



ASSESSMENT UPDATE

(2007-2008 School Year)

New Jersey's New State Assessments

A Summary of New Test Design and Administrative
Features for Grades 5 – 8

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS AND PROGRAMS
OFFICE OF STATE ASSESSMENTS

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New Jersey's New State Assessments Introduction

New Jersey will implement a series of changes to its statewide assessments, starting with grades 5 through 8 in 2007-2008. Notable features include:

- More Language Arts Literacy (LAL) reading passages in grades 5-8
- Shorter reading passages and more diverse content
- Two LAL writing prompts in grades 5-8
- New LAL writing prompt
- Two days of mathematics testing grades 5-7
- New math item type: short constructed response
- Spanish versions of test at grades 5-8, all content areas
- Testing later in the school year
- GEPA becomes NJ ASK8
- Formative assessments resources



New Jersey's New State Assessments Goals

- To provide more information about student performance
- To consolidate multiple programs under one structure
- To increase diversity and rigor of test content
- To 'demystify' assessment through professional development and formative assessment tools
- To satisfy state's NCLB requirements

New Jersey will continue to . . .

- Align state assessments to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards;
- Embed field test items in the operational test for all content areas and, thus, vary the testing experience for students.



NJ ASK 5-8

2008 Assessment Schedule

- **Grades 5 and 6**

May 5 – 8, 2008

Day 1 – Monday, May 5, 2008 – Language Arts Literacy

Day 2 – Tuesday, May 6, 2008 – Language Arts Literacy

Day 3 – Wednesday, May 7, 2008 – Mathematics

Day 4 – Thursday, May 8, 2008 – Mathematics

Make-Ups

May 12 – 15, 2008

(same order as the regular assessment)



NJ ASK 5-8

2008 Assessment Schedule (cont'd)

- **Grades 7 and 8**

April 28 – May 1, 2008

Day 1 – Monday, April 28, 2008 – Language Arts Literacy

Day 2 – Tuesday, April 29, 2008 – Language Arts Literacy

Day 3 – Wednesday, April 30, 2008 - Mathematics

Day 4 – Thursday, May 1, 2008 – Mathematics (Grade 7 only)
Science (Grade 8 only)

Make-Ups

May 5 - May 8, 2008

(same order as the regular assessment)



NJ ASK 5-8 Language Arts Literacy 2008 New Features


- More reading passages
- More diverse content
- Shorter reading passage lengths
- New types of writing prompts
- More test items overall
- More score points overall

NJ ASK 5-8 Language Arts Literacy

| Text types/Strand | Reading Selections | MC (Number of Items) | OE (Number of Items) | Writing Tasks (Number of Items) | Total Points | Time on Task(s) in Approximate Minutes |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Persuasive Prompt | | | | 1 | 10-12** | 45 |
| Speculative Prompt | | | | 1 | 5-6** | 25 |
| Narrative Reading | 2 | 20 | 4 | | 36 | 80 |
| AT* per passage | | 4-6 | | | | |
| WT* per passage | | 4-6 | | | | |
| Informational Text Reading | 2 | 16 | 2 | | 24 | 60 |
| AT* per passage | | 3-5 | | | | |
| WT* per passage | | 3-5 | | | | |
| Total Items | | 36 | 6 | 2 | | |
| Total Points by Item Type | | 36 | 24 | 15-18 | 75-78 | |
| Total LAL Testing Time | | | | | | 2 days, 2 hrs. per day (with field test) |

*AT: Analyzing Text; WT: Working with Text

**Grade 5 utilizes a 5 point scoring rubric; grades 6-8 utilize a 6 point rubric.



NJ ASK 5-8

Language Arts Literacy

2008 Writing

| TYPES OF WRITING | TIME | SCORING SCALE |
|------------------|------------|---|
| Persuasive | 45 minutes | New Jersey Registered Holistic Scoring Grade 5: 1-5 Points Grades 6-8: 1-6 Points |
| Speculative | 25 minutes | New Jersey Registered Holistic Scoring Grade 5: 1 - 5 Points Grades 6-8: 1- 6 Points |



NJ ASK 5-8 Language Arts Literacy Writing

- For 2008, the grades 5-8 LAL speculative writing will not include the traditional “picture prompt.”
- Students may respond to a task that is presented through the use of a brief passage that students will read. The given passage will provide students with information that may be used as a springboard for students to write a story, actual or fictional. Students will use the information from the passage to make decisions, solve problems, and create original works.
- For 2009 and beyond, LAL writing tasks may include narrative tasks, persuasive prompts, description, and tasks that require students to work with information or a picture presented to them to develop their composition.
- Writing tasks will require students to respond in a variety of ways (e.g., narrative, expository, persuasive, speculative) and for a variety of purposes, in keeping with standard 3.2 of the CCCS.
- See DOE web site for sample prompts: www.nj.gov/education/assessment/
 - www.nj.gov/education/assessment/ms/samples2007/NJ07_TB_G5_SpeculativeFinal.pdf (speculative sample)
 - http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/ms/samples2007/NJ07_TB_G7_FA_SamplerFinal.pdf (persuasive sample)

NJ ASK 5-8 Language Arts Literacy 2008 Reading

| PASSAGES | MULTIPLE CHOICE (MC) | OPEN-ENDED (OE) QUESTIONS | TESTING TIME* | SCORING |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Two Narrative (Approximate) 500 - 1,000 Words in length | 20 | 4 | 80 | 0 - 4 Point Scale |
| Two Informational (Approximate) 400 - 900 Words in length | 16 | 2 | 60 | |
| Total Items | 36 | 6 | | |

*"Testing time" represents actual test-taking time and does not include directions, breaks, etc.



NJ ASK 5-8 Mathematics

2008 New Features

- Two days of testing for grades 5-7 (One day for Grade 8)
- More items overall
- More constructed response items
- New item type - Short Constructed Response (1 raw score point)
- More score points overall

NJ ASK 5-8 Mathematics

Item Type Abbreviations

MC - multiple choice, 1 raw score point

SCR - short constructed response, 1 raw score point

ECR – extended constructed response, 3 raw score points

| | | Grade 5 | Grade 6 | Grade 7 | Grade 8 |
|--|-----|--------------------|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Item Count by Type | MC | 42 | 42 | 42 | 42 |
| | SCR | 8 (non-calculator) | 8 (non-calculator) | 10 | 10 |
| | ECR | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| # of sections | | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Total raw score points possible (excluding field test items) | | 50 | 50 | 52 | 52 |
| Approximate total testing time | | 120 min. | 120 min. | 124 min. | 133 min. |




NJ ASK 5-8 Mathematics Sample SCR Items

Grade 5

Standard to be assessed 4.1.5 B.3 “Use an efficient and accurate ***paper-and pencil*** procedure for division of a 3-digit number by a 2-digit number.”

Item: A gallon contains 128 ounces. Paul wants to divide 3 gallons of apple cider equally among the 2 dozen friends at his party. How many ounces of apple cider will each friend receive? (answer: 16)

Note: This standard cannot be assessed with a calculator active item. Nor could this standard be assessed with a multiple choice item as students could ***multiply*** the answer choices by 24 until they get 384.




NJ ASK 5-8 Mathematics Sample SCR Items (cont'd)

Grade 6

Standard to be assessed 4.4.6 B.2 "Determine probability using intuitive, experimental, and theoretical methods (e.g., using model of picking items of different colors from a bag)."

Item: A bag contains 5 red marbles, 8 blue marbles, and 7 green marbles. Arturo reaches into the bag and removes one marble. What is the probability that marble is red? (correct answers: .25, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{5}{20}$, or 25%)

Note: SCR item allows students to express the probability in the form with which they are most familiar.




NJ ASK 5-8 Mathematics Sample SCR Items (cont'd)

Grade 7

Standard to be assessed 4.3.7 D.2 "Solve simple linear equations informally and graphically. Multi-step, integer coefficients only (although answers may not be integers). Using ***paper-and-pencil***, calculators, graphing calculators, spreadsheets, and other technology."

