



Purpose:

The Praxis 5581 Social Studies assessment was created as a redesign of the existing 5081 Social Studies content Knowledge assessment. The purpose of the redesign was to modernize the approaches, content, and standards used for the assessment to ensure that teacher candidates can better serve the needs of diverse students. The assessment includes content that is more representative of the experiences of diverse groups, more recent historical events and movements than the previous framework, and better alignment to standards that have become available since the previous assessment framework's publication.

Overall design changes:

- Item total of the test has increased from 120 multiple choice items to 140 multiple items.
- Total allotted testing time has increased from 120 minutes to 150 minutes.
- The assessment no longer includes a behavioral science section.
- The U.S. History and World History sections include more recent historical events and movement to better match the knowledge expectations for teachers
- The Civics section assesses more knowledge about active civic participation.

Standards:

The assessment aligns to the National Curriculum Standards for Social studies and is informed in the individual content areas by the various disciplinary standards listed below. The NCSS C3 standards also informed the design of the assessment and assisted in meeting our goals for modernizing and upgrading the assessment.

- National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, National Council for the Social Studies: <https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/national-curriculum-standards-social-studies-introduction>
- College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards, National Council for the Social Studies: <https://www.socialstudies.org/standards/c3>
- Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics, Council for Economic Education: <https://www.councilforeconed.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/voluntary-national-content-standards-2010.pdf>
- National Geography Standards 2nd Edition, National Council for Geographic Education: <https://ncge.org/teacher-resources/national-geography-standards/>
- National Standards for History, UCLA History Public History Initiative: <https://phi.history.ucla.edu/nchs/history-standards/>

Weightings:

Because of the removal of the Behavioral Sciences section, the new assessment has different weightings for each content area:

5081 Social Studies Content Knowledge		5581 Social Studies	
Score Reporting Text	Approximate % of Test	Score Reporting Text	Approximate % of Test
I. United States History	20%	I. United States History	29%
II. World History	20%	II. World History	22%
III. Geography	20%	III. Geography	13%
I.V. Civics	15%	I.V. Civics	23%
V. Economics	15%	V. Economics	13%
V.I. Behavioral Science	10%	N/A	N/A

Time:

- Test time increased from 120 minutes to 150 minutes

Change in Approach of the Assessment:

- Focus on modernization and matching current curriculum standards and expectations for new teacher candidates in 2022 and beyond
- Increased representation of diverse groups in historical, geographic, civic, and economic contexts, when possible
- Better representation of social studies skills in some items with design informed by the C3 standards

Subtraction of content:

- The behavioral sciences portion from the previous version of the assessment has been removed. The previous assessment weighted this section at 10% of the test with content from Psychology, Sociology, and Anthropology. The decision to remove this was based on the inability of such a small section of a test to assess three separate disciplines in a meaningful way.