

Texas Specific Survey Exam (TSSE) **Study Guide / Blueprint - Exam Domain Topic Areas**

The following is a general study guide split into exam blueprint items (Domains). Each domain shows some of the topics that will be covered on the TSSE exam with percentages of the number of questions from each domain. The TSSE will have approximately 65 questions total. The questions will be asked in multiple formats covering Texas law and applied analytical surveying practice. Applicants will have 4 hours to complete the exam.

Domain 1: Statutes and Rules (approximately 20 %)

- Surveying Acts and Board Rules (Texas) – all sections of Occupations Code 1071 and Board Rules .
- Other Texas Statutes:
 - Natural Resource Code: Title 1 and Title 2 (as they pertain to land surveying)
 - Transportation Code: Title 1, Title 4, Title 5, and Title 6 (as they pertain to land surveying)
 - Local Government Code: Title 1, Title 2, Title 3, Title 6, Title 7, and Title 8 (as they pertain to land surveying)
 - Business and Commerce Code: Title 2
 - Civil Practice and Remedies Code: Title 2
 - Health and Safety Code: Title 8
 - Property Code: Title 1, Title 2, Title 3, Title 4, Title 6, Title 7, and Title 11

Domain 2: Disposition of Public Domain (approximately 8 %)

- Public lands - history and disposition of the Texas public domain and current status of public lands
- Legislative acts - Small Bill, vacancy statutes, deeds of acquittance, etc.
- Types of grants – amount of acreage allowed to settlers, infrastructure companies (i.e., railroads, canal diggers, etc.), etc., depending on the sovereign in Texas history
- Texas General Land Office – significant dates that affect the public domain
- Common Law vs. Civil Law
- Land Districts and District Surveyors
- County Surveyors
- State Surveyor Act
- Licensed State Land Surveyors Act
- Registered Surveyors Acts
- Texas/Mexico border

Domain 3: Riparian / Littoral Boundaries and Rights (approximately 8 %)

- Gradient boundary surveys
- Navigable / non-navigable streams and rivers
- Perennial /non-perennial stream
- Original surveys along water boundaries
- Coastal boundary
 - Mean Higher High Tide vs. Mean High Tide
 - Gulf of Mexico State Boundary
- Ownership of land under lakes
- Fluvial geomorphology as it affects riparian and littoral boundaries

- Texas Open Beaches Act
- Texas/Mexico border
- Texas / Oklahoma border (Red River)

Domain 4: Texas Specific Units of Measure (Approximately 8 %)

- Spanish measurements
- US Survey Foot
- Texas Coordinate System
- International Foot
- Meter
- Chains

Domain 5: Case Law and Legal Principles (approximately 51 %)

- Landmark Boundary Cases in Texas
- Legal descriptions - controlling elements in legal descriptions specific to Texas.
- Date of survey vs date of recordation
- Boundary Reconstruction
 - Railroad ROW (fee vs easement)
 - Simultaneous Conveyance
 - Sequential Conveyance
 - Junior/Senior Rights
 - Intent (expressed)
 - Follow Footsteps of the Original Surveyor
 - Dignity of calls
 - Best evidence
 - Original corners and marks
 - Lost Corners (methodology in Texas)
 - Witness Objects and Passing Calls

Domain 6: Records Research (approximately 5 %)

- General Land Office Records – types of documents and records
 - Where records are stored
 - Spanish Archives
 - Scrap Files
 - Original and Correct Field Notes from the Land Grant Data Base and file jackets.
 - Roll Sketch Files
 - Sketch Files