

# A Road Map for Instructors: HiSET® Website Resources

Preparing today's students to be thoughtful, engaged citizens is a complex process. Interpersonal skills and understanding how to effectively navigate new media are not explicitly listed as skills high school graduates should possess; however, many of us would agree that these characteristics can be deciding factors between two job applicants. Nonetheless, there are a set of core academic skills that college- and work-ready adults should possess at the end of K–12 education.

January 2014 marked the first year that states had the option of adopting the *HiSET*®, GED® or TASC™ tests for their high school equivalency candidates. As the adult education landscape continues to evolve, the College and Career Readiness Standards provide instructors a foundation of what skills should be focused on during classroom instruction, regardless of the test a candidate will be taking.

Resources and practices that have been successful best practices in the past will likely continue to be effective in today's classroom. The amount of preparation time students need to be successful on the HiSET exam varies. Generally speaking, if candidates' skill levels are not around or above the 9th-grade level, they may need more than one year to prepare and pass any of the high school equivalency tests. As the test date approaches, becoming familiar with the test format and structure is increasingly important to minimize test anxiety.

HiSET Component for Computer- and Paper-delivered Tests	Number of Test Questions	Item Type	Test Length
Language Arts–Reading	40 questions	100% multiple choice	65 minutes
Language Arts–Writing	51 questions	Part 1: 100% multiple choice Part 2: 100% constructed-response/essay questions	Part 1 and Part 2 120 minutes
Mathematics	50 questions	100% multiple choice	90 minutes
Science	50 questions	100% multiple choice	80 minutes
Social Studies	50 questions	100% multiple choice	70 minutes
		<b>Total Test Time</b>	<b>7 hours, 5 minutes</b>

The **Prepare Tab** of the HiSET website for test takers includes information and resources that candidates can use to determine whether they are ready to schedule and take any of the HiSET subtests. Classroom instructors should incorporate these resources within instruction and help guide candidates through the appropriate use and interpretation of test preparation resources.

If they did not view the *HiSET*® **Tutorial Video** when visiting [www.hiset.org](http://www.hiset.org), have students view the 10-minute video, available in English or Spanish, to become familiar with the HiSET exam.

- Prepare with the *HiSET*® **Study Companion (PDF)**: This study guide will help candidates manage their preparation time.

- Take free **HiSET® Practice Tests**: There are three free practice tests available. Free Practice Test 2 helps determine areas of focus and a time line to test day. After an appropriate amount of preparation has been completed, Free Practice Test 3 can be used to determine whether candidates are ready to test or if they will need to continue studying and preparing to be successful.
- View the **HiSET® Registration Video**: If a candidate has not already registered for a HiSET account, this registration video will review the process to register, schedule and pay for their test(s) online.

The HiSET website provides many more resources that candidates can use to prepare to pass the HiSET exam. You may have students who have already taken advantage of the above resources and have also invested in other preparation materials. Regardless of your students' level of preparation, educators need an array of resources and strategies to help their students succeed.

**Note:** Ensure the student meets all state requirements to take a high school equivalency test. If your state offers multiple options, direct candidates to each test's website. For the HiSET exam, candidates can visit <http://hiset.ets.org/requirements>.

Students who need to take a high school equivalency (HSE) test as soon as possible must work efficiently to increase their chances for success.

Objective	Suggested Materials	Classroom Activities
Language Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Writing</li> </ul> Help students become familiar with HiSET exam expectations by guiding them through the HiSET website to the provided resources.	<u><a href="#">HiSET® Tutorial Video</a></u> <u><a href="#">HiSET® Test-taker Flyer (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">HSE Letter to Test Takers (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">HiSET® 2016 Test at a Glance (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">New HiSET® 2016 Scored Sample Writing Responses (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">New HiSET® 2016 Writing Response Scoring Guide (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">Essay Rubric for Instructors (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">Sample Essay Prompt (PDF)</a></u>	Have candidates watch the <i>HiSET®</i> Tutorial Video and read the HSE letter and the test-taker flyer. Address questions or concerns.  Help students understand the expectations for the Writing subtest by going through the suggested materials and addressing questions and comments. Ask students questions such as, "What are two things your essay should include to receive a passing score?" Possible student responses include, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a clear and developed position</li> <li>• context for your ideas and claims</li> <li>• multiple unbiased perspectives</li> <li>• evidence drawn from provided text</li> <li>• formal style and objective tone</li> </ul> Extension: Have students select a rubric descriptor to focus on in their writing. Help them develop a plan for improving the selected skill independently. Have candidates respond to the Sample Essay Prompt prior to moving on to the HiSET Practice Tests.
Show students how to interpret pre- and post-test results and look for other support resources, starting with the HiSET website.	<u><a href="#">Free HiSET® Practice Test 1, 2 or 3</a></u> <u><a href="#">HiSET® Practice Test Results: Are You Ready to Take the Exam? (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">HiSET® Study Companion (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">Khan Academy HiSET® Instructional Support Videos and Exercises (PDF)</a></u> <u><a href="#">CBAL™ Quick Math Practice system</a></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After having students take one of the free practice tests, ask a volunteer to explain how he or she arrived at the correct answer to one of the questions. Have other students share alternate solutions and facilitate the discussion to look for any repeated class errors.</li> <li>• Help students interpret their practice test results.</li> <li>• Guide students to use multiple preparation resources such as the study companion, the free Khan Academy HiSET videos and the Quick Math mathematics practice system, CBAL.</li> </ul>

- To view and access the live links, download a PDF version of this road map at [http://hiset.ets.org/s/p/resource\\_roadmap.pdf](http://hiset.ets.org/s/p/resource_roadmap.pdf).
- In addition to the HiSET website, instructors and test takers can call **1-855-MyHiSET (1-855-694-4738)** for additional support.
- Suggested Spanish-language materials are available at <http://hiset.ets.org/es/about/bulletin>.
- Effective lessons need to be engaging and specific. Click on the links below for additional resources that utilize standards-based lessons to guide classroom instruction:
  - [HiSET® Curriculum Blueprint by Essential Education \(PDF\)](#)
  - [College and Career Readiness Standards \(PDF\)](#)
  - [HiSET® 2016 Test at a Glance \(PDF\)](#)
  - Watch the *HiSET®* Pre-Recorded Content Webinar, September 2015

[Play recording \(1 hr.\)](#)

(click here)