

Tackling the TAKS



A Handbook for Parents
New Caney Independent School District

Tackling the **TAKS** **A Handbook for Parents**

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What is the TAKS?

Q: What is the TAKS?

A: The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, known as the TAKS, is the testing program that Texas requires most of its public school students to take yearly.

Q: Where does the TAKS come from?

A: In 1980, Texas implemented an accountability system for public schools. It has evolved from the Texas Assessment of Basic Skills (TABS), to the Texas Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS) in 1985, to the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) in 1990, with TAKS replacing TAAS in 2003.

Q: How was it developed?

A: The development of TAKS has included scrutiny and input from Texas teachers, administrators, parents, members of the business community, professional education organizations, faculty and staff at Texas colleges and universities, as well as national content-area experts.

What Student Learning is measured by TAKS?

Q: What knowledge does TAKS measure?

A: The state curriculum, which is called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), defines what students should know and be able to do. In each subject area, Texas teachers provide instruction that is based on the TEKS for that subject. The TAKS is aligned with the TEKS curriculum.

Q: What is the relationship between TAKS and the TEKS?

A: Just as the TEKS curriculum is vertically aligned to become more rigorous as students move from grade to grade, TAKS also increases in complexity from year to year. The changes are both appropriate and logical for students' development of knowledge and skills.

Q: Are all students taught the TEKS?

A: NCISD's districtwide curriculum is based on the TEKS. Students are taught on grade-level, with the understanding that teachers will make adjustments to address the needs of students served in programs such as Bilingual/ESL or special education.

What is required when it comes to TAKS?

Q: Are all districts required to administer TAKS?

A: Yes. The TAKS system is the state accountability for both individual campuses and districts.

Q: Do all students take TAKS?

A: No.

Q: What students do not have to take TAKS?

A: The law allows students receiving special education services who are not studying on-grade-level TEKS for certain subjects not to take TAKS for those subjects. Instead, as determined by the individual's ARD committee, the student may take a test called the State-developed Alternative Assessment (SDAA). Students for whom the SDAA is not appropriate will take a locally-developed alternative assessment (LDAA).

Other students not taking TAKS include the following:

- those who are younger than third grade
- 11th or 12th grade students who have already passed the exit-level tests required for graduation
- recent, unschooled immigrants who meet exemption criteria

Q: Does TAKS affect promotion standards?

A: Yes. The same law that established TAKS included a component called the Student Success Initiative. (See next page)

What is the Student Success Initiative?

Q: What is the Student Success Initiative?

A: The SSI is part of a Texas law that requires students in certain grade levels to advance to the next grade level only by one of two paths:

- The student passes the designated TAKS.
- The student, after failing TAKS three times, undergoes review by a grade placement committee, which must reach a unanimous decision that the student is likely to perform at grade level after accelerated instruction.

Q: When do the various components of the Student Success Initiative take effect?

A: Listed below is the implementation timeline for TAKS-driven promotion.

- 2003: Third graders who fail the TAKS reading test will not be promoted to fourth grade. Third-grade students take their Reading test in early March and receive their results in late March. Those who failed will receive accelerated instruction and will attempt the test again in late April (as will absentees). If still unsuccessful (or absent), they have a third (final) chance to retest again in July.
- 2004: Students taking the TAKS as 11th-graders must pass all four tests as part of their graduation requirements. Students who fail will receive accelerated instruction and additional opportunities for testing.
- 2005: Fifth-grade students must pass both the Reading and Math tests to be promoted to sixth grade.
- 2008: Students in 8th grade must pass both the Reading and Math tests to be promoted to 9th grade.

Who Takes Which TAKS?

