

# ABOUT OREGON TEACHER TESTS 2011-12

## Basic skills, ORELA, NESTest, Praxis

Hold holders of Oregon teaching licenses show basic skills and subject knowledge through a basic skills test plus one of several subject matter exams.

Licensure programs expect official passing scores by the regular application **deadline**: for Fall admission, test before **January**; for Spring admission, by or before **September**.

**Basic skills tests** as a class examine **reading comprehension** (e.g., critical analysis, evaluation, & comprehension of passages and research skills), basic **math** (e.g., estimation, measurement, basic statistics, computation & problem solving, and numerical & graphic relationships), and **writing** (formal essays, typically one on a set persuasive topic and/or one open-ended personal narrative; structure, spelling, and punctuation *do* count; some tests add multiple choice questions on writing).

➤ **NES EAS**, the Essential Academic Skills test, is now Oregon's preferred basic skills test, with **1-hour** subtests for reading and math (45 multiple-choice questions each) and a **1.25-hour** subtest for writing (36 multiple choice questions plus 1 written assignment). EAS is given only as a **CBT** (computer-based test).

➤ **CBEST**, the California Basic Educational Skills Test (<http://www.cbest.nesinc.com>), has reading and math sections of 50 multiple-choice questions each plus two essays. You take some or all sections and allot the **four hours** of testing time as you like. Only the computer-based (CBT) test is now offered in Oregon; sections can be retaken every 45 days and scores combined with the paper CBEST (which *is* still given in CA).

➤ **WEST-B**, the Washington Educator Skills Test–Basic (<http://www.west.nesinc.com>), consists of three paper-based subtests: reading and math, each with 60 multiple choice questions, and a writing subtest of 50 multiple-choice questions plus two essays. Total testing time is **five hours**; you get the subtests you pay for and may distribute the time as you like; for a fee, you can get expanded diagnostic results.

➤ **Praxis I/PPST**, the Pre-Professional Skills Tests (<http://www.ets.org/praxis>), come in PBT (paper-based) and CBT (computer-based) forms. The reading and math CBTs each grant 75 minutes for 46 multiple choice questions; the writing CBT, 38 minutes for 44 multiple choice questions plus 30 minutes for one essay.

### Subject matter exams: ORELA-MSE (paper-based), NESTest (computer-based), and Praxis II

➤ **ORELA Multiple Subjects** (<http://www.orela.nesinc.com>) requires Subtest II (math, science, health, PE: 60 multiple choice questions, 2 written responses) of all candidates; candidates in Oregon teacher-preparation programs take Subtest I (language arts, social studies, arts: 60 multiple choice, 2 written); everyone else takes Subtest III (to Subtest I, add 20 multiple choice questions on reading instruction). The test session is **four hours**.

➤ **NESTest** computer-based exams are for use nationwide. All tests but Spanish have 150 multiple choice questions; test sessions last **3 hours** (or **3:45** for science and math). Tests are offered in centers (see below) by appointment. Find information and registration at <http://www.orela.nesinc.com>.

➤ **Praxis II** (<http://www.ets.org/praxis.com>) exams remain for subjects not tested by NESTest. Each subtest or test has a specific duration (one hour or two); some combine multiple choice and constructed response questions; most are paper-based, though new tests for French and German are computer-based.

**ORELA Protecting Student and Civil Rights in the Educational Environment**, 60 multiple-choice questions, is required for any Oregon license. It's only computer-based. **ORELA English to Speakers of Other Languages**, 120 multiple-choice questions in two subtests, is required to teach English learners.

**Fees** are as follows. Where listed, a registration fee is in addition to the test fee.

Test	PBT (paper-based test)	CBT (computer-based test)	Registration fee	Late registration	Emergency registration	Change of registration
CBEST	\$41 per test date (CA only)	\$101 per test date	\$0	\$18 PBT	\$35 PBT	\$0
NES EAS	No PBT offered	\$50 for 1 subtest, \$75 for 2, \$100 for 3	Probably \$30 first time			
WEST-B	\$25 per subtest (3 subtests)	No CBT offered	\$10 per date	\$30	\$70	\$15
PPST	\$40 per test (3 tests)	\$80 for 1 test, \$120 for 2, \$160 for 3	\$50 per year	\$45 PBT	\$75 PBT	\$45 PBT \$15 CBT
ORELA	\$80 per subtest	No CBT	\$30 first time	\$30	\$70	\$15
Praxis II	\$65 to \$95 per test	\$120 to \$140	\$50 per year	\$45	\$75	\$45
NESTest	No PBT offered	\$95	\$0	N/A	N/A	

In short, to take all of WEST-B in one go costs \$85; PPST, between \$160 and \$240, depending on the version; Praxis II also varies. Since CBTs are taken by appointment, there are no late or emergency fees.

