

New York State Testing Program

English Language Arts and Mathematics, and Elementary-Level and Intermediate-Level Science Paper-Based Tests

**Teacher's Directions
Spring 2025**

Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8

2025



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Regents of The University

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Purpose and Contents of this PBT Manual

The purpose of this manual is to provide directions needed for paper-based administrations of the Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests and the Elementary-Level (Grade 5) and Intermediate-Level (Grade 8) Science Tests for students in those required computer-based testing (CBT) grade levels who must test on paper per an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan) or who require an alternate language edition of the mathematics or science test. These students should test on the same days as their CBT grade classmates within the multiple-week window (Monday, April 7, 2025–Friday, May 16, 2025).

In addition, paper-based testing will remain available to religious and independent schools who do not make use of technology in the classroom because of religious beliefs. Religious and Independent Schools who due to religious beliefs, do not make use of technology in the classroom and therefore will only be offering paper-based tests, must administer the Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 ELA and Mathematics Tests during the respective ELA and Mathematics paper-based testing administration windows and make-up dates. For the Grades 5 & 8 Science Tests, these religious and independent schools will select one day within the multiple-week window (Monday, April 7, 2025–Friday, May 16, 2025) to administer the paper-based science tests for each grade level. The Grades 5 & 8 Science Tests may be administered on the same day. For Science, make-ups must be given during the multiple-week administration window.

For the Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 ELA and Mathematics Tests, this manual contains only Step 6 of the Teacher’s Directions. For Steps One–Five, please refer to the complete paper-based Teacher’s Directions beginning on page 2 in the Teacher’s Directions for Grades 3 and 7 posted on the Department’s [website](https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals) (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>). For the Elementary-Level (Grade 5) and Intermediate-Level (Grade 8) Science Tests, this manual contains all information needed, Steps One–Six, for paper-based administrations.

Test booklets and scoring materials must be kept secure. You are not to discuss the test, show it to anyone, or photocopy the materials, as the security of the test could be breached. However, school personnel may make photocopies of this *Teacher's Directions* if additional copies are needed.

STEP SIX

Administer the 2025 Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 English Language Arts Paper-Based Test

Step Six contains the script that teachers read before students start testing. It is important to read all of Steps One–Five and the pertinent grade level information in Step Six prior to administering the test. Steps One–Five can be found in the Grades 3 and 7 English Language Arts Paper-Based Tests Teacher’s Directions posted on the Department’s [website](https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals) (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>).

*Please read these directions carefully before administering the test. When you administer the test, the directions you are to read aloud are preceded by **SAY**. Read all directions to students at a moderate, steady pace. The italicized instructions to teachers should **not** be read aloud.*

Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 — ELA Day 1, Session 1

Make sure you have a copy of the Session 1 test booklet.

*Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil. Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to record their responses to questions or in a way that obscures their responses to questions.*

*Students are **not** to be given scratch paper.*

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions in Session 1 on their Session 1 answer sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students’ answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Students **must** write their responses to the constructed-response questions in their Session 1 test booklet. **Only** the responses to constructed-response questions written in the Session 1 test booklet will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display

- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

SAY If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now.

You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY You will be taking the 2025 [say appropriate grade] English Language Arts Test. There are two sessions for this test. Today, you will answer the questions in Session 1. Tomorrow, you will answer the questions in Session 2.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in English Language Arts this year. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

Today, you will read some passages and answer questions about what you have read. You will mark your answers to multiple-choice questions on your Session 1 answer sheet and you will write your responses to the written-response questions directly in your test booklet. Only responses written in your test booklet will be scored. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

Distribute a Session 1 answer sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use to mark your answers to the multiple-choice questions during today's test session. Look at your answer sheet and make sure your answer sheet says Session 1.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to use the answer sheet, distribute a Session 1 test booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the front covers of the students' Session 1 test booklets earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct test booklet.

SAY This is your Session 1 test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

SAY Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says "2025 English Language Arts Test Session 1" and [say appropriate grade]. If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word "Name" at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY All of your answers must be marked on your answer sheet and in your test booklet. You may, however, make notes, highlight, or underline in your test booklet as you read.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the directions,

SAY Now, look at page 1 in your test booklet. Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- **Read the whole passage before you answer the questions. Most questions will only make sense after you read the whole passage.**
- **You might need to read the passage more than once to answer a question.**
- **Read each question carefully. Take your time.**
- **A question may include a quote from a passage. You might need to review both the quote and the whole passage to answer the question.**

When you write your answers

- **make sure to answer the whole question;**
- **use examples or details from the text;**
- **write in complete sentences; and**
- **use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.**

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY Before each written-response question you will see the sentence, “This question is worth 2 credits.”

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the statement indicating the question’s credit value,

SAY Read the passages and answer the questions. All of your answers to the multiple-choice questions must be marked on your answer sheet. All of your written answers must be written in your Session 1 test booklet.

