Study Guide for the Audiology Test
Table of Contents
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1
   Introduction to the Audiology Test and Suggestions for Using This Study Guide. ........ 1

Chapter 2
   Background Information on The Praxis Series™ Assessments .............................. 5

Chapter 3
   Succeeding on Multiple-Choice Questions. .......................................................... 9

Chapter 4
   Study Topics for the Audiology Test ................................................................. 15

Chapter 5
   Practice Questions for the Audiology Test ......................................................... 31

Chapter 6
   Right Answers and Explanations for the Practice Questions ............................... 59

Chapter 7
   Are You Ready? Last-Minute Tips ...................................................................... 83

Appendix A
   Study Plan Sheet ................................................................................................. 87

Appendix B
   For More Information ........................................................................................ 89
Chapter 1
Introduction to the Audiology Test and Suggestions for Using This Study Guide
Introduction to the *Audiology* Test

The Praxis *Audiology* test assesses beginning audiologists’ understanding of the essential content of the field. Educational Testing Service (ETS) has determined the content of this test using resources such as textbooks and course content in graduate-level programs in audiology. ETS also refers to current practices in audiology as specified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) and educational institutions. In developing assessment material for these tests, ETS works in collaboration with audiology educators, higher education content specialists, and accomplished practicing audiologists to keep the test updated and representative of current standards.

The Praxis *Audiology* test consists of 120 multiple-choice questions and covers eight major areas, in the following proportions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Category</th>
<th>Approximate Number of Questions</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage of Examination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Basic Human Communication Processes</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II. Prevention/Identification</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III. Behavioral Assessment/Interpretation</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV. Electrophysiological Measurement/Interpretation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Rehabilitative Assessment</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI. Rehabilitative Technology</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII. Rehabilitative Management</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII. Professional Issues, Psychometrics, Research</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test takers have two hours to complete the test.

The test is intended to assess the candidate’s knowledge in the major areas of audiology.
Suggestions for Using the “Study Topics” Chapter

This test is different from a final exam or other tests you may have taken because it is comprehensive—that is, it covers material you may have learned in courses during your entire graduate program. It requires you to synthesize information you have learned from many sources and to understand the subject as a whole.

Therefore, you should review and prepare for questions that will test your content knowledge, rather than merely become familiar with the question formats. A thorough review of the material covered on the test will significantly increase your likelihood of success. Moreover, studying for your certification/licensure exam is a great opportunity to reflect on and develop a deeper understanding of content, methods, and previous clinical experience before you begin to practice. As you prepare to take the test, it may be particularly helpful for you to think about how you would apply the study topics and sample questions to the clinical experience you obtained during your preparation program. Your clinical experience will be especially relevant to your thinking about the materials in the study guide.

We recommend the following approach for using the “Study Topics” chapters to prepare for the test.

- **Become familiar with the test content.** Learn what will be assessed in the test, covered in chapter 4.

- **Assess how well you know the content in each area.** After you learn what topics the test contains, you should assess your knowledge in each area. How well do you know the material? In which areas do you need to learn more before you take the test? It is quite likely that you will need to brush up on most or all of the areas.

- **Develop a study plan.** Assess what you need to study and create a realistic plan for studying. You can develop your study plan in any way that works best for you. A “Study Plan” form is included in appendix A at the end of the book as a possible way to structure your planning. Remember that this is a certification/licensure test and covers a great deal of material. Plan to review carefully. You will need to allow time to find the books and other materials, to read the material and take notes, and to go over your notes.

- **Identify study materials.** Most of the material covered by the test is contained in standard textbooks. If you do not own texts that cover all the areas, you may want to borrow some from friends or from a library. You may also want to obtain a copy of your state’s standards for audiology and ASHA’s certification standards. (One way to find these standards quickly is to contact your state’s regulatory agency and go to the ASHA Web site.) Use standard school and college textbooks and other reliable, professionally prepared materials. Don’t rely heavily on information provided by friends or from searching the World Wide Web. Neither of these sources is as uniformly reliable as textbooks.

- **Work through your study plan.** You may want to work alone, or you may find it more helpful to work with a group or with a mentor. Work through the topics and questions provided in chapters 4 and 5. Rather than memorizing definitions from books, be able to define and discuss the topics in your own words and understand the relationships between diverse topics and concepts. If you are working with a group or mentor, you can also try informal quizzes and questioning techniques.

