ALST Survival Guide
Test Taking Strategies for the Academic Literacy Skills Test

@CUNYTeacherEd
Student Webinar Series
May 1, 2014
Welcome

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Webinar Information

- All participant lines are muted
- Questions can be submitted through the chat feature
- This webinar deck is archived at our Teacher Education Student Resource page:
  - [www.cuny.edu/teachered](http://www.cuny.edu/teachered)
The ALST measures academic literacy skills necessary to teach effectively in New York State public schools.

From the ALST Framework:
- “The test consists of selected-response items, followed by focused constructed-response items and an extended writing assignment.”
- “Each item requires the analysis of complex literary or informational text.”
## Test Format

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Selected-Response</th>
<th>Constructed-Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approximate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Items</td>
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<td>Approximate</td>
<td>Number of Items</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentage of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Test Score</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0001 Reading</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0002 Writing to Sources</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>2 focused response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 extended response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Registration

- Exam Fee: $131

- Registration:
  - http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/

- Computer based testing sites:
  - www.pearsonvue.com/es/locate/
Testing Strategies
Plan Your Time

From the exam framework:

The total testing time is 210 minutes. Candidates are free to set their own pace during the test administration. The following estimates were used to determine the total test time:

- Each focused constructed-response item is designed with the expectation of a response up to 20 minutes.
- The extended writing assignment is designed with the expectation of a response up to 60 minutes.
- The selected-response items are designed with the expectation of response time up to 110 minutes.

Constructed response items count for 60% of your total score. The selected response items are 40% of your total score.

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Computer-Based Platform

- The ALST is only offered through computer-based testing, which may be a new format for many candidates.

  - Computer-based testing tutorial

  - Sample Practice Test
    - [https://www.starttest.com/ITDVersions/5.0.0.0/ITDStart.aspx?SVC=9f571e8a-adc2-47bf-a5e9-4b37f1deeaac](https://www.starttest.com/ITDVersions/5.0.0.0/ITDStart.aspx?SVC=9f571e8a-adc2-47bf-a5e9-4b37f1deeaac)
Computer-Based Testing Strategies

- Note taking
  - “Whiteboard” to take notes

- Navigating the System
  - Move to different parts of the test using the “navigator” feature

- Flagging Questions for Review
  - Allows you to identify questions you skipped or want to come back to
Test Taking Strategies

- Read the questions first before reading the passages
- Note taking: using the whiteboard to note key terms and ideas
- Make sure the answer is supported by the text
Review the Rubrics

Extended Response
- CONTENT AND ANALYSIS
- COMMAND OF EVIDENCE
- COHERENCE, ORGANIZATION, AND STYLE
- CONTROL OF CONVENTIONS

Focused Response
- CONTENT
- ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, AND INTEGRATION
- COMMAND OF EVIDENCE
- COHERENCE AND CLARITY
Writing Strategies

- Read the writing prompts first so you know what evidence to look for

- As you read passages, take note of evidence you may want to include in your constructed response

- Plan your format: Claim, Evidence, Analysis
Preparation Materials

- ALST Preparation Guide here
- ALST Test Design and Framework here
- ALST Practice Test (Fee $29.95) here
Thank you

Additional questions? Email: teacher.education@cuny.edu