3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade
Reading* (English or Spanish)	Reading (English or Spanish)	Reading*** (English or Spanish)	Reading (English or Spanish)	Reading	Reading****	Reading	English Language Arts	English Language Arts**
----	Writing (English or Spanish)	----	----	Writing	----	----	----	----
Math (English or Spanish)	Math (English or Spanish)	Math*** (English or Spanish)	Math (English or Spanish)	Math	Math****	Math	Math	Math**
----	----	Science (English or Spanish)	----	----	Science	----	Science	Science**
----	----	----	----	----	Social Studies	----	Social Studies	Social Studies **

- * 3rd grade students must pass this test in order to advance to 4th grade.
- ** 11th grade students must pass these tests as part of their graduation requirements.
- *** 5th grade students must pass these tests in order to advance to 6th grade.
- **** Beginning in 2008, 8th grade students must pass these tests in order to advance to 9th grade.

When is TAKS administered?

During the 2005-2006 school year the Texas Education Agency (TEA) has set aside the following dates for students to take TAKS:

	Reading	English Language Arts	Writing	Math	Science	Social Studies
3rd Grade	2/21/06 4/19/06 Retest 6/28/06 Retest			4/18/06		
4th Grade	4/19/06		2/21/06	4/18/06		
5th Grade	2/21/06 4/19/06 Retest 6/28/06 Retest			4/4/06 5/16/06 Retest 6/27/06 Retest	4/20/06	
6th Grade	4/19/06			4/18/06		
7th Grade	4/19/06		2/21/06	4/18/06		
8th Grade	4/19/06			4/18/06	4/20/06	4/21/06
9th Grade	2/21/06			4/20/06		
10th Grade		2/21/06		4/18/06	4/20/06	4/21/06
11th Grade		2/21/06		4/19/06	4/20/06	4/21/06
Exit Level Retakes		10/18/05 Retest 2/21/06 Retest 4/18/06 Retest 7/11/06 Retest		10/19/05 Retest 2/22/06 Retest 4/19/06 Retest 7/12/06 Retest	10/20/05 Retest 2/23/06 Retest 4/20/06 Retest 7/13/06 Retest	10/21/05 Retest 2/24/06 Retest 4/21/06 Retest 7/14/06 Retest

**** TAKS Field testing is used by TEA to help determine if questions are appropriate to be used on the actual TAKS. TEA randomly chooses both district and individual schools to give field test. Field tests may be given at NCISD in the areas of 4th Grade Writing, 7th Grade Writing, 9th Grade Reading, and 10 and 11th Grade English Language Arts during the testing window of Jan. 17th - Feb. 3rd 2006.**

Reading TAKS

Q: What grades take reading TAKS?

A: Grades 3 - 9 take TAKS in the area of reading. The 10th and 11th grade English Language Arts TAKS combines both reading and writing.

Q. What does reading TAKS look like?

A: Students are required to read passages that may be narrative, expository, or mixed, which combines two types of writing. After reading the passage students will answer multiple choice questions.

Q: What do the questions look like?

A: See samples below:

3rd-grade Reading

[The following paragraph is the second in a nine-paragraph story. Eight additional questions are asked about the story.]

2 This unusual place was not originally a zoo. At first it was called the Forked River Animal Care Center. The workers there took care of lost or unwanted cats and dogs. Today the center is part of the zoo, but now many other kinds of animals are helped there, too.

In paragraph 2, which words help the reader know what originally means?

- unusual place
- at first
- took care of
- lost or unwanted

This question measures Reading Objective 1: Basic Understanding.

Reading TAKS - continued

6th-grade Reading

[The following paragraph is the third in a seven-paragraph passage. Nine additional questions are asked about the selection.]

3 We demanded that the captain turn back. The situation seemed close to violence. Captain Hudson reminded us of the punishment for mutiny and ordered us back to work. I expected to be arrested – or worse – thrown overboard. Still, I stood by my shipmates. It was too cold to sail those seas. To my surprise the captain suggested that we sail west for the New World and search instead for a northwest passage to the Orient. He promised that this new destination would take us to warmer seas. We felt fortunate not to have been punished, and since we did not want to sail back to Holland as failures, we agreed

Paragraph 3 is important to the story because it

- A describes the crew’s confrontation with the captain and explains how the conflict was resolved.
- B contrasts the warm climate in the New World with the cold climate of northern Europe.
- C describes the failure that the members of the crew would have felt if they had returned without finding the northeast passage.
- D discusses the likelihood of there being a northwest passage to the Orient through the New World.

