

Secondary Education Masters

Comprehensive Exam

Study Guide

On the exam, you will be required to answer one question from a selection of questions for each of the core courses (SED 513, SED 521, SED 528, and EDCI 595). You will have the opportunity to answer any of the questions, however you may want to target the material specifically covered in the class you took.

Topics that may be covered on the exam:

SED 513 - Secondary School Curriculum

Potential Topics on Instruction:

- How do people learn?
- Learning theories
- Concept of individual difference...what does this term mean operationally?
- The characteristics of strategies for the improvement of instruction: Proper use of the lecture, discussion, role play, etc.
- Learning styles information...how can this be used in the classroom?

Potential Topics on Curriculum:

- Nature of Knowledge
- Nature of Learning
- Human Development
- Social Forces

Note: Audio PowerPoints on these topics can be found at:

[Nature of Learning](#)

[Nature of Knowledge](#)

[Human Development](#)

[Moral Development and Social Forces](#)

For those who need a Reading Resource: Curriculum Planning: A New Approach, Glen Haas

Potential Topics from the book, Understanding by Design, by Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins:

- Components of backward design
- How backward design differs from traditional approaches
- Difference between knowledge and understanding
- Essential Questions
- Big Ideas
- The Six Facets of Understanding

SED 521 - Models of Teaching

Potential Topics on Models of Instruction:

- Origins of each of the models
- Learning theories associated with each of the models
- Processes of implementing the models
- Applications of each model - specific examples of implementing the models in your content area
- Relationship between teaching and learning

SED 528 - Philosophy of Education

Potential Topics on Philosophy:

- Meaning of the ten philosophies
- Impact of educational philosophies on schools today
- Specific examples from schools and classrooms of approaches arising from each of the ten philosophies
- Prominent Individuals associated with each philosophy

EDCI 595 - Research Literature and Techniques

Potential Topics on Research:

- Distinguish research from other ways of exploring the world
- "Action Research" meaning in education
- Qualitative vs. Quantitative vs. Mixed Methods
- Typical components of a research report (e.g. Literature Review, Methodology)
- Action Research Examples for your content area or school