

About Your Study Plan

This Study Plan comprises the full spectrum of materials and resources available to a candidate. We encourage you to use the recommended resources to target preparation to your needs and goals. There will be hyperlinks throughout this document. Please make sure that you visit the relevant pages to access all of the resources. Your commitment to great teaching begins here.

Preparing to Pass

American Board is committed to making sure you are the best possible teacher.

We will provide you with study tips to get ready for the exam and the content and resources to review the material.

Think of the Snapshot below as an overview for what you need to know. For more detail in each topic, review the exam [standards](#). The ABCTE exams are based on this blueprint, so consider the syllabus for what you want to study.

The American Board Community:

Become a part of the American Board community by participating in our Facebook community!

You can discuss the program, ask questions, and learn what other candidates have done to succeed in their classrooms.

<https://www.facebook.com/ABCTE>

English Language Arts Exam Snapshot

Time Allowed	Multiple Choice: 180 minutes Component: 60 minutes	
Format	Multiple Choice & Writing Component	
# of Questions	150 Multiple Choice Question & 1 Writing Component	
On-Screen Exhibits	NONE	
Passing Score	Multiple Choice: 270/500 Component: 4/6	
Exam Summary	Areas of Study	Percentage of Exam
	Comprehension of Texts	72%
	Oral and Written Language Development	23%
	Instructional Knowledge and Professional Skills	5%

About This Exam

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence believes that highly skilled English teachers should possess a comprehensive body of knowledge that is research-based and promotes student achievement. The English Language Arts exam is designed to assess a candidate's ability to interpret literary and expository texts, as well as speech, writing, and research skills. Topics assessed are typically covered in college level English and English literature courses. This exam also contains a writing component that will evaluate a candidate's ability to clearly interpret literary works.

How to use American Board Practice Tests

If you have chosen to use our practice tests, you may have already used the quizzes to get a better idea of where your strengths and weaknesses are. There are two full-length exams that we suggest you use in *testing mode* as a mid-term and final to work on your timing and endurance. You can use them again in *explore mode* to identify distractors.

Questions and concerns can be directed to the Help Desk on your Dashboard at:
<http://newmypass.abcte.org/>

Your Essay - Start with **About your Writing Component**

The ELA writing component will consist of a prompt which in turn consists of several tasks. **It is critical that you address every task to get a passing grade (4 or higher out of 6) on the writing component.**

IMPORTANT: Most people believe they can write and often underestimate the writing component of the exam, especially when it is in a letter form. As a result, they often neglect spending the time learning, and then practicing what kind of writing is being asked of them.

Consider the tasks (5 min):

- Take the time to consider what exactly is being asked. Write down the key words from the prompt and consider your ideas. When creating a preliminary outline, each task should be roman numeral.

Map your prompt (5 min):

- Address every task in the prompt. Brainstorm ideas and write a few words for each of the individual tasks in an outline form.

Write (40 min):

- Make sure your writing is clean and concise. If you have thought through your outline, the actual writing will become much easier. Remember that you are writing for clarity and communication.
- An effective way to make sure your grader notes each of your tasks is to make each task a separate body paragraph in your "5 paragraph essay".

Proofread your work (7 min):

- One good exercise as you practice is to read your essays out loud to someone. Everywhere you stumble or sound awkward as you read is a place to correct. On test day you will sub-vocalize as you proofread and "hear" your errors before your turn in your essays.

Important Resources

Preparation Guide

ELA Webinar Pt. 1

ELA Rubric

ELA Webinar Pt. 2

Additional Recommendations:

The Study Plan:

Your study plan includes direction on how to use ABCTE's resources. We also include recommended resources to aid in your mastery. This plan was designed for a 9 month period (4 months for Professional Teaching Knowledge (PTK); 4 months for the subject matter; 2 weeks to take each test) in which most people are able to complete the program. Many have completed the program in a shorter amount of time.

