Professional Development Workshop
1.5 hours

Preparing Students for the
High School Equivalency Tests

Presented by

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Hello and Welcome

- Tell us your name, where you teach, what subjects you teach and how many students are in your class

Who would like to begin?

Objectives

You will

- Get an overview of the 3 HSE tests in New Jersey
- Review common test prep strategies
- Discuss your teaching style and consider opportunities to promote a growth mindset
- Review the student readiness assessment
- Learn strategies to help students who struggle with math or the essay
- Examine and practice some typical HSE test questions
- Review resources

HSE -3 tests in New Jersey
and California, Nevada and Wyoming!

- TASC
  - CTB/McGraw Hill
  - Paper or computer-based testing
- GED
  - Pearson VUE
  - Computer-based testing only
- HISET
  - ETS/Iowa Testing Programs
  - Paper or computer-based testing

Test Prep Strategies
What do you tell your students?

In pairs:

1. List all of the test taking strategies that you tell your students to use.

   – For example, never leave any blank on the multiple choice questions.

2. Rank the items on your list, from the most important strategy, number one, to least important.

5 minutes

Are you a teacher or a coach?

- What is the difference between a teacher and a coach?

Encourage Participation

- We have to overcome our students' fear of failure- especially on the mathematics and writing parts of the exam.

Student Readiness Chart
Expected Performance Tables from TASC Manual

Math Expected Performance				Comments
Total Points Earned	Expected TASC Performance Level	Likelihood of Passing TASC	Likelihood of not Passing TASC	
5	Did not pass	40%	60%	
6	Pass	63%	37%	6/20=30%correct
7	Pass	88%	12%	7/20=35% correct
8	Pass	98%	2%	8/20=40% correct
9	Pass	99%	1%	9/20=45% correct
Writing Expected performance				Possible 8 for essay
10	Did not pass	42%	58%	Score out of 28
11	Pass	56%	44%	
12	Pass	71%	29%	
13	Pass	83%	17%	
14	Pass	91%	9%	say 4 essay 50%MC
15	Pass	96%	4%	
16	Pass	99%	1%	

- Reading Expected Performance
- 7   Did not pass   49%   51%
- 8   Pass   86%   14%
- 9   Pass   95%   5%   9/20=45% correct
- 10 Pass   99%   1%

- Science Expected performance
- 5   Did not pass   36%   64%
- 6   Pass   59%   41%
- 7   Pass   83%   17%
- 8   Pass   97%   3%   8/20=40%correct
- 9   Pass   99%   1%
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- Social Studies Expected Performance
- 6   Did not pass   37%   63%
- 7   Pass   53%   47%
- 8   Pass   75%   25%
- 9   Pass   92%   8%   9/20=45%correct
- 10 Pass   99%   1%

Ways to encourage a growth mindset

- Fixed mindset
  - Students develop fixed ideas about their potential. "I'm bad at math." "I can't write."
- Growth mindset
  - Encourage students to be sense makers
    - Represent, draw, visualize the problem
    - Promote a culture of collaboration, shared work
    - Whole class discussions, different ways of seeing things
    - Mistakes should be valued and shared-grow your brain!

I can't do … it!

- "Math is too much answer time and not enough learning time."

- "Psychological prison"

- Praise the process-the strategies, the effort, the persistence, the focus. This teaches students how to overcome obstacles.

- Communicate positive mindset messages-"I believe in you."

What should we be teaching?

- Is this really teaching?
- Does it matter?
- What is our priority?

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/new-ged-test-educational-improvement-setback/

Writing- Essay

- Argumentative essay.
- Informative essay

Writing- Multiple Choice

- Students run out of time on the MC section

- Write the essay in 25 minutes and then you have 20 minutes left, so return to the multiple choice questions.

- 51 Multiple-choice items

- 1 Constructed-response item

- 105 minutes includes 45 minutes for essay

Argumentative Essay

Individually

1. Read the essay prompt but do not read the 2 articles yet.

2. Introduce and support your claim in 2 sentences. Write your 2 sentences on your index card.

3. Be ready to share your answer.

5 minutes

Support your claim

1. Do not read the texts yet.

2. Can you support your claim from prior knowledge?

> Give 2 specific reasons. Write them on another index card.

3. Share your reasons with your neighbor.

5 minutes

Relevant evidence from texts

1. Now read the 2 articles.
2. Highlight something in the articles that you can cite to support your claim

3. Address opposing claim

   Pros v Cons

4. Compare evidence with your neighbor.

10 minutes

Conclusion

1. Restate thesis
2. Summarize or outline key arguments
3. You can make an additional comment but you should not add a new argument.

5 minutes

Mathematics

- Which calculator?
  - TI 30XS or Casio FX 260
  - 6 other possible calculators
- Most test centers are still using Casio FX 260
- 43 Multiple-choice items
- 11 gridded-response items
- 1 constructed-response item
- 105 minutes

Reading

- Timing is the biggest problem
- 7 very long articles to read
- Informational text questions are usually the easiest for our students.
- 48 Multiple-choice items
- One constructed-response item
- 75 minutes

Social Studies

- Lots of reading
- Answer questions with a graphic: diagram, table, map, cartoon, photo…These questions take less time.
- Important vocabulary: embargo, tariff, cartel, quota, monopoly, supply and demand, profit…
- 49 Multiple-choice items
- 1 constructed-response item
- 75 minutes

Science

- Do the easier questions
- No idea what question is about…guess!
- Need a calculator for one or two questions.

- 49 Multiple-choice items
- 1 Constructed-response item
- 85 minutes

Resources

- www.tasctest.com
- Kaplan New TASC Strategies Practice and Review
- New Readers Press Scoreboost Workbooks
- Learning Express Library 3.0, online course
- Kahn Academy
- Youtube
- Cengage- local libraries have online resources
- Carol Dweck (2007) "Mindset: The New Psychology of Success"   NY Random House
- Mindsetonline.com and Mindsetworks.com