

TEXES
Texas Examinations of Educator Standards

Field 118: Social Studies 4–8
Test Framework

Domain	Range of Competencies
I. Social Studies Content	001–005
II. Social Studies Foundations, Skills, and Instruction	006–007

TEST FRAMEWORK FOR FIELD 118: SOCIAL STUDIES 4–8

Domain I Social Studies Content (approximately 71% of the test)

Standards Assessed:

Social Studies Standards IV–X:

History: The social studies teacher applies knowledge of significant historical events and developments, as well as of multiple historical interpretations and ideas, in order to facilitate student understanding of relationships between the past, the present, and the future.

Geography: The social studies teacher applies knowledge of people, places, and environments to facilitate students' understanding of geographic relationships in Texas, the United States, and the world.

Economics: The social studies teacher knows how people organize economic systems to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services, and uses this knowledge to enable students to understand economic systems and make informed economic decisions.

Government: The social studies teacher knows how governments and structures of power function, provide order, and allocate resources, and uses this knowledge to facilitate student understanding of how individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems.

Citizenship: The social studies teacher understands citizenship in the United States and other societies, and uses this knowledge to prepare students to participate in our society through an understanding of democratic principles and citizenship practices.

Culture: The social studies teacher understands cultures and how they develop and adapt, and uses this knowledge to enable students to appreciate and respect cultural diversity in Texas, the United States, and the world.

Science, Technology, and Society: The social studies teacher understands developments in science and technology, and uses this knowledge to facilitate student understanding of the social and environmental consequences of scientific discovery and technological innovation.

Domain II Social Studies Foundations, Skills, and Instruction (approximately 29% of the test)

Standards Assessed:

Social Studies Standards I–III:

The social studies teacher has a comprehensive knowledge of the social sciences and recognizes the value of the social sciences.

The social studies teacher effectively integrates the various social science disciplines.

The social studies teacher uses knowledge and skills of social studies, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), to plan and implement effective curriculum, instruction, assessment, and evaluation.

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DOMAIN I—SOCIAL STUDIES CONTENT

Competency 001 (History)

The teacher understands and applies knowledge of significant historical events and developments, multiple historical interpretations and ideas, and relationships between the past, the present, and the future, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

The beginning teacher:

- Understands traditional historical points of reference in the history of Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Analyzes how individuals, events, and issues shaped the history of Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Analyzes the influence of various factors (e.g., geographic contexts, processes of spatial exchange, science and technology) on the development of societies.
- Knows common characteristics of communities, past and present.
- Applies knowledge of the concept of chronology and its use in understanding history and historical events.
- Applies different methods of interpreting the past to understand, evaluate, and support multiple points of view, frames of reference, and the historical context of events and issues.
- Understands similarities and differences among Native-American groups in Texas, the United States, and the Western Hemisphere before European colonization.
- Understands the causes and effects of European exploration and colonization of Texas, the United States, and the Western Hemisphere.
- Understands the foundations of representative government in the United States, significant issues of the revolutionary era, and challenges confronting the U.S. government in the early years of the republic.
- Understands westward expansion and analyzes its effects on the political, economic, and social development of the United States.
- Analyzes ways in which political, economic, and social factors led to the growth of sectionalism and the Civil War.

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- Knows individuals, issues, and events of the Civil War and analyzes the effects of Reconstruction on the political, economic, and social life of the nation.
- Demonstrates knowledge of major U.S. reform movements of the nineteenth century (e.g., abolitionist, women's suffrage, temperance).
- Understands important issues, events, and individuals of the twentieth century in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Understands the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Analyzes ways in which particular contemporary societies reflect historical events (e.g., invasion, conquests, colonization, immigration).

Competency 002 (Geography)

The teacher understands and applies knowledge of geographic relationships involving people, places, and environments in Texas, the United States, and the world, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

The beginning teacher:

- Understands and applies the geographic concept of region.
- Knows the location and the human and physical characteristics of places and regions in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Analyzes ways in which humans adapt to, use, and modify the physical environment.
- Knows how regional physical characteristics and human modifications to the environment affect people's activities and settlement patterns.
- Analyzes ways in which location (absolute and relative) affects people, places, and environments.
- Demonstrates knowledge of physical processes (e.g., erosion, deposition, and weathering; plate tectonics; sediment transfer; the flows and exchanges of energy and matter in the atmosphere that produce weather and climate) and their effects on environmental patterns.
- Understands the characteristics, distribution, and migration of populations in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Understands the physical environmental characteristics of Texas, the United States, and the world, past and present, and how humans have adapted to and modified the environment.
- Analyzes how geographic factors have influenced the settlement patterns, economic development, political relationships, and policies of societies and regions in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Analyzes interactions between people and the physical environment and the effects of these interactions on the development of places and regions.

