

How to Use The New Little Book: OGT Social Studies

To get the most out of this study guide, you have to know how to use it. If this is your first time using *The New Little Book*, follow all the steps. If you have used it before, skip to the third step.

FIRST – Read the Table of Contents to see what the book is all about.

Notice that it is divided into sections based on Ohio’s seven academic standards. The standards are History, People in Societies, Geography, Economics, Government, Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities, and Social Studies Skills and Methods. Each section is set up as a mini study guide, with its own glossary (an alphabetical list of words with their definitions). The words that are explained for you in the glossary are underlined in the text. Remember that there may be variations of a word (past tense for instance) and that the word is only defined once, but variations of the word appear after it in parentheses.

SECOND – Study one section at a time.

You do not need to study them in order. We suggest everyone starts with social studies skills and methods. It discusses the skills and methods for reading social studies materials, especially history. Eight of the thirty-eight questions on the test come from this standard. Social studies skills and methods will prepare you to study the other six standards. If you have taken the test before, study those standards on which you have the lowest scores. If you have not taken the test before or don’t know your scores, we suggest starting with the history standard. Ten of the thirty-eight questions on the test come from this standard.

THIRD – Study the benchmark first. Always look up the definition of the verb under the section titled “Important Performance Verbs.”

The multiple choice and short answer test questions are based on the benchmarks. So, you must understand them before you start reading. The benchmark is at the top of each reading selection. It is a specific statement that tells you what you should know and be able to do with the information you are studying. For example, look at the benchmark for History D: “Connect developments related to World War I to the onset of World War II. The test DOES NOT ask multiple choice questions such as: What was the treaty that ended World War I? It DOES ask questions such as: In what way did the Treaty of Versailles establish conditions that led to the outbreak of World War II?”

FOURTH – Read the section focusing on the benchmark.

As you read you will find two types of information. One is background information that helps you understand the benchmark, but does not respond directly to it. The second is information that helps you respond to the benchmark. For example, in History Benchmark A the first two paragraphs provide basic information about the Enlightenment. The third paragraph and the list of Enlightenment thinkers and their ideas respond directly to the benchmark. Both are necessary to understand the benchmark.

FIFTH – Use the glossary.

If you find a word in the text that you do not understand and it is underlined, look it up in the glossary that follows that section. Most of the words that are underlined and explained are words that come directly from the State of Ohio’s *Academic Content Standards K-12 Social Studies* or from earlier versions of the social studies tests of the OGT. For that reason, they are used in the text so that you can become familiar with words that might show up in the questions on the test that you take.

By understanding this material and using the section at the front of this book called “Test-Taking Tips and Strategies,” you should be able to pass the social studies portion of the OGT and be 1/5 of the way to graduating. Don’t rely on luck to pass the test. Rely on yourself. Use this book and study.