



TASC Test Objective Structure



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The Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ is a secure, reliable, and valid assessment used to assess the achievement of examinees on core content areas taught and assessed as part of typical national high school curricula. The TASC test measures high school equivalency and college and career readiness in five subject areas: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Descriptions of these five subjects are provided in this document. Data Recognition Corporation|CTB worked with experienced adult education providers and secondary school teachers to support our standardized and rigorous TASC test item development process.

DRC|CTB has experienced content experts and research scientists that worked in concert to support the development of valid and reliable test questions with well-documented measurement properties; each test question was examined in multiple item reviews. All test questions were field tested and item analyses were conducted to confirm the questions' measurement properties before becoming part of the operational TASC test. Field test examinees included a diverse sample of high school seniors and Adult Basic Education students from across the country. To pass the TASC test, examinees must demonstrate a level of achievement similar to that of typical high school seniors.

The following provides an outline of the content types and structure for each of the five TASC test subject areas.

TASC Test Reading Literacy

Subject	Informational & Literary Language Literature
Allocated Testing Times	75 Minutes (Section 1 English) 80 Minutes (Section 1 Español)
Domain Coverage Percentages	Informational Texts (70%) Literary Texts (30%) Vocabulary Acquisition and Use (10-15% Overall) Sub-domains under both Informational and Literary Texts include: Key Ideas (30%) Craft (30%) Integration of Knowledge (30%) Vocabulary Acquisition and Use (10%)
Number of Questions and Format	48 (Computer-Based) or 49 (Paper-Based) Multiple-Choice Items 1 Constructed-Response Item 1 Technology-Enhanced Item (Computer-Based) Up to 8 Passages
Content Types	Literary Text Informational Text
Content Structure	Comprehension Analysis Application Synthesis

About TASC Test Reading Literacy

The Reading test includes multiple-choice, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced questions that test an examinee’s ability to understand the information presented in excerpts from newspapers, magazines, novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and business or legal text passages. The Reading test includes both literary and informational texts.

Text Types

Informational texts includes:

- Literary nonfiction
- History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical texts
- Workplace and Community texts

Literary texts includes:

- Novel excerpts
- Poetry
- Drama excerpts

Content Structure

Comprehension

- Understanding what the passage says.

Analysis

- Examining how and why details are used.

Application

- Transferring ideas from one context to another.

Synthesis

- Putting ideas together to understand a larger meaning. Inference requires synthesis.

TASC Test Writing

Subject	Language Usage and Conventions (Section 1) Writing Essay (Section 2)	
Allocated Testing Times	105 Minutes (English) 110 Minutes (Español)	Includes 45 Minutes for Essay Writing Includes 45 Minutes for Essay Writing
Domain Coverage Percentages	Writing (15%) Grammar/Usage (30%) Capitalization/Punctuation/Spelling (25%) Knowledge of Language (30%)	
Number of Questions and Format	50 (Computer-Based) or 51 (Paper-Based) Multiple-Choice Items 1 Constructed-Response Item 1 Technology-Enhanced Item (Computer-Based) 1 Writing Prompt Based on 2 Passages	
Content Types	Language Usage Conventions	
Content Structure	Organization Sentence Structure Usage Mechanics Contexts	

About TASC Test Writing

In the Writing test, examinees will answer multiple-choice, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced questions in which they must identify errors and make corrections in sentence structure, usage, mechanics, and organization. Examinees will also write a text-based essay.

Content Types

Language Usage and Conventions

Examinees are given the chance to demonstrate their ability to revise and edit grammar, spelling, and other mechanical writing errors. The Writing test has both passage based items and stand-alone (or discrete) items. Passages are typical of draft writing that may be found in academic, business, or workplace settings, or other informational texts.

Each passage, when corrected, is an example of good writing. An examinee's score will be determined by correctly answering multiple-choice, constructed-response, or technology-enhanced questions about edits and revisions needed in the passages.

Writing Essay

The Writing test also consists of writing an essay that either states and supports a claim or provides information about a topic of interest. Examinees plan, write, and revise their essays. Scoring is based on the following criteria:

- Clarity of expression
- Clear and strategic organization
- Complete development of ideas
- Sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, word choice, and spelling

Content Structure

Organization

- Ordering ideas, topic sentences, relevance, paragraphing.

Sentence Structure

- Run-ons, fragments, parallel structure.

Usage

- Subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, tense.

Mechanics

- Capitalization; punctuation (commas); spelling of homonyms, contractions, possessives.

