Dr. Amy Hsu
Professional Development Day
Fall 2014

Test-Taking Strategies for the ALST
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>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of Items</td>
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<td>Approximate</td>
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<td>Percentage of</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Test Score</td>
<td>Test Score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0001 Reading</td>
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<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0002 Writing to</td>
<td>--</td>
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<td>Sources</td>
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<td>60%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Computer-based testing tutorial
http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/NY_CBTTutorial.asp
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
Sample Questions

- Use strategies to answer some sample questions
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

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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.
Look at sample from NYSTCE site and discuss

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/STUDYGUIDE/NY_SG_CRI_202.htm#perf
Questions and Comments