California Subject Examinations for Teachers®

TEST GUIDE

SCIENCE SUBTEST III: PHYSICS

Subtest Description

This document contains the Physics subject matter requirements arranged according to the domains covered by Subtest III: Physics of CSET: Science. In parentheses after each named domain is the CCTC-assigned domain code from the Physics subject matter requirements.

CS-TG-SD123X-01

California Subject Examinations for Teachers (CSET®)

Science
Subtest III: Physics

Part I: Content Domains for Subject Matter Understanding and Skill in Physics

MOTION AND FORCES (SMR Domain 1)

Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of motion and forces as contained in the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) and outlined in the Science Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2002) from an advanced standpoint. To ensure a rigorous view of motion and forces and their underlying structures, candidates have a deep conceptual knowledge of the subject matter. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of motion and the relationship of force to motion. Candidates use analytical, numerical, and graphical methods in problem-solving.

0001 Motion and Forces (SMR 1.1)

a. Solve problems using Newton's Second Law (e.g., problems involving time, velocity, and space-dependent forces)
b. Construct appropriate free-body diagrams of many-body problems (e.g., two or more coupled masses)
c. Solve periodic motion problems
d. Solve 2-dimensional problems involving vector analysis of motion and forces, including projectile motion, uniform circular motion, and statics
e. Generate and understand functional relationships of graphs showing distance, velocity, and acceleration versus time
f. Recognize relationships among variables for linear motion and rotational motion
g. Solve problems involving linear and rotational motion in term of forces and torques

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grades 9-12, Physics: 1a-m)

CONSERVATION OF ENERGY AND MOMENTUM (SMR Domain 2)

Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the conservation of energy and momentum contained in the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) and outlined in the Science Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2002) from an advanced standpoint. To ensure a rigorous view of conservation of energy and momentum and of their

underlying structures, candidates have a deep conceptual knowledge of the subject matter. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the principles of conservation of energy and momentum. They apply this understanding to predict and describe the movement of objects.

0002 Conservation of Energy and Momentum (SMR 2.1)

a. Use conservation of energy to characterize kinetic-potential energy systems such as oscillating systems (pendula and springs), projectile motion, and roller coasters
b. Analyze elastic and inelastic collisions and solve for unknown values
c. Solve problems involving linear and rotational motion in terms of conservation of momentum and energy
d. Recognize relationships between energy/momentum conservation principles and Newton's Laws
e. Examine the impact of friction on conservation principles
f. Interpret force-versus-time and force-versus-distance graphs to find, for example, work done or impulse on a system

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grades 9-12, Physics: 2a-h)

HEAT AND THERMODYNAMICS (SMR Domain 3)

Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of heat and thermodynamics as contained in the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) and outlined in the Science Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2002) from an advanced standpoint. To ensure a rigorous view of heat and thermodynamics and their underlying structures, candidates have a deep conceptual knowledge of the subject matter. Candidates demonstrate understanding of the laws of thermodynamics and the thermodynamic properties of materials.

0003 Heat and Thermodynamics (SMR 3.1)

a. Solve problems involving the laws of thermodynamics using the relationships among work, heat flow, energy, and entropy
b. Define and correctly apply thermodynamic properties of materials such as specific heat (heat capacity), heats of fusion, heat of vaporization, thermal conductivity, and thermal expansion to solve problems
c. Solve problems for ideal gas systems
d. Solve problems involving cyclic processes, including calculations of work done, heat gain/loss, , and entropy change
e. Interpret graphs showing phase changes and graphs of cyclic processes
f. Describe a plasma, state its characteristic properties, and contrast it with an ideal gas

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grades 9-12, Physics: 3a-g)

WAVES (SMR Domain 4)

Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of waves as contained in the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) and outlined in the Science Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2002) from an advanced standpoint. To ensure a rigorous view of waves and their underlying structures, candidates have a deep conceptual knowledge of the subject matter. Candidates can describe waves and their characteristic properties and understand that these properties do not depend on the type of wave. They use their knowledge of waves and wave properties to predict wave behavior under various conditions. Candidates are familiar with the electromagnetic spectrum.

