

CSET Multiple Subjects Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

143 Scored questions	5h Time limit	220 scaled score per sub... Passing score
\$247 Exam fee	California Commission o... Governing body	— Pass rate

The numbers to remember

- 3 subtests make up CSET Multiple Subjects.
- Subtest I: 52 multiple-choice + 4 constructed-response questions, 180 minutes taken alone.
- Subtest II: 52 multiple-choice questions, 180 minutes taken alone.
- Subtest III: 39 multiple-choice + 3 constructed-response questions, 135 minutes taken alone.
- All three together: 300 minutes (5 hours) in one session, plus 15 minutes upfront for the nondisclosure agreement and tutorial.
- Passing score: 220 scaled score, required per subtest.
- Fee: \$247 for all three subtests together, or \$99 per subtest separately.
- Results: available within 5 weeks of testing.
- Validity: a passing score must be used for certification within 10 years.

Subtests and scores

Each subtest is scored independently against the 220 passing mark — there is no combined average across subtests. If you clear two subtests but fall short on one, you generally only need to retake the subtest you missed, not the whole exam. Add the multiple-choice counts across all three subtests and the exam totals 143 scored selected-response questions, on top of the 7 constructed-response questions split between Subtests I and III. Remember that a scaled score exists to make results comparable across different test forms — it is not a raw percentage, so don't try to convert your practice percentage directly into a scaled-score estimate.

High-yield review areas

- Constructed-response technique: restate the prompt, show your reasoning, stay concise — Subtest I has 4 of these items and Subtest III has 3.
- Pacing drills at the real per-subtest time limits (180/180/135 minutes) so your practice speed matches test-day speed.
- A quick pass through the 15-minute tutorial format so nothing on test morning is unfamiliar.
- A final review pass the night before that revisits missed practice items and asks why the correct choice was correct, not just what it was.
- A short review of pacing checkpoints if you're sitting for all three subtests in one 300-minute session, since no rule forces an even 180/180/135 split of your own time.

Top traps

- Don't average your practice scores across subtests — each one needs its own 220-or-better result.
- Don't treat constructed-response items like multiple-choice ones for time budgeting; they take longer per question.
- Don't forget the fee difference: bundling all three subtests (\$247) costs less than paying \$99 for each separately if you plan to sit for more than two.
- Don't assume your score arrives instantly — plan any retake around the 5-week results window.

- Don't skip the tutorial mentally on test day — the 15 minutes it takes are separate from your subtest clock, so rushing through it buys you nothing.

Official sources

- California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), administered by Pearson's Evaluation Systems (California Educator Credentialing Examinations program) — CSET: Multiple Subjects Test Page (California Educator Credentialing Examinations): https://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/CA_CSET101_TestPage.html
- California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), administered by Pearson's Evaluation Systems (California Educator Credentialing Examinations program) — Assessments — California Educator Credentialing Examinations: https://www.ctcexams.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html
- California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), administered by Pearson's Evaluation Systems (California Educator Credentialing Examinations program) — Verifying Subject Matter Competence by Examination (CL-674M) — California Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/leaflets/cl-674m/>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/practice/exams/education/cset-multiple-subjects