

The Praxis Series provides a continuum of assessments from entry into a teacher preparation program to actual practice in the classroom.

Praxis I: Academic Skills Assessment: This test assesses basic proficiency in reading, mathematics, and writing and is designed to assess a candidate's basic skills at the time the decision is made to become a teacher. The test is offered in two forms – the Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) which is a paper and pencil test and a Computer-Based Test (CBT). At the end of the calendar year of 2001, the CBT test will be discontinued.

Praxis II: Subject Assessments: These tests assess subject knowledge of the teaching area and involve demonstrating mastery in the content area.

Praxis III: Classroom Performance Assessment: This test assesses a beginning teacher's ability to apply knowledge of subject matter and the basic principles of teaching in an actual classroom setting, usually during the first three years of teaching.

[In Virginia, the use of Praxis I and II tests was approved for initial licensure. Praxis III was not adopted for statewide use.]

Standard setting and validation studies for Praxis I were conducted on May 4 and 5, 1994, by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education. A panel of 33 Virginia practitioners was convened to participate in the validation and standard-setting studies of Praxis I. The panel of Virginia educators considered the PPST Mathematics, Reading, and Writing multiple-choice tests and the PPST Writing Essay constructed-response test. Based on the validation and standard-setting studies, the following scores were recommended: Reading: 176; Writing: 173; and Mathematics: 175. The Educational Testing Service issued a concordance table so states could include the Praxis I CBT as an option for the Praxis I PPST testing requirement.

At its October 26, 1995, meeting the Board of Education increased the recommended scores for the Praxis I PPST tests and approved the following:

	<u>Praxis I PPST Scores</u>	<u>Praxis I CBT Scores</u>
Reading:	178	326
Writing:	176	324
Mathematics:	178	323

These scores established by the Board of Education became effective July 1, 1996, as the professional teacher's examination requirements for initial licensure.

Summary of Major Elements:

House Bill 2123 passed by the 2001 General Assembly amends Section 22.1-298 of the Code of Virginia directing the Board of Education in setting passing scores for the professional teacher's examination

required for initial licensure to establish an alternative for the Praxis I assessments. The following two alternatives for the Praxis I assessments are recommended to the Board of Education for consideration.

- (1) establish a composite score--one passing score based on the sum of all three tests--with a minimum score for each test, and
- (2) establish a composite score--one passing score based on the sum of all three tests--without a minimum score for each test. In both alternatives, the composite scores of 532 for PPST and 973 for CBT are based on the current scores approved by the Board of Education.

The two alternatives for Praxis I assessments are illustrated in the following charts:

Alternative 1: Composite Score with a Minimum Score for Each Test

Praxis I Test	Virginia Scores For Individual Tests			Composite Score*	Minimum Scores Required For the Composite**		
	Reading	Writing	Mathematics		Reading	Writing	Mathematics
PPST	178	176	178	532	176	173	175
CBT	326	324	323	973	323	319	320

* The composite score of 532 for PPST and 973 for CBT will be the sum of the test scores (“Virginia Scores for Individual Tests”) established by the Board on October 26, 1995.

**The minimum scores for the three Praxis I assessments would be based on the scores established by the panel in May 1994.

Alternative 2: Composite Score without Minimum Scores for Each Test

Praxis I Test	Virginia Scores For Individual Tests			Composite Score*
	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	
PPST	178	176	178	532
CBT	326	324	323	973

* The composite score of 532 for PPST and 973 for CBT will be the sum of the test scores (“Virginia Scores for Individual Tests”) established by the Board on October 26, 1995.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for first review two alternatives to Praxis I assessments.

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: Final review on this alternative will be requested during the Board of Education’s April 26, 2001, regular meeting.

