

NYSTCE Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST)



TEST TAKING STRATEGIES & LITERACY SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

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◦ Registration:

<http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/>

◦ Computer based testing sites:

www.pearsonvue.com/es/locate/

Test Information



- **Test Length:** 3 Hours 30 Minutes (210 Minutes) + 15 minutes for CBT tutorial & nondisclosure agreement
- **Test Format:** Computer Based Test
- **Types of Questions:** 40 selected-response items (multiple choice), 2 focused-response items (short-answer), 1 extended-response item (essay)
- **Passing Score:** 520
- **Test Fee:** \$131

Score Report Breakdown



SCORE REPORT

Test Date: September 1, 20XX

TEST: 202 Academic Literacy Skills
Test

TOTAL SCORE: 492 STATUS: Did
Not Pass

MINIMUM PASSING SCORE: 520

Selected-Response

001: Reading +++

Constructed-Response

002: Writing to Sources ++

Performance Index Definitions

++++ Performance on the skills and knowledge is well above the level represented by the minimum passing score.

+++ Performance on the skills and knowledge is just at or above the level represented by the minimum passing score.

++ Performance on the skills and knowledge is just below the level represented by the minimum passing score.

+ Performance on the skills and knowledge is well below the level represented by the minimum passing score.

Computer-Based Testing Tips



- Tutorial before start of test to describe computer test (15 minutes)
https://www.testing.nesinc.com/cbttutorial/tutorial/tutorial_page_1.html
- The following notifications appear in the upper right-hand corner of the screen throughout the duration of testing session:
 - “Time remaining” warning
 - Item count(number of current item, out of total number of items)
 - “Flag for review” button (allows you to flag items for future review)

Computer-Based Testing Tips



- Buttons at bottom of the screen:
 - “Previous”
 - “Next”
 - “Navigator”
- By clicking “Navigator”, you are able to see questions that are **complete, incomplete, unseen, and flagged for review.**
- Pop-up Warnings:
 - “You have not viewed the entire screen. Make sure you scroll to every corner of the page.” (in the event you move to the next page without scrolling through entire text on one page, missing some information)
 - “You have 30 minutes remaining”
 - “Are you sure you want to end this test?” (Attempting to end the test without completing all the questions, the following warning message appears twice. You have to confirm decision twice before exiting the test.)

Literacy Skills: Reading and Writing for the ALST



- **Reading (Multiple Choice Questions: 4 choices/Q)**
 - Logistics (40% of Test Score: 40 questions)
 - Process
 - Vocabulary Questions
 - Higher Order Thinking Questions
 - Helpful Hints
- **Writing (Constructed-Response Questions)**
 - Logistics (60% of Test Score: 3 Questions)
 - Process for Writing Short-Response
 - Process for Writing Essay Response

ALST Literacy Strategies for Selected-Response Questions



- Reading Process: Seven Steps
 - 1. Read Title & Introductory Information
 - 2. Skim Questions
 - 3. Skim Passage
 - 4. Choose a Question to Answer
 - 5. Use RULE OF THUMB
 - 6. Cover Answer Choices, Decide on Your Answer, Uncover, & Match
 - 7. Process of Elimination
- Vocabulary Questions
 - Read Vocabulary in Context
 - Use Rule of Thumb

*See Study Guide on **ALST Literacy Strategies for Selected-Response Questions (Sieben)** in your packet for details.

ALST Literacy Strategies for Selected-Response Questions



- Higher Order Thinking Questions
 - 1. Determine Central Ideas
 - 2. Analyze the Development of Central Ideas
 - 3. Analyze Specific Sentences, Paragraphs, & Larger Portions
 - 4. Recognize Difference between Main Idea & Primary Purpose
 - 5. Assess Purpose for Content & Style of Text
- Helpful Hints
 - The answer is always in the passage:
 - ✦ Don't use outside information.
 - ✦ Find the answer in context.
 - ✦ Use the Rule of Thumb.
 - ✦ Practice:
http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/STUDYGUIDE/NY_SG_SRI_202.htm

*See Study Guide on **ALST Literacy Strategies for Selected-Response Questions (Sieben)** in your packet for details.

