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CSET General Science 118, 119 Teacher Certification Test Prep Study Guide (XAM CSET)



Synopsis

Up-to-date content aligned specially to current CSET standards. In-depth review of core competencies and skills found on the CSET General Science exam Thorough review of all subareas, including: 1)Scientific Processes and the Laboratory 2)Chemistry 3)Earth/Space Science 4)Life Science and Physics and 125 practice test questions with detailed answer explanation

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Customer Reviews

I don't normally write reviews, but I have to admit that this book is awful. It is worse than having a book to study with. One should consider this book a distraction from the actual content on the CSET. If you have ever sat down to study the dictionary, then you'll understand what it is like to study from this book. The practice test in here also seems so different from the CSET sample tests. In short, please don't waste your time (like I did) with this book! I recommend that if one is studying, go to the CSET Test website. Under "CSET: Foundational-Level General Science Preparation Materials", the various links tell one exactly what they need to know to take the exam. This is your study guide! They also mention reference books where they obtain their material. If one is looking for content (that teaches to the test) to help their CSET 118 & 119 Exam, then consider the Princeton Review AP Chemistry Exam, Princeton Review AP Biology Exam, Princeton Review AP Physics I Exam, Princeton Review AP Physics 2 Exam. These books are cheap. They are well written and they cover a lot of the material seen on the CSET. While the above mentioned books don't cover

everything, they do cover the majority of material. I found that the Earth and Space Science areas were the two areas that needed the most supplementation from other books. I hope this helps! :-)

The best that can be said is that it lists the "skills" required and tested for. It doesn't go into any real depth in discussing them, but if you supplement the study guide with frequent internet research (esp. Wiki) you can be reasonably prepared. Example: the guide lists the components of the cell but doesn't provide a diagram. Example: it discusses biology at the molecular level but does not provide any structures. The section on reading an old-style relief map is outdated: the actual test has questions on reading topo maps with isobars. The test included questions that the guide didn't touch. E.g. a question on why irrigation in the CA central valley, which is hot with poor soil drainage, caused a problem. Answer (I knew from newspapers): selenium buildup. Another question: provide the structures of glucose and cellulose, what they are used for, and why their structures make them good at whatever it is they do. Good luck with that if you've never seen the structures.

Absolute waste of time using this book; your time would be better spent on Wikipedia. Dr. Weiner and the others whose names are listed in the front of the book should sue for slander. Oh, and by the way--this is listed as the 2nd edition. Hard to imagine what the 1st edition was like. Some actual quotes: "If [the] object is a regular shape, you can find the volume by multiplying the length, width, and height together." Hope it's not a pyramid or cone. "Gradually, [galaxies] will move toward each other once again, activating the explosion or the Big Bang Theory." We need more activated theories! "An elliptical galaxy is smooth ellipses." Or in English . . . Regarding "red shift": "This spectral shift to the red spectrum is observed on the electromagnetic spectrum." Where else, on Facebook? And my favorite: "Galilee [sic] was the first person to use telescopes to observe [sic] the solar system."

This item is supposed to help future teachers (who will be teaching our next generation, for crying out loud!!) study for a major exam, and the publishers of this book don't respect them enough to put their product through a decent spelling and grammar checker. It's FILLED with errors, and some of the answers to the sample questions are just plain wrong. I read a few reviews before I bought it, and people were angry about the bad scores they got, and I had just assumed that they were blaming the book when it was really their own fault for not getting a good grade. No. The book is awful. I haven't even taken the test yet, and I'm already looking for another study resource. Good try, XAM, but....keep trying.

There are so many mistakes in this book and not just low-order mistakes (grammar or punctuation) but high-order mistakes (incorrect terms, redundancies, contradictions). This book is very poorly edited, if at all! It claims to be up to date on material covered by the CSET General Science Exams, but I was slammed with a physics free response section that was not even remotely mentioned in the physics section of this book. I am very skeptical about Xamonline. I don't know if all their books are like this or if it was just the general science one, but this is a horrible book.

The information is presented in paragraph form. Most of the information is very basic, so for topics you are unfamiliar with, you will need to consult another study aid or textbook. The physics section is useless, as the formulas you need to know for the test aren't even written out. There are no graphics for things in physics that require one, such as projectile motion. Actually there are no graphics at all! How can you possibly teach Mitosis or Meiosis without a diagram? The chemistry wasn't that great either. The biology section of the text is better but that is about it. The CSET 119 is challenging. This book may prepare you for the CSET 118 test, but I was lost on the CSET 119 Physics questions. I should have bought Physics for Dummies instead!

This book is a very brief overview of the topics. There were several instances in which I noted mistakes made in the text. For example, page 26 regarding composition reaction, "i.e. silver and sulfur yield silver dioxide." A reaction of silver and sulfur would yield silver sulfide. The practice questions are not very useful. In addition, the book fails to have any constructed response questions (i.e. written responses) which are on the test. You would be better off downloading the guidelines from the CSET website and getting the information from Wikipedia.

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