

Sample Reflective Essay and Action Plan

Name: Ivana Teach

Date: October 1, 2018

Analysis

On September 22, 2018 I took and failed the 291 Core Subjects EC-6 test. Specifically, I failed the Social Studies (803) portion of the test with a 214/300 score, 26 points short of the 240 passing score. I answered only 16/35 questions (46%) of the questions correctly.

A review of my scores at the competency level shows that I did well in Competency 001, Social Studies Instruction, where I answered 4/5 questions (90%) correctly. I also did well in Competency 004, Economics, where I answered 5/7 questions (71%) correctly.

I performed poorly in least well in Competency 005, Government and Citizenship, where I answered 1/7 questions (14%) correctly. I also performed poorly in Competency 002 (History) and Competency 003 (Geography and Culture). In each of these competencies I answered 3/8 questions (38%) correctly. Between these three competencies I lost 16 total questions. These competencies are the areas where I need to concentrate my studies to ensure I pass the test on the next attempt.

Additionally, I reviewed the results from my diagnostic test and study materials. The diagnostic tests confirm the weaknesses identified by the test, and my study materials reflect a focus on other areas besides these competencies. My study logs show I spent most of my time focusing on Math and Science, and relatively little time on Social Studies.

I reviewed the descriptive statements for Competency 002, History. The following are the competencies in which I am least proficient.

A	Historical points of reference
C	Similarities among Native American groups
H	The effects of scientific, mathematical and technological innovations
S	Foundations of representative government in the US
U	Political, economic and social factors leading to the Civil War
W	Major reform movements
X	Boom and bust cycles

I reviewed the descriptive statements for Competency 003, Geography and Culture. The following are the competencies in which I am least proficient.

C	How geographic factors influence settlement and economic development
F	The physical environmental characteristics of Texas, the United States and the world
I	Cultural adaptation, diffusion and exchange
Y	The characteristics, distribution and migration of populations
CC	The relationship among religion, philosophy and culture

I reviewed the descriptive statements for Competency 005, Government. The following are the competencies in which I am least proficient.

C	Basic structure and functions of the US and Texas governments
---	---

Sample Reflective Essay and Action Plan

E	Colonial and early Texas government
G	Types of governments
I	Landmark Supreme Court Cases
M	The relationships between individual rights, responsibilities and freedoms

I recognize the importance of being proficient with Social Studies content so my students can grow to be engaged and productive citizens.

Action Plan

Goals

I want to work as a regular classroom teacher in August 2019. Toward that end, I must pass the certification test and become certified before March 2019 so that my resume' shows that I am certified as I look for work during the spring hiring cycle.

Activities

1. Discuss my reflective essay and action plan with my faculty mentor.
2. Print and review the TEKS for grades 3-8. Highlight all the names, dates, ideas, etc. that I don't thoroughly understand and build a flash card deck for ongoing review.
3. Print and review the Assessed Curriculum for 8th grade Social Studies. Highlight all the names, dates, ideas, etc. that I don't thoroughly understand and build a flash card deck for ongoing review.
4. Print and review the Released Test Items for 8th grade Social Studies. For each question I will identify the correct answers, write out why the wrong answers are wrong, and expand the flash card deck with items I don't thoroughly understand.
5. Review US and Texas history textbooks from the library, and from my college coursework.
6. Follow a schedule of interleaved practice of history, geography and government.
7. Measure my success by counting the number and percent of flash cards I am able to respond to correctly on a regular basis.
8. Attend a Core Subjects review session.
9. Complete a Mometrix diagnostic test.
10. Complete the practice test and score 85% or higher.
11. Take and pass the TExES exam.

Resources

1. TEKS, Assessed Curriculum, and released test questions from the Texas Education Agency.
2. Middle school Social Studies textbooks from the library.
3. Mometrix test preparation resources
4. Internet resources as needed for specific questions.

Calendar

Date	Event	Hours/Sum
10/1/2018	Begin study regime – 1 hour per day, 6 days per week	
10/1/2018	Print TEKS	1/1
10/1-5/2018	TEKS review, highlight and begin flashcard creation	5/6
10/8/2018	History focus	6/12

Sample Reflective Essay and Action Plan

Date	Event	Hours/Sum
10/15/2018	Geography focus	6/18
10/22/2018	Government focus	6/24
10/29/2018	History focus	6/30
11/5/2018	Geography focus	6/36
11/12/2018	Government focus – 2013 Released Test Items	6/42
11/19/2018	History focus – 2014 Released Test Items, 75% flash cards correct	6/48
11/26/2018	Traveling for Thanksgiving – no study	0/48
12/3/2018	Geography focus – 2015 Released Test Items, 85% flash cards correct	6/54
12/10/2018	Government focus – 2016 Released Test Items	6/60
12/17/2018	History focus – 2017 Released Test Items, 95% flash cards correct	6/66
12/24/2018	Geography focus – 2018 Released Test Items	6/72
12/28/2018	Take Mometrix diagnostic test	1/73
1/5/2019	Attend Core Subjects review session*	3/76
1/19/2019	Take Practice exam*	1/77
1/24/2019	Discuss practice exam with faculty mentor, sign eligibility form	1/78
1/25/2018	Submit eligibility form	0/78
	Continue study	18/96
2/15/2019	Take real TExES exam	
2/22/2018	Test results released – apply for certification	
2/28/2019	Certified – revise resume' and prepare for job fairs	

* Hard dates scheduled

Measure(s) of Success (metrics)

1. Answer 99% of my flashcards correctly in one sitting.
2. Score 90% or better on a diagnostic test from Mometrix.
3. Score 85% or higher on the practice exam.