If you need more space to continue or complete an answer, you may use any available blank space in the Session 1 test booklet. Please make sure to clearly note and label the continuation of your answer. Also make sure that you are not using space that has been provided for another question. Remember to write complete and thorough answers and include details and examples from each passage.

When you see the words GO ON at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word STOP, you have reached the end of Session 1. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please place your answer sheet inside the front cover of your test booklet and close your test booklet.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Make sure that students are on the correct page and are darkening the circles on the answer sheet appropriately by making their marks heavy and dark with a No. 2 pencil.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student’s answer sheet has been inserted into their test booklet.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student’s test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2025 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student’s best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 — ELA Day 2, Session 2

Make sure you have a copy of the Session 2 test booklet.

*Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil. Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to write their responses to questions or in a way that obscures their responses to questions.*

*Students are **not** to be given scratch paper.*

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions in Session 2 on their Session 2 answer sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students' answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Students **must** write their responses to the constructed-response questions in their test booklet. **Only** responses to constructed-response questions written in the test booklet will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY Today, you will be taking the 2025 [say appropriate grade] English Language Arts Test, Session 2.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in English Language Arts this year. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

Today, you will read some passages and answer questions about what you have read. You will mark your answers to multiple-choice questions on your Session 2 answer sheet and you will write your responses to the written-response questions directly in your test booklet. Only responses written in your test booklet will be scored. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

Use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to answer the questions, distribute a Session 2 answer sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use during today’s test session. Look at your answer sheet and make sure your answer sheet says Session 2.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the instructions, distribute a Session 2 test booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the front covers of the student test booklets earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct test booklet.

SAY This is your Session 2 test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says “2025 English Language Arts Test Session 2” and [say appropriate grade]. If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY Now, open your test booklet and look at page 1. You will see Tips for Taking the Test.

Check that all students are looking at the correct page.

SAY Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- Read the whole passage before you answer the questions. Most questions will only make sense after you read the whole passage.
- You might need to read the passage more than once to answer a question.
- Read each question carefully. Take your time.
- A question may include a quote from a passage. You might need to review both the quote and the whole passage to answer the question.

When you write your answers

- make sure to answer the whole question;
- use examples or details from the text;
- write in complete sentences; and
- use correct spelling, grammar, capitalization, and punctuation.

For the last question in this test book, you may plan your writing on the Planning Page provided. However, do NOT write your final answer on the Planning Page. Write your final answer on the lined pages.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY Before each written-response question you will see how many credits the question is worth. For example, "This question is worth 2 credits."

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the statement indicating the question's credit value,

SAY Read the passages and answer the questions. All of your answers to the multiple-choice questions must be marked on your answer sheet. All of your written answers must be written in your Session 2 test booklet.

If you need more space to continue or complete an answer, you may use any available blank space in the Session 2 test booklet. Please make sure to clearly note and label the continuation of your answer. Also make sure that you are not using space that has been provided for another question. Remember to write complete and thorough answers and include details and examples from each passage.

When you see the words GO ON at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word STOP, you have reached the end of this test. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please close your test booklet.

SAY Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student's answer sheet has been inserted into their test booklet.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2025 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student's best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

STEP SIX

Administer the 2025 Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 Mathematics Paper-Based Test

Step Six contains the script that teachers read before students start testing. It is important to read all of Steps One–Five and the pertinent grade level information in Step Six prior to administering the test. Steps One–Five can be found in the Grades 3 and 7 Mathematics Paper-Based Tests Teacher’s Directions, posted on the Department’s [website](https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals) (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>).

*Please read these directions carefully before administering the test. When you administer the test, the directions you are to read aloud are preceded by **SAY**. Read all directions to students at a moderate, steady pace. The italicized instructions to teachers should **not** be read aloud.*

Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 — Math Day 1, Session 1

Make sure you have a copy of the Session 1 test booklet.

For Grades 4, 5, and 6:

- *Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil, a ruler, and a protractor.*

For Grade 8:

- *Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil, a ruler, a protractor, and a scientific calculator.*
- *Make sure to clear, reset, or disable the memory of any calculator with programming capability.*

*Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to record their responses to questions on the answer sheet.*

Make sure each student has one sheet of graph paper to use as scratch paper.

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions in Session 1 on their Session 1 Answer Sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students’ answer sheets will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices

- **Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display**
- **Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and**
- **Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages**

SAY If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY You will be taking the 2025 [say appropriate grade] **Mathematics Test**. There are two sessions for this test. Today, you will answer the questions in **Session 1**. Tomorrow, you will answer the questions in **Session 2**.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in mathematics this year. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

[For Grade 4]

You may use your ruler and protractor to help you solve some of the problems on the test.