**Register** for ORELA and NESTest at <http://www.orela.nesinc.com>; for CBEST, at <http://www.cbest.nesinc.com>; go to <http://www.pearsonvue.com/es/locate> to find CBT centers in OR (five as of July 2011) and nearby in WA, ID, NV, and CA. For WEST-B, register at <http://www.west.nesinc.com>. For Praxis, register at

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<http://www.ets.org/praxis>; find CBT centers at <http://etsis4.ets.org/tcenter/tcenter.jsp> (six are in OR as of July 2011). CBT centers aren't huge: to assure your chosen date and time, sign up in advance. For **alternative testing**—learning or other disability (including pregnancy), Sunday testing, or (for Praxis) extra time for non-native speakers of English—follow the instructions online, and **pay careful attention to the deadlines**.

**Results.** Preliminary scores for **CBEST-PBT**, **CBEST-CBT writing**, **ORELA**, and **WEST** appear online; for **CBEST-CBT** and **NESTest**, at the end of testing. Official score reports (WEST's may still be by mail) contain diagnostics that can help the retaker. **Praxis** scores are reported online, with early results by phone for sale for \$30. Before paying to retake, wait for scores: late-registration fees are often waived automatically.

For **CBEST**, 41 points per section (the scale is from 20 to 80) is a "full pass", but you can pass with one or two "minimal pass" scores as low as **37** provided your total score is **123**.

**WEST** and **ORELA** scores are reported per subtest on a scale from 100 to 300; passing is 240 points, and you must pass each subtest to pass the test.

**NESTest** passing scores range between 220 and 236; see the individual tests' information at <http://www.orela.nesinc.com> for details.

**PPST** and most Praxis II tests are scored on a scale from 100 to 200. PPST passing scores for Oregon: reading, **174**; math, **171**; writing **171**. **Praxis II** exam passing scores vary; at <http://www.ets.org/praxis>, click the State Testing Requirements.

PPST and WEST-B have no "minimal pass" option. Thus CBEST may be a wiser choice for test takers whose main fear is essay writing.

**Preparation.** Each test's Web site has **free overviews** with sample questions and answers (some even explain the answers); do consult the frameworks/content specifications. On the **CBEST** Web site is a free full **practice test**, as a self-scoring Java applet or as three huge pdf files. **NESTest** has full practice tests online—for a fee—plus a computer-testing tutorial for free. ORELA prep for Oregon Education Association members is at <http://www.oregoned.org>. Online courses or tutoring may also help.

As to **preparation guides**, look for ones that fit *your* needs and keep your interest; for **NES EAS** and **WEST-B**, try CBEST books. Books specific to **ORELA** and **single subject exams** are relatively scarce, but undergrad textbooks and AP preparation materials may give better review, as may the Internet.

The best way to prepare for an essay-writing exam is to write—and to get your essays evaluated by someone who is gentle but thorough, truthful and skilled. See <http://www.testmaven.com> for help.

### Test Dates and Deadlines through July 2012

Dates with asterisks are the Testmaven's best guess, when final test dates haven't been released. Confirm all dates and find updates at or [www.orela.nesinc.com](http://www.orela.nesinc.com) or [www.cbtest.nesinc.com](http://www.cbtest.nesinc.com) or [www.west.nesinc.com](http://www.west.nesinc.com) or [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis)