This question measures Reading Objective 2: Applying Knowledge of Literary Elements.

Reading TAKS - continued

Q: What does reading TAKS cover?

A: See below:

Reading, Grades 3-8

Objectives		Test Questions per Objective, by Grade Level					
		3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1	<p>Basic Understanding Understand the reading selections. Parts of developing a basic understanding include figuring out the meaning of an unknown word, finding important details and main ideas, and recognizing accurate summaries.</p>	15	15	13	13	12	12
2	<p>Applying Knowledge of Literary Elements Understand the parts of a story – the events that happen, the setting (when and where the story takes place), the characters, and the main problem.</p>	7	8	8	8	10	10
3	<p>Using Strategies to Analyze Use different strategies to develop an understanding of the reading selections. Go beyond the basic, literal meaning of the reading by doing the following: know the different purposes for reading (reading for entertainment, reading for information), recognize the unique characteristics of different types of selections (how an article is different from a story), and use graphic organizers (charts, graphs, outlines, pictures). Reading may be a single selection or a pair of selections designed to be read together.</p>	6	7	8	8	10	10
4	<p>Applying Critical-thinking Skills Know how to use critical-thinking skills to develop an in-depth understanding of the reading selections. Students who can draw their own conclusions, make reasonable predictions about what they read, develop their own ideas, and use the text to support those ideas are likely to have a deep and complete understanding of a selection.</p>	8	10	13	13	16	16
Total number of questions on reading test		36	40	42	42	48	48

Reading TAKS - continued

Q: How does the 9th grade reading TAKS differ from the previous tests?

A: On the 9th grade test, students are required to write "Open Ended Responses."

Reading, Grade 9

On this test, the written Open Ended Responses are rated 1-3 according to the following scale:

- 1 out of 3 = partially sufficient
- 2 out of 3 = sufficient
- 3 out of 3 = exemplary

Objectives		Test Questions per Objective	
1	<p>Basic Understanding Understand the reading selections. Parts of developing a basic understanding include figuring out the meaning of an unknown word, finding important details and main ideas, and recognizing accurate summaries.</p>	9	
2	<p>Literary Elements and Techniques Understand the literary elements that are found in all stories – plot, conflict, character development, setting, and theme. Understand how an author combines these elements to create an effective story. Recognize the literary devices or tools an author uses to guide the reader’s understanding of a story’s characters, events, theme, and overall meaning. Know literary devices, such as flashback, foreshadowing, and symbolism.</p>	12	
	<p>Short Answer: Literary Selection</p>		3
3	<p>Analysis and Critical Evaluation Develop a deep understanding about the reading selections and visual representations. Draw reasonable conclusions, use the text to support those conclusions, make meaningful connections between important ideas and themes, and understand the techniques an author has used to develop a text.</p>	12	
	<p>Short Answer: Expository Selection</p>		3
	<p>Short Answer: Connecting Selections</p>		3
Total number of questions on reading test		42	

English Language Arts (ELA) TAKS

Q: Why do 10th and 11th graders not take reading TAKS?

A: It was determined that those students need to be able to demonstrate both reading and writing skills on a combined test.

Q: How do they demonstrate their writing skills?

A: As on the 9th grade reading test, students are required to write "Open Ended Responses" to address some of the questions on the reading passages. In addition to this, they are required to write a composition/essay that responds to a writing prompt.

Q: Is there a certain writing style they need to use in writing their composition/essay?

A: No. Unlike TAAS, students are allowed to respond using any style of prose.

Q: Is there a minimum score they have to receive on their composition/essay to pass the ELA TAKS?

