# CALIFORNIA EDUCATOR CREDENTIALING EXAMINATIONS

## California Basic Educational Skills Test™ (CBEST®)

### WHAT IS THE CBEST TEST

The California Basic Educational Skills Test™ (CBEST®) was developed to meet requirements of laws relating to credentialing and employment. This test requirement does not replace any of the other requirements of subject matter knowledge, professional preparation, and practice teaching or field experience applicable to the issuance of credentials. The CBEST is designed to test basic reading, mathematics, and writing skills found to be important for the job of an educator; the test is not designed to measure the ability to teach those skills.

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) website: [www.ctcexams.nesinc.com](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com)

### CONTENT & SCORING

The CBEST consists of 3 sections and you have the option of a Computer-based test (CBT) or Paper-based test (PBT):

- **Reading section:** 50 multiple-choice questions
- **Mathematics section:** 50 multiple-choice questions
- **Writing section:** 2 essays

You may take 1, 2, or all 3 sections in a single test session; you do not have to pass all 3 sections at a single administration. The examination is delivered in English, and all responses must be in English. The use of calculators is prohibited on this examination.

**A total score of 123 for all 3 sections is required for passing.**

The scaled scores used for reporting CBEST results range from 20 to 80 for each of the three sections (Reading, Mathematics, and Writing) of the test. The passing score on each CBEST section is a scaled score of 41. A total score (the sum of Reading, Mathematics, and Writing scaled scores) of 123 is required for passing status. It is possible to pass the CBEST with a scaled score on one or two sections as low as 37, provided that the total score is 123 or higher. It is not possible, however, to pass the CBEST if any section score is below 37, regardless of how high the total score may be.

### PREPARATION

#### CONTENT OF TEST

- **CBEST Test Specifications**

#### PRACTICE TEST

- Take the interactive practice test on your computer:
  - [Introduction and tutorial](#)
  - [Reading (PDF)](#)
  - [Math (PDF)](#)
  - [Writing (PDF)](#)

#### STUDY GUIDES

- Barron’s CBEST Study Guide
- CBEST Math –Student Recommended
- Cracking The CBEST – Published by The Princeton Review
- CBEST - Published by The Research and Education Association
- Cliffs CBEST Preparation Guide

#### TEST PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

- SDSU Extended Studies (fee required) (619) 594-5132

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*California State University San Marcos*

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

School of Education: [www.csusm.edu/soe](http://www.csusm.edu/soe)

CEHHS, Student Services/Advising: [www.csusm.edu/cehhs/studentservices](http://www.csusm.edu/cehhs/studentservices)

760.750.4277
### California Subject Examinations for Teachers® (CSET®)

The California Subject Examinations for Teachers® (CSET®) have been developed by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) for prospective teachers who choose to or are required to meet specific requirements for certification by taking examinations. The CSET program includes examinations designed to help candidates meet the following certification requirements:

- **Basic skills requirement.** Candidates may satisfy all components of the state basic skills requirement by passing all three subtests of CSET: Multiple Subjects and the CSET: Writing Skills test.
- **Subject matter competence requirement.** All candidates who need to meet the subject matter competence requirement for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential must earn passing scores on CSET: Multiple Subjects. Candidates applying for a Single Subject Teaching Credential or an Education Specialist Instruction Credential may pass the appropriate examination(s) of the CSET as one method of satisfying the subject matter competence requirement.
- **No Child Left Behind (NCLB) subject matter requirement.** For candidates who need to satisfy the NCLB subject matter requirement, candidates for a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential must use CSET: Multiple Subjects and candidates for a Single Subject Teaching Credential may use CSET: Single Subjects.
- **Competence requirement for a Bilingual Authorization.** CSET: World Languages may be used in conjunction with other valid examinations to demonstrate competence in the knowledge and skills areas necessary for the purpose of earning a Bilingual Authorization. Specific CSET: World Languages subtests have replaced the Bilingual, Crosscultural, Language and Academic Development™ (BCLAD™) Examinations as the required credential tests for this purpose.

