



Reading Instruction Competence Assessment® (RICA®) Written Examination Test Results Explanation

Contents of Your Test Results Report

Your test results report provides information about your performance on the RICA® Written Examination. Your test results report includes the test date, your passing status, your total score if you did not pass, performance indices for each RICA domain and the case study, and, if applicable, case study diagnostic information.

If you passed, your official test results report includes a Passing Status Verification Slip. You may be required to provide this slip to your college, university, or district internship program, which will need to verify that you have passed the RICA before recommending you for the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential or the Education Specialist Instruction Credential.

If you did not pass, your official test results report includes information on how to re-register for the RICA.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information on your test results report is intended for use only in teacher credentialing. To preclude the use of RICA scores for purposes other than credentialing (e.g., employment, assignment), scores of passing candidates are not provided on their test results reports. RICA scores must be used toward a California credential within ten years of the test date.

Total Score and Minimum Passing Score

The RICA Written Examination assesses knowledge and skills in the five domains included in the RICA Content Specifications, which are available on the California Educator Credentialing Examinations website at www.ctcexams.nesinc.com. The five domains are as follows:

- Domain 1: Planning, Organizing, and Managing Reading Instruction Based on Ongoing Assessment
- Domain 2: Word Analysis
- Domain 3: Fluency
- Domain 4: Vocabulary, Academic Language, and Background Knowledge
- Domain 5: Comprehension

The examination includes a case study, which addresses content from all five domains, a set of multiple-choice questions for each domain, and a constructed-response assignment for each of Domains 2–5. The examination includes 60 multiple-choice questions, distributed across the five domains, that count toward your score. (Ten multiple-choice questions are field-test questions that do not count toward your score.) The multiple-choice questions and constructed-response assignments are distributed across the five domains in the RICA Content Specifications *approximately* as follows:

- Domain 1: 10%
- Domain 2: 33%
- Domain 3: 13%
- Domain 4: 20%
- Domain 5: 23%

The minimum passing score was established by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing based on recommendations from California teachers and teacher educators. Test results are reported as scaled scores. A scaled score is based on the number of raw score points earned on each component and the weighting of each component. Raw scores are converted to a scale of 100 to 300, with the scaled score of 220 representing the minimum passing score. Your passing status is based on your total score. If you did not pass, your test results report includes your total score.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A passing score must be achieved at a single administration of the RICA Written Examination. Performance on parts of the examination cannot be combined across administrations.

Scoring

Responses to multiple-choice questions are machine scored as correct or incorrect. The number of correct answers is determined; there is no penalty for guessing. Responses to the constructed-response assignments are scored independently by at least two qualified and well-oriented California educators using standardized procedures. Scorers focus on the extent to which a response meets the following performance characteristics, which were listed in your Written Examination test booklet.

- *Purpose:* The candidate demonstrates an understanding of the relevant content and pedagogical knowledge from the applicable RICA domain(s) by fulfilling the purpose of the assignment.
- *Application of Content:* The candidate accurately and effectively applies the relevant content and pedagogical knowledge from the applicable RICA domain(s).
- *Support:* The candidate supports the response with appropriate examples, evidence, and rationales based on the relevant content and pedagogical knowledge from the applicable RICA domain(s).

Domain and Case Study Performance Indices

For each domain, a performance index is provided on your test results report based on your performance on that domain's multiple-choice questions and, if applicable, constructed-response assignment. The index consists of from one to four pluses (+), and more pluses indicate higher performance. Three or four pluses indicate that your performance was adequate or better; one or two pluses indicate that your performance was less than adequate.

A separate performance index is provided for the case study, which addresses all five domains and accounts for 20% of the total number of points possible. Like the domain-specific performance indices, the case study performance index consists of from one to four pluses (+), and more pluses indicate higher performance. Three or four pluses indicate that your case study response was adequate or better; one or two pluses indicate that your response was less than adequate.

If you did not respond at all to the case study, or if your response was unrelated to the assigned topic, illegible, or written primarily in a language other than English, or if your response incompletely addressed the assignment, your case study response was designated unscorable.

The domain performance indices provide you with information about your relative strengths and weaknesses across the five RICA domains. The case study performance index gives you an indication of how well you performed on that assignment. This information, as well as the case study diagnostic information described below, can be used in preparing to retake the RICA, if necessary, and in planning your continued professional development.

Case Study Diagnostic Information

If your case study response was assigned a performance index of one or two pluses, your test results report includes case study diagnostic information. This information indicates one or more areas of your response showing a need for improvement. This information is provided regardless of whether or not you passed the examination. The following three areas can be identified as needing improvement:

- Identifying the student's reading strengths and/or needs
- Describing instructional strategies and/or activities
- Explaining how the strategies and/or activities promote reading proficiency

If You Did Not Pass

If you did not pass the Written Examination, you may re-register and retake the examination. Alternatively, you may register for and take the RICA Video Performance Assessment. Passage of either the Written Examination or the Video Performance Assessment may be used to satisfy the requirement for both the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential and the Education Specialist Instruction Credential. All information necessary for registering for the Written Examination or the Video Performance Assessment is available on the California Educator Credentialing Examinations website at www.ctcexams.nesinc.com.

Reporting of RICA Results

Your RICA results have been sent to the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Your RICA results will also be sent to the institution, if any, that you indicated when you registered for the RICA and to any other institution or office authorized by you or required by law, entity, or person required or authorized by law to receive this information. To protect the confidentiality of your RICA results, they will not be provided to anyone over the telephone or by fax and will not be released to anyone without your written permission unless required by law.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Only you will receive a full test results report, containing your passing status, scaled score (if not passed), and diagnostic feedback. Any institution that you indicated when you registered will only receive your passing status.

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