

Professional Skills Tests for teachers

About the Skills Tests

All applicants to ITT training are required to pass the professional skills tests in literacy and numeracy. This is to ensure all teachers are competent in numeracy and literacy, regardless of their specialism.

You must take the tests **after you have applied** for your PGCE or equivalent and you will need to provide evidence of your application when you attend the test centre.

Please note the tests:

- do not replace the GCSE grade C equivalence entry requirement.
- are set in the context of the professional role of a teacher; all questions use real data and information which teachers are likely to encounter.
- Special arrangements: If English isn't your first language or you have different needs to other candidates – such as a hearing or visual impairment, a physical disability, or dyslexia – you can ask for special arrangements to be made or additional time in your tests. (You will need to make your request in advance and ensure you supply any stipulated evidence to prove you require special arrangements).

Booking the tests

You'll need to book your tests with **learndirect**. The website will give you the five nearest centres to your chosen location. The closest locations to Worcester are Birmingham and Wolverhampton:

- Birmingham: Gateway House, 3rd Floor, 50-53 High Street, Birmingham
- Wolverhampton: Suite 7-11, 4th Floor, Derwent House, 42-46 Waterloo Rd, Wolverhampton

<http://sta.education.gov.uk/professional-skills-tests/book-and-pay-for-the-professional-skills-tests>

Taking the tests

Don't be late – get to the test centre at least 20 minutes before your appointment.

In February 2018, changes to the arrangements for the skills tests were announced.

- Candidates will have unlimited attempts to achieve a test pass.
- The 2-year lockout period has been removed.
- All candidates will be able to book 3 tests per subject, free of charge. A charge will be applied from the fourth test attempt per subject. If you have paid for and taken a second or third attempt at a test on or after 24 October 2017 and before 14 February 2018, you will automatically receive a refund for the cost of your test.

Candidates must provide 2 forms of identification and evidence of their initial teacher training application. Details of acceptable Primary ID and Secondary ID can be found at <http://sta.education.gov.uk/professional-skills-tests/the-process-for-taking-the-professional-skills-tests> . Test centre staff will not allow a candidate to take their test if they have not seen these.

You'll need to take proof of your application for a teacher training course with you to your skills tests. The evidence that will be accepted is as follows:

- a welcome letter from a teacher training organisation, for example UCAS Teacher Training or Teach First
- email correspondence from a teacher training organisation
- a copy of a completed application form
- confirmation of, or an invitation to, an interview from a teacher training organisation, training provider or school

If you experience any difficulties, call learndirect's helpline on 0300 303 9613 (available 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday), or email support@sta.learndirect.com.

Preparing for the Skills Tests

Updated practice tests, including punctuation for the literacy test, can be accessed via the skills test pages.

- <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/how-to-apply/passing-the-skills-tests>

The *Mathematics Education Centre* at Loughborough University offer a free online Numeracy Skills for Employability and the Workplace course:

- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/numeracy-skills>

Other resources to help you practice and prepare in numeracy and literacy:

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise>
- <http://www.learndirect.com>
- <http://www.worc.ac.uk/studyskills/657.htm> (links to numeracy resources)

Several books are available, with tips and practice questions such as:

- Passing the Professional Skills Tests for Trainee Teachers and Getting into ITT by Nina Weiss, Bruce Bond, Mark Patmore and Jim Johnson.
- How to Pass the Professional Skills Tests for Initial Teacher Training (ITT): 1000 + Practice Questions by Chris John Tyreman
- **Further support**

If you would like to book a careers appointment, please visit:

<https://worchester.targetconnect.net>

myCareer

Date updated: 22/07/2019 (information correct at time of going to print)