



# California Subject Examinations for Teachers®

## TEST GUIDE

### MULTIPLE SUBJECTS SUBTEST I

#### Subtest Description

This document contains the Multiple Subjects content specifications arranged according to the domains covered by Subtest I of CSET: Multiple Subjects. In parentheses after each named domain is the CCTC-assigned domain code from the Multiple Subjects content specifications.

Copyright © 2014 Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s). All rights reserved.  
Evaluation Systems, Pearson, P.O. Box 226, Amherst, MA 01004

California Subject Examinations for Teachers, CSET, and the CSET logo are trademarks of the  
Commission on Teacher Credentialing and Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s).

Pearson and its logo are trademarks, in the U.S. and/or other countries, of Pearson Education, Inc. or its affiliate(s).

CS-TG-SD101-02

California Subject Examinations for Teachers® (CSET®)

**Multiple Subjects**  
**Subtest I: Reading, Language, and Literature; History**  
**and Social Science**

**CONTENT SPECIFICATIONS IN READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE**

**Content Domains for**  
**Subject Matter Understanding and Skill in**  
**Reading, Language, and Literature**

**0001 Language and Linguistics (SMR Domain 1)**

- 1.1 Language Structure and Linguistics.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials are able to identify and demonstrate an understanding of the fundamental components of human language, including phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, as well as the role of pragmatics in using language to communicate. In the context of these components, they reflect on both the potential for differences among languages and the universality of linguistic structures. Candidates can demonstrate knowledge of phonemic awareness (e.g., the processes of rhyming, segmenting, and blending). They apply knowledge of similarities and differences among groups of phonemes (e.g., consonants and vowels) that vary in their placement and manner of articulation. Candidates know the differences between phoneme awareness and phonics. They know the predictable patterns of sound-symbol and symbol-sound relationships in English (the Alphabetic Principle). Candidates identify examples of parts of speech, and their functions, as well as the morphology contributing to their classification. They recognize and use syntactic components (such as phrases and clauses, including verbals) to understand and develop a variety of sentence types (e.g., simple, compound, and complex sentences).
- 1.2 Language Development and Acquisition.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials apply knowledge of both the development of a first language and the acquisition of subsequent ones. They can describe the principal observable milestones in each domain, and identify the major theories that attempt to explain the processes of development and acquisition. Candidates demonstrate that they understand the range of issues related to the interaction of first languages and other languages. They are able to recognize special features that may identify a pupil's language development as exceptional, distinguishing such features from interlanguage effects.
- 1.3 Literacy.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials understand and use the major descriptions of developing literacy. Across the continuum of English language acquisition, candidates can identify the progressive development of phonemic awareness,

**MULTIPLE SUBJECTS**  
**SUBTEST I: READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE; HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

decoding, comprehension, word recognition, and spelling (including its complexities related to the interaction of phonology, the alphabetic principle, morphology, and etymology). Candidates understand how these processes interact with the development of concepts, of vocabulary (including relationships among etymologies and both denotative and connotative word meanings), and of contextual analysis. Candidates can identify indicators of reading fluency (i.e., accuracy, rate, and prosody). They understand interrelationships between decoding, fluency, vocabulary knowledge, and reading comprehension, and they can identify factors that affect comprehension.

- 1.4 Assessment.** In assessing developing literacy, candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials apply knowledge of the implications that language development and language differences have for the processes of learning to read and reading to learn. They know and apply a range of assessment methods and instruments to the respective and interrelated developing abilities in listening, speaking, reading (decoding and comprehension), writing, vocabulary, and spelling conventions.

**0002 Non-Written and Written Communication (SMR Domain 2)**

- 2.1 Conventions of Language.** Applying their knowledge of linguistic structure, candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials identify and use the conventions associated with standard English. They recognize, understand, and use a range of conventions in both spoken and written English, including varieties of sentence structure, preferred usage, and conventions of spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- 2.2 Writing Strategies.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials demonstrate knowledge of the stages of the writing process. They understand the purpose and technique of various prewriting strategies for organizing and giving focus to their writing (e.g., outlining, using graphic organizers, note taking). Candidates develop and strengthen writing as needed by revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach. They draw upon their understanding of principles of organization, transitions, point-of-view, word choice, and conventions to produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. Candidates demonstrate the ability to use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish individual or shared writing products.
- 2.3 Writing Applications.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials demonstrate knowledge of principles of composition such as appropriate structure, logical development of ideas, appropriate vocabulary, and context. Candidates compose and/or analyze writing in different genres, including arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives, as well as summaries, letters, and research reports. Candidates demonstrate the ability to write arguments to support claims using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. Candidates demonstrate the ability to write informative/explanatory texts, including career development documents (e.g., business letters, job applications), and to examine and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content. When writing an argument or informative/explanatory text, candidates draw evidence from literary and/or