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Competency 003 (Economics)

The teacher understands and applies knowledge of economic systems and how people organize economic systems to produce, distribute, and consume goods and services, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

The beginning teacher:

- Understands that basic human needs are met in many ways.
- Understands and applies knowledge of basic economic concepts (e.g., goods and services, free enterprise, interdependence, needs and wants, scarcity, economic system, factors of production).
- Demonstrates knowledge of the ways in which people organize economic systems, and similarities and differences among various economic systems around the world.
- Understands the value and importance of work and purposes for spending and saving money.
- Demonstrates knowledge of patterns of work and economic activities in Texas, the United States, and the world, past and present.
- Understands the characteristics, benefits, and development of the free-enterprise system in Texas and the United States.
- Analyzes the roles of producers and consumers in the production of goods and services.
- Demonstrates knowledge of how businesses operate in the U.S. free-enterprise system.
- Applies knowledge of the effects of supply and demand on consumers and producers in a free-enterprise system.
- Demonstrates knowledge of categories of economic activities and methods used to measure a society's economic level.
- Uses economic indicators to describe and measure levels of economic activity.
- Understands major events and trends in economic history (e.g., factors leading societies to change from agrarian to urban, economic reasons for exploration and colonization, economic forces leading to the Industrial Revolution, processes of economic development in world areas, factors leading to the emergence of different patterns of economic activity in regions of the United States).
- Analyzes the interdependence of the Texas economy with the United States and the world.
- Applies knowledge of significant economic events and issues and their effects in Texas, the United States, and the world.

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Competency 004 (Government and Citizenship)

The teacher understands and applies knowledge of government, democracy, and citizenship, including ways in which individuals and groups achieve their goals through political systems, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

The beginning teacher:

- Understands the purpose of rules and laws; the relationship between rules, rights, and responsibilities; and the individual's role in making and enforcing rules and ensuring the welfare of society.
- Knows the basic structure and functions of the U.S. government, the Texas government, and local governments (including the roles of public officials) and relationships among national, state, and local governments.
- Demonstrates knowledge of key principles and ideas in major political documents of Texas and the United States (e.g., Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, Texas Constitution) and relationships among political documents.
- Knows how people organized governments in colonial America and during the early development of Texas.
- Understands the political process in the United States and Texas and how the U.S. political system works.
- Demonstrates knowledge of types of government (e.g., constitutional, totalitarian) and their effectiveness in meeting citizens' needs.
- Knows the formal and informal process of changing the U.S. and Texas constitutions and the impact of changes on society.
- Understands the impact of landmark Supreme Court cases.
- Understands components of the democratic process (e.g., voluntary individual participation, effective leadership, expression of different points of view) and their significance in a democratic society.
- Demonstrates knowledge of important customs, symbols, and celebrations that represent American beliefs and principles and contribute to national unity.
- Analyzes the relationship among individual rights, responsibilities, and freedoms in democratic societies.
- Applies knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in Texas and the United States, past and present.
- Understands how the nature, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship vary among societies.

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Competency 005 (Culture; Science, Technology, and Society)

The teacher understands and applies knowledge of cultural development, adaptation, and diversity, and understands and applies knowledge of interactions among science, technology, and society, as defined by the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

The beginning teacher:

- Understands basic concepts of culture and the processes of cultural adaptation, diffusion, and exchange.
- Analyzes similarities and differences in the ways various peoples at different times in history have lived and met basic human needs.
- Applies knowledge of the role of families in meeting basic human needs and how families and cultures develop and use customs, traditions, and beliefs to define themselves.
- Demonstrates knowledge of institutions that exist in all societies and how characteristics of these institutions may vary among societies.
- Understands how people use oral tradition, stories, real and mythical heroes, music, paintings, and sculpture to create and represent culture in communities in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Understands the contributions of people of various racial, ethnic, and religious groups in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Demonstrates knowledge of relationships among world cultures and relationships between and among people from various groups, including racial, ethnic, and religious groups, in the United States and throughout the world.
- Analyzes relationships among religion, philosophy, and culture, and the impact of religion on ways of life in the United States and world areas.
- Understands the concept of diversity within unity.
- Analyzes the effects of race, gender, and socioeconomic class on ways of life in the United States and throughout the world.
- Understands the various roles of men, women, children, and families in cultures past and present.
- Understands how the self develops and the dynamic relationship between self and social context.
- Applies knowledge of the effects of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on political, economic, social, and environmental developments and on everyday life in Texas, the United States, and the world.
- Analyzes how science and technology relate to political, economic, social, and cultural issues and events.
- Demonstrates knowledge of the origins, diffusion, and effects of major scientific, mathematical, and technological discoveries throughout history.

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- Knows how developments in science and technology have affected the physical environment; the growth of economies and societies; and definitions of, access to, and use of physical and human resources.
- Knows how changes in science and technology affect moral and ethical issues.

DOMAIN II—SOCIAL STUDIES FOUNDATIONS, SKILLS, AND INSTRUCTION

Competency 006 (Social Studies Foundations and Skills)

The teacher understands the foundations of social studies education and applies knowledge of skills used in the social sciences.

The beginning teacher:

- Understands the philosophical foundations of the social science disciplines and knows how knowledge generated by the social sciences affects society and people's lives.
- Understands how social science disciplines relate to each other.
- Understands practical applications of social studies education.
- Relates philosophical assumptions and ideas to issues and trends in the social sciences.
- Knows characteristics and uses of various primary and secondary sources (e.g., databases, maps, photographs, media services, the Internet, biographies, interviews, questionnaires, artifacts), and uses information from a variety of sources to acquire social science information and answer social science questions.
- Knows how to formulate research questions and use appropriate procedures to reach supportable judgments and conclusions in the social sciences.
- Understands social science research and knows how social scientists locate, gather, organize, analyze, and report information using standard research methodologies.
- Evaluates the validity of social science information from primary and secondary sources regarding bias issues, propaganda, point of view, and frame of reference.
- Understands and evaluates multiple points of view and frames of reference relating to issues in the social sciences.
- Knows how to analyze social science information (e.g., by categorizing, comparing and contrasting, making generalizations and predictions, drawing inferences and conclusions).
- Communicates and interprets social science information in written, oral, and visual forms and translates information from one medium to another (e.g., written to visual, statistical to written or visual).

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- Knows how to use problem-solving processes to identify problems, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement solutions, and evaluate the effectiveness of solutions.
- Knows how to use decision-making processes to identify situations that require decisions, gather information, identify options, predict consequences, and take action to implement decisions.
- Knows how to create maps and other graphics to present geographic, political, historical, economic, and cultural features, distributions, and relationships.
- Analyzes social science data by using basic mathematical and statistical concepts and analytical methods.
- Knows how to apply skills for resolving conflict, including persuasion, compromise, debate, and negotiation.
- Understands and uses social studies terminology correctly.

Competency 007 (Social Studies Instruction and Assessment)

The teacher plans and implements effective instruction and assessment in social studies.

The beginning teacher:

- Knows state content and performance standards for social studies that comprise the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).
- Understands the vertical alignment of the social sciences in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) from grade level to grade level, including prerequisite knowledge and skills.
- Understands the implications of stages of child growth and development for designing and implementing effective learning experiences in the social sciences.
- Understands the appropriate use of technology as a tool for learning and communicating social studies concepts.
- Selects and uses effective instructional practices, activities, technologies, and materials to promote students' knowledge and skills in the social sciences.
- Knows how to promote students' use of social science skills, vocabulary, and research tools, including technological tools.
- Knows how to communicate the value of social studies education to students, parents/caregivers, colleagues, and the community.
- Knows how to provide instruction that relates skills, concepts, and ideas in different social science disciplines.
- Provides instruction that makes connections between knowledge and methods in the social sciences and in other content areas.

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- Demonstrates knowledge of forms of assessment appropriate for evaluating students' progress and needs in the social sciences.
- Uses multiple forms of assessment and knowledge of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) to determine students' progress and needs and to help plan instruction that addresses the strengths, needs, and interests of all students, including English Language Learners.