Item: What is the value of x , if $3x-5=x+7$. (Correct answer: 6)

Note: Correct solving procedures cannot be assessed using a multiple choice format as the test taker can merely plug the answer choices into the given equation until he/she creates a correct mathematical sentence.



NJ ASK 5-8 Mathematics Sample SCR Items (cont'd)

Grade 8

Standard to be assessed 4.2.8B.1 “Understand and apply transformations. Finding the image, given the pre-image and vice-versa.”

Item: Point P has the coordinates $(-1,2)$. What are the coordinates of its image if it is translated 4 units to the left and then reflected over the x-axis? Correct answer: $(-5,-2)$.

Note: Without having answer choices from which to choose, this item tests a higher level of understanding and cognitive development for this CPI.



NJ ASK 8 Science

2008 Assessment – No Changes

- Science assessment includes four parts – each part includes 15 multiple-choice items and one open-ended item
- Each multiple choice item is worth one point; each open-ended item is worth up to three points.
- Each open-ended item is scored using an item-specific rubric
- Life Science – 40% of the test
- Physical Science – 30% of the test
- Earth Science – 30% of the test



Formative Assessments for Students Professional Development for Teachers

- *Harcourt Learnia* – online formative assessment program with diagnostic and benchmark assessments that allow teachers to focus on specific NJ Core Curriculum Content Standard, Strands, and Cumulative Progress Indicators (CPIs)
- Distractor analysis helps identify impediments to learning
- Continuity between formative and summative assessments that guide classroom instruction
- Professional development courses offered to participating districts during the entire school year
- **See <http://newjersey.learnia.net>**

NJ ASK 5-8

2008 Spanish Versions for English Language Learners

- Spanish version of the NJ ASK 5-8 2008 will be available in all content areas – Language Arts Literacy, Mathematics, and Science (Grade 8).
- Participation/Eligibility guidelines will be forthcoming; however, districts will decide who takes Spanish version, not NJDOE.
- No student will be *required* by DOE to take Spanish version.
- Spanish versions will be ordered by districts through the usual Online Materials Survey process.



NJ ASK 3 - 4

- No changes for 2007-2008
- New test design features for grades 3 and 4 will occur in the 2008-2009 school year
- For information on the current NJ ASK 3 and 4, go to the following site:

<http://www.nj.gov/education/assessment/es>



Stay tuned for more information about . . .

- Score reporting timelines
- New standard settings to establish proficiency cut points
- Implications for AYP
- Professional development opportunities
- High school assessment initiatives
- Changes for 2008-2009
- Test Schedule for 2008-2009

Suggested Web Sites

- **New Jersey Department of Education**
www.state.nj.us/education/
- **Office of State Assessments**
www.nj.gov/education/assessment/
- **Office of Academic Standards**
www.nj.gov/education/aps
- **New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards**
www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/
- **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Frameworks**
<http://www.nagb.org/>
- **Measurement, Inc.**
www.measinc.com/njask
- **Learnia**
<http://newjersey.learnia.net>

NJ ASK 5-8 Program/Content Area Contacts 2007-2008

| Name | Title | Email | Telephone Number |
|------------------|---|--|------------------|
| JoAnne Tubman | NJ ASK 5-8 Program Coordinator | joanne.tubman@doe.state.nj.us | (609) 777-2087 |
| Michael Luke | NJ ASK 5-7 Mathematics Coordinator | michael.luke@doe.state.nj.us | (609) 984-9637 |
| Sharon Dama | NJ ASK 5-8 Language Arts Literacy Coordinator | sharon.dama@doe.state.nj.us | (609) 633-6917 |
| Timothy Giordano | NJ ASK 8 Mathematics Coordinator | timothy.giordano@doe.state.nj.us | (609) 633-8015 |
| Stephen Goldman | Science Assessment Coordinator | stephen.goldman@doe.state.nj.us | (609) 777-2080 |
| Timothy Peters | Director, Office of State Assessments | timothy.peters@doe.state.nj.us | (609) 984-7761 |