



California  
Subject  
Examinations for  
Teachers®

# TEST GUIDE

## ENGLISH SUBTEST III

### Subtest Description

This document contains the English subject matter requirements arranged according to the domains covered by Subtest III of CSET: English. In parentheses after each named domain is the CCTC-assigned domain code from the English subject matter requirements.

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**California Subject Examinations for Teachers® (CSET®)**

**English  
Subtest III: Composition and Rhetoric; Reading Literature  
and Informational Texts**

**Part I: Content Domains for Subject Matter Understanding and Skill  
in English**

**COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC (SMR Domain 3)**

Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and contexts of the composition and rhetoric contained in the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (2013) at a postsecondary level of rigor. Candidates have both broad and deep conceptual knowledge of the subject matter. Candidates face dynamic challenges in the domains of oral and written communication. They must make appropriate use of current text-production technologies and develop awareness of patterns of communication used by diverse social and cultural groups. Candidates are competent writers and speakers who are able to communicate appropriately in various rhetorical contexts, using effective text structures, word choice, sentence options, standard usage conventions, and advanced research methods as needed. Candidates develop skills and confidence in public speaking. Candidates will be able to:

**0001 Writing Processes (Individual and Collaborative) (SMR 3.1)**

- a. Reflect on and describe their own writing processes
- b. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by freewriting, planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience
- c. Clarify and record meaning using strategies such as creating graphic organizers, outlines, notes, charts, summaries, or précis

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, W.6–12.5–6)

**0002 Text Types and Purposes (SMR 3.2)**

- a. Recognize and use a variety of writing applications (e.g., argument, informative/explanatory text, narrative, business and technical documents, historical investigation)
- b. Demonstrate awareness of audience, purpose, and context
- c. Recognize and use various text structures (e.g., narrative and non-narrative organizational patterns)

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- d. Apply a variety of methods to develop ideas within an essay (e.g., analogy, cause and effect, compare and contrast, definition, illustration, description, hypothesis)
- e. Demonstrate the ability to write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence
- f. Apply rhetorical techniques to develop arguments, including appeals to logic through inductive/deductive reasoning and appeals to emotion or ethical belief
- g. Demonstrate the ability to write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content
- h. Use evidence from literary texts to support analysis and reflection and to compose creative and aesthetically compelling responses to literature

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, W.6–12.1–3)

**0003 Production and Distribution of Writing (SMR 3.3)**

- a. Produce clear writing by employing precise and extensive vocabulary and effective diction to control voice, style, and tone
- b. Produce coherent writing by using clause-joining techniques (e.g., coordinators, subordinators, punctuation) to express logical connections between ideas
- c. Identify and use clausal and phrasal modifiers to control flow, pace, and emphasis (e.g., adjective clauses, appositives, participles and verbal phrases, absolutes)
- d. Identify and use devices to control focus in sentence and paragraph (e.g., active and passive voice, expletives, concrete subjects, transitional phrases)
- e. Demonstrate the ability to use technology, including the Internet, to produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, W.6–12.4–6)

**0004 Conventions of Oral and Written Language (SMR 3.4)**

- a. Apply knowledge of linguistic structure to identify and use the conventions of standard English
- b. Recognize, understand, and use a range of conventions in both spoken and written English, including:
  - ◆ Conventions of effective sentence structure (e.g., clear pronoun reference, parallel structure, appropriate verb tense)
  - ◆ Preferred usage (e.g., verb/subject agreement, pronoun agreement, idioms)
  - ◆ Conventional forms of spelling
  - ◆ Capitalization and punctuation
- c. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, L.6–12.1–3)

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**Research to Build and Present Knowledge (SMR 3.5)** *NOTE: Content from SMR 3.5 is contained only in Subtest I.*

- a. Demonstrate knowledge of strategies for developing and applying research questions
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of methods of inquiry and investigation
- c. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and knowledge; and critically evaluate the quality of the sources
- d. Interpret and apply findings
- e. Integrate information into a written text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following professional conventions and ethical standards of citation and attribution, including footnotes and endnotes

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, W.6–12.7–8)

**READING LITERATURE AND INFORMATIONAL TEXTS (SMR Domain 1)**

Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the foundations and contexts of reading literature and informational texts contained in the California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects (2013) at a postsecondary level of rigor. Candidates have both broad and deep conceptual knowledge of the subject matter. The candidate's preparation should include breadth of knowledge in literature, literary analysis and criticism, as well as informational text analysis. Literary analysis presumes in-depth exploration of the relationship between form and content. The curriculum should embrace representative selections from multiple literary traditions and major works from diverse cultures. Advanced study of authors representing a broad range of literary periods and cultures is fundamental preparation for teaching these works. Shakespeare remains integral to the secondary school curriculum; advanced study of his work is, therefore, essential to future secondary teachers. Candidates must know and apply effective reading strategies and compose thoughtful, well-crafted responses to literary and informational texts. Candidates will be able to:

**0005 Reading Literature (SMR 1.1)**

- a. Recognize, compare, and analyze works from different literary traditions to include:
  - ♦ American (including works that represent cultural pluralism)
  - ♦ British (including works that represent cultural pluralism)
  - ♦ World literature and literature in translation (including cross-cultural literature)
  - ♦ Mythology and oral tradition from a broad range of cultures
- b. Trace development of major literary movements in historical periods (e.g., Homeric Greece, medieval, neoclassic, romantic, modern)
- c. Describe the salient features of adolescent/Young Adult literature
- d. Demonstrate critical thinking and analytic skills through close reading of texts
- e. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what a literary text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text

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- f. Determine themes or central ideas of a literary text and analyze their development over the course of the text
- g. Analyze and interpret major literary works in historical, aesthetic, political, and philosophical contexts

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, RL.6–12.1–3)

#### **0006 Craft and Structure of Literature (SMR 1.2)**

- a. Distinguish salient features of genres (e.g., short story, drama, poetry, novel, creative nonfiction)
- b. Define and analyze basic elements of literature (e.g., plot, setting, character, point of view, theme, narrative structure, figurative language, tone, diction, style)
- c. Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters/archetypes are introduced and developed)
- d. Articulate the relationship between the expressed purposes and the characteristics of different forms of dramatic literature (e.g., comedy, tragedy)
- e. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings
- f. Analyze the impact of an author's specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings
- g. Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the use of flashbacks) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact
- h. Analyze point of view, including how authors develop and contrast points of view of different characters or narrators and particular points of view or cultural experiences reflected in works of world literature

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, RL.6–12.2–7, RL.6–12.9)

#### **0007 Reading Informational Texts (SMR 1.3)**

- a. Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what an informational text (e.g., literary nonfiction, historical, scientific, technical texts) says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text
- b. Determine central ideas of an informational text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis
- c. Provide an objective summary of an informational text
- d. Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events in an informational text and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text
- e. Compare various features of print and non-print media (e.g., film, television, Internet)
- f. Evaluate the structure and content of a variety of consumer, workplace, and public documents

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- g. Interpret individual informational texts in their cultural, social, and political contexts

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, RI.6–12.1–3)

**0008 Craft and Structure of Informational Texts (SMR 1.4)**

- a. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in an informational text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings, and analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text
- b. Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging
- c. Analyze the use of text features (e.g., graphics, headers, captions) in public documents
- d. Determine an author's point of view and/or purpose in an informational text and analyze how style and content advance that point of view and/or purpose, including how effective rhetoric and content contribute to the power, persuasiveness, or aesthetics of the text

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, RI.6–12.4–6)

**0009 Integration of Knowledge and Ideas in Informational Texts (SMR 1.5)**

- a. Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, spoken, performed, written) in order to address a question or solve a problem
- b. Delineate and evaluate the reasoning in seminal U.S. texts, including the application of constitutional principles and use of legal reasoning and the premises, purposes, and arguments in works of public advocacy
- c. Analyze seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century foundational U.S. documents of historical and literary significance for their themes, purposes, and rhetorical features

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, RI.6–12.7–9)

**Text Complexity (SMR 1.6)** *NOTE: Content from SMR 1.6 is contained only in Subtest I.*

- a. Evaluate text complexity using quantitative tools and measures, as well as knowledge of qualitative dimensions such as levels of meaning, structure, language conventionality and clarity, and background knowledge demands
- b. Identify levels of text complexity within grade band ranges
- c. Apply knowledge of reader variables such as language, motivation, background knowledge, skill levels, and experiences, as well as task variables such as purpose and complexity when matching readers to a text and task

(California Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts, RL.6–12.10, RI.6–12.10, Appendix A: Reading)