[For Grades 5 and 6]

You may use your ruler, protractor, and mathematics reference sheet (which is inside the test booklet) to help you solve some of the problems on the test.

[For Grade 8]

You may use your ruler, protractor, calculator, and mathematics reference sheet (which is inside the test booklet) to help you solve some of the problems on the test.

You must mark your answers on your answer sheet by darkening the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

Distribute one sheet of graph paper to each student.

SAY You may use this graph paper to help you solve the questions on the test. You must record your final answer for each test question on your answer sheet. Anything that you write on the graph paper will not count toward your final score. The graph paper must be returned to me after you complete your test. If you need additional graph paper while you are taking the test, please raise your hand.

Distribute a Session 1 Answer Sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use during today’s test session. Look at your answer sheet and make sure your answer sheet says Session 1.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

You may *not* use additional paper for your answers. Only the answers marked on your answer sheet will be scored. However, you may use all available space in your Session 1 test booklet for any calculations or helpful markings you may need to make.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to use the answer sheet, distribute a Session 1 test booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the front covers of the student test booklets earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct test booklet.

SAY This is your Session 1 test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says “2025 Mathematics Test Session 1” and [say appropriate grade]. If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY All of your answers must be marked on your answer sheet. You may, however, make notes, highlight, or underline in your test booklet as you read.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the directions,

SAY [For Grades 5, 6, and 8] Now, open your test booklet and remove your mathematics reference sheet. You can use the reference sheet during this session of the test.

Pause as students remove their mathematics reference sheets. When you are certain that all students are done,

SAY Now, look at page 1 in your test booklet. Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some suggestions to help you do your best:

- Read each question carefully. Take your time.

[For Grade 4]

- You have a ruler and a protractor that you can use on the test if they help you answer the question.

[For Grade 5 and 6]

- You have a ruler, a protractor, and a reference sheet that you can use on the test if they help you answer the question.

[For Grade 8]

- You have a ruler, a protractor, a reference sheet, and a calculator that you can use on the test if they help you answer the question.

SAY Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY When you see the words **GO ON** at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word **STOP**, you have reached the end of Session 1. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please place your answer sheet inside the front cover of your test booklet and close your test booklet.

SAY Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Make sure that students are on the correct page and are darkening the circles on the answer sheet appropriately by making their marks heavy and dark with a No. 2 pencil.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student's answer sheet has been inserted into their test booklet. Make sure to also collect all mathematics reference sheets.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. For Grades 5, 6, and 8, make sure to also collect all

mathematics reference sheets. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2025 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student's best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Ensure all students return the graph paper to you. These materials are considered secure materials and must be destroyed. Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8 — Math Day 2, Session 2

Make sure you have a copy of the Session 2 test booklet.

For Grades 4 and 5:

- *Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil, a ruler, and a protractor.*

For Grade 6:

- *Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil, a ruler, a protractor, and a four-function calculator with a square root key or a scientific calculator.*
- *Make sure to clear, reset, or disable the memory of any calculator with programming capabilities.*

For Grade 8:

- *Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil, a ruler, a protractor, and a scientific calculator.*
- *Make sure to clear, reset, or disable the memory of any calculator with programming capability.*

*Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to record their responses to questions on the answer sheet.*

Make sure each student has one sheet of graph paper to use as scratch paper.

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions in Session 2 on their Session 2 Answer Sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students' answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Students **must** write their answers to the constructed-response questions in their test booklet. **Only** answers to constructed-response questions written in the test booklet will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

SAY If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY Today, you will be taking the 2025 [say appropriate grade] Mathematics Test, Session 2.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in mathematics this year. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

[For Grade 4] You may use your ruler and protractor to help you solve some of the problems on the test.

[For Grade 5] You may use your ruler, protractor, and mathematics reference sheet (which is inside the test booklet) to help you solve some of the problems on the test.

[For Grades 6 and 8] You may use your ruler, protractor, calculator, and mathematics reference sheet (which is inside the test booklet) to help you solve some of the problems on the test.

You must mark your answers on your answer sheet by darkening the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

Distribute one sheet of graph paper to each student.

SAY You may use this graph paper to help you solve the questions on the test. You must record your final answer for each test question on your answer sheet or in your test booklet. Anything that you write on the graph paper will not count toward your final score. The graph paper must be returned to me after you complete your test. If you need additional graph paper while you are taking the test, please raise your hand.

Distribute a Session 2 Answer Sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use during today's test session. Look at your answer sheet and make sure your answer sheet says Session 2.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

SAY If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

You may *not* use additional paper for your answers for the multiple-choice questions. Only the answers marked on your answer sheet for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. However, you may use all available space in your Session 2 test booklet for any calculations or helpful markings you may need to make.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to use the answer sheet, distribute a Session 2 test booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the front covers of the student test booklets earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct test booklet.

