

DSST® FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION

EXAM INFORMATION

This exam was developed to enable schools to award credit to students for knowledge equivalent to that learned by students taking the course. This examination includes topics related to contemporary issues in education; past and current influences on education (philosophies, democratic ideals, social/economic influences); and the interrelationships between contemporary issues and influences.

The exam contains 100 questions to be answered in 2 hours.

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINE

The following is an outline of the content areas covered in the examination. The approximate percentage of the examination devoted to each content area is also noted.

I. Contemporary Issues in Education – 40%

- a. Equity for
 1. Cultures (race and ethnicity)
 2. Sexes (gender and gender identification)
 3. Individuals with special needs (exceptionalities, gifted and talented)
 4. Diverse economic groups
 5. Bilingual/Language Learners
- b. Governance
 1. Level of control (Regulations)
 2. Funding/financing
 3. School leadership (i.e., site-based, shared leadership)
 4. Scheduling
 5. Testing & Standards
- c. Curriculum
 1. Control (national, state, and local)
 2. Content (types of)
 3. Morality/Values/Characters
- d. Professional Issues
 1. Legal liabilities/responsibilities
 2. Professional conduct/Dispositions
 3. Organizations
 4. Role definitions and descriptions
 5. Ethics

II. Past and Current Influences on Education – 40%

- a. Philosophies, theories, ideologies
 1. Pragmatism (Dewey)
 2. Enlightenment/Modernity (Jefferson, Locke, Rousseau)
 3. Humanism/Individualism
 4. Connectionism (Thorndike)
 5. Behaviorism (Skinner)

6. Constructivism
7. Cognitive-Developmental (e.g., Piaget, Erikson)
8. Socio-cultural learning theories (Vygotsky & Bandura)
9. Critical Theory
- b. Democratic Ideals
 1. Governmental influences
 2. Court decisions (e.g. civil rights)
 3. Legislation (e.g. funding, financing, special interests/ lobbying)
- c. Social/Economic Influences
 1. Private sector (E.g. corporations and business involvements)
 2. Economic structure
 3. Work force requirements & globalization
 4. Career and lifestyles (e.g. single-parent families, working families)
 5. Societal mobility
 6. Extracurricular activities

III. Interrelationships between Contemporary Issues and Influences, Past or Current, in Education – 20%

- a. Tradition and Progress
- b. National versus local control
- c. Secular versus religious
- d. Civil rights
- e. Public versus private

REFERENCES

Below is a list of reference publications that were either used as a reference to create the exam, or were used as textbooks in college courses of the same or similar title at the time the test was developed. You may reference either the current edition of these titles **or** textbooks currently used at a local college or university for the same class title. It is recommended that you reference **more than one textbook** on the topics outlined in this fact sheet.

You should **begin by checking textbook content against the content outline** provided **before** selecting textbooks that cover the test content from which to study.

Sources for study material are suggested but not limited to the following:

1. Banks, J. (2012). *Encyclopedia of Diversity in Education*. SAGE Publications, Inc., current edition.
2. Miner, B. (2013). *Lessons from the Heartland: A Turbulent Half-Century of Public Education in an*

- Iconic American City*. The New Press, current edition.
3. Oakes, J., Lipton, M., Anderson, L. & Stillman, J. (2013). *Teaching to Change the World*. New York: McGraw-Hill Inc., current edition.
 4. Orstein, Allan J. & Levine, Daniel U. (2013) *Foundations of Education*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., current edition.
 5. Sadker, D. & Zittleman, K. (2010). *Teachers, Schools, and Society*. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., current edition.
 6. Spring, Joel. (2013) *American Education*. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., current edition.
- c. socialize children regarding typical U.S. culture
 - d. offer enrichment for young students with exceptional ability
4. Dewey identified which of the following fundamental factors in the education process?
 - I. Organized subject matter
 - II. The learner
 - III. Creativity
 - IV. Society
 - a. III only
 - b. II and III only
 - c. I, II, and IV only
 - d. I, II, III, and IV

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

All test questions are in a multiple-choice format, with one correct answer and three incorrect options. These are samples of the types of questions that may appear on the exam. Other sample questions can be found in the form of practice exams by visiting our website at www.getcollegedcredit.com/testprep.

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1. Which of the following was the landmark court decision that gave judicial recognition of the values of expanding the common school program through high school and supported the levying of taxes on the general public to fund such schools?
 - a. Abington Case (Abington School Dist. vs. Schempp)
 - b. Kalamazoo Case (Stuart vs. School Dist. #1 of the Village of Kalamazoo)
 - c. Lau vs. Nichols
 - d. Pickering vs. Board of Education
 2. Critics of mainstream approaches to learning that concentrate on the sheer mechanics, point out that these approaches fail to give adequate consideration to the
 - a. dominant culture of the society
 - b. importance of education to access to the job marketplace
 - c. learner’s socio-cultural context for constructing means
 - d. economic and technological needs of the wider society
 3. The major thrust of the Head Start program is to
 - a. help disadvantaged preschool children to achieve readiness for the first grade
 - b. provide funding for after-school child care programs
 5. Which of the following emphasizes socially interactive and process-oriented “hands-on” learning in which students work collaboratively?
 - a. Behaviorism
 - b. Constructivism
 - c. Humanism
 - d. Socialism
 6. The major cause of the decline in public school construction in the early 1990’s was
 - a. the inadequate utilization of existing facilities
 - b. the public resistance to increased taxation
 - c. a shortage of trained teachers to staff new classrooms
 - d. a leveling off of the school-age population
 7. The objective of the school reform strategy known as American 2000 was to establish nationwide consensus on all of the following EXCEPT
 - a. the goals of education
 - b. the curriculum
 - c. federal funding of education
 - d. achievement standards
 8. One effect of the 1896 *Plessey vs. Ferguson* court decision was the
 - a. establishment of standards for identifying schools as “separate but equal”
 - b. establishment of the principle that segregated schools are inherently unequal
 - c. continuance of de facto segregation
 - d. provision of equal access for all racial groups to all types of institutions
 9. The current school calendar of 9-10 months that is used by most public schools in the United States was originally based on the

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- a. tradition of taking family vacations during the summer
 - b. lack of technology that would permit the regulation of temperatures in educational facilities during the summer months
 - c. need for children to work on farms during the summer in a predominately agricultural society
 - d. need for a time when teachers could continue their own education
10. Horace Mann believed that providing a common school education was essential in promoting
- a. respect for people of diverse racial and ethnic groups
 - b. respect for diverse religious orientations and traditions
 - c. moral values
 - d. social equality

CREDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

The American Council on Education’s College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated the DSST test development process and content of this exam. It has made the following recommendations:

Area or Course Equivalent	Foundations of Education
Level	Lower-level baccalaureate
Amount of Credit	Three (3) semester hours
Minimum Score	400
Source	American Council on Education – College Credit Recommendation Service

Answers to sample questions: 1-B; 2-C; 3-A; 4-C; 5-B; 6-B; 7-C; 8-C; 9-C; 10-C.