<i>Paper-based ORELA/ CBEST test date</i>	<i>Registration/ withdrawal deadline</i>	<i>Late registration deadline Add/change deadline (no fee)</i>	<i>Emergency registration deadline</i>	<i>Paper-based scores to Internet</i>	<i>Other notes</i>
Aug. 6, 2011 ORELA CBEST	July 1, 2011 <i>July 8, 2011</i>	July 21, 2011 <i>July 26, 2011</i>	July 28, 2011 <i>Aug. 2, 2011</i>	Sept. 6, 2011 <i>Aug. 22, 2011</i>	CBEST-CBT is given 6 days per month till Aug. 6; then, like ORELA CBT exams, it will be offered six days a week by appointment. <b>CBT scores are reported four weeks after testing.</b>
Oct. 1, 2011 ORELA CBEST	Aug. 26, 2011 <i>Sept. 2, 2011</i>	Sept. 15, 2011 <i>Sept. 20, 2011</i>	Sept. 22, 2011 <i>Sept. 27, 2011</i>	Oct. 31, 2011 <i>Oct. 17, 2011</i>	
Dec. 3, 2011 ORELA CBEST	Oct. 28, 2011 <i>Nov. 4, 2011</i>	Nov. 17, 2011 <i>Nov. 22, 2011</i>	Nov. 24, 2011 <i>Nov. 29, 2011</i>	Dec. 30, 2011 <i>Dec. 19, 2011</i>	
Feb. 4, 2012 ORELA CBEST	Dec. 30, 2012 <i>Jan. 6, 2012</i>	Jan. 19, 2012 <i>Jan. 24, 2012</i>	Jan. 26, 2012 <i>Jan. 31, 2012</i>	Mar. 5, 2012 <i>Feb. 21, 2012</i>	
Apr. 14, 2012 ORELA CBEST	Mar. 9, 2012 <i>Mar. 16, 2012</i>	Mar. 29, 2012 <i>Apr. 3, 2012</i>	Apr. 5, 2012 <i>Apr. 10, 2012</i>	May 14, 2012 <i>Apr. 30, 2012</i>	
June 9, 2012 ORELA CBEST	May 4, 2012 <i>May 11, 2012</i>	May 24, 2012 <i>May 29, 2012</i>	May 31, 2012 <i>June 5, 2012</i>	July 9, 2012 <i>June 25, 2012</i>	

Find CBT centers at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/es/locate>. As of 6/11, centers are at Salem, Portland (2), Medford and Eastern OR U.

<i>Paper-based<sup>o</sup> Praxis test date</i>	<i>Registration deadline</i>	<i>Late registration deadline</i>	<i>Emergency registration and change/ withdrawal deadline</i>	<i>Multiple choice scores online</i>	<i>Scores by phone (\$30)</i>	<i>Other scores online</i>
Sept. 17, 2011*	Aug. 18, 2011*	Aug. 25, 2011*	Sept. 9, 2011*	Oct. 11, 2011*	Oct. 7, 2011*	Oct. 18, 2011*
Nov. 12, 2011*%L	Oct. 13, 2011*	Oct. 20, 2011*	Nov. 4, 2011*	Dec. 6, 2011*	Dec. 2, 2011*	Dec. 13, 2011*
Jan. 14, 2012*PPST	Dec. 15, 2011*	Dec. 22, 2011*	Jan. 6, 2012*	Feb. 7, 2012*	Feb. 3, 2012*	Feb. 14, 2012*
Mar. 10, 2012*PPST	Feb. 8, 2012*	Feb. 15, 2012*	Mar. 2, 2012*	Apr. 3, 2012*	Mar. 30, 2012*	Apr. 10, 2012*
Apr. 28, 2012*PPST	Mar. 29, 2012*	Apr. 5, 2012*	Apr. 20, 2012*	May 22, 2012*	May 18, 2012*	May 29, 2012*
June 9, 2012*	May 10, 2011*	May 17, 2011*	June 1, 2011*	July 3, 2012*	June 29, 2012*	July 10, 2012*
July 21, 2012*PPST	June 21, 2012*	June 28, 2012*	July 13, 2012*	Aug. 14, 2012*	Aug. 10, 2012*	Aug. 21, 2012*

%PPST (paper-based) is also given on dates indicated. Not all Praxis II exams are given in all test centers on all dates: check the "Test Centers and Dates" and "Test Dates and Deadlines" pages at <http://www.ets.org/praxis> to confirm when and where for your test.