

COMMON CORE

New York State Tests in ELA and Mathematics



WHO TAKES THE COMMON CORE?

In NY State, all students in grades 3 through 8 are automatically registered to take their grade level's Common Core exams each Spring. The exams are administered in class during regular school hours, and both are spread over two days. The ELA is taken first, in late March/early April, followed by the Math in late April or early May. Families may opt their children out of taking the exams.

WHAT ARE THE TESTS LIKE?

Both tests are untimed, feature a mix of multiple choice and written answer questions, and follow a two-session format.

English

First day: multiple choice. This session consists of 4 passages of 600-1000 words in length (passages increase in length with each grade level). Every passage is followed by a handful of multiple-choice questions, 24 in total. Students are expected to take about an hour on average to complete this section, but they may take longer if they wish.

Second day: short answer and extended response. This session consists of 3 passages with short- and extended-response questions only. There are 6 short answer questions that should be answered in one paragraph, and 1 extended-response question that requires a full-length essay response.

Math

First day: multiple choice. As with the ELA test, the first day of the math test consists exclusively of multiple-choice questions, between 25 and 33 in total (higher grades answer more questions). Students are expected to take anywhere from 50-90 minutes on average to complete this session, depending on grade level.

Second day: short answer and extended response. This session consists of 6 or 7 short answer questions and 1 extended response question. These questions do not include multiple choice options, and students must show their work to get full credit. Typical length: 60-90 minutes.

WHEN ARE THE TESTS?

The ELA test is typically administered in late March or early April, just before Spring recess, and the Math test is typically administered in late April or early May, once students return from vacation.

HOW ARE THEY SCORED?

Both tests are graded according to three different numerical scales: "Scaled Score", "Performance Level", and "Proficiency Rating". The scaled score determines which of the four performance levels a student falls into, with each performance level containing 25% of all scores. The proficiency rating indicates where a student's score falls within their particular performance band. Students are also given an overall statewide percentile range showing how their score compares to other test takers. For more detailed scoring info, please contact us!

OUR PROCESS

Assessment

Set up a timetable

Overview of test logistics

Learn all necessary strategies

Test-specific executive functioning

Continuously enrich content gaps

Compile vocabulary / formula list

Ongoing sessions & homework

Monthly test simulations

Test-day preparation