A: Yes. A student must receive at least a two (2) on a scale of 1-4 on the written composition/essay to be able to pass. A two or higher, **along with** answering enough of the multiple choice questions, is how passing is determined.

Q: How is the composition/essay scored?

A: Each composition/essay is graded by two separate readers, who have been trained by the state, using a rubric. If the two judges do not agree, then a third judge reads and scores the composition/essay. The readers do not have any knowledge of the student's name or district.

Q: Does the writing section include anything other than the composition/essay?

A: Yes. There is an editing and revising section that includes multiple-choice questions.

English Language Arts (ELA) TAKS - continued

English Language Arts, Grades 10 & 11

On this test, the written Open Ended Responses are rated 1-3 according to the following scale:

1 out of 3 = partially sufficient

2 out of 3 = sufficient

3 out of 3 = exemplary

Compositions/essays are rated according to the following scale:

1 = ineffective

3 = generally effective

2 = somewhat effective

4 = highly effective

Objectives			Test Questions per Objective, by Grade Level	
			10th	11th
Reading Objectives	1	Basic Understanding Understand the reading selections. Parts of developing a basic understanding include figuring out the meaning of an unknown word, finding important details and main ideas, and recognizing accurate summaries.	8	8
	2	Literary Elements and Techniques Understand the literary elements that are found in all stories – plot, conflict, character development, setting, and theme. Understand how an author combines these elements to create an effective story. Recognize the literary devices or tools an author uses to guide the reader’s understanding of a story’s characters, events, theme, and overall meaning. Know literary devices, such as flashback, foreshadowing, symbolism, and allusion.	8	8
		Short Answer: Literary Selection	3	3
	3	Analysis and Critical Evaluation Develop a deep understanding about the reading selections and visual representations. Draw reasonable conclusions, use the text to support those conclusions, make meaningful connections between important ideas and themes, and understand the techniques an author has used to develop a text.	12	12
		Short Answer: Expository Selection	3	3
		Short Answer: Connecting Selections	3	3

Writing Objective	6	<p>Revising and Editing Improve and correct passages created to resemble student writing. Improve the organization and development of ideas, the clarity and effectiveness of word choice. Correct and improve sentences. Correct errors in grammar, usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.</p>	20	20
Total number of multiple choice questions on English language arts test			57	57
Written Composition Objectives	4 & 5	<p>Objective 4 Write an effective composition on a specific topic. Stay focused on the topic, organize sentences and ideas so that they are clear and easy to follow, make the ideas interesting, and develop the ideas in detail.</p> <p>Objective 5 Write as correctly and clearly as possible. Focus on communicating well on paper. Follow the rules of correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence structure.</p>		

Writing TAKS

Q: What grades take writing TAKS?

A: Students in grades 4 and 7 are required to take the writing TAKS.

Q: Is writing a composition/essay the only part of the test?

A: No. There is an editing and revising section that includes multiple-choice questions.

Q: What would the prompt and questions look like?

A: See samples below:

7th-grade Writing

Composition Sample prompt: Write a composition about why it is important to appreciate what you have.

Revising and Editing [The following sentence is the tenth of a 16-sentence passage that includes many instances of errors and poor writing. Students must apply rules of grammar, etc., to correct the various faults.]

10 Visitors to the lodge are often quite surprised who expect a glass elevator to take them to their rooms.

Which of the following is the BEST way to rewrite the ideas in sentence 10?

- A Visitors to the lodge expect a glass elevator to take them to their rooms, they are often quite surprised.
- B Visitors to the lodge who expect a glass elevator to take them to their rooms are often quite surprised.
- C They are often quite surprised, visitors to the lodge who expect a glass elevator to take them to their rooms.
- D Visitors to the lodge are often quite surprised. Who expect a glass elevator to take them to their rooms.

This questions measures Writing Objective 5: Standard Usage and Appropriate Word Choice.

Writing TAKS - continued

Q: What does writing TAKS cover?

