

Brooklyn College
The City University of New York
School of Education

The following are comments and advice from students who have taken the ALST and EAS. Forgive some of the repetition; that which is repeated has been added for emphasis because many students have included it in their commentary, and we believed these repeated comments would enhance your understanding of the demands of and requirements for these exams.

- ❖ For the ALST: Understand that you can't really study for this exam, but make sure to look up the format so you know what to expect. Be certain to use your time wisely. For the EAS—Study! Take a few weeks and really practice the exam. There are materials to be found all over the internet. Know definitions!
- ❖ Frankly, the ALST is essentially a literacy test and really not more challenging than an SAT or GRE exam. It's really reading comprehension and pretty straightforward. The EAS needs to be a test you prepare for. It presumes, unfortunately, a knowledge of educational experience most of us don't have. Get yourself the study guide and take the practice test even if you have to pay for it; it's worth it.
- ❖ The ALST is pure reading comprehension which requires you to cite evidence. I really didn't study at all for this exam, nor do I feel any student confident in reading skills should bother. If you must, however, review the practice test and brush up on whatever terms seem foreign. Some of it is straightforward multiple choice questions, but some of it requires an brief essay.

As to the EAS, I was worried about this since I heard so many people were failing it. I took every practice test I could get my hands on, and much of it seemed very straightforward. I read all the terms—those that I knew and certainly all those that were unfamiliar. Know those terms! A very big help, honestly, is doing some of the preparation for Special Education. Read articles and watch exam videos and take whatever practice exercises you can find. We all get so caught up in our content area, we forget about the *special needs* component. The people

making up these tests are not forgetting this population, nor should you.

- ❖ The Fellows program provides a very useful vocabulary list/glossary for the EAS, so the College might want to secure copies of this list. Time management on this test is very important, but mostly I believe people need to stop stressing over this exam. Much of it is actually common sense, and the answers for the EAS essay questions are frequently embedded in the text.**
- ❖ The best advice I can give to anyone taking these certification exams is to do your best, look at exemplar essay answers online for comparison purposes, and make every effort to study the key terms.**
- ❖ Purchase and take the practice tests that cost \$30.00. They are worth it and have similar questions that are not available on the free exams. Balancing your time is of critical importance. You might consider starting with the essay first, and then you can move on to the short answers. Also, start studying and practicing right away—there is no point delaying the inevitable.**
- ❖ For passing the EAS, I would certainly suggest fully focusing on the online special education course which, by the way, has most of the necessary terminology and vocabulary that you may not know.**
- ❖ ALST: Tedious. Do the essays first and the multiple choice second. CST: Take out a study guide from the library (it doesn't matter if it's a few years old). Make up flash cards for yourself. It's fun! EAS: Make sure to read up on special education and whatever resources you can find online. Fill in the gaps with common sense. It won't hurt to buy the book with practice tests.**
- ❖ As for the exams, I am happy that I passed them without any preparation, but it certainly would have been easier had I been more abreast of pedagogical strategies and the Common Core Standards.**
- ❖ I am sure it's been said, but for all of these certification tests get the guide and really practice the samples and material. One should plan ahead, take the reviewing a little at a time, and study the format and structures of the essay portions. Most of us are capable writers, but we need to follow their structures and protocols.**

