

Praxis Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications (5354) Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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Questions

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- 1. Which of the following is NOT a skill included in the 13 clusters of mental cognition skills?**
 - A. Reflecting on judgements and evaluations**
 - B. Problem Solving**
 - C. Physical coordination**
 - D. Understanding cause and effect relationships**
- 2. Which behavior observation method records the occurrence of a behavior within specific intervals?**
 - A. Event Sampling**
 - B. Interval Recording**
 - C. Duration Recording**
 - D. Frequency Recording**
- 3. What defines complementary teaching in an educational setting?**
 - A. A teaching model where two teachers lecture simultaneously**
 - B. Co-teaching with a lead teacher presenting a lesson and a support teacher assisting**
 - C. Individualized instruction tailored to each student**
 - D. A model focusing only on group activities**
- 4. What does the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 primarily extend?**
 - A. Civil rights to individuals with disabilities in public schools only**
 - B. Employment opportunities in private sector for individuals without disabilities**
 - C. Civil rights to individuals with disabilities in private sector employment, public services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications**
 - D. Access to job training programs for individuals with disabilities**

- 5. What is the primary focus of Precision Teaching in educational settings?**
- A. Enhancing emotional intelligence**
 - B. Recording responses on a standardized chart**
 - C. Grouping techniques for academic achievement**
 - D. Developing social skills through collaboration**
- 6. Which of the following strategies best supports the development of independent learning?**
- A. Direct Instruction**
 - B. Modeling**
 - C. Peer Feedback**
 - D. Collaborative Learning**
- 7. Which theorist is known for his contributions to cognitive development and learning?**
- A. Jean Piaget**
 - B. Lev Vygotsky**
 - C. Albert Bandura**
 - D. Erik Erikson**
- 8. What was the significance of the *Foley v. Special School District of St. Louis County* case?**
- A. It established guidelines for special education eligibility**
 - B. It affirmed that schools are not required to provide services if parents choose private schooling**
 - C. It defined the requirements for inclusion in regular education**
 - D. It addressed the funding of special education programs**
- 9. What is a summative evaluation primarily used for in education?**
- A. To assess student behavior during lessons**
 - B. To evaluate student achievement and teacher instruction**
 - C. To provide continuous feedback during an instructional unit**
 - D. To assess student engagement during class activities**

10. What is the main goal of the IEP?

- A. To impose strict guidelines on student behavior**
- B. To outline educational services tailored to a student's individual needs**
- C. To create a standardized test for student assessment**
- D. To provide additional resources for school staff**

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Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is NOT a skill included in the 13 clusters of mental cognition skills?

A. Reflecting on judgements and evaluations

B. Problem Solving

C. Physical coordination

D. Understanding cause and effect relationships

The skill of physical coordination is not included in the 13 clusters of mental cognition skills because these clusters are primarily focused on cognitive processes involved in thinking, learning, and problem-solving. Mental cognition skills encompass abilities such as reflecting on judgments and evaluations, problem solving, and understanding cause and effect relationships, all of which are integral to cognitive development and functioning. Physical coordination, on the other hand, relates more to motor skills and physical activities rather than cognitive processes. Therefore, while physical coordination is important in its own right, it does not fit within the classifications that specifically pertain to mental cognition skills. By identifying the distinction between cognitive and physical abilities, one can better understand the scope and focus of the 13 clusters of mental cognition skills.

2. Which behavior observation method records the occurrence of a behavior within specific intervals?

A. Event Sampling

B. Interval Recording

C. Duration Recording

D. Frequency Recording

The method that records the occurrence of a behavior within specific intervals is interval recording. This approach is particularly useful for observing behaviors that may not occur very frequently or for behaviors that can be difficult to track over a longer period of time. Interval recording divides the observation period into equal intervals, and the observer notes whether the behavior occurred at any point during each interval. This allows for a systematic way to gather data on the frequency of behavior and provides a structured framework for analysis. For instance, during a 10-minute observation, if you are using 1-minute intervals, you would examine whether the behavior occurred during each minute period. This method not only helps in obtaining a clear understanding of when behaviors happen but also enables educators and practitioners to make informed decisions based on the observed data over the entire monitoring session.

