One Possible Study Method for MTTC Exams

Introduction

Many of the MTTC exam study guides fill multiple pages with very detailed lists of concepts that students need to “know.” Initial reads of these lists have the tendency to elicit panic in most students, but once the lists are broken into categories, they become much more manageable as study guides. What follows is a way of categorizing concepts presented in all MTTC study guides. Because this process targets multiple learning styles simultaneously, you need to go slowly and not skip steps. The process will work if you do the work.

The Process

- **Step 1:** Print out a hard copy of the study objectives for the test on which you’re focusing. *YOU REALLY NEED A HARD COPY OF THESE OBJECTIVES!* A list of objectives can be found here:

  http://www.mttc.nesinc.com/MI_viewSG_opener.asp

- **Step 2:** Gather three of your favorite colored highlighters.

- **Step 3:** Designate (and write this down!) one color for each of the following categories ~

  A) Concepts I know without looking up,
  B) Concepts I remember learning about but would remember better if I reviewed, and
  C) Concepts I’ve never seen nor heard, and possibly can’t even pronounce.

- **Step 4:** When you begin reading through the objectives, you’ll notice that each main objective (the ones with the three digit numbers in front of them) is followed by multiple sub-objectives.

  - Select one main objective and one of your highlighters. I suggest using the color which represents concepts you know without looking up.

  - Read through all of the sub-objectives for that main objective, and highlight those words that you know.

  - Next, choose the color highlighter that represents those words that you will remember with some review and highlight those concepts that fall into this category.
- Finally, read through the remaining concepts, highlighting those words you’ve never encountered before.

Here’s the rationale for this strategy: you need to score 220 out of 300 to pass your exam. That means that you need to know just under 75% of the information in all of the objectives. If you look at what you’ve just color-coded, you’ll realize this: the concepts you already know, you don’t need to study. The concepts you’ve never heard of before probably aren’t worth the time it would take to really learn them. However, if you add up those concepts you know with those you will know with a bit of review/study time, you’ll discover that you’ll probably be able to hit that 75% in a realistic time frame.

Step 5: Now study. Really study! This means color-coding flashcards, working through practice equations, thinking about scenarios and possible outcomes. Set aside specific times in set places ~ multiple times per week! Remember that this is a state licensure exam!

Step 6: About one week before you take the official exam, and if MTTC offers a practice test for the exam you’re taking, make sure to log on to the MTTC website and spend time with their on-line practice exam! If you are enrolled in a teacher-prep program with WMU, you may be reimbursed for the cost of the practice tests you take. Contact the Department of Teaching, Learning, and Educational Studies for more information on the reimbursement process.

Step 7: Sleep well the night before the test, eat a good breakfast, then go shine!