

MATHEMATICS

Number & Computation (approximately 18% of the test)

Data Analysis (approximately 20% of the test)

Measurement and Geometry (approximately 33% of the test)

Algebra (approximately 29% of the test)

SCIENCE

Cells and Heredity (approximately 25% of the test)

Ecology (approximately 17% of the test)

Structure and Properties of Matter (approximately 26% of the test)

Energy Transformation (approximately 16% of the test)

Forces, Waves, and Electricity (approximately 16% of the test)

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Studies (approximately 19% of the test)

U. S. History to 1865 (approximately 19% of the test)

U. S. History Since 1865 (approximately 19% of the test)

Civics/Citizenship (approximately 13% of the test)

Map and Globe Skills (approximately 15% of the test)

Information Process Skills (approximately 15% of the test)

WRITING

Students must write a persuasive essay on an assigned topic. Their essays are read by at least two trained professionals who independently judge each essay on four qualities or domains of effective writing:

Content/Organization

Style

Conventions of Written Language

Sentence Formation

In the overall score for an essay, Content /Organization counts for twice as much as the other three domains.

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TESTS (GHSGT)

Questions and Answers for
Parents of Georgia Students



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English/Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies
Writing

*We will lead the nation
in improving student achievement.*



*Kathy Cox,
State Superintendent of Schools*

www.doe.k12.ga.us

Questions & Answers



Why does the Department of Education administer the Georgia High School Graduation Tests?

Georgia Law requires that students receiving a Georgia diploma pass a criterion-referenced test in English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Writing. The Georgia Department of Education, together with Georgia educators, develops and administers these tests in response to Georgia Law.

To whom do these tests apply?

All students who entered 9th grade after July 1, 1994, must pass all five tests as one of the requirements for earning a high school diploma. These tests must be taken by all students, regardless of the type of diploma seal they are seeking.

When are the tests given?

Students take the graduation tests for the first time in the 11th grade. The Writing Test occurs in the fall, and the four subject area tests occur in the spring.

How many opportunities does a student have to take the tests?

Students have five opportunities to take each of the tests before the end of the 12th grade. The dates for each test administration are listed on the Department of Education website. Students have one opportunity to take the test during each test administration.

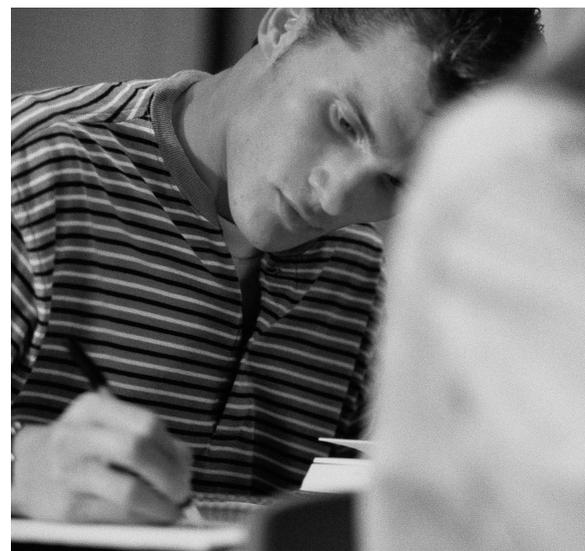
What happens if a student does not pass all the required tests?

Students who do not pass all the required tests but have met all other graduation requirements may be eligible for a High School Certificate or a Special Education Diploma. Any student who has left school with a Certificate or a Special Education Diploma may retake the graduation test(s) as often as needed to qualify for a high school diploma. Students wishing to retake should contact their local high school prior to the date of the test administration and provide two sets of photo identification.

How will the GHSGT change as a result of the adoption of the Georgia Performance Standards?

In spring 2006, the English/Language Arts and Science Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT) will reflect transitional blueprints that align to both the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) and the Quality

Core Curriculum (QCC). It is important to remember that the GHSGT assess core content and skills that students learn throughout their high school careers. Georgia does not mandate course sequence. Therefore, in spring 2006, some 11th grade students will have received previous instruction on the assessed core concepts and skills based solely on the QCC, while others may be enrolled in GPS English and science courses that include the assessed content. The Georgia Department of Education worked with Georgia educators to identify core concepts and skills common to both curricula and to develop a plan that will ensure students are tested on concepts they have had an opportunity to learn. This transitional blueprint will be in effect for two years (2005 – 2006 and 2006 – 2007). Only GPS aligned English/Language Arts and Science tests will be implemented in spring 2008, at which time all first-time test takers (i.e., 11th graders) will have had only GPS instruction in those subjects during their high school careers. New passing scores, based on performance expectations consistent with the GPS, will be set at that time.



Committees of Georgia educators met over summer 2005 to redevelop the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) to address the changes in the curriculum and ensure that the topics students are asked to write about are relevant and engaging. The newly designed GHSWT will be field tested in spring 2006 and administered for the first time in fall 2007 (grade 11). Until that time, the current assessments will be given. It is important to note that the Writing and Convention components of the GPS follow standard principles for writing – content development and organization, style, sentence formation, usage, and mechanics. These are universal characteristics found in all standards for writing, including the current writing program.

Content of the Tests

The Georgia High School Graduation Tests cover only a sample of the knowledge and skills that constitute a complete high school education. The knowledge and skills assessed on the graduation tests were selected by Georgia educators and curriculum specialists. A Georgia high school graduate has multiple opportunities to learn – and is expected to master – much more than these tests address. *The GHSGT Content Descriptions* can be found on the GaDOE website at www.doe.k12.ga.us. The domains, or content groupings, for each graduation test appear below and include percentage figures that indicate the relative weight of each within the total test.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading Comprehension (approximately 48% of the test)

Literary Analysis (approximately 38% of the test)

Conventions and Writing (approximately 14% of the test)