SAY This is your Session 2 test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says “2025 Mathematics Test Session 2” and [say appropriate grade]. If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY [For Grades 5, 6, and 8] Now, open your test booklet and remove your mathematics reference sheet. You can use the reference sheet during this session of the test.

Pause as students remove their mathematics reference sheets. When you are certain that all students are done,

SAY Now, look at page 1.

Check that all students are looking at the correct page in Session 2.

SAY Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some suggestions to help you do your best:

- Read each question carefully. Take your time.

[For Grade 4]

- You have a ruler and a protractor that you can use on the test if they help you answer the question.

[For Grade 5]

- You have a ruler, a protractor, and a reference sheet that you can use on the test if they help you answer the question.

[For Grades 6 and 8]

- You have a ruler, a protractor, a reference sheet, and a calculator that you can use on the test if they help you answer the question.
- Be sure to show your work when asked.
- Be sure to explain your answer when asked.

SAY Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY Before each written-response question you will see how many credits the question is worth. For example, "This question is worth 2 credits."

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the statement indicating the question's credit value,

SAY For Session 2 multiple-choice questions, you must mark your answers on your answer sheet by darkening the circle for the letter that matches your answer. Only the answers marked on your answer sheet for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Use only a No. 2 pencil. If you make a mistake on your answer sheet, erase your mistake completely and darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer.

For Session 2 written-response questions, you must write your answers directly in your test booklet in the space provided. You may not use additional paper for your answers. Only the answers written in your test booklet will be scored. Write your answers clearly and legibly. It is important to show all your work when asked as well as your final answer in your test booklet. If you make a mistake, erase it completely or draw a line through it. Use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter to record any of your answers.

When you see the words GO ON at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word STOP, you have reached the end of Session 2. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please place your answer sheet inside the front cover of your test booklet and close your test booklet.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Make sure students are making their marks heavy and dark on their answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions and are recording their answers to the constructed-response questions in their test booklet.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student's answer sheet has been inserted into their test booklet. Make sure to also collect all mathematics reference sheets.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. For Grades 5, 6, and 8, make sure to also collect all mathematics reference sheets. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2025 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student's best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Ensure all students return the graph paper to you. These materials are considered secure materials and must be destroyed. Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

Administer the 2025 Elementary-Level (Grade 5) and Intermediate-Level (Grade 8) Science Paper-based Tests

Teachers from across the State work with NYSED in a variety of activities to ensure the validity and reliability of the New York State Testing Program (NYSTP).

The 2025 Elementary-Level (Grade 5) and Intermediate-Level (Grade 8) Science Tests each consist of a single session that is administered in one day. Students will have as much time as they need to answer the questions in the test session within the confines of the regular school day.

The tests consist of multiple-choice (1-credit) and constructed-response (1-credit) questions. Each multiple-choice question is followed by four choices, one of which is the correct answer. Students record their multiple-choice responses on a separate answer sheet. The constructed-response questions require students to write (rather than select) appropriate responses. Students write their answers to these questions directly in their test booklets.

By following the guidelines in this document, you help ensure that the test is valid, reliable, and equitable for all students. A series of instructions helps you organize the materials and the testing schedule.

For the Grades 5 & 8 Science Tests, students in those required CBT grade levels who must test on paper per an IEP or 504 Plan or who require an alternate language edition of the mathematics or science test should test on the same days as their CBT grade classmates within the multiple-week window (Monday, April 7–Friday, May 16, 2025).

Religious and Independent Schools who due to religious beliefs, do not make use of technology in the classroom will select one day within the multiple-week window (Monday, April 7–Friday, May 16, 2025) to administer the paper-based science tests for each grade level.

The Grades 5 & 8 Science Tests may be administered on the same day. Make-ups must be given during the multiple-week administration window.

IMPORTANT DATES

Grades 5 & 8 Science Paper-Based Testing Dates	Monday, April 7– Friday, May 16, 2025
Grades 5 & 8 Science Paper-Based Testing Make-up Dates	Must be given during administration window.

No one, under any circumstances, including the student, may alter the student's responses on the test once the student has handed in their test materials. Teachers and administrators who engage in inappropriate conduct with respect to administering and scoring State assessments may be subject to disciplinary actions in accordance with Sections 3020 and 3020-a of Education Law or to action against their certification pursuant to Part 83 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education.

STEP ONE

Check Your Paper-Based Testing Materials

To administer these tests, you will need the materials listed below. If any materials are missing, notify your school principal.