**MULTIPLE SUBJECTS**  
**SUBTEST I: READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE; HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

informational texts to support research, analysis, and reflection. Candidates demonstrate the ability to write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

- 2.4 Non-Written Communication.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials demonstrate knowledge of non-written genres and traditions (storytelling), and of their characteristics (e.g., organization), including narratives, persuasive pieces, research presentations, poetry recitations, and responses to literature. Candidates analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) and evaluate the motives (e.g., social, commercial, political) behind its presentation. They demonstrate the ability to delineate a speaker's argument and specific claims, evaluating the soundness of the speaker's reasoning and the relevance and sufficiency of evidence presented. They apply understanding of language development stages, from pre-production (beginning) to intermediate fluency, to plan instruction according to children's developing abilities in such areas. Candidates analyze speech in terms of vocal characteristics (e.g., volume), fluency, and pronunciation (unrelated to accent or dialect). They identify the integration of nonverbal components (e.g., gesture, eye contact) with verbal elements (e.g., tone, volume). Candidates demonstrate knowledge of dialects, idiolects, and changes in what is considered standard oral English usage and their effects on perceptions of speaker performance, with attention to the dangers of stereotyping and bias. They demonstrate the ability to adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate. Candidates demonstrate knowledge of techniques and strategies for initiating and engaging effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- 2.5 Research to Build and Present Knowledge.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials demonstrate the ability to gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital research sources. They assess the credibility and accuracy of each source. They interpret their research findings and interpretations to construct their own reports and narratives and present claims and findings (e.g., argument, narrative, response to literature), emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, reasoning, and details. Candidates accurately paraphrase the data and conclusions of others without plagiarizing. They understand the importance of citing research sources, using recognizable and accepted conventions for doing so. They demonstrate knowledge of effective strategies for integrating technology, multimedia, and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. Candidates demonstrate knowledge of appropriate and effective use of eye contact, vocal elements (e.g., volume, rate, pitch), and clear pronunciation when presenting claims and findings.

**MULTIPLE SUBJECTS**  
**SUBTEST I: READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE; HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**0003 Reading Comprehension and Analysis (SMR Domain 3)**

- 3.1 Reading Literature.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials analyze works from different literary genres (e.g., novels, short stories, folktales and fairy tales, poems) as they are represented in diverse cultures, with special attention to children's literature, for both literary elements and structural features. They cite thorough textual evidence to support analysis of the explicit and implicit meaning of literary texts. When reading literary texts, they determine themes or central ideas, including those derived from cultural patterns and symbols found in rituals, mythologies, and traditions. Candidates analyze how dialogue and incidents in a work of fiction or drama move the action forward and/or reveal aspects of character. Candidates identify and evaluate literary devices in prose and poetry (e.g., rhyme, metaphor, alliteration). Candidates determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in literary texts, including figurative and connotative meanings. They analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone. They examine how an author's choices concerning structure contribute to a literary text's meaning and style. Candidates analyze how differences in the points of view of characters and the audience or reader create such effects as suspense or humor.
- 3.2 Reading Informational Text.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials analyze the structure, organization, and purpose of informational texts. Candidates use thorough textual evidence to support analysis of the explicit and implicit meanings of texts. They demonstrate the ability to determine the central idea of an informational text and to analyze its development over the course of a text, including its relationship to supporting ideas. Candidates demonstrate the ability to provide an objective summary of an informational text, using academic language as appropriate. They determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in informational texts, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings. They analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of how the structure of informational texts, including popular print and digital media, is used to develop and refine key concepts. They analyze the use of text features (e.g., graphics, headers, captions) in consumer materials. Candidates determine an author's point(s) of view and purpose(s) and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or viewpoints. Candidates integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats, as well as in words. They evaluate the structure and purpose of visual text features such as graphics, illustrations, data, and maps. Candidates recognize and analyze instances of bias and stereotyping in informational texts.
- 3.3 Text Complexity.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials evaluate text complexity using quantitative tools and measures, as well as knowledge of qualitative dimensions such as levels of meaning, structure, language conventionality and clarity, and background knowledge demands. Candidates apply knowledge of text complexity to select appropriate texts for supporting student learning goals. When matching readers to a text and task, candidates apply knowledge of reader variables (e.g., language, culture, motivation, background knowledge, skill levels, and experiences), and of task variables such as purpose and complexity.