A: See below:

Writing, Grades 4 & 7

On this test, a student's composition is rated according to the following scale:

1 = ineffective

3 = generally effective

2 = somewhat effective

4 = highly effective

Objectives			Questions per Objective, by Grade Level	
			4th	7th
Written Composition	1	Objective 1 Write an effective composition on a specific topic. Stay focused on the topic, organize sentences and ideas so that they are clear and easy to follow, make the ideas interesting, and develop the ideas in detail.		
	2	Objective 2 Write as correctly and clearly as possible. Focus on communicating well on paper. Follow the rules of correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, usage, and sentence structure.		
Multiple Choice	3	Appropriate Organization of Ideas Improve the organization and development of ideas in a piece of writing.	4	6
	4	Correct and Effective Sentence Structure Correct errors in sentence structure and make sentences more effective.	8	10
	5	Standard Usage and Appropriate Word Choice Correct grammar errors and use words that help the writer communicate clearly and effectively.	8	12
	6	Proofreading for Punctuation, Capitalization, and Spelling Correctly capitalize words, punctuate sentences, and spell words.	8	12
Total number of multiple choice questions on writing test			28	40

Math TAKS

Q: What grades take the Math TAKS?

A: Math TAKS is given from grade 3 to grade 11.

Q: Does the Math TAKS cover only the TEKS found in the grade level that is being tested?

A: Yes and No. In grades 3-8 the test has questions that only deal with the TEKS found in that grade. In grade 9 and 10, the test covers TEKS found in 8th grade and Algebra I. In grade 11, the test covers TEKS found in 8th grade, Algebra I, and Geometry.

Q: What does the Math TAKS look like?

A: The Math TAKS has both multiple choice and griddable questions. The multiple-choice questions are both straight math and story problems. As with all of the test, reading is an important part of being able to choose the correct answer.

Q: What is a griddable question?

A: A griddable question requires the student to bubble in the correct number, NOT the correct answer choice. See sample below:

4th grade Math

What number makes this equation true?

$$110 \text{ divided by } \square = 11$$

Record your answer and fill in the bubbles on your answer document. Be sure to use the correct place value.

This questions measures Math Objective 2: understanding of patterns, relationships, and algebraic reasoning.

Math TAKS - continued

Q: What do the non-griddable questions look like?

A: See sample below:

8th grade Math

Principal Alcocer determined that 80% of the students at his school wore boots to school at least two days a week during winter. If his school has 1,200 students, which statement does NOT represent Principals Alcocer's data?

- A During winter 960 students wear boots to school at least two days a week.
- B During winter 240 students wear boots to school fewer than two days a week.
- C During winter more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of the students wear boots to school at least two days a week.
- D During winter less than $\frac{1}{5}$ of the students wear boots to school fewer than two days a week.

This question measure Math objective 5: The student evaluates predictions and conclusions based on statistical data.

Math TAKS - continued

Q: What does math TAKS cover?

A: In grades 3-8 the objectives are the same. However, in grades 9-11 the number of objectives increases.
See below:

Math, Grades 3-8

Objectives		Test Questions per Objective, by Grade Level					
		3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1	Numbers, Operations, and Quantitative Reasoning Understand numbers, operations (adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing), and quantitative reasoning (knowing when an answer makes sense).	10	11	11	10	10	10
2	Patterns, Relationships, and Algebraic Reasoning Understand patterns, relationships, and algebraic reasoning—understand the use of symbols to represent real-world situations.	6	7	7	9	10	10
3	Geometry and Spatial Reasoning Understand geometry and spatial reasoning—understand the location or position of an object and the amount of space it occupies in the real world.	6	6	7	7	7	7
4	Concepts and Uses of Measurement Understand the use of appropriate measurement. Know how to apply measurement concepts.	6	6	7	5	5	5
5	Probability and Statistics Understand probability (the chance that an event will occur) and statistics (the collection, organization, and interpretation of data).	4	4	4	6	7	8
6	Mathematical Processes and Tools Understand problem-solving strategies and tools, such as formulas, rulers, pictures, graphs, and tables.	8	8	8	9	9	10
Total number of questions on math test		40	42	44	46	48	50

