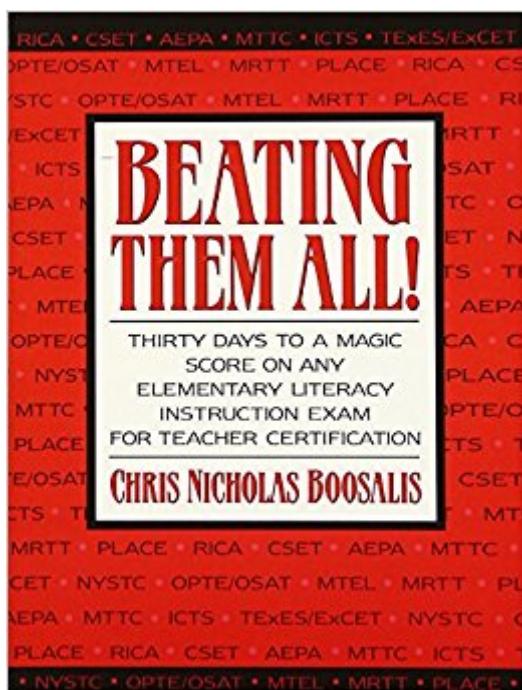


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# Beating Them All! Thirty Days To A Magic Score On Any Elementary Literacy Instruction Exam For Teacher Certification



## **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**

Paperback: 168 pages

Publisher: Pearson; 1st edition (October 12, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0205394728

ISBN-13: 978-0205394722

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 57 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #287,648 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #72 in Books > Education & Teaching > Higher & Continuing Education > Test Preparation > Professional > Teaching #476 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Education Theory > Research #1279 in Books > Textbooks > Education > Elementary Education

## **Customer Reviews**

"The strengths of this text are in the area of analysis of various reading and writing components and test issues" -- Professor Carol Wareing, Merrimack College

Beating them All! is a universal preparation manual that will assist test-takers across the country in beating 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 the best opportunity to pass on their first attempt. Features: Universal, Comprehensive Preparation. The areas include case studies, short answers, and multiple-choice questions. It will be an invaluable resource for students who want and need to pass NES exams. Sound Preparation Methods. The preparation methods in this manual have been field tested, refined, and re-tested with groups of real students facing these exams. It includes repeatable attack-plans on time management. Effective Strategies. All of the defined strategies in Beating them All! have been field tested and refined to ensure effectiveness and ease in acquisition/application. Valid Content. The

core reading-instruction content that is assessed on the RICA, and the other NES exams, has been identified and validated through separate explorations. Because NES exams share so much of this core content, it is essential for all candidates to know the material in *Beating them All!* in advance of taking any test. The strengths of this text are in the area of analysis of various reading and writing components and test issues, which are seamlessly and brilliantly presented in a cogent and compelling manner. Use of advanced organizers makes a complex and often intimidating discipline approachable and comprehensible. Professor Carol Wareing, Merrimack College Author Bio: Dr. Chris Nicholas Boosalis received his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Arizona State University in 1998. He is an Associate Professor of Teacher Education at California State University, Stanislaus where he teaches reading-instruction methods to elementary and secondary credential candidates.

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 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.

I took the RICA test February 2016 and had studied other books. I failed it! A coworker recommended me this book and if you study it for 30 days like it says you will pass! I took the test again in May 2016 and passes! If you are taking the RICA you will spend no less than 3.5 hours working on this test.

I passed the first time. This book is a must have. As someone who never studied reading instruction and was able to pass the first time says a lot about the quality of the content within this book! I briefly reviewed the content within this book for about 2 weeks and successfully passed the NES Foundations of Reading exam. Review the strategy content within this book because the information was extremely helpful, especially the information related to writing the constructed responses. I am really happy and blessed to have come across this book because it truly was a vital element used to help me prepare for the exam. Big thanks to the author! Worth every penny!

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