



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"

GHSGT Update Bulletin

October 12, 2011

2011 Calendar

Materials arrive:
October 17-21

Testing Window:

Week 1: October 31-
November 4, 2011

Week 2: November
7-11, 2011

Final day for GCA to
receive answer
documents:

Week 1: November 9,
2011

Week 2: November
16, 2011

Final day for
Pearson to receive
test booklets:

November 23, 2011

Results arrive in
systems: December
5-9, 2011

The Winter GHSGT administration is primarily a retest opportunity for twelfth grade students who have not passed all four content areas. Twelfth grade students who enrolled in Georgia public schools after the Spring 2011 administration may also test. Third year students not classified as eleventh or twelfth graders may test at this re-test administration if they meet the eligibility criteria as defined in State Board of Education rule 160-3-1-.07 (As amended 4/13/11 and effective 5/3/11).

As a result of the amendments to State Board of Education rule in April 2011, the cohort of students who enrolled in high school from Fall 2008 through June 2011 may demonstrate their proficiency in the four content areas by either passing each of the GHSGTs or by passing one of the two End of Course Tests in each corresponding content area. (For example: If a student in this cohort did not pass the English Language Arts GHSGT but did pass the American Literature EOCT, they have fulfilled their assessment requirement in the area of English Language Arts.) These students are also required to take and pass the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT) to be eligible for a diploma.

The state testing window opens on October 31, 2011 and closes on November 11, 2011 for the GHSGT. All tests, including makeups, must be administered during a local window that consists of five consecutive days of testing. Local systems may choose the order in which tests are given and the time of day; however, the same content area test must be given on the same day throughout a system.

The estimated administration times in the *Examiner's Manual* are for planning purposes only. All students must be given up to 3 hours to complete the tests if needed. The *Accommodations Manual* provides information about extended time for students with special needs or ELL students. Only state approved accommodations found in the *Student Assessment Handbook* may be used on the GHSGT. Should an individual require a more expansive accommodation, approval must be obtained from the GaDOE at least four to six weeks in advance of the assessment. Please contact Melissa Fincher at mfincher@doe.k12.ga.us regarding such requests.

Elimination of the ELA, Mathematics and Science QCC forms

As the state begins the process of phasing-out the GHSGT, as approved by the State Board of Education in April 2011, the Georgia Department of Education will discontinue the administration of test forms solely aligned to the Quality Core Curriculum (QCC) in the content areas of English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.

Effective with the Fall 2011 administration QCC forms will no longer be offered. Students who originally tested using the QCC forms in English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies should be tested using the transitional form of the GHSGT (Form T).

Please note that QCC forms will continue to be available for the Mathematics GHSGT for those students who received mathematics instruction based on the QCC.

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Examiner’s Manual Correction

On page 20 of the Examiner’s Manual, there is a reference to the formula page in the Mathematics booklet. Please note that, by design, the QCC Mathematics booklet does not have a formula page.

Test Booklets for Winter 2011

There are eight (8) sets of Test Booklets for Winter:

- English Language Arts: Form 101 (GPS)
- English Language Arts: Form T (GPS/QCC)
- Mathematics: Form 301 (*)
- Mathematics: Form Q (QCC) (**)
- Science: Form 501 (GPS)
- Science: Form T (GPS/QCC)
- Social Studies: Form 701 (GPS)
- Social Studies: Form T (GPS/QCC)

(*) Students must re-test on the form used during their first test administration. For example, a student who tested for the first time using the GPS form in March 2011 must be administered the GPS form during the fall re-test.

(**) The possibility exists that some students who entered prior to Fall 2008 were first-time test takers in Spring 2011 (i.e., they were retained in previous years and remained on a QCC mathematics pathway). They should have tested on the QCC version in March 2011 and should re-test on that same form during the fall re-test administration.

How to Determine Which Version of a Content Area Test a Student Should Take (Q, T, and GPS).

You can determine which version of the GHS GT content areas a student should be administered by finding the year in which the student took the test for the first time.

Year in Which Student Took GHS GT for First Time (Usually In Spring of Grade 11)	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
ELA	T	T	G	G	G	G
Science	T	T	G	G	G	G
Social Studies	T	T	T	T	G	G
Math	Q	Q	Q	Q	Q	G

Q = QCC Based GHS GT T = GPS/QCC Based GHS GT G = GPS Based GHS GT

REMINDERS

Testing materials will arrive in systems October 17-21, 2011. Orders for additional materials may be placed on Pearson Access after October 17.

Student pre-id labels are not provided for Fall. Examiners are responsible for ensuring that students have necessary information such as GTID and FTE numbers to complete answer documents correctly.

Directions for completing answer documents are located in the *Examiner’s Manual*.

Answer documents must arrive at GCA no later than Wednesday, November 9, 2011, for week 1 administrations and Wednesday, November 16, 2011, for week 2 administrations. See the *Coordinator’s Manual* for instructions.

Results will be available to school systems December 5-9, 2011.