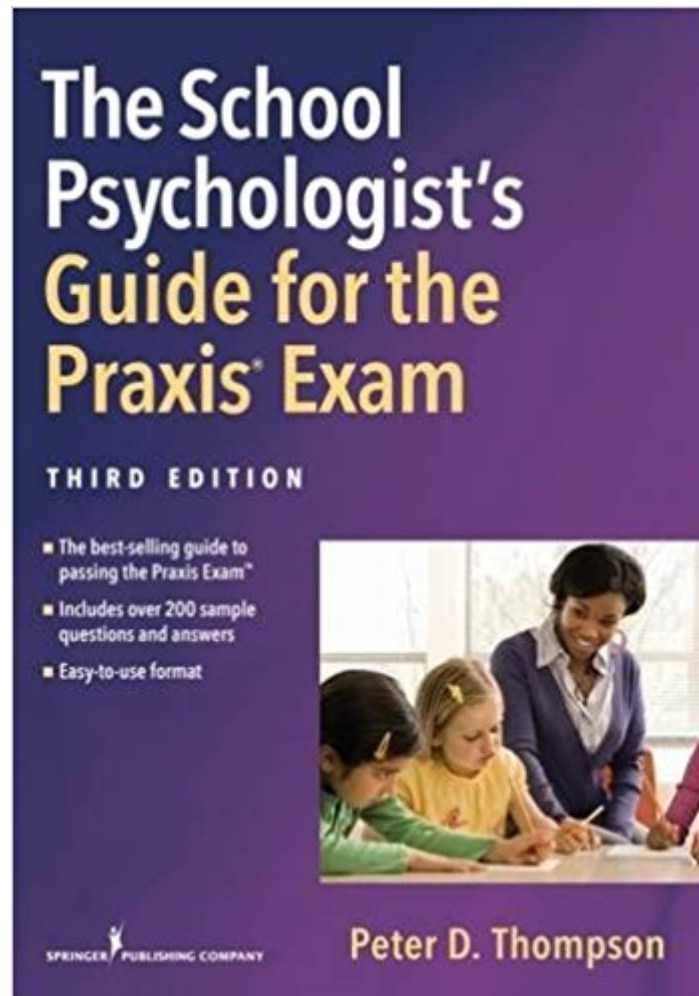




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The School Psychologist's Guide For The Praxis® Exam, Third Edition



Synopsis

Written by an award-winning practicing school psychologist, this thoroughly updated edition reflects the 2015 version of the Praxis Exam in School Psychology. Noted for its concise and efficient outline style with visual keys that indicate what is most important and what needs extra study time, this guide has already helped thousands pass the exam. The bulleted key concepts and lists versus long, drawn-out paragraphs present information in easily digestible segments without sacrificing key information needed to pass the exam. Invaluable study suggestions better prepare readers and build their confidence prior to exam time. Highlights of the new edition include: Reorganized to conform to the four major content areas of the updated 2015 exam Two new practice exams with 280 reworked sample questions and detailed answers that are similar in style and content to the actual items found in the Praxis exam to maximize success Covers school neuropsychology and traumatic brain injury, two topics that are not major domains on the current test, but which provide critical information to help strengthen success rate New Concepts to Remember lists at the end of each content chapter summarize the key points and provide additional concepts that are especially helpful to review 2 weeks prior to exam time New Study and Test-Tasking Strategies and Insider Tips boxes based on feedback from recent test takers provide tips for studying for and passing the exam from all levels of test takers Updated information on threat and risk assessment, pediatric brain injury and school supports, the DSM-5, and school neuropsychological practices and policies New key at the beginning of the answer section that links the categories referenced in the answer to the appropriate content chapter for ease of use Aligns with "best practices" and recommendations from the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) A proven track record of success that has already helped thousands pass the exam, Dr. Thompson was named Colorado School Psychologist of the Year in 2013 Anyone planning to take the Praxis® exam including master's or doctoral school psychology students and practicing professionals will benefit by studying for this critical exam using this book.

Book Information

Paperback: 266 pages

Publisher: Springer Publishing Company; 3 edition (February 1, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0826164382

ISBN-13: 978-0826164384

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.6 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #63,991 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #74 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Education & Training #97 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Professional > Professional #195 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Educational Psychology

Customer Reviews

Peter D. Thompson, PhD, is a licensed school psychologist and a long-time member of the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). He has multiple advanced degrees in psychology and holds various leadership positions in the Douglas County School District, which is a district of more than 70 schools in Colorado. Dr. Thompson has extensive training in school neuropsychology, and is currently the school district's traumatic brain injury (TBI) team coordinator. He continues to lend his expertise to several organizations and agencies in the Denver metro area. In 2013, Dr. Thompson was named Colorado School Psychologist of the Year. Dr. Thompson authored the first edition of The School Psychology Licensure Exam Guide in 2004, which is now in its third iteration. He has also written chapters in Brain Injury in Children and Youth: A Manual for Educators (2016) and Concussion Management Guidelines Manual (2015), both published by the Colorado Department of Education.