3. What defines complementary teaching in an educational setting?

- A. A teaching model where two teachers lecture simultaneously**
- B. Co-teaching with a lead teacher presenting a lesson and a support teacher assisting**
- C. Individualized instruction tailored to each student**
- D. A model focusing only on group activities**

Complementary teaching is defined by the collaborative approach where one teacher takes the lead role in presenting the lesson while the other teacher provides support to enhance student understanding and participation. This model allows for differentiated instruction, as the support teacher can address individual student needs, offer additional resources, and help facilitate group work or discussions. By having a lead teacher and a support teacher, the instructional delivery becomes more effective and responsive to diverse learning styles within the classroom. In this model, the synergy between both teachers ensures a richer learning environment, where students benefit from multiple perspectives and instructional strategies, thus improving their overall educational experience. The focus is on the partnership and coordination between the two educators, rather than simultaneous lecturing or individualized instruction that is tailored separately for each student.

4. What does the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 primarily extend?

- A. Civil rights to individuals with disabilities in public schools only**
- B. Employment opportunities in private sector for individuals without disabilities**
- C. Civil rights to individuals with disabilities in private sector employment, public services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications**
- D. Access to job training programs for individuals with disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 is a landmark piece of legislation that fundamentally aims to ensure that individuals with disabilities are granted civil rights in various aspects of life. The correct answer emphasizes the multifaceted protections afforded by the ADA, which extends civil rights to individuals with disabilities across several critical areas including private sector employment, public services, public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications. This broad approach is significant because it recognizes the need for comprehensive inclusion in all facets of society, ensuring that individuals with disabilities are not discriminated against based on their disability status. It mandates that reasonable accommodations are made to ensure equal opportunity and access in these areas, ultimately promoting equity and access for people with disabilities in both public and private spheres. The other options are more limited in scope. For instance, focusing solely on public schools or private sector employment excludes the broader applications of the ADA in public services and accommodations. Additionally, while access to job training is important, it does not encompass the full range of civil rights provisions that the ADA upholds. Thus, the chosen answer accurately reflects the extensive impact of the ADA on the lives of individuals with disabilities.

5. What is the primary focus of Precision Teaching in educational settings?

- A. Enhancing emotional intelligence**
- B. Recording responses on a standardized chart**
- C. Grouping techniques for academic achievement**
- D. Developing social skills through collaboration**

Precision Teaching primarily focuses on monitoring and enhancing the learning and performance of students through the systematic recording of their responses on a standardized chart, often referred to as a Standard Celeration Chart. This approach allows educators to track the frequency of student responses over time, which helps in identifying trends in learning, measuring progress, and making informed instructional decisions. The use of this method emphasizes measurable outcomes and adjustments based on the data collected, ensuring that teaching methods are effective and responsive to individual student needs. The visual representation of data enables both educators and students to see progress clearly, reinforcing effective learning behaviors and motivating students through observable improvement. In contrast, the other choices reflect different aspects of education that do not align with the core principles of Precision Teaching. While enhancing emotional intelligence, grouping techniques, and developing social skills are important components of a well-rounded education, they do not encapsulate the essence of what Precision Teaching aims to achieve in tracking and enhancing academic performance through precise data analysis.

6. Which of the following strategies best supports the development of independent learning?

- A. Direct Instruction**
- B. Modeling**
- C. Peer Feedback**
- D. Collaborative Learning**

Modeling is an effective strategy for supporting the development of independent learning because it allows educators to demonstrate specific skills, behaviors, or thought processes that students are expected to learn. By showcasing how to approach a task or solve a problem, students can observe and understand the steps involved. This demonstration provides a clear framework that students can emulate, fostering their ability to engage in similar tasks independently later on. When modeling is employed effectively, it includes thinking aloud and demonstrating the cognitive processes that occur while completing a task. This transparency helps students recognize the strategies they can use themselves, ultimately promoting self-regulation and independent work. As students internalize these modeled behaviors, they become more adept at applying them in unfamiliar situations without direct guidance, reinforcing their ability to learn independently.