ALST Writing Strategies for Writing to Sources Section



- Write responses for audience of **educated** adults. *Avoid use of slang and casual language. Do not use the words “you” or “I” in your response. Keep it formal.*
- Responses need to conform to conventions of standard written American English.
- **Note:** *There will be two passages and a graphic for you to read, interpret, and write your responses about for both the focused constructed-responses and the extended response question.*

Focused Constructed-Response (Short-Answer) Questions:

- Each Response is 100-200 Words.
- Spend about 20 minutes on each.
- Answer all parts of the question.

Focused Constructed-Response (Short-Answer) Writing Process:

- 1. *Read all the questions first.*
- 2. *Read both passages and the graphic for Main Ideas.*
- 3. *Take notes while reading.*
- 4. *Reread the first constructed response question.*
- 5. *Outline your response.*
- 6. *Write your response.*
- 7. *Edit your response for content and grammar.*
- 8. *Repeat steps 4-7 for the second constructed response question.*

A well-developed body paragraph contains...



1. **Topic Sentence** (i.e., main idea of the paragraph)
2. **Commentary** that explains the topic sentence (i.e., reason for validity of topic sentence)
3. **Examples/ Evidence** from the text to support the central idea of the paragraph (Use proper quotation format and gives sources credit.)
4. **Analysis** as to the validity of the evidence
5. **Conclusion** of the main points in the paragraph (i.e., reinforce central idea)

Extended-Response (Essay) Question:



- Requires a response of 400-600 words.
- The question will most likely ask you to construct a written argument.
- Allow yourself about 60 minutes to construct your Extended-Response.
- Answer all parts of the question.

Features of Written Argument



- Claim (Thesis)
- Reasons
- Evidence
- (Recognize & Refute Counter Argument)

Writing Process for Extended-Response (Essay) Question



1. *Reread the extended-response question.*

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/STUDYGUIDE/NY_SG_CRI_202.htm

2. *Outline your response.* List: (1) reasons and (2) evidence you will provide and analyze to support your argumentative claim.

3. *Write your response.* All evidence provided needs to be taken directly from the texts. (Give proper sources credit when citing evidence.)

4. *Edit your response* for content and grammar.

Your Argumentative Essay Should Contain:



1. *Introduction*
 1. *Short discussion of topic*
 2. *Argumentative Claim/ Thesis Statement*
2. *Body Paragraph #1 (Reason #1 with Evidence & Analysis)*
3. *Body Paragraph #2 (Reason #2 with Evidence & Analysis)*
4. *Body Paragraph #3 (Reason #3 with Evidence & Analysis)*
5. *Body Paragraph #4 (Counterclaim/ counterargument & rebuttal)*
6. *Conclusion*
 1. *Argumentative Claim/ Thesis Statement*
 2. *Summary of list of reasons provided to support claim*
 3. *Reinforce which text(s) significantly reinforce this claim*

Practice Constructed Responses & Know Rubrics



http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/STUDYGUIDE/NY_SG_CRI_202.htm

- Practice Test
- Know Rubrics Used to Score Your Response

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/STUDYGUIDE/PDFs/NY202_Rubric.pdf (longer)

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/STUDYGUIDE/NY_SG_CRI_202.htm#scoring (shorter)

Practice Tests & Additional Review



- <https://www.starttest.com/7.0.0.2/cart.aspx?program=NES&loc=ES&rgn=NYSTCE>
- \$30 from NYSTCE
- Get access for 30 days

- Books on Amazon
- <http://www.amazon.com/NYSTCE-Academic-Literacy-Skills-Secrets/dp/1630945730>

- Free Tutorials for Review from University Professors & Educational Consultants
<http://www.isnetworked.org/page/academic-literacy-skills-test-alst-37.html>

Questions?



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