

MA Special Education Comprehensive Exam  
School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership  
College of Education, NMSU

Please select **three** of the questions below to answer as thoroughly as possible. Responses will be evaluated for accuracy, completeness, incorporation of pertinent details, logical organization, use of citations, and adherence to writing conventions such as person-first language, spelling, grammar, and mechanics.

1. Select one **disability** eligibility category specified in IDEA. Thoroughly explain the following:
  - . a) How are individuals determined to be eligible for services in this category?
  - . b) What are the possible typical characteristics of individuals with this eligibility?
  - . c) What instructional changes can be made in a general education classroom to support individuals eligible in this category?
  
2. You are a special education teacher who will provide consultative inclusive support for some class periods and who will co-teach with a general education teacher for one class period. Explain the following:
  - a) What fundamental issues will need to be addressed to make the collaboration effective for both your consultative and co-teaching roles? How will you address these issues?
  - b) Explain the advantages and challenges of several inclusive practices you could choose to use. How will you address the challenges of the methods you select?
  - c) Describe at least three possible models of co-teaching and why you might select a particular model. Explain the overall advantages and disadvantages of co-teaching.

3. Provide an overview of the historical and legal factors that have been essential in creating our modern understanding of Special Education. Explain the following: a) Laws and court decisions as they relate to education as a civil right b) How concepts of service location have changed over time for both students with milder disabilities and students with more severe disabilities c) How the concept of least restrictive environment is implemented in schools and how inclusive practices may be connected to this concept
  
4. State and thoroughly explain the six components and four guiding principles of IDEA. For each of these ten items, provide a definition/description, explain how each affects the IEP process, and explain how the components/principles are interpreted in practice. Additionally, select 2-3 of these and explain the challenges schools may face in meeting requirements of IDEA for these components or principles.