0004 Waves and Their Characteristic Properties (SMR 4.1)

a. Relate wave propagation to properties of materials (e.g., predict wave speed from density and tension)
b. Describe, distinguish, and solve both conceptual and numerical problems involving interference, diffraction, refraction, reflection, Doppler effect, polarization, dispersion, and scattering

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grades 9-12, Physics: 4a-f)

ELECTROMAGNETISM (SMR Domain 5)

Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of electromagnetism contained in the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) as outlined in the Science Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2002) from an advanced standpoint. To ensure a rigorous view of electromagnetism and its underlying structures, candidates have a deep conceptual knowledge of the subject matter. Candidates understand the relationship between electric and magnetic phenomena and can apply their knowledge to real-life examples. They can solve calculus-based problems using the quantitative and vector relationships among charges, currents, forces, and fields.

0005 Electric and Magnetic Phenomena (SMR 5.1)

a. Analyze electric and magnetic forces, charges, and fields using Coulomb's law, the Lorentz force, and the right-hand rule
b. Apply energy principles to analyze problems in electricity, magnetism, and circuit theory involving capacitors, resistors, and inductors
c. Calculate power, voltage changes, current, and resistance in multiloop circuits involving capacitors, resistors, and inductors
d. Interpret and design mixed series and parallel circuits involving capacitors, resistors, and inductors

e. Solve problems involving the relationships between electric and magnetic phenomena
f. Explain properties of transistors, diodes, and semiconductors

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grades 9-12, Physics: 5a-o).

QUANTUM MECHANICS AND THE STANDARD MODEL OF PARTICLES (SMR Domain 6)

Candidates demonstrate an understanding of the foundations of quantum mechanics and the standard model of particles contained in the Science Content Standards for California Public Schools (1998) as outlined in the Science Framework for California Public Schools: Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve (2002) from an advanced standpoint. To ensure a rigorous view of quantum mechanics and the standard model of particles and their underlying structures, candidates have a deep conceptual knowledge of the subject matter. Candidates are familiar with the standard model of particles and the four fundamental forces of nature. They recognize the assumptions and principles of early quantum mechanics.

0006 Quantum Mechanics and the Standard Model (SMR 6.1)

a. Distinguish the four fundamental forces of nature, describe their ranges, and identify their force carriers
b. Evaluate the assumptions and relevance of the Bohr model of the atom

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grades 9-12, Chemistry: 1i)

Part II: Subject Matter Skills and Abilities Applicable to the Content Domains in Science

Domain 1. Investigation and Experimentation

Candidates for Single Subject Teaching Credentials in Science formulate and conduct scientific investigations. They select appropriate scientific tools, make relevant measurements of changes in natural phenomena, and present unbiased findings in logical and meaningful formats using charts, maps, tables, models, graphs, and labeled diagrams. Candidates apply mathematics to scientific investigations and experimentation(s) for the purpose of quantifying results and drawing conclusions. Candidates interpret experimental results and determine whether further information is necessary to formulate accurate conclusions. They communicate results through various methods, and use technology where appropriate.

1.1 Question Formulation

a. Formulate and evaluate a viable hypothesis
b. Recognize the value and role of observation prior to question formulation
c. Recognize the iterative nature of questioning
d. Given an experimental design, identify possible hypotheses that it may test

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grade 6: 7a)

1.2 Planning a Scientific Investigation (including Experimental Design)

a. Given a hypothesis, formulate an investigation or experimental design to test that hypothesis
b. Evaluate an experimental design for its suitability to test a given hypothesis
c. Distinguish between variable and controlled parameters

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grade 5: 6c-d; Grade 8: 9a, 9c)

