

Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure™
Test Objectives
Field 01: Communication and Literacy Skills

SUBTESTS:

READING
WRITING

READING

0001 Determine the meaning of words and phrases.

For example: using context clues to determine the meaning of a word with multiple meanings; using the context of a paragraph or passage as a clue to the meaning of an unfamiliar or uncommon word or phrase; and determining the meaning of a figurative expression from its context in a paragraph or passage.

0002 Understand the main idea and supporting details in written material.

For example: identifying the explicit main idea of a paragraph or passage; identifying the statement that best expresses the implied main idea of a paragraph or passage; and recognizing ideas that support, illustrate, or elaborate the main idea of a paragraph or passage.

0003 Identify a writer's purpose, point of view, and intended meaning.

For example: recognizing a statement of a writer's expressed or implied purpose for writing (e.g., to persuade, to describe); evaluating the appropriateness of written material for a specific purpose or audience; recognizing the likely effect on an audience of a writer's choice of words; and using the content, word choice, and phrasing of a passage to determine a writer's opinions or point of view.

0004 Analyze the relationship among ideas in written material.

For example: identifying a sequence of events or steps; recognizing cause-effect relationships; analyzing relationships between ideas in opposition (e.g., pro and con); identifying a solution to a problem presented in a passage; and drawing conclusions inductively and deductively from information stated or implied in a passage.

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0005 Use critical reasoning skills to evaluate written material.

For example: analyzing the stated or implied assumptions on which the validity of an argument depends; judging the relevance or importance of particular facts, examples, or graphic data to a writer's argument; evaluating the logic of a writer's argument; evaluating the validity of analogies; distinguishing between fact and opinion; and assessing the credibility or objectivity of the writer or source of written material.

0006 Apply skills for outlining and summarizing written materials and interpreting information presented in graphic form.

For example: organizing information for study purposes (e.g., using note-taking skills, outlining, mapping the text); following written instructions or directions; interpreting information presented in charts, graphs, or tables; and identifying a summary of a passage.

WRITING

0007 Recognize purpose and audience.

For example: recognizing writing that is appropriate for a given purpose; and recognizing writing that is appropriate for a given audience and occasion.

0008 Recognize unity, focus, and development in writing.

For example: recognizing unnecessary shifts in point of view (e.g., shifts from first to third person) or distracting details that impair the development of the main idea in a piece of writing; recognizing revisions that improve the unity and focus of a piece of writing; and recognizing examples of well-developed writing.

0009 Recognize effective organization in writing.

For example: recognizing methods of paragraph organization; reorganizing sentences to improve coherence and the effective sequence of ideas; and recognizing the appropriate use of transitional words or phrases to convey text structure.

0010 Recognize effective sentences.

For example: recognizing ineffective repetition and inefficiency in sentence construction; identifying sentence fragments and run-on sentences; identifying standard subject-verb agreement; identifying standard placement of modifiers, parallel structure, and use of negatives in sentence formation; and recognizing imprecise and inappropriate word choice.

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0011 Recognize writing that conforms to standards of edited American English usage.

For example: recognizing the standard use of verb forms; recognizing the standard use of pronouns; recognizing the standard formation and use of adverbs, adjectives, comparatives and superlatives, and plural and possessive forms of nouns; and recognizing standard punctuation.

0012 Demonstrate the ability to write on a given topic using language and style appropriate to a given audience, purpose, and occasion.

For example: preparing writing samples on a given topic for a specified audience; matching language and style to a given audience; and writing for a specified purpose and/or occasion.

0013 Demonstrate the ability to prepare a unified and focused piece of writing.

For example: preparing writing samples on specified topics that establish and maintain a unified theme; establishing and maintaining a specific focus; and incorporating effective thesis statements, transitions, and conclusions.

0014 Demonstrate the ability to develop and support a topic in a piece of writing.

For example: preparing writing samples that show effective topic development, illustrations, and examples; using effective reasoning to support a given topic; and presenting a concise summary (e.g., précis, abstract) of a passage.

0015 Demonstrate the ability to prepare a well-organized piece of writing.

For example: preparing writing samples that demonstrate effective organization; employing appropriate organizational strategies in writing; and maintaining effective organization throughout a writing sample.

0016 Demonstrate the ability to use effective sentence structure.

For example: preparing writing samples that demonstrate proper and effective sentence structure.

0017 Demonstrate the ability to apply the standards of edited American English usage.

For example: preparing writing samples that employ the standards of edited American English word usage and grammar in ways appropriate to the audience and purpose of the writing sample.

0018 Demonstrate the ability to spell, capitalize, and punctuate according to the standards of edited American English.

For example: preparing writing samples that employ the standards of edited American English mechanics and punctuation in ways appropriate to the audience and purpose of the writing sample.