I recently moved to a state that does not recognize NCSP or out-of-state certification/licensure. So, found myself having to re-take the PRAXIS 25 years after taking it for the first time. The field has changed a lot during those years and, even though I try to remain current, I knew I would probably have to study if I wanted to pass. This book was extremely helpful in guiding my studying. The author clearly suggests that you use several study sources and I did that. He also recommended several helpful resources and the practice tests were very helpful. The most useful aspect of the book was the focus on the way questions might be worded and what TYPES of answers they might be looking for. This was very helpful when I had to choose an answer to, what I considered to be, an unclearly worded question. I just got my official results and I passed with a score of 183 (147 is required in my state and for NCSP). Without this book, I'm not confident that I would have passed.

So, you have to take the school psych PRAXIS... Truly, my sympathies! Here is the good, the bad, and the ugly. The good new is, if you are coming straight out of a school psych graduate program

(APA approved; NASP accredited), my sense is you will be fine! If, however, you have been out of school for, say, twenty or more years, this is going to be rough- and ugly! I earned my degree before there was such a thing as the School Psych PRAXIS. During that time, I've continued to teach at a major university, worked for a variety of school systems, provided training for students, worked at a private practices, helped school districts set up new policies and procedures, provided district-wide trainings, etc. You get the drift- I've stayed current and I always thought I had good skills. And, then I took the PRAXIS practice test when, in order to change jobs and states, I found out, with under two weeks notice, that I would have to take the PRAXIS to be certified in another state. The PRAXIS practice test was pretty humbling- a very shaky 82% and I knew I guessed on multiple items. This was BAD! I was in serious panic mode, especially since no one seems to be able to tell you how many questions you need to get correct to pass the PRAXIS. So, I grabbed this book. I purchased the kindle edition because I had so little time to prepare- I wouldn't recommend that if you have more time- I'd buy the hard copy. One of the best benefits of this book for me was the practice tests, but you can't print them from the kindle edition. I found I had to keep going back and forth between the answer pages and the questions on the kindle edition. I think I'd rather have copied the practice tests and taken them over and over and been able to review them with the answer pages side-by-side. The kindle edition just made this a little cumbersome, as I was constantly scrolling back and forth between pages to find the question and compare it to the rational for the correct answer. That being said, this book breaks the PRAXIS areas down into manageable parts. The info is easily accessible, provides hints/tips, and highlights the most critical areas to study. For me, it provided a focused plan of study. Additionally, at the end of each chapter, Dr. Thompson also provides a summary of the most important information for each section. Perhaps the most important part for someone like me, who has been out of school for a considerable amount of time (!), was the practice tests. They are, as someone noted in a previous review, HARD, and nerve-wracking, and anxiety producing! But, fair warning, the practice tests in this book were quite similar in style (not necessarily content) to the actual PRAXIS questions. At several points, I really doubted the practice exams in this book, as I found myself screaming more than once "all of these answers are correct- there is NO right answer!", but I read and re-read Dr. Thompson's reasoning for the correct answer. It helped me to get into the mind-set for the PRAXIS, which was probably the thing I most needed to do. I needed to think in the way NASP wanted me to, rather than as someone who has really seen it all in the field- it sounds crazy, and counter-intuitive, but that is what I needed to do. The practice tests in this book- doing them over and over- and reading the rational for the answers in each was invaluable for me. Now, I primarily used this book, but I also recommend the PRAXIS practice test.

At first, it doesn't seem worth it, as there is only one, so each time you take it, it is the same exam, but again, when you look at the rationale for the incorrect/correct answers, it helps you to understand the types of questions and the necessary responses. I took that same test over and over as well. I created flashcards from this book, from the practice tests in this book, from the official PRAXIS practice test, and used flashcards from CRAM. Despite this, I will tell you that when I took the PRAXIS, on my first go through of the test, I marked 49 questions (yes, 49 out of 140!) to go back and review. In most instances, it was a situation very similar to the practice tests in this book, where I could narrow it down to a few choices, or I felt that all were good, and then I had to sort through them looking for the best choice. This is where Dr. Thompson's book helps as well- he provided tips for how to select the best choices, how to think like the NASP, how to narrow my choices, etc. And still, when I finally finished the PRAXIS, nearly down to the wire as far as the allocated time, there were still a number of questions for which I had no clue as to whether or not I had responded correctly. It was a humbling experience for someone who had been in the field as long as I had been, who had trained many students, who had taught at a university for many years, etc. I had really resigned myself to re-taking the PRAXIS- I was truly that discouraged. And, then, I got my score - 183. Yes, I killed the PRAXIS!

Recently bought this book to prepare for my Praxis examination. I was pleased with the easy-to-read format of the book and the succinct descriptions and information presented. I read through this entire book and took both practice tests before taking the Praxis exam, and I passed the Praxis with a score of 184. I found the information in this book to be helpful in supplementing what I've learned from my graduate program. The practice tests in this book were more challenging than the Praxis, in my opinion, but they helped me get into the habit of really analyzing each question and the answer choices. I would definitely recommend this book to others to prepare for the School Psychology Praxis, and there were questions on the Praxis that I would not have been able to answer without going through this book.

I easily passed the Praxis with a score of 189. Thanks for making this book available so I could pass the silly Praxis.

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