

CLIFFS

NTE

PREPARATION GUIDE

CORE BATTERY

NATIONAL TEACHER EXAMINATIONS

By Jerry Bobrow, Ph.D.
Harold Nathan, Ph.D.
Stephen Fisher, M.A.
William A. Covino, Ph.D.
Peter Z Orton, M.Ed.
Bill Bobrow, M.A.
Loraine Weber, M.A.

Test of Communication Skills
Test of General Knowledge
Test of Professional Knowledge

Proven test-taking strategies

Intensive subject area reviews

Answers with complete explanations

Analysis of strengths and weaknesses

Two full-length practice tests

Cliffs
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Jerry Bobrow

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Jerry Bobrow

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PREFACE

We know that getting a good score on the NTE is important to you! And because the NTE covers information in a wide range of subjects, thorough preparation is the key to doing your best. This makes your study time more valuable than ever; it must be used most effectively. With this in mind, this Cliffs NTE Preparation Guide was developed by leading experts and instructors in the field of test preparation. This guide is thorough, direct, concise, and easy to use. It is the most comprehensive, up-to-date test preparation guide available today. The materials, techniques, and strategies presented here have been carefully researched, tested, and evaluated and are presently used at NTE preparation programs at many leading colleges and universities.

This guide is divided into five parts:

- Part I: Introduction—a general description of the exam, recent format, questions commonly asked, and a basic overall strategy.
- Part II: Analysis of Exam Areas—focuses on ability tested, basic skills necessary, directions, analysis, suggested approaches with samples, and additional tips.
- Part III: Assessment—a short Mini-Test to familiarize you with the various tests and to assess your strengths and weaknesses.
- Part IV: Subject Area Reviews—intensive reviews in English, social studies, mathematics, literature, fine arts, science, and professional knowledge.
- Part V: Practice-Review-Analyze-Practice—two complete full-length practice tests with answers and *in-depth explanations*.

The Mini-Test and each practice test are followed by analysis charts to assist you in evaluating your progress.

This guide is not meant to substitute for comprehensive courses, but if you follow the Study Guide Checklist and study regularly, you will get the best NTE test preparation possible.

STUDY GUIDE CHECKLIST

- _____ 1. Read the NTE information materials available at the Testing Office, Counseling Center, or your undergraduate institutions.
- _____ 2. Become familiar with the Test Format, page 3.
- _____ 3. Read the General Description and Questions Commonly Asked about the NTE Core Battery, starting on page 4.
- _____ 4. Learn the techniques of Two Successful Overall Approaches, page 7.
- _____ 5. Carefully read Part II, Analysis of Exam Areas, starting on page 11.
- _____ 6. Take the Mini-Test Assessment, starting on page 85.
- _____ 7. Check your answers and analyze your results, starting on page 116.
- _____ 8. Fill out the Tally Sheet for Questions Missed to pinpoint your mistakes, page 119.
- _____ 9. Review English, starting on page 135.
- _____ 10. Review social studies, starting on page 149.
- _____ 11. Review mathematics, starting on page 186.
- _____ 12. Review literature and fine arts, starting on page 237.
- _____ 13. Review science, starting on page 241.
- _____ 14. Review professional knowledge, starting on page 282.
- _____ 15. Strictly observing time allotments, take Practice Test 1, starting on page 296.
- _____ 16. Check your answers and analyze your Practice Test 1 results, starting on page 394.
- _____ 17. Fill out the Tally Sheet for Questions Missed to pinpoint your mistakes, page 399.
- _____ 18. Study ALL the Answers and Explanations to Practice Test 1, starting on page 401.
- _____ 19. Review weak areas as necessary.
- _____ 20. Strictly observing time allotments, take Practice Test 2, beginning on page 446.

- _____ 21. Check your answers and analyze your Practice Test 2 results, starting on page 541.
- _____ 22. Fill out the Tally Sheet for Questions Missed to pinpoint your mistakes, page 546.
- _____ 23. Study **ALL** the Answers and Explanations to Practice Test 2, starting on page 549.
- _____ 24. Review weak areas.
- _____ 25. Review Analysis of Exam Areas, starting on page 11.
- _____ 26. Carefully read Final Preparation: “The Final Touches,” page 591.

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PART I: Introduction

RECENT FORMAT OF THE NATIONAL TEACHER EXAMINATIONS— CORE BATTERY

	Minutes	Approximate Number of Questions
TEST OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS		
Section I: Listening	30	30
Section II: Reading	30	30
Section III: Writing—Multiple Choice	30	45
Section IV: Writing—Essay	30	1 Essay
TOTAL	120	105 Questions 1 Essay

	Minutes	Approximate Number of Questions
TEST OF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE		
Section I: Social Studies	30	30
Section II: Mathematics	30	25
Section III: Literature and Fine Arts	30	35
Section IV: Science	30	30
TOTAL	120	120

	Minutes	Approximate Number of Questions
TEST OF PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE		
Sections I, II, III, and IV	30 Each	30 Each
TOTAL	120	120

Approximate Total Time: 360 Minutes (6 Hours)

Approximate Total Questions: 345 Plus One Essay

Note: The order in which the *tests* or *sections* appear may vary, as there are several different forms of the NTE.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The NTE Core Battery is 6 hours long and is composed of three two-hour tests, each having four sections. The first test (although not necessarily given first) is the **Test of Communication Skills**. It is 2 hours long and contains about 105 questions, plus one essay topic. It is divided into 4 sections, each 30 minutes long, as follows:

Listening—about 30 questions, requires the ability to understand spoken messages quickly and accurately

Reading—about 30 questions, requires the ability to read and answer questions based on short written passages

Writing—Multiple Choice—about 45 questions, requires the ability to detect and correct errors in standard written English

Writing—Essay—requires the ability to plan and write a well-organized, careful essay on an assigned topic

The second test is the **Test of General Knowledge**. It is 2 hours long and contains about 120 questions. It is divided into 4 sections, each 30 minutes long, as follows:

Social Studies—about 30 questions, requires a competence in a broad range of social studies areas as well as the ability to interpret and analyze data

Mathematics—about 25 questions, requires a cumulative knowledge of math in order to solve problems of a type any teacher may need for the classroom

Literature and Fine Arts—about 35 questions, requires a basic knowledge of major works and basic elements of literature and fine arts

Science—about 30 questions, requires an understanding of major principles, theories, and methods in the area of science.

The third test is the **Test of Professional Knowledge**. It is 2 hours long and divided into 4 sections. Each section is 30 minutes in length and contains approximately 30 questions. All parts of this test draw on the knowledge that is considered essential for a beginning teacher. Areas such as planning instruction, implementing instruction, evaluating students' work, appropriate professional behavior, and legal implications in the classroom are some of the fields covered.