

TASC Content Webinar Q&A

Q: What would be a passing score on the essay? Does the candidate need a 3 or 4?

A: This will be determined during standard setting activities this fall. There are multiple components that contribute to the overall ELA Writing score including the essay and selected-response items. The cut scores will be strongly informed by the TASC ELA: Writing performance of the norm group—a representative national sample of twelfth grade students.

Q: We currently use the Casio fx-260 calculator...Will I need to order some of the TI-30xs for the new test?

A: The TI-30xs will be delivered with the test materials to the test center and most closely reflects the emulator used in the online version of TASC. You can also continue to use the FX-260 calculator. The calculator must include 4 functions, trig and log functions and it must not be programmable.

Q: We viewed the webinar this afternoon and found it helpful and informative, but we had a few questions for you:

- First, will you provide us with a list of specs or requirements for test centers to qualify them to administer the exam?

A: Yes, the Test Coordinator Manual will include this information. There will also be a Test Center Agreement that will explain all of the rules and responsibilities for test centers to qualify to administer the test.

- How many practice exams forms are there, and when will we have access to them?

A: There is 1 Form. The Readiness Online English is currently scheduled to be available in December 2013. The Readiness paper/pencil English is currently scheduled to be available in February 2014.

- Is it true that in a couple of years all tests will be done online? If so, what accommodations will be made for programs that may not have access to computers (I'm thinking particularly of our incarcerated population)?

A: Paper and Pencil tests will be available as needed. We do not plan to shift to a fully online product only.

- Is there a possibility that test centers be provided with some of the new calculators that will be used for this test?

A: Yes, the TI-30xs will be delivered with the test materials to the test center.

- Will the TABE test still be used to assess students' progress for NRS? When will new forms be coming out that will be more closely aligned with the new test material?

A: TABE was developed in part to measure National Reporting System (NRS) EFL's and it still continues to do so. Its 7-year approval ensures that you will continue to be able to use TABE for years to come. If EFL's do change, CTB and TABE will support the transition.

Q: Is there a place we can get the results for the sample questions?

A: We will post them to the ctb.com site.

Q: I would like to request a copy of the webinar presentation materials. Where will the recording be posted?

A: The recording for the TASC Overview Session has been posted on the AEPP website at <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/aepp> under **Featured Items**. The recording is also posted on the GED website at <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/ged/>

Q: What challenges do you anticipate for adult ed teachers (many of whom are PT teachers) to develop the greater breadth and depth of knowledge necessary to help students prepare for the TASC & CCCS?

A: To help prepare students for TASC, Adult Ed teachers will need to transition to a focus on teaching content in the areas of Science and Social Studies.

Q: What type of PD materials or opportunities will you have available for teachers who have taught all 5 subjects of GED for many years to help them develop their own skills so they are prepared to teach the necessary information they will encounter in the TASC?

A: NYSED, through its seven Regional Adult Education Network centers, will be providing training and PD for NYSED-funded adult education programs.

Other resources include McGraw-Hill's Common Core Achieve materials. The Reading & Writing and Mathematics portions of Common Core Achieve Online will go live starting at the end of October 2013 and in January 2014 will include all 4 subject areas. Please visit the website — www.commoncoreachieve.com. In addition, McGraw-Hill's TASC prep book will be available at the end of February.

Q: Can you please discuss more what the "technology enhanced" question type means, for 2015 and beyond? And what that would mean for official testing sites using a paper-based test?

A: The computer-based tests technology enhanced items are those which will be interactive and require test takers to interact with content online to answer the question, for example with a "drag and drop" response. On paper-based tests there will be a comparable short answer, handwritten response required.

Q: Given that the Science and SS standards for Common Core are years away from finalization (so I've been told), it worries me that the TASC will be adopting different standards for those subsections. Why wouldn't the TASC simply keep current standards, if the new Common Core mandate for these tests has not been released?

A: TASC is representative of what a high school graduate needs to know, which includes essential content knowledge in the areas of Science and Social Studies.

Q: The TASC, as presented, represents a major shift from current GED standards. I think everybody in the field is in favor of higher expectations. But my worry is that this seems like less of the gradual transition that many adult literacy providers expected. Given the increased emphasis on content, it seems very **likely** that the initial pass rate will go down.

A: CTB/McGraw-Hill will gather data on adult students as part of the October 2013 field test. The cut scores will be set based on multiple sources of information including the expected pass rates. Although there *may* be a drop in pass rates due to the transition to the CCSS, and the associated increase in rigor, we do not expect the change to be severe. A transitional set of cut scores will be considered if the target cut scores based strictly on norm-referenced standard setting methods result in a substantial drop in pass rates.

Q: What/if any new TASC info/standards/accommodations are forthcoming regarding persons with cognitive/developmental learning challenges, persons who had been issued IEP's and for people who might not be able to use the computer effectively.

A: Students who might not be able to use the computer effectively may take the paper and pencil version of TASC. Students with special needs will be able to apply for accommodations using the TASC Special Testing Accommodations Request form that will be available in October at www.TASCtest.com.