



Elementary Education Social Studies Praxis II Help Page

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Start by knowing what topics are covered on this test. Go to the *The Praxis Study Companion* <https://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5001.pdf> online to access the total number of questions on the test in each social studies category and the topics covered in each of the three sections (pages 13-14). There is also an 11 question practice test for social studies included and the rationale for the correct answers.

To study for each of the three sections, I'm suggesting you access and use the following materials and free websites. You may also want to form study groups with other students, find additional websites online, and/or purchase text banks.

Section 1) United States History, Government, and Citizenship. The majority (45%) of the questions focus on topics related to this.

United States History and Government Regents Review Packet (17 pages)

This is a study guide for the Regents Review test in New York State that includes similar topics as the Praxis. There are various versions of this study guide if you Google the title above. One guide for Henry Hudson School District is good because it reviews everything chronologically. There are sites with flashcards, review games, practice tests, etc. Choose what works best for you.

http://www.passtheregents.com/documents/D30_US_History_Review_Packet.pdf

Remember, you must know the key documents, key Supreme Court cases, conflicts, Constitutional amendments, etc. Many questions focus on cause and effect.

<http://www.sparknotes.com/history/>

Another helpful site is Sparknotes. Here you will find good summaries of many American historical periods and there is a review test at the end of each section with good feedback.

http://www.pinkmonkey.com/studyguides/subjects/am_his/contents.asp

Pink Monkey is another good study site with sections on American History and on American Government. I especially find the “Points to remember” at the end of each study section helpful.

Section 2) Geography, Anthropology and Sociology (30% of the questions focus on these topics.)

This link below is to a study guide put out by the Michigan State Board of Education for teacher certification. It is not specifically for the Praxis, but provides sample questions that are similar.

http://www.mttc.nesinc.com/PDFs/MI_field008_SG.pdf

For basic geography study, these sites provide lots of practice questions. They are not as difficult as the Praxis questions, but can help you review your geography skills.

http://www.mttc.nesinc.com/PDFs/MI_field008_SG.pdf

<http://staff.harrisonburg.k12.va.us/~cwalton/solpracticegeographytwo.htm>

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/released_tests/2012/history/test12_world_geography.pdf

National Geographic also has their national bee questions available from previous years that make for good study.

Section 3) World History and Economics. (25% of the questions focus on these topics.)

http://www.solpass.org/HShistory/world_to_present-2008.pdf?section=study-1

This 22 page study guide includes political, cultural, geographic and economic issues from 1500 to the present. It's an outline and makes connections for you.

Sparknotes, Pink Monkey, and Quizlet also have study guides and flashcards for different periods of time throughout world history. The quizzes these sites offer as well as the summaries (Points to Remember) at the end of each section will help facilitate your study.

Also, The History of the World in Two Hours, a video put out by The History Channel provides a good overview and review of world civilizations coming to power and their various contributions. This helps with providing a good geographic overview as well. This video can be accessed through <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8q9-ier0R1s>

Avoid study guides for AP History and AP Geography tests as these are quite different tests from the Praxis II. Many of the study guides I have listed are for high school students to study for end of level high school tests. These are helpful as a review for you as much of the same information is tested on the Praxis II. Your university prerequisite course exams should also give you good study material.

To do well on the Praxis II Social Studies content test, remember to:

Before the test:

- Study and quiz yourself both silently and aloud before the test.
- Spend as much time as possible studying. You cannot be too prepared.
- Complete practice questions and time yourself. How long are you spending in general on each question? Use this information to help you schedule your time when testing. Don't be in too big of a hurry, but push yourself somewhat.

During the test:

- Carefully read the questions and consider which answer options make no sense. Then proceed with **what makes sense** according to what you know. Make EDUCATED guesses. Don't just give up and mark anything.
- DO make an educated guess if you don't know.
- Take your time to read and think. You most likely will not run out of time.
- Return to check certain questions if time allows.