



California Subject Examinations for Teachers®

TEST GUIDE

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE General Examination Information

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CS-TG-ASLXGI-02

Test Structure for CSET: American Sign Language

CSET: American Sign Language consists of three separate subtests, each composed of both multiple-choice and constructed-response questions. Each subtest is scored separately.

The structure of the examination is shown in the table below.

CSET: American Sign Language			
Subtest	Domains	Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	Number of Constructed-Response Questions*
I	Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions	10	1 short (focused)
	Cultural Analysis and Comparisons	20	1 extended
	Subtest Total	30	1 short (focused) 1 extended
II	General Linguistics	10	none
	Linguistics of the Target Language—American Sign Language (Language Structures; Contrastive Analysis; Sociolinguistics and Pragmatics)	20	2 short (focused)
	Subtest Total	30	2 short (focused)
III	Linguistics of the Target Language—American Sign Language (Error Analysis)	none	1 short (focused)
	Language and Communication: Receptive Comprehension	18	1 short (focused)
	Language and Communication: Expressive Production	none	2 short (focused)
	Subtest Total	18	4 short (focused)

*For Subtest I, examinees may respond to each constructed-response item in either ASL or written English. For Subtest II, examinees must respond in written English. For Subtest III, examinees must respond in ASL.

Annotated List of Resources for CSET: American Sign Language

This list identifies some resources that may help candidates prepare to take CSET: American Sign Language. While not a substitute for coursework or other types of teacher preparation, these resources may enhance a candidate's knowledge of the content covered on the examination. The references listed are not intended to represent a comprehensive listing of all potential resources. Candidates are not expected to read all of the materials listed below, and passage of the examination will not require familiarity with these specific resources. A brief summary is provided for each reference cited. Resources are organized alphabetically and by content domain order in subtest order.

General Linguistics

Fromkin, Victoria, and Rodman, Robert. (1998). *An Introduction to Language* (6th edition). Orlando, FL: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

This book offers a good overview of all of the major aspects of linguistics. It covers phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, and changes in language over time.

Linguistic Terms Explained in ASL. Burtonsville, MD: SignMedia, Inc.

This video provides an explanation in ASL of core terms and concepts from the field of linguistics.

Parker, Frank, and Riley, Kathryn. (2000). *Linguistics for Non-Linguists: A Primer with Exercises*. Needam Heights, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

This book offers a solid introduction to linguistics, including discussions of different theories and models of second-language learning.

Valli, Clayton, and Lucas, Ceil. (2001). *Linguistics of American Sign Language* (3rd edition). Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book explores the major areas of linguistics. It incorporates both general overviews and specific discussions of ASL phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics; historical development of languages; and languages in use.

Wilcox, Sherman, and Wilcox, Phyllis. (1997). *Learning to See: Teaching American Sign Language as a Second Language*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book covers the major aspects of ASL linguistics, Deaf culture, and ASL literature. It also includes a section that addresses issues of second-language acquisition within the ASL classroom.

Linguistics of the Target Language—American Sign Language (ASL)

Baker-Shenk, Charlotte, and Cokely, Dennis. (1991). *American Sign Language: A Teacher's Resource on Grammar and Culture*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book offers an in-depth discussion of the grammar and structure of ASL, as well as discussions of Deaf culture and the deaf community.

Humphries, Tom, and Padden, Carol. (2003). *Learning American Sign Language: Levels I and II, Beginning and Intermediate*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Allyn and Bacon.

This course covers beginning and intermediate ASL. It teaches the rules of ASL in a natural order that is compatible with the everyday ASL used by native signers.

Lentz, Ella; Mikos, Ken; and Smith, Sheri. (2001). *Signing Naturally Level 3*. Berkeley, CA: Dawn Sign Press.

The authors take a functional-notional approach to second language. The text includes dialogues, vocabulary, grammar, activities, conversational strategies, and extensive culture and language notes.

Valli, Clayton, and Lucas, Ceil. (2001). *Linguistics of American Sign Language* (3rd edition). Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book explores the major areas of linguistics. It incorporates both general overviews and specific discussions of ASL phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics; historical development of languages; and languages in use.

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This book covers the major aspects of ASL linguistics, Deaf culture, and ASL literature. It also includes a section that addresses issues of second-language acquisition within the ASL classroom.

