

NATIONAL OFFICER STUDY GUIDE

Online Resources



2009 Written Test Essay Theme and Hot Topics

As part of the written test, all candidates will complete an in-depth essay question. The written essay may be on a topic relevant to agriculture, FFA, or the American Education system. The purpose of the essay is focused on the candidate's ability to convey knowledge and understanding in a different way than allowed through multiple choice questions. Candidates will have three hours to complete both the 60 multiple choice questions and the essay question.

Topics for the essay will fall within one of the three areas of knowledge outlined in the competencies. Each year one of the three areas of knowledge will serve as the overall theme for this practicum round (a schedule of themes is listed below). The theme for the essay will correspond with the theme and topics chosen for the Stand and Deliver Practicum (Round 2).

2008 – American Education/Agricultural Education Current Events and Issues

2009 – Agriculture Current Events and Issues

2010 – FFA Current Events and Issues

2009 American Education/Agricultural Education Current Events and Issues Hot Topics

The essay will be on one of the following topics. Candidates are encouraged to understand each topic very well. The essay will require you to also demonstrate understanding of how the topic chosen relates to other themes, not reflected in this particular year (i.e. if FFA is the theme the essay question will require you to demonstrate understanding of the topic as well as the relationship that topic shares with Agriculture and/ or the American Education system and Agricultural Education).

The following is a listing of 10 "hot topics" within the theme of Agricultural Current Events and Issues to guide your preparation for this round in the 2009 selection process.

- Sustainability and environmental stewardship in agricultural production
- Diversifying the agricultural workforce
- Challenges for conventional livestock production presented by animal care organizations
- The use of biotechnology to improve production yields and feed a growing world population
- Meeting America's energy needs as well as food price/supply demands through agriculture
- Continuing government support for traditional Farm Bill payment and support programs
- Establishing fair and open trade markets around the world for American commodities
- Using a national animal identification system as a risk management practice in livestock production
- Assuring consumer confidence that America has a safe and secure food supply from farm to market
- Additional regulation and oversight to prevent volatility in commodity markets

A topic will be selected from this list and an appropriate essay question developed for inclusion on the written test. Paper and pencil will be provided for candidates to complete a response.

For more information regarding this interview round please reference the National Officer Selection Process Handbook - Section 3.