For the teacher

- *Paper-Based Tests Teacher's Directions*
- Classroom roster
- Test booklet
- Multiple-choice answer sheet
- Student identification labels for test booklets (received from a Regional Information Center or Large-City Scanning Center)
- Identification labels and instructions for completing biographical data for new students
- "Do Not Disturb" sign (not provided)
- Extra No. 2 pencils with erasers (not provided)

For each student

- Precoded answer sheet or generic answer sheet requiring the completion of the demographic section
- Test booklet
- No. 2 pencil with eraser (not provided)
- Ruler
- Four-function calculator with a square root key or scientific calculator for Grade 5 **NOTE:** Graphing calculators are **not** permitted
- Scientific calculator for Grade 8 **NOTE:** Graphing calculators are **not** permitted

Security

The Paper-Based Tests include secure materials. School personnel responsible for testing must ensure that all test materials are secured at all times. The test booklets may **not** be photocopied or duplicated. No section of any test may be discussed with the students before it has been administered to all students. You may, however, describe the format of the tests and the testing schedule to the students.

- Contact your principal or the principal's designee if you do not have a sufficient number of test booklets or answer sheets.
- When not in use, the test booklets must be kept in a safe or vault in the school building or at an approved, alternate storage site to prevent unauthorized access. Storing the test booklets in this manner ensures that the security of the test is not breached.
- See your principal or school administrator for instructions regarding the processing of all used and unused test materials.

- At no time may the contents of the test booklets be reviewed, discussed, or shared (this includes through any electronic means).

Unauthorized Materials

Students should be under close supervision at all times during the administration of the tests and may not use any unauthorized notes, printed materials, scratch paper, tools, or electronic devices that might give them an unfair advantage on the tests. When students enter the testing room, proctors must ensure that students do not bring any unauthorized materials.

All students are prohibited from bringing cell phones and certain other personal electronic devices into a classroom or other location where a State test is being administered. Test proctors and school officials shall retain the right to collect and hold any prohibited personal electronic devices prior to the start of the test administration.

Any student observed with any prohibited device while taking a State test must be directed to turn it over to the proctor or monitor immediately. To allow for all possible outcomes of procedural due process, the student should be allowed to complete the test. The incident must be reported promptly to the school principal. If the student had a prohibited device in their possession during the test administration, the student's test must be invalidated. No score may be calculated for that student.

The incident must be reported by the principal, in writing, to the Office of State Assessment (OSA) by fax at 518-474-1989 or by [email \(emscassessinfo@nysed.gov\)](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) as is the case for all student-related testing irregularities, misadministrations, or other violations of State testing policy and procedures.

Note: Some students with disabilities may use certain recording/playback devices **only** if this accommodation is specifically required as a provision of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan). In addition, a student may be allowed to retain an otherwise prohibited device in their possession if there is documentation on file at the school from a medical practitioner that the student requires such a device during testing. Without this documentation, the general policy on communications devices as provided above is in effect, and the school may not allow the student to retain any such equipment while testing.

Aid to Students

No one, under any circumstances, may interpret or explain test questions to students, nor may anyone review or comment to the student about the correctness or sufficiency of the student's response while the test is in progress. In response to inquiries by students concerning the meaning or interpretation of test questions, proctors should advise students to use their own best judgment. Proctors may give students assistance only in the mechanics of taking the test, such as understanding that their multiple-choice responses must only be recorded on the answer sheet and their constructed-responses must be recorded in the test booklet.

Temporary Absence from Testing Room

No student may be permitted to leave and then return to the testing room during the test unless the student is accompanied by a proctor for the duration of their absence from the testing room.

Emergency Evacuation of a School Building

Evacuation of a school building during a test may be required because of an emergency such as a fire alarm or bomb threat. In any situation in which the safety of the students is endangered, the principal has full authority to interrupt the test immediately. If it is possible, the students should be kept under supervision during the emergency. Then, when work can be resumed safely, allow the students the necessary time to complete the test. Following the test, a written report of the circumstances should be sent by mail or fax to OSA. (See the section “Reporting Irregularities and/or Misadministrations” in the *School Administrator’s Manual* [<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>].)

Student Cheating

Do not permit students to obtain information from or give information to other students in any way during the test. If you suspect that such an attempt has occurred, warn the students that any further attempts will result in the termination of their test. If necessary, move the students to another location. If these steps fail to end attempts to obtain or give information, notify the principal immediately and terminate the students’ tests. At the conclusion of the test session, all suspected cheating must be reported to the principal.

Illness

If a student becomes ill during the test, the student should be excused until the student is well enough to continue. When the student is well enough to complete the test (as long as the testing or make-up period has not ended), the student may be given the remaining part of the test. When a student is taking a partially completed test, that student must be closely supervised so that they do not go back to previously completed questions.

Proctoring

Proctors must circulate periodically around the room during the administration of the test to ensure that students are recording their responses to test questions in the proper manner and on the appropriate answer document—on their answer sheets for the multiple choice questions or in their test booklets for the constructed-response questions. Students are not to record their multiple-choice responses in their test booklets except for students whose IEPs or 504 Plans allow scribes to transfer answers from the test booklet to an answer sheet. Proctors should also point out to students if they have left one or more answers blank or have darkened more than one circle for the same multiple-choice question. However, proctors may not comment to any student on the correctness or sufficiency of any answer. Proctors should not use their own personal communication devices during the test, unless an emergency situation arises.