- **Proceed to the practice questions.** Once you have completed your review, you are ready to benefit from the “Practice Questions” portion of this guide.
Suggestions for Using the “Practice Questions” and “Right Answers and Explanations” Chapters

- **Read chapter 3.** This chapter will sharpen your skills in reading and answering multiple-choice questions. For you to succeed on multiple-choice questions, you must focus carefully on the question, avoid reading things into the question, pay attention to details, and sift patiently through the answer choices.

- **Answer the practice questions in chapter 5.** Work on the practice questions in a quiet place without distractions. Remember that the practice questions are only examples of the way the topics are covered in the test. The test will have different questions.

- **Score the practice questions.** Go through the detailed answers in chapter 6 (“Right Answers and Explanations”) and mark the questions you answered correctly and the ones you missed. Look over the explanations of the questions you missed and see if you understand them.

- **Decide whether you need more review.** After you have looked at your results, decide whether there are areas that you need to brush up on before taking the actual test. Go back to your textbooks and reference materials to see if the topics are covered there. You might also want to go over your questions with a friend or teacher who is familiar with the subjects.

- **Assess your readiness.** Do you feel confident about your level of understanding in each of the areas? If not, where do you need more work? If you feel ready, complete the checklist in chapter 7 (“Are You Ready?”) to double-check that you have thought through the details. If you need more information about registration or the testing situation itself, use the resources in appendix B: “For More Information.”

**Note:** Every effort is made to provide the most recent information in this study guide. However, The Praxis Series tests are continually evaluated and updated. You will always find the most recent information about this test, including the topics covered, number of questions, time allotted, and scoring criteria, in the *Test at a Glance* booklet available online at http://www.ets.org/praxis/prxtest.html.
Chapter 2
Background Information on The Praxis Series™ Assessments
What Are The Praxis Series Subject Assessments?

The Praxis Series™ Subject Assessments are designed by Educational Testing Service (ETS) to assess your knowledge of specific subject areas. They are a part of the licensing or certification procedure in many states and for credentialing agencies like the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). These states and agencies have adopted the Praxis Audiology test because they want to confirm that you have achieved a specified level of knowledge in audiology before you are granted an audiology license or certification.

The Praxis Series tests are part of a national testing program, meaning that the test is required in more than one state for licensure or certification. The advantage of a national program is that if you want to move to another state, you can transfer your scores from one state to another. However, each state or agency has specific test requirements and passing scores. If you are applying for a license or certification in another state, you will want to verify the appropriate test and passing score requirements. This information is available online at www.ets.org/praxis/prxstate.html or by calling ETS at 800-772-9476.

What Is Licensure/Certification?

Licensure and certification in any area—medicine, law, architecture, accounting, cosmetology—is an assurance to the public that the person holding the license or certification possesses sufficient knowledge and skills to perform important occupational activities safely and effectively. A license or certification tells the public that the individual has met pre-defined competency standards for beginning professional practice.

Because a license/certification makes such a serious claim about its holder, licensure/certification tests are usually quite demanding. In some fields, licensure/certification tests have more than one part and last for more than one day. Because the test assesses the core body of knowledge for the field you are entering, planned and disciplined test preparation is recommended.

Why is the Praxis Audiology Test Required?

ASHA and your state licensing/certification agency chose the Praxis Audiology test because the test assesses the breadth and depth of content that these agencies want audiologists to possess before they achieve licensure or certification. The level of content knowledge, reflected in the passing score, is based on recommendations of panels of audiologists and audiology educators. The licensing or certification agency uses the recommendations as input in establishing the passing-score requirement.

What Does the Praxis Audiology Test Measure?

The Praxis Audiology test is a test of content knowledge. As a multiple-choice test, it measures a broad range of core knowledge in the area of audiology. The audiologists who help design and write these tests, and the agencies that require them, do so with the belief that knowledge of the audiology subject area is an important requirement for obtaining licensure or certification. The field of audiology combines many complex skills, only some of which can be measured by a single test. While this test measures content knowledge, your clinical ability is a skill that is typically measured in other ways; for example, through observation, videotaped practice, or portfolios.

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