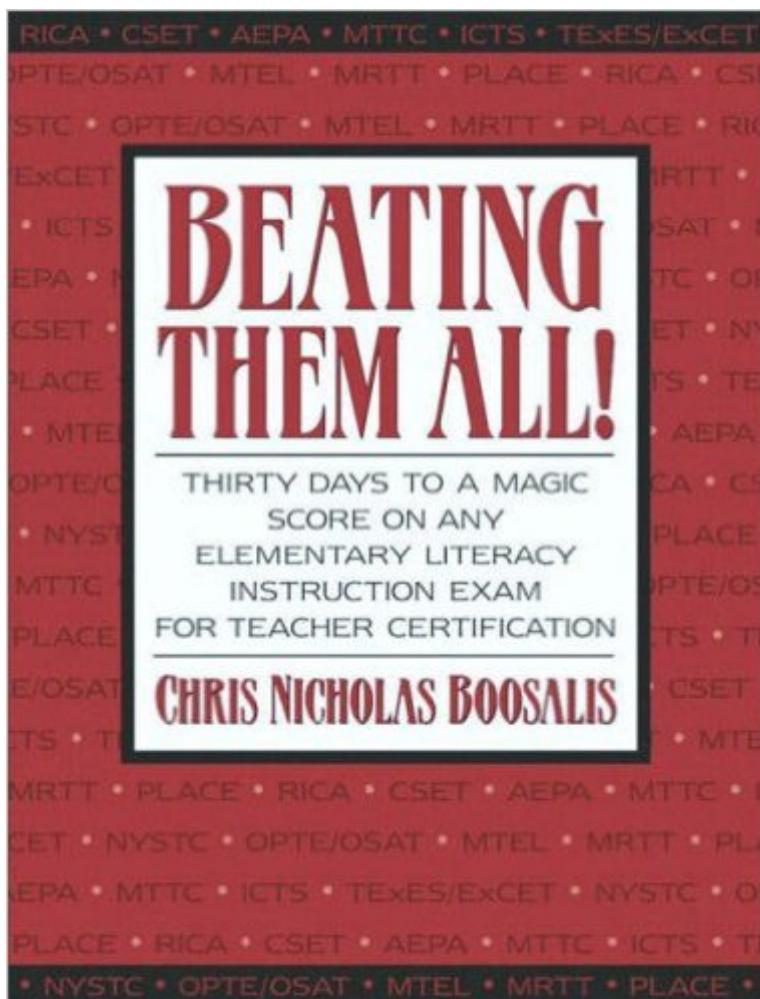


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# Beating Them All! Thirty Days To A Magic Score On Any Elementary Literacy Instruction Exam For Teacher Certification



## **Synopsis**

The Magic Score is a universal preparation manual that will assist test-takers across the country beat any elementary reading instruction exam ( National Evaluation Systems, Inc. (NES) exam) The strategies and methods presented in this text are research-based and will allow candidates pass the exams on their first attempt.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I aced the Foundations of Reading exam the first time I took it. Here's my advice:1.) Take the computer-based test. It is worth the extra money. You'll take the test in a small, quiet room where you will be given your own private cubicle and a sound-proof head set. It is SO much easier to concentrate without distractions. Also, it's easier to type in the essays (you don't have to write rough drafts and then rewrite final copies -or- worry about handwriting neatness) and you have "copy/paste" features to use during editing. It was very easy to navigate on the computer - and I'm far from being "computer savvy." The best part is you can schedule it for a day/time that works best for you. If you are not a "morning person" schedule yourself an afternoon test.2.) Use the practice test on the MTEL website to guide your studying!!! It was the most helpful source I found. It will give you a very good idea of what to expect on the exam. Memorize the "strong" example responses (on MTEL website) for both essay questions. You will have 1 question that has to do with miscue analysis and 1 question that has to do with comprehension on your exam. All you have to do to get 4/4 points on both is memorize and understand the reading comprehension terminology + the

miscue analysis terminology. Know the terms and definitions associated with both by heart. Also, memorize the "wording" of the "strong" sample responses. Go into the exam with a very good understanding of reading comprehension (inferential vs. literal) and the ability to analyze the miscues made during an oral reading assessment. 3.) As for the multiple choice questions: they cover a lot of material. I strongly suggest buying the book "Beating Them All!" by Chris Nicholas Boosalis. Make sure you have a very good understanding of ALL the terms/material in chapter 2. Memorize the sequences for phonics instruction and phonemic awareness instruction too.

EDIT: I passed with flying colors. Seriously, if you don't spend the \$30 on this book and study chapter 2, you are throwing the \$130 registration fee out the window. Unless this subject matter is already your area of expertise, you NEED this book! I have never, ever felt that \$30 was more worth it in my life. I was terrified of taking the Foundations of Reading MTEL 3+ times like others, but with zero background knowledge this book transformed me into a first-time passer. Honestly, if you don't buy and study it you have no sympathy from me when you fail. I will update after the test, but I will say that in addition to buying and studying this book, I paid \$70 for a 4 hour prep course (I have never taken the MTEL Foundations of Reading, but have heard enough ugly rumors that I went above and beyond in preparation). In that 4 hours, I felt like I knew 95% of the material already from this book, and that probably 30% of the things that seem important in the book (verified by practice tests) were not even covered in the prep course at all. So overall I spent \$30 on this book and \$70 on a classroom experience, and while I'm glad I took the class and there were a few unique nuggets of wisdom here and there, if I had to choose one or the other, I'd buy this book and study Chapter 2 HARD.

This book is an absolute lifesaver. If you have taken and FAILED the MTEL Foundations of Reading, buy this book and pass it once and for all. The book breaks things down that I hadn't understood in the past. I took the test 4 times and failed each time (once by 1 point, and various other scores following that). The point is, this book combined with review questions from the MTEL website gave me the necessary information to pass this test. Buy it, you won't be disappointed.

The MTEL subtest-Foundations of Reading, felt like it was impossible to pass. I had missed passing by two points more than once! I contacted Chris Boosalis who gave me tips and strategies on how to pass the test and what exactly the people who scored these tests were looking for. I am now a certified teacher and I could not have done it without his help or his book! [...]

This book was very valuable to me. I read several of the good reviews on and it convinced me of the necessity of buying the book. I had failed my first attempt on the Foundations of Reading MTEL test in Massachusetts despite diligent study. I found some helpful study guides elsewhere, but the second chapter of "Beating Them All" helped put the puzzle pieces together. It explains that reading is taught according to sequential activities. Phonemic awareness leads to phonics, phonics to fluency, etc. The author was very knowledgeable about the model that is taught by makers of standardized tests, which is influenced by recent research articulated in the "Put Reading First" web site. That site is excellent, but it doesn't always clearly explain what is taught first, second, third, etc. For example, onsets and rimes are taught before syllable patterns. This was something I couldn't quite grasp the first time around. The author provides examples of activities that are commonly taught for concepts about print, phonemic awareness, vocabulary acquisition, etc. As other reviewers have stated, the second chapter is the most valuable. It is worth buying the book for that chapter alone. It is about 75 pages of valuable tips about how to identify concepts that the standardized test makers desire. This book alone will not likely lead to a passing score, but it helped put me over the top. I highlighted key parts of the chapter and re-read them over and over. The book provides graphic organizers to remember the information more readily. I would advise taking the practice tests for whatever state is issuing the exam. A teaching friend also recommended taking the RICA practice test from California. This test can be downloaded for free online. I passed the MTEL test on the second attempt and I couldn't have done it without this book. I give it my highest recommendation.

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