Area of Study	Required Resources	Recommended Resources
<p>Domain 1 (Standards 1.1.1-1.1.14)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation of Literary Texts</p>	<p>Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the English Language Arts Refresher Course (PDF or Online version):</p> <p>Comprehension of Texts Pt. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation of Literary Texts <input type="checkbox"/> Movements in American Literature <input type="checkbox"/> Major Literature Themes & Archetypes <input type="checkbox"/> The Fundamentals of Reading <input type="checkbox"/> Development of Drama <input type="checkbox"/> Development of Poetry <input type="checkbox"/> Development & Tradition of the Essay <input type="checkbox"/> Development of a Novel <input type="checkbox"/> Development of a Short Story <input type="checkbox"/> Characteristics of Modes of Writing <input type="checkbox"/> Familiarity with the Literary Canon <input type="checkbox"/> Identify & Describe the Poetic Conventions of Verse <input type="checkbox"/> Sound <input type="checkbox"/> Elements of Poetry 	<p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> American Passages: A Literary Survey <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Devices <input type="checkbox"/> Project Gutenberg <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A Handbook to Literature

Your Notes:

Study Tip:

One effective way of using the practice quizzes is to look at the incorrect answer choice before looking at the correct explanation to see if you can understand why those options are wrong. If you can understand how a test maker uses distractors, you will be able to eliminate wrong answer choices faster on test day.

Area of Study	Required Resources	Recommended Resources
<p>Domain 1 (Standards 1.2.1-1.3.19)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation of Expository Texts 	<p>Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the English Language Arts Refresher Course (PDF or Online version):</p> <p>Comprehension of Texts Pt. 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> From the Beginning <input type="checkbox"/> History of a Word <input type="checkbox"/> Sea Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Stuck on You <input type="checkbox"/> Idioms & Adages <input type="checkbox"/> In the Meantime: Denotation & Connotation <input type="checkbox"/> Context Clues: Words Among Words <input type="checkbox"/> Words Sleuthing with Parts of Speech <input type="checkbox"/> Parallel Structures: Analogies <input type="checkbox"/> The What, How, and Why of Expository Text <input type="checkbox"/> Reading Comprehension <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretation of Expository Text <input type="checkbox"/> Critical Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Argument <input type="checkbox"/> Rhetoric <input type="checkbox"/> Text Features <input type="checkbox"/> Functions of Languages & Modes of Expositions <input type="checkbox"/> Opinion v. Fact & Authorial Bias <input type="checkbox"/> Logical Fallacies 	<p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing Vocabulary Instruction for Secondary Students <input type="checkbox"/> Project Gutenberg <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> English Vocabulary Quick Reference

Your Notes:

Testing on the Computer:

This may be your first time taking a test on a computer. On average, people read 20% slower on a screen vs. paper. Because of this and other issues, practice as much as you can on the computer to become comfortable working in that environment. Familiarity with the test and its standards will go a long way towards your ABCTE success. The online practice tests are great practice to get a feel for the testing environment.

Area of Study	Required Resources	Recommended Resources
<p>Domain 2 (Standards 2.1.1-2.4.6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Standard English Language Conventions <input type="checkbox"/> Speech <input type="checkbox"/> Writing Strategies and Applications <input type="checkbox"/> Research Strategies 	<p>Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the English Language Arts Refresher Course (PDF or Online version):</p> <p>Oral & Written Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Parts of Speech & Grammar <input type="checkbox"/> Pronouns <input type="checkbox"/> Verbs <input type="checkbox"/> Verbals <input type="checkbox"/> Adjectives & Adverbs <input type="checkbox"/> Prepositions <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuation <input type="checkbox"/> Capitalization <input type="checkbox"/> Abbreviations <input type="checkbox"/> Spelling <input type="checkbox"/> Syntax <input type="checkbox"/> ESL Errors <input type="checkbox"/> Understanding Speeches & Oral Presentations <input type="checkbox"/> Analyzing Speeches & Oral Presentations <input type="checkbox"/> Arguments & Communication in the Classroom <input type="checkbox"/> The Basics of Argumentation <input type="checkbox"/> Analyzing Arguments <input type="checkbox"/> Argumentative Fallacies <input type="checkbox"/> The Writing Process <input type="checkbox"/> Principles of Composition Pt. I, Pt. II, and Pt. III <input type="checkbox"/> Editing & Evaluating <input type="checkbox"/> Research Strategies 	<p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> An Introduction to Writing Instruction for Secondary Students <input type="checkbox"/> Guide to Grammar and Writing <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers <input type="checkbox"/> The Everyday Writer: A Brief Reference

Your Notes:

We love to highlight ABCTE teachers in local newspapers. Not only does this provide publicity for potential job search, it can also help highlight your school as one that is committed to providing students with the best possible teacher. Visit <https://www.americanboard.org/?s=share+your+story>