Contexts

- Questions represent how-to documents, informative writing, and workplace correspondence.

TASC Mathematics

Subject	Mathematics
Allocated Testing Times	50 Minutes (Section 1 English) 55 Minutes (Section 2 English) 105 Total Minutes 55 Minutes (Section 1 Español) 60 Minutes (Section 2 Español) 115 Total Minutes
Domain Coverage Percentages	Numbers and Quantity (13%) Algebra (26%) Functions (26%) Geometry (23%) Statistics and Probability (12%)
Number of Questions and Format	42 (Computer-Based) or 43 (Paper-Based) Multiple-Choice Items 11 Gridded-Response Items 1 Constructed-Response Item 1 Technology-Enhanced Item (Computer-Based)
Content Types	Numbers and Quantity Algebra Functions Geometry Statistics and Probability
Content Structure	Procedural Skills Conceptual Skills Application and Problem Solving

About TASC Test Mathematics

In the Mathematics test there are number and quantity, algebra, functions, and geometry questions, as well as some that cover statistics and probability. Most are word problems and involve real-life situations or ask examinees to interpret information presented in diagrams, charts, graphs, and tables. Section 1 of the Mathematics test allows examinees to use a calculator. A calculator is not used in Section 2. Examinees will also be given a page of mathematic formulas to use during the test.

Content Types

Numbers and Quantities

- Provides an opportunity for the examinee to demonstrate an understanding of how quantities change with respect to one another.
- Provides evidence of the examinee’s ability to use units to solve problems.
- Requires the examinee to understand the properties of rational and irrational numbers.

Algebra

- Offers multiple-choice, gridded-response, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced items that require the examinee to apply algebraic rules to solve a linear equation, and learn how to use these functions to model real-life situations in basic courses.
- Demonstrates evidence that the examinee can apply algebraic rules, including distributive property.
- Computes algebraic expressions; specifically adding, subtracting, and multiplying polynomials.
- Requires the examinee to isolate a particular quantity of interest.

Functions

- Offers multiple-choice, gridded-response, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced items that will provide evidence regarding the examinee's ability to analyze and represent constraints by using a system of equations.
- Requires the examinee to identify the system of equations that models the contextual situation by interpreting key words and phrases.

Geometry

- Provides evidence regarding the examinee's ability to recognize and use geometric formulas to compute quantities of interest.
- Offers multiple-choice, gridded-response, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced items that require the examinee to apply proportional reasoning skills in a geometric context.
- Analyzes graphs to determine distances and areas that depend on the scale and units of measure.

Statistics and Probability

- Demonstrates evidence that the examinee can determine the subset representing the possible outcomes of a question, as well as the subset that describes the event of interest.
- Allows the examinee to focus on selecting the proper subset of the sample space that meets the criteria using quantitative reasoning skills.

Content Structure

Procedural Skills

- Selecting and applying procedures correctly.

Conceptual Skills

- Recognizing and applying math concepts and principles.

Application and Problem Solving

- Using strategies to solve problems and judge the reasonableness of solutions.

TASC Social Studies

Subject	Social Studies
Allocated Testing Times	75 Minutes (Section 1 English) 80 Minutes (Section 1 Español)
Domain Coverage Percentages	US History (25%) World History (15%) Civics and Government (25%) Geography (15%) Economics (20%)
Number of Questions and Format	48 (Computer-Based) or 49 (Paper-Based) Multiple-Choice Items 1 Constructed-Response Item 1 Technology-Enhanced Item (Computer-Based) 8 Stimuli
Content Types	US History World History Civics and Government Geography Economics
Content Structure	Comprehension Application Analysis Evaluation

About TASC Test Social Studies

During the Social Studies test, examinees will be assigned with answering multiple-choice, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced questions on history, economics, geography, civics, and government. The Social Studies test gauges examinees' understanding of the basic principles in each of those areas. To do well, examinees must be able to read passages, illustrations, graphs, and charts.

DRC|CTB created a Social Studies content framework that pulls domain standards from the following national resources: National Center for History in the School, National Standards for History Basic Edition, 1996; Center for Civic Education, National Standards for Civics and Government, 2010; Economics: Council for Economic Education, and the Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics, 2nd Edition.

For the Geography domain, DRC|CTB wrote the targets for the TASC test based on the standards created by the National Council for the Social Studies and the National Council for Geographic Education. After identifying these targets for the TASC test framework, the Social Studies team at CTB conducted an analysis of the targets by comparing them to a few states high school standards for these domains, as well as the GED® tests for 2002 and 2014.