Literary and Cultural Texts and Traditions

Bahan, Ben, and Supalla, Sam. (1994). *ASL Literature Series—Teacher's Set*. San Diego, CA: Dawn Sign Press.

This set includes the videotape of Bahan's "Bird of a Different Feather" and Supalla's "For a Decent Living." The accompanying book serves as a guide for literary, linguistic, and cultural analysis of both works.

Peters, Cynthia. (2000). *Deaf American Literature: From Carnival to the Canon*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book offers a comprehensive look at Deaf American literature—poetry, drama, storytelling, and fiction. The study focuses primarily on ASL literature, with some commentary on Deaf American literature written in English.

Poetry in Motion. Burtonsville, MD: SignMedia, Inc.

This video series includes ASL poetry by Clayton Valli, Partrick Graybill, and Debbie Rennie.

Stremlau, Tonya M. (Ed.). (2002). *The Deaf Way II Anthology: A Literary Collection by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Writers*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This is a collection of short fiction, poetry, essays, and drama written by people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Wilcox, Sherman, and Wilcox, Phyllis. (1997). *Learning to See: Teaching American Sign Language as a Second Language*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book covers the major aspects of ASL linguistics, Deaf culture, and ASL literature. It also includes a section that addresses issues of second-language acquisition within the ASL classroom.

Cultural Analysis and Comparisons

Baynton, Douglas. (1998). *Forbidden Signs: American Culture and the Campaign Against Sign Language*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

This book explores American culture from the mid-nineteenth century to 1920 through the lens of one striking episode—the campaign led by A. G. Bell and other prominent Americans to suppress the use of sign language among deaf people.

Carroll, C., and Mather, S. (1997). *Movers and Shakers: Deaf People Who Changed the World*. San Diego, CA: Dawn Sign Press.

This book chronicles the lives and accomplishments of deaf people who made significant contributions to the world.

Humphries, Tom, and Padden, Carol. (1988). *Deaf in America—Voices from a Deaf Culture*. Boston, MA: Harvard Press.

The authors provide valuable information about deaf culture from a deaf person's perspective.

Lane, Harlan; Hoffmeister, Robert; and Bahan, Ben. (1996). *A Journey into the Deaf World*. San Diego, CA: Dawn Sign Press.

This book offers an in-depth guided exploration of American Deaf culture.

Padden, Carol, and Humphries, Tom. (2005). *Inside Deaf Culture*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

This book examines Deaf culture from the inside; it includes in-depth cultural examinations of issues related to Deaf education, Deaf cultural forms, and the interaction between Deaf culture and ASL.

Van Cleve, John, and Crouch, B. (1989). *A Place of Their Own: Creating the Deaf Community in America*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book examines the development of the deaf community in America.

Language and Communication: Receptive Comprehension

Baker-Shenk, Charlotte, and Cokely, Dennis. (1991). *American Sign Language: A Teacher's Resource on Grammar and Culture*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book offers an in-depth discussion of the grammar and structure of ASL, as well as discussions of Deaf culture and the deaf community.

Baker-Shenk, Charlotte, and Cokely, Dennis. (1991). *American Sign Language: Student Texts*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

These texts contain instructional units that cover the major grammatical features of ASL and include dialogues and sample drills.

Humphries, Tom, and Padden, Carol. (2003). *Learning American Sign Language: Levels I and II, Beginning and Intermediate*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Allyn and Bacon.

This course covers beginning and intermediate ASL. It teaches the rules of ASL in a natural order that is compatible with the everyday ASL used by native signers.

Lentz, Ella; Mikos, Ken; and Smith, Sheri. (2001). *Signing Naturally Level 3*. Berkeley, CA: Dawn Sign Press.

The authors take a functional-notional approach to second language. The text includes dialogues, vocabulary, grammar, activities, conversational strategies, and extensive culture and language notes.

Valli, Clayton, and Lucas, Ceil. (2001). *Linguistics of American Sign Language* (3rd edition). Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book explores the major areas of linguistics. It incorporates both general overviews and specific discussions of ASL phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics; historical development of languages; and languages in use.

Language and Communication: Expressive Production

Baker-Shenk, Charlotte, and Cokely, Dennis. (1991). *American Sign Language: A Teacher's Resource on Grammar and Culture*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet University Press.

This book offers an in-depth discussion of the grammar and structure of ASL, as well as discussions of Deaf culture and the deaf community.

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