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) website: [www.ctcexams.nesinc.com](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MULTIPLE SUBJECT</th>
<th>SINGLE SUBJECT</th>
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| Candidates wishing to earn a Single Subject Teaching Credential may verify their subject matter competence in one of the following ways:  
- By completing a CTC-approved subject matter preparation program  
- By passing the appropriate subject matter examination(s) and/or locally administered proficiency assessment  

**Education Specialist Instruction Credential**  
An individual may pass the approved examination(s) or complete an approved subject-matter program for the Single Subject Credential program for the Multiple Subject Credential areas of teaching art, English, world language, mathematics including foundational-level mathematics, music, science including foundational-level and specialized science, and social science or the approved examination for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential.  

The exemption for holders of previously issued general education teaching credentials continues. Also individuals applying for an Early Childhood Education Specialist Credential are not required to complete the subject-matter competence requirement. |
| CSET subtest used toward a Bilingual Authorization for Spanish, is a Computer-based test only:  
- Spanish Subtest III (test code 147): 30 multiple-choice questions and 6 constructed-response questions  

**Passing Score:** 220 per subtest |

### Preparation

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| **MULTIPLE SUBJECT:**  
Review the test structure for CSET: Multiple Subjects  
**SINGLE SUBJECT:**  
See appropriate subject matter content: [http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/tests.asp](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/tests.asp)  
**BILINGUAL AUTHORIZATION:**  
General Information About the CSET: Spanish includes the test structure and an annotated list of resources  
Spanish Subject Matter Requirements: Subtest III |
| **MULTIPLE SUBJECT:**  
Interactive practice tests: [Introduction and tutorial](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/tests.asp)  
- Subtest I (PDF)  
- Subtest II (PDF)  
- Subtest III (PDF)  
**SINGLE SUBJECT:**  
See appropriate subject matter content: [http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/tests.asp](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/tests.asp)  
**BILINGUAL AUTHORIZATION:**  
- Subtest III |
| **Barron's how to Prepare for the CSET**  
Cliffs Test Prep CSET: Multiple Subject  
| [SDSU Extended Studies](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com) (fee required) (619) 594-5152  
[National University Extended Learning](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com) (fee required) (858) 642-8600  
[BTPS Testing](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com) (fee required) (800) 426-2769  
[San Diego County Office of Education](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com) (fee required) Online module courses |
The goal of the Reading Instruction Competence Assessment® (RICA®) is to develop competent, thoughtful readers who are able to use, interpret, and appreciate all types of text. Beginning teachers need to be able to deliver effective reading instruction that:

- is based on the results of ongoing assessment;
- reflects knowledge of state and local reading standards for different grade levels;
- represents a balanced, comprehensive reading curriculum;
- is sensitive to the needs of all students.

The purpose of the RICA is to ensure that California-trained candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials and Education Specialist Instruction Credentials (special education) possess the knowledge and skills important for the provision of effective reading instruction to students.

The set of teacher knowledge and skills described in the RICA Content Specifications and reflected in the RICA is organized into the following five domains:

- Domain 1: Planning, Organizing, and Managing Reading Instruction Based on Ongoing Assessment
- Domain 2: Word Analysis
- Domain 3: Fluency
- Domain 4: Vocabulary, Academic Language, and Background Knowledge
- Domain 5: Comprehension

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) website: www.ctcexams.nesinc.com

**RICA Options**
The RICA consists of two assessment options: the RICA Written Examination and the RICA Video Performance Assessment. Both the Written Examination and the Video Performance Assessment are based on the RICA Content Specifications. A passing score on either assessment represents successful completion of the RICA requirement.

**Passing Score, either option:** 220

**Written Examination**
The RICA Written Examination consists of two sections that, together, permit a broad and deep assessment of the candidate's knowledge about effective reading instruction in the five RICA domains and the candidate's ability to apply that knowledge.