**MULTIPLE SUBJECTS**  
**SUBTEST I: READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE; HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**CONTENT SPECIFICATIONS IN HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**Part I: Content Domains for  
Subject Matter Understanding and Skill in  
History and Social Science**

**0004 World History (SMR Domain 1)**

- 1.1 Ancient Civilizations.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials trace the impact of physical geography on the development of ancient civilizations (i.e., Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Kush, Hebrew, Greek, Indian, Chinese, and Roman civilizations). They identify the intellectual contributions, artistic forms, and traditions (including the religious beliefs) of these civilizations. They recognize patterns of trade and commerce that influenced these civilizations.
- 1.2 Medieval and Early Modern Times.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials describe the influence of physical geography on the development of medieval and early modern civilizations (i.e., Chinese, Japanese, African, Arabian, Mesoamerican, Andean Highland, and European civilizations). They trace the decline of the Western Roman Empire and the development of feudalism as a social and economic system in Europe and Japan. They identify the art, architecture, and science of Pre-Columbian America. Candidates describe the role of Christianity in medieval and early modern Europe, its expansion beyond Europe, and the role of Islam and its impact on Arabia, Africa, Europe and Asia. They trace the development of the Renaissance and Scientific Revolution in Europe. They define the development of early modern capitalism and its global consequences. They describe the evolution of the idea of representative democracy from the Magna Carta through the Enlightenment.

**0005 United States History (SMR Domain 2)**

- 2.1 Early Exploration, Colonial Era, and the War for Independence.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials identify and describe European exploration and settlement, and the struggle for control of North America during the Colonial Era, including cooperation and conflict among American Indians and new settlers. They identify the founders and discuss their religious, economic and political reasons for colonization of North America. They describe European colonial rule and its relationship with American Indian societies. Candidates describe the development and institutionalization of African slavery in the western hemisphere and its consequences in Sub-Saharan Africa. They describe the causes of the War for Independence, elements of political and military leadership, the impact of the war on Americans, the role of France, and the key ideas embodied within the Declaration of Independence.

**MULTIPLE SUBJECTS**  
**SUBTEST I: READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE; HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

- 2.2 The Development of the Constitution and the Early Republic.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials describe the political system of the United States and the ways that citizens participate in it through executive, legislative and judicial processes. They define the Articles of Confederation and the factors leading to the development of the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights. They explain the major principles of government and political philosophy contained within the Constitution, especially separation of powers and federalism. Candidates trace the evolution of political parties, describe their differing visions for the country, and analyze their impact on economic development policies. They identify historical, cultural, economic and geographic factors that led to the formation of distinct regional identities. They describe the westward movement, expansion of U.S. borders, and government policies toward American Indians and foreign nations during the Early Republic. They identify the roles of Blacks (both slave and free), American Indians, the Irish and other immigrants, women and children in the political, cultural and economic life of the new country.
- 2.3 Civil War and Reconstruction.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials recognize the origin and the evolution of the anti-slavery movement, including the roles of free Blacks and women, and the response of those who defended slavery. They describe evidence for the economic, social and political causes of the Civil War, including the constitutional debates over the doctrine of nullification and secession. They identify the major battles of the Civil War and the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the Union and the Confederacy. They describe the character of Reconstruction, factors leading to its abandonment, and the rise of Jim Crow practices.
- 2.4 The Rise of Industrial America.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials recognize the pattern of urban growth in the United States, the impact of successive waves of immigration in the nineteenth century, and the response of renewed nativism. They understand the impact of major inventions on the Industrial Revolution and the quality of life.

**0006 California History (SMR Domain 3)**

- 3.1 The Pre-Columbian Period through the Gold Rush.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials identify the impact of California's physical geography on its history. They describe the geography, economic activities, folklore and religion of California's American Indian peoples. They discuss the impact of Spanish exploration and colonization, including the mission system and its influence on the development of the agricultural economy of early California. They describe Mexican rule in California. They state the causes of the war between Mexico and the United States and its consequences for California. They describe the discovery of gold and its cultural, social, political and economic effects in California, including its impact on American Indians and Mexican nationals.

**MULTIPLE SUBJECTS**  
**SUBTEST I: READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE; HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

- 3.2 Economic, Political, and Cultural Development Since the 1850's.** Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials identify key principles of the California Constitution, including the Progressive-era reforms of initiative, referendum and recall, and they recognize similarities and differences between it and the U. S. Constitution. They identify patterns of immigration to California, including the Dust Bowl migration, and discuss their impact on the cultural, economic, social and political development of the state. They identify the effects of federal and state law on the legal status of immigrants. They describe historical and contemporary perspectives on cultural diversity in the United States and in California. Candidates understand the development and identify the locations of California's major economic activities: mining, large-scale agriculture, entertainment, recreation, aerospace, electronics and international trade. They identify factors leading to the development of California's water delivery system, and describe its relationship to California geography.

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

Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials utilize chronological and spatial thinking. They construct and interpret timelines, tables, graphs, maps and charts. They locate places based on ordinal directions, latitude and longitude, the equator, prime meridian, the tropics, the hemispheres, time zones and the international dateline. They identify and interpret major geographical features of the earth's surface including continents and other large landmasses, mountain ranges, forested areas, grasslands, deserts and major bodies of water and rivers. They describe the cultural, historical, economic and political characteristics of world regions, including human features of the regions such as population, land use patterns and settlement patterns.

Candidates apply and explain concepts from history and social studies, including political science and government, geography, economics, demography, anthropology, philosophy, and sociology.

They explain basic concepts of:

- political science and government, including political institutions, power and authority, monarchy, totalitarianism, republicanism, democracy, limited government, and the roles and responsibilities of citizenship;
- geography, including maps and globes, places and regions, the earth's physical and human systems, human settlement and migration, spatial relationships, cultural diffusion, and human-environment interactions;
- economics, including scarcity, opportunity cost, the operation of supply and demand, the circular flow model of economic exchanges, the business cycle, fiscal and monetary policy, and international trade and economic globalization;
- demography, including factors associated with human migration;
- anthropology, including the nature and content of culture and the historical and cultural development of human society, including hunting and gathering, nomadic pastoralism, domestication of plants and animals, and the creation and evolution of human settlements and cities;
- philosophy (including religion and other belief systems) and its impact on history and society; and

**MULTIPLE SUBJECTS**  
**SUBTEST I: READING, LANGUAGE, AND LITERATURE; HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE**

- sociology related to individuals; interpersonal relationships; institutions, including family and community; and social structure, including occupation, socio-economic class, ethnicity, and gender.

Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials analyze, interpret and evaluate research evidence in history and the social sciences. They interpret primary and secondary sources, including written documents, narratives, photographs, art and artifacts revealed through archeology. In relation to confirmed research evidence they assess curricular materials and contrast differing points of view on historic and current events.

Candidates determine the meaning of academic language as used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text. They analyze in detail how a complex primary source is structured, including how key sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text contribute to the whole.

Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source and provide an accurate summary that makes clear the relationships between key details and ideas. They are able to cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole. Candidates evaluate various explanations for actions or events and determine which explanation is best supported by textual evidence and they acknowledge where the text leaves matters uncertain.

Candidates evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media. They integrate information from diverse primary and secondary sources into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies between sources.

Candidates evaluate authors' differing points of view on the same historical event or issue by assessing the author's premises, claims, reasoning, and evidence by corroborating or challenging them with other information.

In the interpretation of historical and current events, candidates identify, explain and discuss multiple causes and effects. They recognize the differing ramifications of historical and current events for people of varying ethnic, racial, socio-economic, cultural and gender backgrounds.

Candidates for Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials write arguments that introduce and develop precise, knowledgeable claims and counterclaims, and prepare informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events. Candidates are able to introduce a topic and organize complex ideas, concepts, and information into a unified whole. They select significant and relevant facts, definitions, details, and examples to develop their topic; use precise language and varied transitions and sentence structures to link major sections of a text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between ideas; and provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation provided.