7. Which theorist is known for his contributions to cognitive development and learning?

- A. Jean Piaget**
- B. Lev Vygotsky**
- C. Albert Bandura**
- D. Erik Erikson**

The correct answer is Jean Piaget. He is widely recognized for his extensive work on the theory of cognitive development, which outlines how children's thinking evolves through distinct stages. Piaget's model identifies four primary stages: sensorimotor, preoperational, concrete operational, and formal operational, each characterized by different abilities and ways of understanding the world. His research emphasizes that cognitive development occurs through active exploration and interaction with the environment, making learning a developmental process that evolves rather than a mere accumulation of knowledge. While Lev Vygotsky also made significant contributions to our understanding of learning, particularly through his concepts of social interaction and the zone of proximal development, his focus was more on the sociocultural influences on learning rather than the cognitive stages of development itself. Albert Bandura is renowned for his social learning theory, emphasizing observational learning and modeling rather than cognitive stages. Erik Erikson's work primarily concerns psychosocial development over the lifespan, focusing on emotional and social growth rather than cognitive processes specifically. Thus, Piaget stands out in the context of cognitive development and learning.

8. What was the significance of the *Foley v. Special School District of St. Louis County* case?

- A. It established guidelines for special education eligibility**
- B. It affirmed that schools are not required to provide services if parents choose private schooling**
- C. It defined the requirements for inclusion in regular education**
- D. It addressed the funding of special education programs**

The significance of the *Foley v. Special School District of St. Louis County* case lies in its affirmation that schools are not obligated to provide special education services if parents opt for private schooling for their child. This ruling underscored the boundaries of schools' responsibilities in relation to students with disabilities, clarifying that when parents make a choice to send their child to a private institution, the school district is not required to continue providing the same level of special education services that would be mandated in a public school setting. In essence, this case helped delineate the legal expectations regarding school districts' duties when students are placed in private educational settings, thereby impacting how schools approach the provision of services to students with disabilities who do not attend public schools. The decision emphasizes the legal principle that, while schools must support students with disabilities in public education, their obligations may not extend beyond that when parents choose alternative educational paths.

9. What is a summative evaluation primarily used for in education?
- A. To assess student behavior during lessons
 - B. To evaluate student achievement and teacher instruction**
 - C. To provide continuous feedback during an instructional unit
 - D. To assess student engagement during class activities

A summative evaluation is primarily used to evaluate student achievement and teacher instruction at the end of an instructional period. This type of assessment is designed to measure what students have learned after a unit or course has been completed. It typically involves standardized tests, final projects, or other assessment methods that summarize student learning and performance. Summative evaluations provide important data that can indicate the effectiveness of instructional strategies, allowing educators to assess whether the goals of the curriculum have been met. By evaluating both student achievement and teacher performance, summative assessments help inform decisions about future instruction, curriculum development, and educational practices. This is distinct from formative evaluations, which are designed for ongoing assessment and feedback during the learning process, rather than at the end.

10. What is the main goal of the IEP?
- A. To impose strict guidelines on student behavior
 - B. To outline educational services tailored to a student's individual needs**
 - C. To create a standardized test for student assessment
 - D. To provide additional resources for school staff

The main goal of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) is to outline educational services tailored to a student's individual needs. This legal document is designed to ensure that students with disabilities receive the appropriate support and accommodations necessary for their educational success. The IEP addresses the unique challenges and requirements of each student, aiming to provide a personalized educational plan that facilitates access to the general curriculum, enhances learning opportunities, and promotes academic achievement. By specifying measurable goals, necessary accommodations, and related services, the IEP serves as a roadmap for educators, parents, and specialists to support the student effectively. This individualized approach is crucial in fostering an inclusive learning environment where students with disabilities can thrive alongside their peers.