1.3 Observation and Data Collection

a. Identify changes in natural phenomena over time without manipulating the phenomena (e.g., a tree limb, a grove of trees, a stream, a hill slope)
b. Analyze the locations, sequences, and time intervals that are characteristic of natural phenomena (e.g., locations of planets over time, succession of species in an ecosystem)
c. Select and use appropriate tools and technology (e.g., computer-linked probes, spreadsheets, graphing calculators) to perform tests, collect data, analyze relationships, and display data
d. Evaluate the precision, accuracy, and reproducibility of data
e. Identify and analyze possible reasons for inconsistent results, such as sources of error or uncontrolled conditions
f. Identify and communicate sources of unavoidable experimental error
g. Recognize the issues of statistical variability and explain the need for controlled tests
h. Know and evaluate the safety issues when designing an experiment and implement appropriate solutions to safety problems
i. Appropriately employ a variety of print and electronic resources (e.g., the World Wide Web) to collect information and evidence as part of a research project
j. Assess the accuracy validity and reliability of information gathered from a variety of sources

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grade 3: 5a; Grade 6: 7a-b, 7g-h; Grade 7: 7a-b; Grade 8: 9b; Grades 9-12, Investigation and Experimentation: 1a-c, 1i-j, 1m)

1.4 Data Analysis/Graphing

a. Construct appropriate graphs from data and develop qualitative and quantitative statements about relationships between variables
b. Recognize the slope of the linear graph as the constant in the relationship y=kx and apply this principle in interpreting graphs constructed from data

c. Apply simple mathematical relationships to determine a missing quantity in an algebraic expression, given the two remaining terms (e.g., speed = distance/time, density = mass/volume, force = pressure x area, volume = area x height)
d. Determine whether a relationship on a given graph is linear or non-linear and determine the appropriateness of extrapolating the data
e. Solve scientific problems by using quadratic equations and simple trigonometric, exponential, and logarithmic functions

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grade 6: 7c; Grade 8: 9d-g; Grades 9-12, Investigation and Experimentation: 1e)

1.5 Drawing Conclusions and Communicating Explanations

a. Draw appropriate and logical conclusions from data
b. Communicate the logical connection among hypotheses, science concepts, tests conducted, data collected, and conclusions drawn from the scientific evidence
c. Communicate the steps and results of an investigation in written reports and oral presentations
d. Recognize whether evidence is consistent with a proposed explanation
e. Construct appropriate visual representations of scientific phenomenon and processes (e.g., motion of Earth's plates, cell structure)
f. Read topographic and geologic maps for evidence provided on the maps and construct and interpret a simple scale map

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grade 5: 6g; Grade 6: 7e-f; Grade 7: 7c-e; Grade 8: 9a; Grades 9-12, Investigation and Experimentation: 1d, 1h)

Domain 2. Nature of Science

Candidates recognize that science is an active endeavor in which acquisition of knowledge is based upon the collection and examination of data. Candidates understand that scientists have a responsibility to report fully and openly the methods and results of their observations and experiments, even if those results disagree with their favored hypotheses or are controversial in public opinion. They understand that to hide data, arbitrarily eliminate data, or conceal how an experiment was conducted is to invite errors, make those errors difficult to discover, and risk harm to colleagues and communities. They understand that scientists carefully consider questions and challenges raised by fellow scientists about the assumptions, procedures, and accuracy of their experiments. They understand that a fundamental aspect of scientific inquiry is that it is dynamic and self-correcting by design. Conclusions, hypotheses, and theories are tested in every experiment and revised or rejected when they no longer correctly or accurately predict experimental results. Candidates understand that scientists must consider the safety, ethical concerns, risks, and costs and benefits of experiments to society.

2.1 Scientific Inquiry

a. Distinguish among the terms hypothesis, theory, and prediction as used in scientific investigations
b. Evaluate the usefulness, limitations, and interdisciplinary and cumulative nature of scientific evidence as it relates to the development of models and theories as representations of reality
c. Recognize that when observations do not agree with an accepted scientific theory, either the observations are mistaken or fraudulent, or the accepted theory is erroneous or incorrect
d. Understand that reproducibility of data is critical to the scientific endeavor
e. Recognize that science is a self-correcting process that eventually identifies misconceptions and experimental biases
h. Recognize that an inquiring mind is at the heart of the scientific method and that doing science involves thinking critically about the evidence presented, the usefulness of models, and the limitations of theories
i. Recognize that theories are judged by how well they explain observations and predict results and that when they represent new ideas that are counter to mainstream ideas they often encounter vigorous criticism
j. Recognize that when observations, data, or experimental results do not agree, the unexpected results are not necessarily mistakes; to discard the unusual in order to reach the expected is to guarantee that nothing but what is expected will ever be seen
k. Know why curiosity, honesty, openness, and skepticism are so highly regarded in science and how they are incorporated into the way science is carried out

