

DRAFT CHANGES TO SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE

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Subject matter knowledge requirements (SMKs) outline the minimum level of content and pedagogical skills Massachusetts educators are expected to hold. SMKs establish the content assessed in Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure ([MTEL](#)) and guide content-area coursework for educator preparation programs. SMKs are aligned to [Massachusetts curriculum frameworks](#).

Massachusetts regulation [603 CMR 7.06](#) requires a public comment period of at least thirty days prior to any changes to the guidelines where SMKs are published. More information on the 2017 proposed changes is available at www.doe.mass.edu/edprep.

ENGLISH

CURRENT SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS 2011-2016

ENGLISH, LEVELS: 5-8, 8-12

(a) Literature.

1. American literature including the Colonial Period; the Revolutionary Period; American Romanticism and the American Renaissance (to include Hawthorne, Emerson, Melville, Whitman, and Thoreau); the Civil War and the post-war period; and fiction, poetry, drama from the early 20th century to the present.
2. World literature including British literature (including the Anglo-Saxon period, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Restoration and the 18th century, the Romantic Period, the Victorian Period, and the 20th century) and other European literature; literature of Africa, Latin America and Asia; Ancient Greek and Roman literature; the Bible as literature; world myths and folktales.
3. Characteristics of the different genres of literature.
4. Various schools of literary criticism.

(b) Language.

1. History and structure of the English language.
2. Knowledge of the rules and conventions of standard written and spoken English.

(c) Rhetoric and composition.

1. Principles of classical rhetoric.
2. Modern and contemporary theories of rhetoric.
3. Similarities and differences between oral and written communication.

(d) Reading theory, research, and practice at the middle and high school level.

DRAFT CHANGES TO SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS 2017

ENGLISH, 5-12

The following topics will be addressed on a subject matter knowledge test:

(a) Literature – Major written works, movements, genres, and applicable skills



1. Knowledge of how to analyze key ideas, themes, literary concepts, author’s craft and purpose.
2. Techniques used to analyze text structure including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text relate to each other and as a whole.
3. Knowledge of literary movements and seminal documents that have impacted world cultures and events.
4. American Literature from the 17th– 21st centuries that represents a diverse range of American perspectives.
5. American cultural, historical, and political documents of the 17th– 21st centuries
6. British Literature from the following periods: Anglo-Saxon and Middle Ages, English Renaissance, Elizabethan, Restoration/Enlightenment, Romanticism, Victorian, Modernism, and Contemporary.
7. World Literature from European countries, Latin America, Africa, and Asia.
8. Texts from world religions, Ancient Greek and Roman literature and world myths and folktales.
9. Significant young adult literary and informational text.

(b) Language

1. Historical and current influences on the development of the English language.
2. Rules and conventions of standard written and spoken English.
3. Figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
4. The distinction between general academic and domain-specific vocabulary and techniques for vocabulary acquisition through context and word study.
 - i. History and structure of the English language.
 - ii. Knowledge of the rules and conventions of standard written and spoke English.

(c) Rhetoric and composition

1. Principles of classical, modern, and contemporary rhetoric, as well as rhetorical strategies including the impact of structure on other elements of author’s craft.
2. Characteristics and traits of effective narrative, explanatory, and opinion/argument writing
3. The writing process: planning, drafting, revising, editing, rewriting, citing sources, and publishing; application of the writing process for on-demand and extended time writing.
4. Characteristics of research skills, including proper gathering of credible sources and adherence to standard citation formats.
5. Knowledge of how to apply a broad range of technological tools to enhance writing and content learning.
6. Speaking and listening techniques to be used in a variety of contexts.
 - i. Principles of classical rhetoric.
 - ii. Modern and contemporary theories of rhetoric.
 - iii. Similarities and differences between oral and written communication.

(d) Reading theory, research, and practice

1. Knowledge of research-based theories, practices and programs for adolescent language and literacy development (reading, writing, speaking, and listening).
2. Knowledge of techniques for giving written and oral feedback which lead to student growth in writing.
3. Knowledge of techniques for facilitating effective text-based questions.
4. Knowledge of the characteristics of reading language-based learning disabilities and of the research-based strategies for addressing these disabilities in the general education classroom.