Misadministration

Notify your principal immediately if the test is administered improperly. Examples of misadministration include the following: permitting students to have unauthorized testing accommodations or tools and engaging in other types of nonstandard test administration (for example, cheating). (See the section “Reporting Irregularities and/or Misadministrations” in the *School Administrator’s Manual* [<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>].)

STEP TWO Plan Your Paper-Based Testing Schedule

- Schedule testing to allow sufficient time for instructions and preparations. Plan to read instructions to students at a moderate, steady pace.
- **Read Steps One–Six in its entirety prior to administering the test.**
- Review Step Six, “Administer the Test,” before administering the test.
- Each student must have either an answer sheet precoded with student information or a generic answer sheet, which will require the applicable circles to be darkened in the demographic section. If a precoded answer sheet is missing for any student, allow sufficient time before test administration to complete the demographic section on a generic answer sheet.
- Avoid testing just after students have had strenuous physical activity.

Test Format and Schedule

The 2025 Grades 5 & 8 Science Paper-Based Tests each consist of a single session that is administered in one day. The tests contain multiple-choice questions and constructed-response questions. Each multiple-choice question is followed by four choices, one of which is the correct answer. Students will answer the multiple-choice questions by darkening circles on their answer sheets. Students will write their answers to the constructed-response questions directly in their test booklets.

Approximately 60 percent of each test will be comprised of multiple-choice questions, while approximately 40 percent will be constructed-response questions. Embedded field test questions are included in the number of questions below. It will not be apparent to students whether a question is an embedded field test question that does not count toward their score or an operational test question that does count toward their score. There will be variation in the number of questions that make up each cluster depending upon the assessment storyline; as a result, there may be slight variation in the total number of exam questions from year to year.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student’s test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

For the Spring 2025 tests, there are no time limits. Schools should allocate a minimum of 90 minutes for the administration of the Grade 5 Science Test. Likewise, for planning purposes, schools should allocate a minimum of 120 minutes for the administration of the Grade 8 Science Test. This information is intended for test preparation and planning only, as test duration will vary among students. Please plan accordingly to allow students to complete the test at their own pace. All students who are productively working should be allowed to complete the test, within the confines of the regular school day, regardless of the time estimates listed above. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student’s best interest to release them.

The following charts provide information about the format of the tests.

2025 Grade 5 Science Paper-Based Test

Number of Question Clusters	7–9
Total Number of Questions	36–43

2025 Grade 8 Science Paper-Based Test

Number of Question Clusters	10–12
Total Number of Questions	56–62

Testing Accommodations for Students with IEPs and 504 Plans

In general, students with disabilities must be provided with the testing accommodations specified in their Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and Section 504 Accommodation Plans (504 Plans) when taking these tests. However, testing accommodations that change the constructs, or what a test is measuring, are not permitted for elementary- and intermediate-level tests. In administering the tests to students with disabilities, schools should follow the guidelines on testing accommodations provided in the *School Administrator’s Manual* (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>).

Use of Scribes: The use of scribes is an allowable accommodation. More detailed information about the procedures to follow for the use of scribes may be found in the *School Administrator’s Manual* (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>).

Test Read: The test may be read aloud to students whose IEPs or 504 Plans include this testing accommodation.

Use of Mathematics Spatial Boards with Large Type or Braille Editions

Students whose IEPs or 504 Plans specify the use of mathematics spatial boards are permitted to use these devices with the large type and braille editions of the 2025 Grades 5 & 8 Science Tests.

Use of Calculators and Other Devices

Students whose IEPs or 504 Plans specify the use of counting blocks, counters, or an abacus are permitted to use such devices with the 2025 Grades 5 & 8 Science Tests. The use of mathematics tables is permitted only if specified in a student's IEP or 504 Plan.

When students make use of hand-held calculators:

- students taking the Grade 5 Science Test may be provided with four-function calculators with a square root key or scientific calculators;
- students taking the Grade 8 Science Test should be provided with scientific calculators.

When students enter the testing room, clear, reset, or disable the memory of any calculator with programming capability. If the memory of a student's calculator is password-protected and cannot be cleared, the calculator must not be used. Students may not use calculators that are capable of symbol manipulation or that can communicate with other calculators through infrared sensors, nor may students use operating manuals, instruction or formula cards, or other information concerning the operation of calculators during the tests. Graphing calculators are **NOT** permitted.

More Information on Testing Accommodations for Students with IEPs and 504 Plans

More detailed information on testing accommodations for students with disabilities can be found in the Office of Special Education's *Testing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Guidance Document* (<https://www.nysed.gov/special-education/testing-accommodations-students-disabilities-policy-and-tools-guide>).

