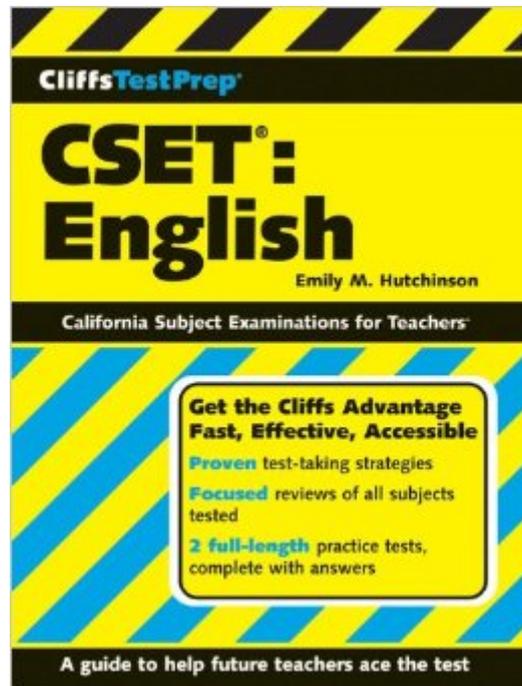


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# CliffsTestPrep CSET: English



## Synopsis

Your complete guide to a higher score on the CSET: English Why CliffsTestPrep Guides? Go with the name you know and trust. Get the information you need--fast! Written by test-prep specialists Contents include an overview of the test and how it is scored, tips on how to get the most out of your study time, an action plan for doing your best, and answers to your questions about the test. Preparing for the Format of the CSET: English, successful strategies for every test area, sample questions, answers, and explanations, analysis of every question type Preparing for the Content of the CSET: English, literature and textual analysis, composition and rhetoric overview, review of speech, media, and creative performance, explanations of language, linguistics, and literacy. 2 Full-Length Practice Examinations: Structured like the actual exam Complete with answers and explanations Test-Prep Essentials from the Experts at CliffsNotes

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## Customer Reviews

I just received this book and also have the XAM CSET: English study guide. Because the Cliff's Notes one just came out, I used the XAM book to study for the first three parts of the CSET (which I took and passed!). I now am going to take the fourth subtest. In comparing the two books, I found that the XAM guide provides a LOT more information to study regarding the content. For example, the Cliff's version has two pages (essentially just a list) of major works of literature and the periods

in which they were written. The XAM guide lists many of these same works, but also will provide a short synopsis of what the story is about. It also explains features of the different periods. The Cliff's version says that Dryden wrote during the Neoclassic period, but doesn't say what Neoclassicism is or who Dryden was. The XAM guide does describe what Neoclassicism means and when it was. It also tells you more information about Dryden. In the Cliff's guide, out of 234 pages, only 23 cover content. 27 pages are on test-taking strategies. The remainder is two practice tests. The practice tests are very good and, I think, very representative of what the actual tests are like. The answers to the questions are very well-written and are full of useful information. To continue using Neoclassicism as an example, an answer to one question defines the period very nicely. If you have the patience and the organizational skills to dig through the answers to weed out the bits of useful information, then I think the practice tests will help you very much. But I prefer to have the information all in one place to begin with, and then use the answers to fill in what's missing. (The XAM version also had a very good answer key.) The Cliff's version explicitly says that it is not meant to be a complete resource and the XAM version is not complete either. (I needed to supplement my studies with additional information from internet sources.) But I feel that, in terms of content and ease of study, the XAM study guide is a better source. I would probably buy both, however, use the XAM as a base for studying, and take the practice tests in both books because they ask for different skills (especially for subtest IV).

I bought this book and the XAM CSET English test prep book to study for the English CSET. I was a journalism major in college and was able to pass all 4 sub-tests the first time! If you buy a CSET study book purchase this one. The Cliffs book is far more reflective of the actual test. The questions and the layout are extremely similar--which is helpful when studying. It is accurate, clear, and concise. If you get the XAM book I would only use it as a supplement and for the additional test questions. XAM was riddled with errors. I was afraid to rely too much for studying because of the obvious errors. I am planning to keep the Cliffs book for a teaching tool. The XAM book I am selling back.

Of the guides I looked at, this one seemed to have the best reviews, so I purchased it. One thing to note is that most of this book is practice exams, and while they give an outline of information you should know, I had to do my own research on most of the topics as they only give you basic details. I also supplemented this guide with the practice tests from the CSET website, free practice tests from [teacherstestprep.com](http://teacherstestprep.com), and youtube videos about specific CSET English topics. I ended up

taking all 4 sections at once (which I don't recommend doing - I was definitely crunched for time), and although I felt that a lot of what I studied wasn't even on the exam (ESPECIALLY for section 1), I passed all of the sections my first try, so I guess all of the studying worked. For section 1, the test was much more focused on specific authors and their works, which this guide does not do a good job of prepping you for! Other than that, the practice tests in this book were pretty good. I would recommend this as a study aid, but not a complete study guide. PS I was NOT an English major, and I do not plan on teaching English on it's own (I am in a Special Education credential/masters program), so if it's been awhile since you've taken any English classes or brushed up on your English skills, don't worry too much!! Use this guide and the other resources I mentioned, and you should be fine.

I was an English major, so I felt pretty comfortable before this test (I took all 4 subtests at once), but knew I needed to brush up on a few things. This text offers a review of many important terms and gives sample questions in each section. I think the most helpful aspect were the two full length tests it came with. My advice is treating them like the actual test; do the parts you plan to take without interruption and then when correcting spend the time to analyze the ones you got wrong. I passed all four subtests in one sitting with the help of this book and *Understanding Language* by Elizabeth Grace Winkler (a really interesting, easy to understand book for the linguistics section of the test). Good luck!

This is the only test prep I used to prepare for my English CSET and I was able to pass all four subsets. This book is excellent and concise. Really gives you a nice short summary of what you need to know and how to study for the test, as well as example tests. Helped me a LOT more than the practice tests on the CSET website because it broke down the tests and showed you helpful test taking skills too. I'll definitely use Cliffs again if I get another single subject credential

This is the book that everyone recommended. I got it and the first thing I noticed was the abundant number of typos and errors. There were spelling errors, the answers to some of the questions were not even options for the multiple choice section (the rhyme scheme for the poem was not an option, but the answer key changed one of the options), they put the wrong letter for the wrong statement (the answer might be A, but they copy and pasted choice B and said it was A). There were some logistical errors like labeling the test sections incorrectly. I made a flash card for EVERY term and I would say maybe less than 10 of those terms were used. Overall, it's a good beginning, but take it

with a grain of salt.

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