxis I.

Please note that the SAT® was approved as a substitute test **only** for Praxis I; individuals also must meet the Praxis II (subject area assessment) for initial licensure.

### **ACT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST FOR PRAXIS I**

The Board of Education approved the use of the ACT as a substitute test for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics). The board approved the following scores:

**ACT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995**—a composite score of **21**, with the ACT mathematics score no less than **21**, and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than **37**. [Please note that you must have taken and met passing scores for the ACT **Mathematics** and **English Plus Reading** tests. At one time, the English Plus Reading test was not offered.]

**ACT Taken After April 1, 1995**—a composite score of **24**, with the ACT mathematics score no less than **22**, and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than **46**.

Please note that the ACT was approved as a substitute test **only** for Praxis I; individuals also must meet the Praxis II (subject area assessment) for initial licensure.

### **VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT (effective January 1, 2006)**

The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment became effective January 1, 2006, for initial licensure unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Refer to the following Web site for more information about the test content, test dates, costs, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, and registration: [www.va.nesinc.com](http://www.va.nesinc.com).

**On March 22, 2006, the Board of Education approved cut scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA).** The cut scores for the VCLA are as follows:

Writing Sub Test:	235
Reading Sub Test:	<u>235</u>
<b>Composite Score:</b>	<b>470</b>

**The following tests are required for the following endorsement (teaching specialty) areas for initial licensure unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Individuals are required to satisfy the Specialty Area test(s) requirement for only one endorsement area, but it must match an endorsement area in which the initial licensure is granted.** For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, the policy for testing individuals with disabilities, etc., please refer to the Web site, [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org), or contact the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at 1-800-772-9476 or 609-771-7395 for THE PRAXIS SERIES Registration Bulletin or write to THE PRAXIS SERIES, ETS, P.O. Box 6051, Princeton, NJ 08541-6051. Hearing impaired individuals using a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may call 1-800-275-1391 for information.

SPECIALTY AREA TEST	TEST CODE	PASSING SCORE	ENDORSEMENT AREA
Art: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2011)	(0133)	159	Visual Arts
Art: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2011)	(0134)	158	Visual Arts
Biology: Content Knowledge	(0235)	155	Biology
Braille Proficiency (This test is required effective 7/1/2011, except for teachers completing the approved Virginia Visual Impairments Consortium Program who must meet this requirement effective 7/1/2012.)	(0631)	168	Special Education–Visual Impairments
Business Education: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)	(0100)	590	Business and Information Technology
Business Education: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2010)	(0101)	157	Business and Information Technology
Chemistry: Content Knowledge	(0245)	153	Chemistry
Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge	(0571)	156	Earth Science
Elementary Education: Content Knowledge	(0014) paper/pencil or (5014) computer-based	143 143	PreK-3; PreK-6 PreK-3; PreK-6
English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge	(0041)	172	English
French: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)	(0173)	169	French
French: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	(5174)	163	French
German: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)	(0181)	162	German
German: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	(5183)	163	German
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken before 9/1/2008)	(0120)	550	Family and Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken after 9/1/2008)	(0121)	150	Family and Consumer Sciences
Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge	(0856)	151	Health and Physical Education PreK-12
Marketing Education (taken before 9/1/2008)	(0560)	570	Marketing Education
Marketing Education (taken after 9/1/2008)	(0561)	147	Marketing Education
Mathematics: Content Knowledge	(0061)	147	Mathematics
Middle School English/Language Arts	(0049)	164	Middle Education English
Middle School Mathematics	(0069)	163	Middle Education Mathematics
Middle School Science	(0439)	162	Middle Education Science
Middle School Social Studies	(0089)	160	Middle Education History and Social Sciences
Music: Content Knowledge	(0113)	160	Music-Vocal/Choral or Instrumental
Physics: Content Knowledge	(0265)	147	Physics
Social Studies: Content Knowledge	(0081)	161	History and Social Science
Spanish: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)	(0191)	161	Spanish
Spanish: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	(5195)	168	Spanish
Technology Education (taken before 9/1/2011)	(0050)	610	Technology Education
Technology Education (taken after 9/1/2011)	(0051)	162	Technology Education

\*To schedule an appointment for a Computerized PPST test, call the test center where you wish to take the test or call Prometric®, a division of Thomson Learning, Candidate Services, at 800-853-6773. Test takers who are deaf or hard-of-hearing can call TTY 800-529-3590. The paper-pencil PPST test administration is scheduled on designated days. Register online at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)

## READING ASSESSMENTS

*The reading assessments will change on July 1, 2011. Please read this section carefully.*

A reading assessment is prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education for individuals seeking the following endorsements unless the exemption criteria are met:

- (1) an initial Virginia license with the following endorsements: **Early/Primary Education preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education- General Curriculum, Special Education-Hearing Impairments, and Special Education-Visual Impairments**; or
- (2) an endorsement as a **reading specialist**.

### *Prior to June 30, 2011*

Individuals seeking an initial Virginia license with endorsements in the following areas must take the **Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA)--Test Code 001** offered by Evaluation Systems/Pearson unless the exemption criteria are met.

**Early/Primary Education preK-3  
Elementary Education preK-6**

**Special Education General Curriculum  
Special Education Hearing Impairments  
Special Education Visual Impairments**

**Note:** This assessment also may apply to those individuals with endorsements in Special Education-Emotional Disturbances, Special Education-Specific Learning Disabilities, and Special Education-Mental Retardation who were advised under previous regulations to meet this assessment requirement for a full license.

Individuals seeking an endorsement as a **Reading Specialist** must take the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) for Reading Specialists (Test Code 002) offered by Evaluation Systems/Pearson.

The reading assessment became a requirement July 1, 2004. Individuals who took the VRA after July 1, 2006, were required to meet a passing score established by the Virginia Board of Education. The Board of Education established cut scores for the Virginia Reading Assessments for elementary and special education teachers at 235 and for reading specialists at 245, effective July 1, 2006. Information regarding registration, test administration and fees for the current tests can be accessed at [www.va.nesinc.com](http://www.va.nesinc.com).

Even though the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) and Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists (VRA for Reading Specialists) will not be administered after June 30, 2011, the Virginia Department of Education will continue to accept passing scores on the VRA assessments from individuals who took the tests prior to June 30, 2011.

### *After June 30, 2011*

Effective July 1, 2011, the Virginia Department of Education will implement changes in the required reading assessments for certain endorsements. For teachers seeking an initial license with endorsements in Early/Primary Education preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education – General Curriculum, Special Education – Hearing Impairments, or Special Education – Visual Impairments, the required reading assessment will be the Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Elementary and Special Education Teachers Assessment. On May 19, 2011, the Board of Education set the passing score for this assessment at **157**.

Effective July 1, 2011, the required assessment for teachers seeking an endorsement as a Reading Specialist will be the Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Reading Specialist Assessment. On May 19, 2011, the Board of Education set the passing score for this assessment at **162**.

Both assessments will be offered by Educational Testing Service (ETS). Information regarding the new assessments, including draft Test *at a Glance* documents, test centers, test dates, and registration information can be found at <http://www.ets.org/praxis/va>.

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Subject to change based on Virginia Department of Education's directives.