Testing Accommodations for English Language Learners

Information on accommodations for English Language Learners (ELLs) and former ELLs can be found in the *School Administrator's Manual* (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-ela-and-math-test-manuals>).

STEP THREE Prepare Your Paper-Based Testing Room

- Plan for the distribution and collection of materials.
- Provide a well-lit, well-ventilated, and quiet testing room.
- Plan seating arrangements. Allow enough space between students to prevent sharing of answers. To help prevent communication between students during testing, make sure that each student is clearly visible to the proctor at all times. Students must not be permitted to speak to one another while the test is being administered.
- Completely cover—or remove from the walls—science aids or charts and all board work pertaining to science.
- Eliminate distractions such as bells or telephones.

- Place a “Do Not Disturb” sign on the door of the testing room.
- Make sure students’ desks and the shelves under desks are cleared of all extraneous materials.

STEP FOUR Prepare Your Students

- Help students approach the testing in a relaxed, positive way.
- Explain that the purpose of taking these tests is to find out which concepts have been mastered and which need further development.
- Point out that some questions may be more difficult than others. Encourage and motivate your students to put forth their best effort.
- Be sure students understand the directions and where to mark their answers on their multiple-choice answer sheets, and where to record their constructed-response answers in the test booklets.
- Assist them with test-taking procedures, but be careful not to inadvertently give hints or clues that indicate an answer or help eliminate answer choices. Do not assist students with any test questions.
- Encourage students to attempt all questions. Tell them to read each question carefully and make their best attempt at answering each one.

Use Standardized Testing Procedures

This test must be administered under standard conditions. Follow the directions carefully. The same test administration procedures must be used with all students so that valid conclusions can be drawn from the test results. Ensure that students follow directions for where to mark their answers (e.g., answers for multiple-choice questions must be marked by darkening circles on the answer sheet, **not** in the test booklet).

STEP FIVE Prepare Paper-Based Testing Materials

Answer Sheets, Biographical Data, and Labels

- For each student in your class, verify that you have the correct precoded answer sheets.
- If there are no precoded answer sheets for a student, complete the demographic section on the generic answer sheets for that student.
- Verify that you have the correct precoded labels for each student in your class. Prior to testing, affix the precoded labels to the front cover of each student’s test booklet on the day the session is administered. The affixing of the labels to the booklets may occur no earlier than the day the test will be administered.

Science Tools

Students taking PBT should be provided with a ruler for their exclusive use during the test. Specifications for science tools can be found in Appendix E of the *School Administrator's Manual* (<https://www.nysed.gov/state-assessment/grades-3-8-test-manuals>).

When students make use of hand-held calculators:

- Students taking the Grade 5 Science Test may be provided with four-function calculators with a square root key or scientific calculators.
- Students taking the Grade 8 Science Test should be provided with scientific calculators.
- Graphing calculators are **not** allowed.

STEP SIX

Administer the 2025 Grades 5 & 8 Science Paper-Based Tests

*Please read these directions carefully before administering the test. When you administer the test, the directions you are to read aloud are preceded by **SAY**. Read all directions to students at a moderate, steady pace. The italicized instructions to teachers should **not** be read aloud.*

Grades 5 & 8 Science

Make sure you have a copy of the correct grade level (Grade 5 or Grade 8 Science) test booklet.

*Make sure each student has a No. 2 pencil and a ruler. Students may **not** use pens. Students may be permitted to use highlighters when taking this test. You must, however, monitor student use of highlighters to ensure that they are not being used by students to record their responses to questions on their answer sheets.*

When students make use of hand-held calculators:

- *students taking the Grade 5 Science Test should be provided with four-function calculators with a square root key or scientific calculators;*
- *students taking the Grade 8 Science Test should be provided with scientific calculators.*

Note that graphing calculators are NOT permitted. Make sure to clear, reset, or disable the memory of any calculator with programming capability.

*Students will be recording the answers to the multiple-choice questions on their answer sheet. **Only** the responses marked on the students' answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Students **must** write their answers to the constructed-response questions in their test booklet. **Only** answers to constructed-response questions written in the test booklet will be scored.*

At the beginning of the test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State tests:

SAY You cannot have any personal communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this test or during any breaks, such as a restroom visit. Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras, other photographic equipment, and personal scanning devices
- Wearable devices/smart wearables, including smart watches and health wearables with a display
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and

- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic, or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content, or sending/receiving text, audio, or video messages

SAY If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor, or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your examination will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

Repeat list of devices. Pick up devices from students and return them after testing.

SAY Today, you will be taking the 2025 Grade [say appropriate grade] Science Test.

This test gives you a chance to show your teachers what you have learned in Science. The test will not affect your classroom grade. Your school uses the results of the test to make sure you have the support you need to succeed. Please try your best.

