PRAXIS Test Taking Tips

1. Get a free copy of *Praxis I: Academic Skill Assessments Tests At A Glance* It contains sample questions and includes essay topics of the writing test (call 609-771-7395 to request a copy or download a copy at www.ets.org/praxis).

2. Register for the praxis paper-based tests at www.ets.org/praxis with a credit card or by mail, with a check or credit card, using the registration form in the Bulletin. **IMPORTANT**: when registering for the test, be sure to use the exact same name as shown on the identification document that you will present at the test center.

3. Remember to take to the test a photo ID which includes your signature. (i.e. driver’s license, employee ID, passport, military ID). If you take your student ID, you must have an additional photo or signature ID. **Credit cards & check cards are not accepted.** Alternative: Ask Dean’s office to affix your photo to college stationery and impress the school seal over your picture. It must be signed by you and the Dean.

4. If you arrived late for the test, you will most likely not be admitted. Standby paper-based test-takers will be seated when the test is scheduled to begin. Arrive 30 minutes early for the computer based test. Paper-based test-takers must be on time or a standby may take your place (see Bulletin for test day schedule.)

5. Dress so that you can adapt to any room temperature. You do not want to be uncomfortable, it may hinder your test-taking ability.

6. Leave extra items in your car. You will not be permitted to bring them into the testing room. **DO NOT BRING YOUR CELL PHONE.** If you cause a disturbance you will be asked to leave.

7. Take three or four No. 2 Pencils (mechanical pencils cannot be used) and a blue or black pen.

8. Take a watch with you to pace yourself as you work on each section. Do not spend too much time on one question if it causes you to neglect others. Every question within each section has the same weight.

9. Work steadily and as rapidly as possible without being careless. If taking the paper/pencil version, it is wise to answer the questions you are sure about first. Then, if you have time, go back to the more difficult questions. If you are taking the computer version, you cannot go back to questions.

10. Read each question carefully and thoroughly. Be sure you know exactly what is being asked and read **all** the answers before you select one.
11. Guessing

If taking the pencil/paper version: “Because scores on the PPST are based only on the number of correct answers, you should guess at the answer to a question rather than not respond at all. You risk nothing by guessing.”

If taking the computer adaptive version (CBT): “Because scores on the PPST are based only on the number of correct answers, you should guess at the answer to a question rather than not respond at all. You risk nothing by guessing.” Don’t waste a lot of time on a question, indicate your best answer, and then move on. If you are not sure of the answer, mark the question so you can come back later if time permits.

12. Be alert to the format of questions. For example, watch for questions that use words such as NOT, EXCEPT, or LEAST. In this type of question, you are being asked to identify the exception or the choice which is incompatible with the others.

Example:
Which of the following would NOT be a primary source for the investigation of an historic event?

A. An article by a newspaper reporter who was present
B. The memoirs of an eyewitness to the event
C. A textbook account
D. A videotape of the event
E. A report by a public official who was at the scene

Of the choices, the only one NOT a primary source is C.

A second type of special format is the “Roman numeral” format.

Example:
Which of the following countries are in North America?

I. Canada
II. Argentina
III. Mexico
IV. United States of America

A. I and IV only
B. II and III only
C. III and IV only
D. I, III, and IV
E. I, II, III, and IV

In a question of this type, you must choose the correct combination of options, and sometimes the options must be in a particular order or sequence. In this case, three options are correct. Thus, the best answer is D.
13. Mark your answers carefully. Be sure the number of the question you are responding to on the sheet matches the question number in the book. Fill in the answer space completely with a heavy dark mark. Erase any unintended marks completely.

14. Test makers strive to eliminate any patterns of answers. Therefore, don’t use a test taking strategy that looks for patterns, as there aren’t any. Additionally, the answers vary from booklet to booklet.

15. Be sure to read and follow all the testing center regulations. A test center supervisor is authorized to dismiss you from a test session and/or your scores may be canceled by ETS for infractions such as:

- Using a telephone or cell phone during the test session. Make sure your phone/beeper is turned OFF!
- Taking excessive or extended unscheduled breaks during the test session
- Communicating about the test in any manner with any person, other than the test center supervisor and/or staff, during the test session
- Obtaining improper access to the test or information about the test
- Referring to, looking through, or working on any test, or test section, other than during the period for that test or section (paper/pencil test)
- Using any prohibited aids in connection with the test, such as compasses, protractors, rulers, calculators, watch alarms/calculators, beepers, pagers, paper, books, pamphlets, highlighter pens, stereos or radios with head phones, dictionaries (including electronic), translators, other personal digital/electronic recording or photographic devices
  - Some subject test require a graphing calculator
  - Be sure to read all the information regarding subject tests (there may be requirements i.e.; the Art Making Test requires you to bring colored images
- Taking food or drink into the testing room
- Leaving the testing room without permission
- Attempting to remove from the test room any part of a test book or any notes relating to the test
- Attempting to give or receive assistance in any manner to/from another person during the test
- Attempting to take the test for someone else
- Creating a disturbance or behaving inappropriately
- Accessing lockers during the test session
- Attempting to tamper with the computer (CBT test)
- Failing to follow any of the test administration regulations