

A Road Map for Instructors: HiSET® Website Resources

Preparing today's students to be thoughtful, engaged citizens is a complex process. Interpersonal skills and understanding how to effectively navigate new media are not explicitly listed as skills high school graduates should possess; however, many of us would agree that these characteristics can be deciding factors between two job applicants. Nonetheless, there are a set of core academic skills that college- and work-ready adults should possess at the end of K-12 education.

January 2014 marked the first year that states had the option of adopting the *HiSET*®, GED® or TASC™ tests for their high school equivalency candidates. As the adult education landscape continues to evolve, the College and Career Readiness Standards provide instructors a foundation of what skills should be focused on during classroom instruction, regardless of the test a candidate will be taking.

Resources and practices that have been successful best practices in the past will likely continue to be effective in today's classroom. The amount of preparation time students need to be successful on the HiSET exam varies. Generally speaking, if candidates' skill levels are not around or above the ninth-grade level, they may need more than one year to prepare and pass any of the high school equivalency tests. As the test date approaches, becoming familiar with the test format and structure is increasingly important to minimize test anxiety.

| HiSET Component for Computer- and Paper-delivered Tests | Item Type | Test Length |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| Language Arts–Reading | 100% multiple choice | 65 minutes |
| Language Arts–Writing | Multiple-choice questions plus one evidence-based essay question | 120 minutes |
| Mathematics | 100% multiple choice | 90 minutes |
| Science | 100% multiple choice | 80 minutes |
| Social Studies | 100% multiple choice | 70 minutes |
| | Total Test Time | 7 hours, 5 minutes |

The [Prepare Tab](#) of the HiSET website for test takers includes information and resources that candidates can use to determine whether they are ready to schedule and take any of the HiSET subtests. Classroom instructors should incorporate these resources within instruction and help guide candidates through the appropriate use and interpretation of test preparation resources.

- Prepare with the [HiSET® Study Companion \(PDF\)](#): This study guide will help candidates manage their preparation time.
- Guide candidates to resources to use in addition to classroom instruction.

- Take free **HiSET Practice Tests**: There are multiple free practice tests available. Free Practice Test 2 helps determine areas of focus and a timeline to test day. Students may take the Free Practice Test 2 online to further understand how prepared they are to take the exam, or what content categories they may need to focus on in order to better prepare for the test. After an appropriate amount of preparation has been completed, have candidates take another practice test to determine whether they are ready to test or if they will need to continue studying and preparing to be successful.

The HiSET website provides many more resources that candidates can use to prepare for the HiSET exam. You may have students who have already taken advantage of the above resources and have also invested in other preparation materials. Regardless of your students' level of preparation, educators need an array of resources and strategies to help their students succeed.

The HiSET team has worked to ensure that additional materials aligned with HiSET content are available to help you prepare for the exam. View a detailed list of these commercial vendors and their products by visiting <http://hiset.ets.org/prepare/providers>.

- ***The Citizen's Almanac by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*** to review concepts and vocabulary represented within the content categories of History and Civics/Government on the Social Studies subtest.
- The HiSET Science and Social Studies subtests require candidates to use critical thinking skills to apply, interpret and evaluate information. Building background knowledge in the content areas will be helpful so that the contexts for the questions are familiar.

Note: Ensure your students meet all state requirements to take a high school equivalency test. If your state offers multiple options, direct candidates to each test's website. For the HiSET exam, candidates can visit <http://hiset.ets.org/requirements/overview>.

Students who need to take a high school equivalency (HSE) test as soon as possible must work efficiently to increase their chances for success.

| Objective | Suggested Materials | Classroom Activities |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing <p>Help students become familiar with HiSET exam expectations by guiding them through the HiSET website to the provided resources.</p> | <p>HiSET® Test Taker Brochure (PDF)</p> <p>HiSET® Test Taker Bulletin (PDF)</p> <p>HiSET® Scored Sample Writing Responses (PDF)</p> <p>HiSET® Writing Response Scoring Guide (PDF)</p> <p>Essay Rubric for Instructors (PDF)</p> <p>Sample Essay Prompt (PDF)</p> <p>Sample Questions (PDF)</p> | <p>Have candidates read the <i>Test Taker Brochure</i> and review the Contents page of the <i>Test Taker Bulletin</i>. Address questions or concerns. Review and discuss the Contents page of the <i>Test Taker Bulletin</i>.</p> <p>Help students understand the expectations for the Writing subtest by going through the suggested materials and addressing questions and comments. Ask students questions such as, "What are two things your essay should include to receive a passing score?" Possible student responses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a clear and developed position • context for your ideas and claims • multiple unbiased perspectives • evidence drawn from provided text • formal style and objective tone <p>Extension: Have students select a rubric descriptor to focus on in their writing. Help them develop a plan for improving the selected skill independently. Have candidates respond to the Sample Essay Prompt prior to moving on to the HiSET Practice Tests.</p> |
| <p>Show students how to interpret pre- and post-test results and look for other support resources, starting with the HiSET website.</p> | <p>Free HiSET Practice Tests</p> <p>HiSET Practice Test Results: Are You Ready to Take the Exam? (PDF)</p> <p>Mathematics Formula Sheet (PDF)</p> <p>HiSET® Study Companion (PDF)</p> <p>Khan Academy HiSET® Instructional Support Videos and Exercises (PDF)</p> <p>Online Mathematics Preparation Resources</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After having students take one of the free practice tests, ask a volunteer to explain how he or she arrived at the correct answer to one of the questions. Have other students share alternate solutions and facilitate the discussion to look for any repeated class errors. • Help students interpret their practice test results. • Review the formula sheet and its application to math concepts. • Guide students to use multiple preparation resources such as the study companion, the free Khan Academy HiSET videos and the Quick Math online mathematics practice portal. |

- To view and access the live links, download a PDF version of this road map at http://hiset.ets.org/s/pdf/educator_roadmap.pdf.
- In addition to the HiSET website, instructors and test takers can call **1-855-MyHiSET (1-855-694-4738)** for additional support.
- Suggested Spanish-language materials are available at <http://hiset.ets.org/es/resources/overview>.
- Effective lessons need to be engaging and specific. Click on the links below for additional resources that utilize standards-based lessons to guide classroom instruction:
 - [HiSET® Curriculum Blueprint by Essential Education \(PDF\)](#)
 - [College and Career Readiness Standards \(PDF\)](#)