You will mark your answers to multiple-choice questions on your answer sheet and you will write your responses to the written-response questions in your test booklet. You will have as much time as you need today to answer the questions.

You may use your ruler and calculator to help you solve some of the problems on the test.

Distribute an answer sheet to each student. If answer sheets are precoded, make sure each student receives the correct answer sheet.

SAY This is the answer sheet you will use during today's test. Use your answer sheet to record your answers to the multiple-choice questions.

When marking answers on your answer sheet, you must darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer for each question. Be sure to use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter on your answer sheet. When you darken the circles, make heavy black marks.

If you make a mistake, erase it completely. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet. Do not make any marks on the back of your answer sheet.

You may *not* use additional paper for your answers for the multiple-choice questions. Only the answers marked on your answer sheet for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. However, you may use all available space in your test booklet for any calculations or helpful markings you may need to make.

Are there any questions about how to darken the circles on your answer sheet?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to use the answer sheet, distribute a test booklet to each student. If the student identification labels were affixed to the front covers of the student test booklets earlier today, make sure each student receives the correct test booklet.

SAY This is your test booklet. Do not open your test booklet until I tell you to do so.

Look at the cover of your test booklet. Make sure it says “2025 (insert grade level) Science Test.” If you do not have the correct booklet, please raise your hand and I will give you the correct one.

Find the word “Name” at the top of the cover. Write your first and last name on the blank line.

Check to make sure each student has written their name on the front cover of the test booklet.

SAY Now, open your test booklet.

Now, look at page 1.

Check that all students are looking at the correct page.

SAY Please read along silently as I read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud to you.

Read the Tips for Taking the Test aloud as the students follow along.

SAY Here are some ideas to help you do your best:

- Be sure to read all the directions carefully.
- Read each question carefully.
- Think about the answer before making your choice or writing your answer.
- Make sure you read all the information given for each question.
- You have a ruler and a calculator that you can use on the test if they help you answer the question.

Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand the Tips for Taking the Test,

SAY For multiple-choice questions, you must mark your answers on your answer sheet by darkening the circle for the letter that matches your answer. Only the answers marked on your answer sheet for the multiple-choice questions will be scored. Use only a No. 2 pencil. If you make a mistake on your answer sheet, erase your mistake completely and darken the circle for the letter that matches your answer.

For written-response questions, you must write your answers directly in your test booklet in the space provided. You may not use additional paper for your answers. Only the answers written in your test booklet will be scored. Write your answers clearly and legibly. If you make a mistake, erase it completely or draw a line through it. Use only a No. 2 pencil. You may not use a pen or highlighter to record any of your answers.

When you see the words GO ON at the bottom of a test booklet page, go on to the next page. When you come to the word STOP, you have reached the end. You may go back and check your work. When you are finished please place your answer sheet inside the front cover of your test booklet and close your test booklet.

SAY Are there any questions?

Pause for questions. When you are confident that all students understand how to take the test,

SAY You must work independently, and you may not speak with each other while the test is being administered.

Now, please turn to page 2 and begin.

Make sure students are making their marks heavy and dark on their answer sheets for the multiple-choice questions and are recording their answers to the constructed-response questions in their test booklets.

Students should remain quietly at their desks when they finish the test. The proctor may collect the test materials either as students complete the test or when most of the students have finished. When collecting the test materials, make sure each student's answer sheet has been inserted into their test booklets.

Students who finish the test before other students should check their work. Once the student is finished, test materials may be collected by the proctor. After a student's test materials are collected, that student may be permitted to read silently. This privilege is granted at the discretion of each school. No talking and no other schoolwork is permitted. Once all students complete the test, you may end the session.

Given that the Spring 2025 tests have no time limits, schools and districts have the discretion to create their own approach to ensure that all students who are productively working are given the time they need to continue to take the tests within the confines of the regular school day. Students should be productively engaged in completing assessments and not be retained beyond that point. School personnel should use their best professional judgment and knowledge about individual students to determine how long a student should be engaged in taking a particular assessment and when it is in the student's best interest to release them.

If the test is administered in a large-group setting, school administrators may prefer to allow students to hand in their test materials as they finish and then leave the room. If so, take care that students leave the room as quietly as possible so as not to disturb the students who are still working on the test.

Follow security procedures established by your principal or school administrator for returning secure test materials.

Test booklets and scoring materials must be kept secure. You are not to discuss the test, show it to anyone, or photocopy the materials, as the security of the test could be breached. However, school personnel may make photocopies of this *Teacher's Directions* if additional copies are needed.



**2025 Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8
English Language Arts
and Mathematics,
and Elementary-Level (Grade 5)
and Intermediate-Level (Grade 8)
Science Paper-Based Tests
Teacher's Directions
Spring 2025**



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