**Format:** Computer-based test only:
- 70 multiple-choice questions
- 4 focused educational problems and instructional tasks
- 1 case study

**Video Performance Examination**
The RICA Video Performance Assessment offers candidates the option of an evaluation based on actual classroom performance rather than a written examination. Candidates who choose the Video Performance Assessment create and submit video recordings of themselves teaching reading.

**Format:** 3 video packet submissions, each of which consists of:
- an instructional context form
- a 10-minute video recording
- a reflection form

**PREPARATION**

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<tr>
<td>Written</td>
<td>RICA Written Examination Practice Test</td>
<td>BTPS Testing (fee required) (800) 426-2769</td>
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<tr>
<td>Content Specifications</td>
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<td>Test Structure</td>
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<td>Performance Assessment Information Guide</td>
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California Education Codes require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to issue authorizations that allow the holder to provide specialized instruction to English learners (EL). The CTC is required to develop and administer examinations on which a teacher can demonstrate competence in the knowledge and skill areas necessary for effective teaching of English learners (EL).

**English Learner Authorization Requirements**

To earn an English Learner Authorization or a CLAD Certificate, you must:

1. have an appropriate prerequisite credential or permit;
2. satisfy the second-language requirement;
3. satisfy one of the following:
   - have passed within the last five years all three CTEL Examination subtests;
   - have passing scores on the CTEL Examination combined with completed course work determined by a CTC-approved CTEL program at a regionally accredited college or university.

**Bilingual Authorization Requirements**

The CTEL Examination may be used to satisfy a portion of the requirements for the Bilingual Authorization. For complete information, please refer to the CSET® certification requirements.

The Bilingual Authorization authorizes three services. The first two instructional services for English learners listed below may be provided in the subjects, grade levels, and programs authorized by this prerequisite credential or permit:

1. Specially Designed Academic Instruction in English
2. Instruction for primary language development in the target language and content instruction delivered in the target language
3. Instruction for English Language Development (in grades 12 and below, including preschool, and in classes organized primarily for adults)

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) website: [www.ctcexams.nesinc.com](http://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com)

**CONTENT & SCORING**

The CTEL Examination is composed of three separate subtests. The subtests are criterion referenced. A criterion-referenced test is designed to measure an examinee’s knowledge and skills in relation to an established standard rather than in relation to the performance of other examinees. The purpose of this examination is to help identify candidates for certification who have demonstrated the level of knowledge and skills required to effectively teach English learners.

Each CTEL Examination subtest is designed to measure a specific set of knowledge and skills. All of the knowledge and skills were defined in conjunction with committees of California educators. Test materials matched to the knowledge and skills were developed using, in part, textbooks, California K–12 Student Academic Content Standards and curriculum frameworks, and CTC program standards.

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<tr>
<th>Subtest (computer based tests only)</th>
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<tr>
<td>CTEL 1: Language and Language Development</td>
<td>This subtest covers (1) language structure and use and (2) additive-language development. This subtest consists of 50 multiple-choice questions and one essay.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTEL 2: Assessment and Instruction</td>
<td>This subtest covers the assessment of English learners, the foundations of English language and literacy development and content instruction, and approaches and methods for English language development and content instruction. This subtest consists of 60 multiple-choice questions and two essays.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTEL 3: Culture and Inclusion</td>
<td>This subtest covers culture and cultural diversity and their relationship to academic achievement and culturally inclusive instruction. This subtest does not focus on any specific cultural group and consists of 40 multiple-choice questions and one essay.</td>
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**Passing Score:** 220 per subtest

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<tr>
<td>Review the CTEL test structure</td>
<td>Computer-Based Testing Tutorials <a href="#">Find out what to expect when you take a computer-based test.</a></td>
<td>CTC – CTEL Prep Study Guide</td>
<td>BTPS Testing (fee required) (800) 426-2769</td>
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