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grade 6: 7e; Grades 9-12, Investigation and Experimentation: 1f-g, 1n)

2.2 Scientific Ethics

a. Understand that honesty is at the core of scientific ethics; first and foremost is the honest and accurate reporting of procedures used and data collected
b. Know that all scientists are obligated to evaluate the safety of an investigation and ensure the safety of those performing the experiment
c. Know the procedures for respectful treatment of all living organisms in experimentation and other investigations

2.3 Historical Perspectives

a. Discuss the cumulative nature of scientific evidence as it relates to the development of models and theories
b. Recognize that as knowledge in science evolves, when observations do not support an accepted scientific theory, the observations are reconsidered to determine if they are mistaken or fraudulent, or if the accepted theory is erroneous or incomplete (e.g., an erroneous theory is the Piltdown Man fossil; an incomplete theory is Newton's laws of gravity)

c. Recognize and provide specific examples that scientific advances sometimes result in profound paradigm shifts in scientific theories
d. Discuss the need for clear and understandable communication of scientific endeavors so that they may be reproduced and why reproduction of these endeavors is important

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grade 6: 7d; Grade 7: 7c, 7e; Grades 9-12, Investigation and Experimentation: 1k, 1n)

Domain 3. Science and Society

Candidates understand that science relies on basic human qualities such as reasoning, insight, curiosity, skill, and creativity – as well as on scientific habits of mind such as intellectual honesty, tolerance of ambiguity, skepticism, and openness to new ideas. Candidates recognize their responsibility to increase scientific literacy so that the general population can understand current issues and appreciate their personal roles and responsibilities. Candidates know about possible hazards and take precautions that are the basis for creating a safe learning environment that benefits all students. They are familiar with established rules and guidelines that intend to ensure the safety of students and to protect the subjects and environments studied. Candidates understand that technology is the application of proven scientific knowledge for practical purposes serving human needs; however, science and technology are interrelated—one often propels the other.

3.1 Science Literacy

a. Recognize that science attempts to make sense of how the natural and the designed world function
b. Demonstrate the ability to apply critical and independent thinking to weigh alternative explanations of events
c. Apply evidence, numbers, patterns, and logical arguments to solve problems
d. Understand that, although much has been learned about the objects, events and phenomena in nature, there are many unanswered questions, i.e., science is a work in progress
e. Know that the ability of science and technology to resolve societal problems depends on the scientific literacy of a society

3.2 Diversity

a. Identify examples of women and men of various social and ethnic backgrounds with diverse interests, talents, qualities and motivations who are, or who have been, engaged in activities of science and related fields

3.3 Science, Technology, and Society

a. Identify and evaluate the impact of scientific advances on society
b. Recognize that scientific advances may challenge individuals to reevaluate their personal beliefs

(Science Content Standards for California Public Schools, Grades 9-12, Investigation and Experimentation: 1m, 1n)

3.4 Safety

a. Choose appropriate safety equipment for a given activity (e.g., goggles, apron, vented hood)
b. Discuss the safe use, storage, and disposal of commonly used chemicals and biological specimens
c. Assess the safety conditions needed to maintain a science laboratory (e.g., eye wash, shower, fire extinguisher)
d. Read and decode MSDS/OSHA (Material Safety Data Sheet/Occupational Safety and Health Administration) labels on laboratory supplies and equipment
e. Discuss key issues in the disposal of hazardous materials in either the laboratory or the local community
f. Be familiar with standard safety procedures such as those outlined in the Science Safety Handbook for California Schools (1999)