Area of Study	Required Resources	Recommended Resources
<p>Domain 3 (Standards 1.1.1-1.1.14)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Instructional Knowledge and Professional Skills</p>	<p>Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the English Language Arts Refresher Course (PDF or Online version):</p> <p>Instructional Knowledge & Professional Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreting Texts <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary Development & Usage <input type="checkbox"/> General Literary Knowledge & Strategies <input type="checkbox"/> Addendum for Suggested Young Readers Literature List <input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Proficiency, Writing Style, & Research Skills 	<p>Web Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Avoiding Plagiarism <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing Vocabulary Instruction for Secondary Students <input type="checkbox"/> Making Meaning in Literature <input type="checkbox"/> ESL Common Errors Workbook <p>Books</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The English Teacher's Companion

Your Notes:

"I can give children the inspiration and encouragement to confront their own challenges, surpass negativity and persevere... Without this program, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to pursue teaching."
 - Traci Brown, ABCTE Teacher, FL

American Board's Stepwise Method

The Right Way to Get Started: using the Standards as your syllabus

The Standards are your study lifeline; you can find with your study materials. Throughout the course of your study, you will learn all of them. How to begin? Here is the American Board's Standards Stepwise method:

1 Approach in bite-sized chunks:

don't be overwhelmed or paralyzed by how many standards there are, simply pick a topic of a domain and get started.

2 Define the terms:

take the first three items in the topic and make sure you know all the terms. Look up any you do not recognize. After all, you cannot answer a question definitively if you don't even know the terms.

Topic 1: Selects, Organizes, Plans, and Designs Content

1.1.01	Writes measurable objectives for both individual or classroom performance based on student data and subject matter.
1.1.02	Guides curricular planning (e.g., content clusters, instructional methods, learning activities and assessment tools) based on goals of the instruction.
1.1.03	Substantiates or illustrates topics.
1.1.04	Juxtaposes examples that differ in many ways but are the same in defining features, so that students can generalize to new examples and learn to discriminate same/different when faced with new examples.
1.1.05	Juxtaposes examples that differ in many ways but are the same in defining features, so that students can generalize to new examples and learn to discriminate same/different when faced with new examples.
1.1.06	Plans lessons, depending on size and content of unit, so that important ideas or skills are studied on several occasions rather than all at once.
1.1.07	Selects lessons.

Guides **curricular planning** (e.g., **content clusters**, instructional methods, learning activities and assessment tools) based on goals of the instruction.

Professional Teaching Knowledge Study Plan | Effective Instructional Delivery

Study Tip:

One effective way of using the practice quizzes is to look at the incorrect answer choice before looking at the correct explanation to see if you can understand why those options are wrong. If you can understand how a test maker uses distractors, you will be able to eliminate wrong answer choices faster on test day.

Area of Study	Required Resources	Recommended Resources*
Domain 2 (Standards 2.1.01-2.5.01) Effective Instructional Delivery These standards cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Presenting clear and focused instruction <input type="checkbox"/> Effective questioning techniques <input type="checkbox"/> Making efficient use of learning time <input type="checkbox"/> Applications <input type="checkbox"/> Research Strategies 	Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the PTK Study Materials (PDF or video version): The Characteristics of Successful Teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Characteristics 1-8 <input type="checkbox"/> Characteristics 9-16 <input type="checkbox"/> VIDEO CASE STUDIES: Characteristics of Successful Teachers 	Web Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The 21st Century "Champion" TED Talk <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching for the 21st Century <input type="checkbox"/> Personalized Learning Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Effective Teaching Methods: Research Based Practice <input type="checkbox"/> The First Days of School: How to be an Effective Teacher <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching in Today's Inclusive Classrooms <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusive Education Checklist

Your Notes:

3 Use the required resources in your Study Plan or a broad survey text to refresh your memory on the topic.

4 Use the appropriate recommended resources to probe deeper if you need better understanding. Use the Standards to target the sections you need to read.

5 Your Notes: identify additional resources to use as needed.

6 Check for understanding and reflect: think about how you would use this in a classroom or how you would teach the subject. Use your quizzes to check for understanding and move on.

7 Wash, rinse, and repeat: once you finish a chunk of three, go back and attack the next three.

Have a Plan

It is important to have a plan of attack to study. Block out set times to study and if you slip and miss a session, restart your plan instead of letting yourself get paralyzed and procrastinate.