

About Your Study Plan

This Study Plan is your syllabus for the American Board program. 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. Your efforts will not only help you pass the test, but will also prepare you to become a successful teacher.

How to Study

The 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 both the content and resources to review this material. It is your job to commit to preparing and stay dedicated while studying.

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 American Board exams are based on this blueprint, so consider this a syllabus for what you want to study.

Your Materials

- **Standards:** a list of everything that might be on the test.
- **Study Plan:** your syllabus with links to what you need to study for each section.
- **Study Materials:** an overview course materials on topics you will be tested on.
- **Practice Exam/Section Quizzes:** sample test questions and solutions.

Multiple Subject Exam Snapshot

Time Allowed	240 minutes	On-Screen Exhibits (available as relevant)	Standard calculator; Periodic Table
Format	Multiple Choice	Passing Score	Proficient: 251 Distinguished: 320
# of Questions	145		
(The number of questions answered correctly is converted to a scaled score ranging from 0 to 500.)			
Exam Summary	Content Domains	Approximate Percentage of Examination	
	Scientific Investigation	15%	
	Biology	22%	
	Chemistry	22%	
	Earth Science	20%	
	Physics	21%	

About This Exam

The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence believes that highly skilled general science teachers should possess a comprehensive body of scientific knowledge that is research-based and promotes student achievement.

The general science exam is a rigorous assessment of a candidate’s knowledge and application of general biology, chemistry, earth science, and physics concepts. The topics assessed are characteristically covered in introductory college science courses, although some more advanced questions are included, as teachers must hold a more sophisticated understanding of science content than that presented to their students. All exhibits you will see on the Pearson Vue exam are identical to the exhibits displayed on the Practice Exams and Section Quizzes.

The Study Plan:

Your study plan includes direction on how to use the American Board's required 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. If you require additional time beyond your scheduled end date, the opportunity exists to purchase a six-month extension in the program.

Area of Study	Required Resources	Recommended Resources
Domains 1 and 2 (Standards 1.01-2.07) These Standards cover: ☐ Biochemical Basis of Life ☐ Cell Biology	Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the General Study Materials (PDF or Online version) to learn the material to understand these standards: Biochemical Basis of Life ☐ Biochemical Basis of Life ☐ Lipids ☐ Proteins ☐ Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids ☐ Discovering Cells Cell Biology ☐ Prokaryotes ☐ Cells: Pieces & Parts ☐ A Little In and A Little Out ☐ Cellular Energetics ☐ Specialized Cells ☐ Eukaryotes ☐ Viruses	Web Resources ☐ Biological Evolution ☐ Cell and Molecular Biology Online Books ☐ Lehninger Principles of Biochemistry ☐ Schaum's Outline of Biochemistry ☐ Cells, Gels and the Engines of Life ☐ Dictionary of Cell Biology

Your Notes:

Note: The recommended resources are often freely accessible online or can be found in your library. To ease your search, we have hyperlinked them.

Study Tip:

One effective way of using the practice quizzes is to look at the incorrect answer choices 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
Domains 3 and 4 (Standards 3.01-4.11) These Standards cover: ☐ Biology- Classical Genetics and Molecular Biology ☐ Biology- Evolution	Complete the following readings and watch the following videos in the General Study Materials (PDF or Online version) to learn the material to understand these standards: Genetics and Molecular Biology ☐ Classical Genetics ☐ DNA and RNA Replication ☐ DNA: Genetic Storage ☐ Gene Regulation Evolution ☐ Evolution ☐ Speciation	Web Resources ☐ Beginner's Guide to Molecular Biology: Molecular Biology Notebook Online ☐ Biological Evolution Books ☐ DNA: The Secret of Life ☐ Origin of Species ☐ The Complete Idiot's Guide to Biology

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