Note: DRC|CTB compared the TASC test framework to the high school standards for the following states: Florida (US History, World History, Civics and Government, Geography, Economics); New York (US History, World History); California (US History, Civics and Government); Texas (World History, Civics and Government, Geography, Economics); Missouri (Civics and Government, Geography); Arizona (Economics, US History); New Mexico (Geography), New Hampshire (Geography); Massachusetts (Economics); Maine (World History), and New Jersey (World History).

Content Types

U.S. History

- Civil War and Reconstruction (1850–1877)
- The Development of the Industrial United States (1870–1900)
- Post-War United States (1945–1970s)

World History

- Age of Revolutions (1750–1914)
- A Half-Century of Crisis and Achievement (1900–1945)
- World History: The 20th Century Since 1945: Promises and Paradoxes

Civics and Government

- U.S. Constitution: Embodies the Purpose, Values, and Principles of American Democracy
- Civic Life, Politics, and Government
- Role of the Citizen in American Democracy
- Foundations of the American Political System

Economics

- Government and Economics
- Macroeconomics
- Basic Economics
- Microeconomic

Geography

- Places and Regions
- Environment and Society
- Human Systems and Societies

Content Structure

Comprehension

- Understanding and being able to restate and summarize what is read.

Application

- Transferring ideas from one context to another.

Analysis

- Examining the logical structure of ideas; drawing conclusions from various types of data.

Evaluation

- Judging fact vs. opinion and the reliability of information.

Please note that this list of subskills is not a complete list, but rather represents the most common subskills currently in use. The exhaustive list of subskills would be too long to list in this document.

TASC Science

Subject	Science
Allocated Testing Times	85 Minutes (Section 1 English) 90 Minutes (Section 1 Español)
Domain Coverage Percentages	Physical Sciences (36%) Life Sciences (36%) Earth and Space Sciences (28%)
Number of Questions and Format	48 (Computer-Based) or 49 (Paper-Based) Multiple-Choice Items 1 Constructed-Response Item 1 Technology-Enhanced Item (Computer-Based) 8 Stimuli
Content Types	Physical Science Life Science Earth and Space Science
Content Structure	Comprehension Application Analysis Evaluation

About TASC Test Science

For the Science test, multiple-choice questions are pulled from the fields of Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science. Each discipline is subdivided into several Core Ideas, which each contain multiple performance expectations. Each test item assesses one performance expectation. Items may require recalling knowledge, applying knowledge and skills, or reasoning. The number of test items per Core Idea is proportional to the number of performance expectations within the Core Idea. As a result, each Core Idea will have about 2–5 items on a given test.

The Science test is designed to assess the high school performance expectations in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS performance expectations state what all learners should be able to do in order to demonstrate their understanding of science. Each NGSS performance expectation integrates a Science and Engineering Practice, one or more

Disciplinary Core Ideas, and a Crosscutting Concept. Each NGSS performance expectation also a Science and Engineering Practice, one or more Disciplinary Core Ideas, and a Crosscutting Concept. Each NGSS performance expectation includes a Clarification Statement and an Assessment Boundary to provide further information for the purposes of curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

A given test will not necessarily include items for every performance expectation present in the NGSS, though any performance expectation is potentially assessable. Answering these questions requires a combination of excellent reading skills, specific knowledge, and the ability to interpret scientific data. Data may be presented in para-graph form and in graphs, maps, tables, figures, and charts.

The Science test will not include test items to directly assess the performance expectations in the Core Idea of Engineering Design. However, some performance expectations in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Earth and Space Sciences integrate engineering through a Practice or Disciplinary Core Idea. Items aligned to those performance expectations may require examinees to demonstrate their understanding of science through the application of the engineering design process; such as, defining and delimiting a problem, designing solutions to a problem, and evaluating and optimizing design solutions.

Earth and Space Sciences

- Earth's Place in the Universe
- Earth's Systems
- Earth and Human Activity

Content Structure

Comprehension

- Understanding what they read in text or see on a graphic.

Application

- Using information in a concrete situation.

Analysis

- Exploring relationships among ideas.

Evaluation

- Judging the soundness or accuracy of scientific information or methods.

Content Types

Physical Sciences

- Matter and Its Interactions
- Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
- Energy
- Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer

Life Sciences

- From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
- Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
- Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity