
Paraprofessional Assessment

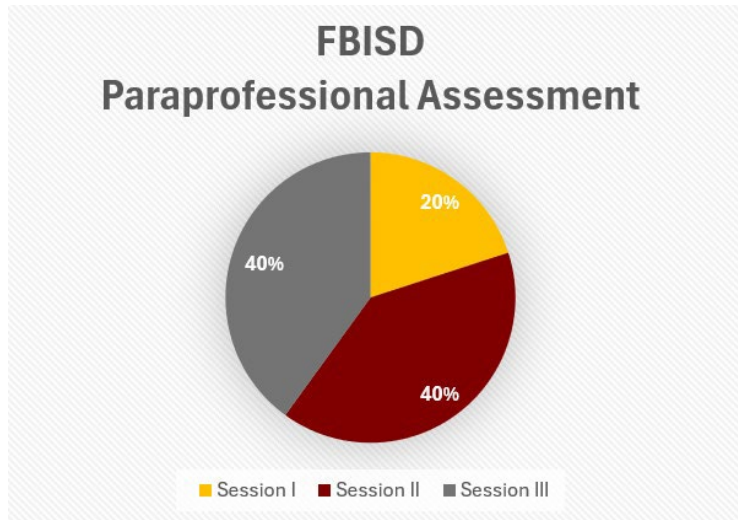
Study Guide



Human Resources
April 2025

About The Test

The Paraprofessional Assessment consists of one written essay and two sections which have 40 selected-response questions across two sections.



Test Components	
Time	120 minutes
Components	Three Sessions
Session I	Written Response Essay 20 points total
Session II	20 Multiple Choice Questions 2-points each
Session III	20 Multiple Choice Questions 2-points each
Test Delivery	Computer/Virtual Platform
Passing Rate	At least 70%

Content Topics and Area of Focus

Session I

Be prepared to respond to one of two writing prompts related to education. Your response will be evaluated based on organization, clarity, and the strength of the supporting information provided. Additionally, responses must be between **150-200 words** and will be assessed on grammar, sentence structure, and word choice.

Session II

The section will assess your understanding of key educational strategies that support children's learning and development. You will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of various teaching methods and activities that foster creativity, critical thinking, and engagement in young learners at various age groups. The section will cover the following topics:

- **Encouraging Expression and Problem-Solving** – Be familiar with activities that promote children's creativity, emotions, and self-discipline (e.g., storytelling, art, role-play, conflict resolution).
- **Scientific Inquiry and Hands-on Learning** – Know strategies to develop young children's observational and investigative skills (e.g., sensory experiences, experimenting with materials, making predictions).
- **Literacy and Writing Development** – Understand methods that improve reading fluency, writing structure, and revision skills (e.g., independent-level reading practice, guided writing reflection, using technology for editing).
- **Mathematical and Logical Thinking** – Recognize activities that enhance number sense, measurement concepts, and logical reasoning in young learners (e.g., hands-on measuring activities, recognizing patterns, statistical applications).
- **Classroom Management and Student Engagement** – Be prepared to identify effective strategies for capturing students' attention, fostering positive attitudes toward learning, and maintaining ethical technology use.

Session III

This section will assess key academic skills, including comprehension, grammar, math, and critical thinking. You will need to demonstrate the ability to analyze written passages, follow instructions, apply proper language conventions, and solve basic math problems. The section will cover the following areas:

- **Reading Comprehension & Main Idea** – Be prepared to identify the main idea of a passage and determine key details that support understanding. Expect questions that require analyzing meaning, vocabulary, and inferences.
- **Following Directions & Sequencing** – Some questions will ask about schedules, procedural steps, or order of events. Be ready to interpret lists, instructions, or indexes.
- **Grammar, Spelling, & Punctuation** – Watch for capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and grammar errors in short passages. These questions test your ability to recognize and correct mistakes in standard English.

- **Basic Math & Estimation** – Expect math questions related to rounding, ratios, arithmetic operations, and estimating sums or differences. You may also see problems involving financial literacy, such as calculating expenses.
- **Fact vs. Opinion & Logical Reasoning** – Some questions will require distinguishing facts from opinions and evaluating logical reasoning within a statement or argument.

Test-Taking Tips

- Read questions carefully and eliminate incorrect answers.
- Understand the difference in learning at various age groups.
- Relate concepts to real-world examples or classroom experiences.
- Focus on child-centered, inquiry-based learning approaches.
- Review key educational theories (e.g., Piaget, Vygotsky and Bloom's Taxonomy).

Practice Test Questions

The practice test questions below illustrate various question types and topics that may appear on the test. However, they do not fully represent the content and difficulty level of the Paraprofessional assessment. Answers are provided at the end.

Multiple-Choice Question:

1. A first-grade student is struggling to follow classroom rules and often interrupts during group activities. As an aide assisting the teacher, what is the BEST way to handle this situation during a classroom activity?
 - A) Ignore the behavior to avoid drawing attention to it.
 - B) Remind the student of the rules in a calm and positive manner and model the expected behavior.
 - C) Remove the student from the activity immediately to prevent further disruptions.
 - D) Tell the student they cannot participate in future role-play activities until they improve their behavior.

2. A 5th-grade science teacher wants to incorporate hands-on learning to help students understand the concept of **ecosystems and food chains**. Which of the following activities would be the MOST effective way to engage students in hands-on learning?
 - A) Showing a video about different ecosystems and their food chains.
 - B) Having students read a textbook chapter on ecosystems and answer comprehension questions.
 - C) Conducting a classroom simulation where students role-play as producers, consumers, and decomposers in a food chain.
 - D) Assigning a research paper on the importance of food chains in different biomes.

3. A paraprofessional notices that a student is disengaged and reluctant to participate in a small group reading activity. Which of the following would be the BEST initial approach to encourage participation?
 - A) Calling on the student randomly to answer a question as it will get them more involved.
 - B) Speaking to the student privately to understand their hesitation and offering a choice of activities.
 - C) Allow the student that day to opt out of the activity.
 - D) Assigning extra work to the student because they might need more assistance

4. A teaching assistant is working with a small group of 6th-grade students to improve their inferencing skills. Which of the following strategies would be the MOST effective in helping students make inferences while reading?

A) Encouraging students to memorize details from the text to recall later.
B) Asking students to read aloud and then summarize the main idea of each paragraph.
C) Guiding students to use clues from the text and their background knowledge to determine implied meanings.
D) Telling students the answers directly when they struggle to understand an inference.

5. When preparing multiplication lessons for a class of 25 students who have previously failed their state test, a 3rd grade teacher should consider which of the following elements:

I. **Foundational Skills & Differentiation**

II. **Hands-On & Engaging Strategies**

III. **Memorization of Mathematical Facts**

A) I and II only
B) II only
C) I, II, and III

6. Read the following passage and answer the question below:

"Lily carefully placed the small seed into the soil, covering it gently with her hands. Every day, she watered the spot and made sure it had plenty of sunlight. Weeks later, a tiny green sprout appeared, and Lily smiled, knowing her patience and care had helped the plant grow."

What is the main idea of the passage?

A) Plants grow best when they are left alone.
B) Lily is learning how to grow vegetables for her garden.
C) Taking care of a plant requires patience and effort.
D) Lily is upset because her plant is not growing fast enough.

7. Read the statements below and determine which one is a fact, and which one is an opinion.

1. **Sunflowers need sunlight and water to grow.**
2. **Sunflowers are beautiful and bright flowers.**

Which of the following is true about these statements?

- A) Statement 1 is an opinion, and Statement 2 is a fact.
- B) Statement 1 is a fact, and Statement 2 is an opinion.
- C) Both statements are facts because they provide true information.
- D) Both statements are opinions because they express beliefs.

8. A teacher is helping students learn how to use the index of a science textbook to find information on ecosystems. The teacher first went over various topics of the ecosystems and noticed the students were more interested in learning about how plants make their own food.

Using the index below, which pages should a student turn to in order to find information about how plants make their own food?

Index

Ecosystems – 45, 78-82, 150

Energy flow – 80, 95, 120-122

Food chains – 79, 83-85

Habitats – 20, 45, 90-92

Photosynthesis – 50, 112-115

Producers and consumers – 82-85

- A) Pages 45 and 90-92
- B) Pages 79 and 83-85
- C) Pages 78-82 and 150
- D) Pages 50 and 112-115

9. A student is asked to round the number **4,738** to the nearest hundred. What is the correct answer?

- A) 4,700
- B) 4,740
- C) 4,800
- D) 5,000

10. Read the passage below and identify the word that is **misspelled**.

Part (1) *"The students were excited to begin their science experiment.* Part (2) *They carefully poured the liquid into the beaker and observed the reaction.* Part (3) *The teacher reminded them to write down their obseervations in their notebooks."*

Which part of the passage above shows a misspelled word?

- A) Part (1)
- B) Part (2)
- C) Part (3)
- D) There are no misspelled words

Answer Sheet

1. B – Remind the students of the rules in a calm and positive manner and model the expected behavior.
2. C - Conducting a classroom simulation allows students to actively engage with the material, reinforcing learning through experience.
3. B - Speaking to the student privately helps build rapport, understand their concerns, and offer options to increase engagement in a supportive way.
4. C - Guiding students to use textual clues and prior knowledge helps them develop critical thinking skills and make logical inferences.
5. A - (I and II only)
6. C - The passage emphasizes Lily's patience and care in watering and providing sunlight, leading to the plant's growth, which supports the idea that taking care of a plant requires effort and patience.
7. B - Statement 1 is a fact because it can be proven scientifically, while Statement 2 is an opinion because it expresses a personal belief.
8. D - Photosynthesis is the process by which plants make their own food, and according to the index, information on photosynthesis can be found on pages 50 and 112-115.
9. A - When rounding **4,738** to the nearest hundred, look at the **tens digit (3)**. Since it is 4 or lower, round **down** to **4,700**.
10. C - The correct spelling is **observations**.