

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	On-Screen Exhibits	NONE
Format	Multiple Choice & Writing Component	Passing Score	Multiple Choice: 270/500 Component: 4/6
# of Questions	150 Multiple Choice Question & 1 Writing Component		
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
Domain 1 (Standards 1.1.1-1.1.14) ☐ Interpretation of Literary Texts	Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the English Language Arts Refresher Course (PDF or Online version): Comprehension of Texts Pt. 1 ☐ Interpretation of Literary Texts ☐ Movements in American Literature ☐ Major Literature Themes & Archetypes ☐ The Fundamentals of Reading ☐ Development of Drama ☐ Development of Poetry ☐ Development & Tradition of the Essay ☐ Development of a Novel ☐ Development of a Short Story ☐ Characteristics of Modes of Writing ☐ Familiarity with the Literary Canon ☐ Identify & Describe the Poetic Conventions of Verse ☐ Sound ☐ Elements of Poetry	Web Resources ☐ American Passages: A Literary Survey ☐ Literary Devices ☐ Project Gutenberg Books ☐ A Handbook to Literature

Your Notes: