

Praxis Reading Help

The only person who can help you with the Praxis is YOU. You are the only one who can do the work that you will need to pass. Here are some tips that can help you raise your score if you are willing to work towards passing the Praxis at least five days a week. Studying hard for one week prior to the test will not help you as much.

- 1) **READ:** You must be willing to read for 20 minutes every day. Reading builds stamina. It does not matter what you read but you must read. Students who have difficulty passing the reading portion of the test have two things in common: they do not read on a regular basis nor do they consider themselves readers.
- 2) **CONCENTRATION:** Do you have trouble concentrating when you are taking the test? Do you get easily distracted on both fiction and nonfiction passages? Or is it just one? You must try and build your stamina for reading materials that might be difficult. Get a stopwatch or a timer. When you are reading for an assignment or for pleasure, take note of how long you can read for without getting distracted. Note the time when you first get distracted. How long were you able to read? Then work towards reading for longer periods of time before getting distracted. Keep track of your progress. Make sure to read more fiction if you have trouble concentrating on the fiction or vice versa.
- 3) **WHAT DID YOU READ:** After reading, get into the habit of asking yourself what you read? Can you tell what it was about? Do you remember any details? You should be able to say something about after every text you read. If you can't talk about it, you did not understand it.
- 4) **ANALYZING YOUR PRACTICE TEST FROM THE BOOKS:** Analyze your practice test. Are you missing more literal or inferential questions? Make a chart and keep tally for every passage you take. See if you are improving or staying the same.

Literal questions means that the answer is right in the text. You need to read more closely to locate those answers. For each literal question that you miss, go back to the test and find the exact information that provides the answer. Ask yourself: Why did I miss that? Did I not read carefully? Did I not go back to the passage to search for the answer?

Inferential/Critical questions require deep thinking. You have to figure out what is not said but implied or you are asked to make a judgment about something. In

order to answer these kinds of questions, you still need to read carefully but then you need to think. You can read more about these strategies on books about teaching (also see chapter below).

Practice Test	Critical and Inferential Comprehension	Literal Comprehension
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

- 5) READ ABOUT COMPREHENSION: Read the Owocki chapter about comprehension. It is written for teachers of young children but it explains the kinds of thinking you need to do when answering inferential or critical questions. You then need to apply those strategies when you read.
- 6) ANALYZE THE SCORES FROM YOUR PRAXIS TESTS: Look over your scores. Have you improved in each of the areas or stayed the same? You have to do different kind of thinking and work to improve your scores in each area. Pick one area to focus on for a little bit and then when you get strong in that area, move on to the second area.

Date List first time taken to most recent	Overall Score	Critical and Inferential Comprehension	Literal Comprehension
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

Above are 6 actions you can take to help yourself on the praxis. You are capable of passing if give daily effort and do the steps above. Good Luck.

_____ 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____ 6