Math TAKS - continued

Math, Grades 9-11

Objectives		Test Questions per Objective, by Grade Level		
		9th	10th	11th
1	<p>Foundations for Functional Relationships Understand functions represented by pairs of numbers, where the value of one number depends on the value of the other number. Draw conclusions from functional relationships.</p>	5	5	5
2	<p>Properties and Attributes of Functions Understand the similarities and differences between linear and quadratic functions. Solve algebraic equations.</p>	5	5	5
3	<p>Linear Functions Understand that a linear function is an equation that can be represented by a line on a graph. Know how the slope (rate of change) affects that line.</p>	5	5	5
4	<p>Linear Equations and Inequalities Organize problems into equations and inequalities in order to find solutions to problems. Know when using two related equations is the best way to find a solution.</p>	5	5	5
5	<p>Quadratic and Other Nonlinear Functions Understand a quadratic function as it looks on a graph. Understand how the shape of the parabola on the graph changes as the equation changes. Simplify algebraic expressions by correctly using exponents. 11th grade: Solve real-life problems involving quadratic equations.</p>	4	5	5
6	<p>Geometric Relationships and Spatial Reasoning 9th and 10th grades: Locate ordered pairs of rational numbers on a coordinate plane. Use transformation, such as reflections, translations, and dilations, to identify similar geometric shapes. 11th grade: Understand how geometric concepts and properties can be used to solve everyday problems. Solve problems using a variety of representations, including geometric patterns, properties of transformations (such as reflections, rotations, translations, and dilations), and right-triangle patterns.</p>	4	5	7
7	<p>Two- and Three-dimensional Representations of Geometric Relationships and Shapes Understand how geometric concepts and properties can be used to solve everyday problems. Understand how solid, three-dimensional figures look from different perspectives. Additional for 11th grade: Use slope to determine geometric relationships, such as parallel or perpendicular lines. Use rational numbers to determine the location of points on a coordinate grid.</p>	4	5	7

8	<p>Concepts and Uses of Measurement and Similarity 9th and 10th grades: Find the surface area and volume of solid figures. Find missing measurements in similar shapes by using proportions. Determine the effect on perimeter, area, and volume when any measurement is changed. (For example, if the sides of a square are doubled, the area is four times the original area.) 11th grade: Find the area of polygons, circles, and parts of circles as well as the surface area and volume of solid figures. Use transformations and ratios to identify similar geometric shapes. Determine the effect on perimeter, area, and volume when any measurement is changed.</p>	6	7	7
9	<p>Percents, Proportional Relationships, Probability, and Statistics Understand percents, probability, measures of central tendency, graphs, and misuses of graphical information.</p>	5	5	5
10	<p>Mathematical Processes and Tools Understand problem-solving strategies and tools, such as calculators, formulas, rulers, pictures, graphs, and tables.</p>	9	9	9
Total number of questions on math test		52	56	60

Science TAKS

Q: What grades take science TAKS?

A: In school year 2004/05, science TAKS was taken by students in the 5th, 10th, and 11th grades. Starting in school year 2005/06 science TAKS will be added to the 8th grade. The 8th grade test will NOT begin counting on the district and campuses accountability ratings until the 2006/07 school year.

Q: Does the 5th grade science TAKS cover only TEKS found in the 5th grade?

A: No. While the test is given in the 5th grade, it is considered an elementary science test. The test covers TEKS found in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.

Q: Does the 8th grade science TAKS cover only TEKS found in the 8th grade?

A: No. While the test is given in the 8th grade, it is considered a middle school science test. The test covers TEKS found in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

Q: What TEKS are covered on the 10th and 11th grade science TAKS?

A: The 10th and 11th grade tests cover chemistry, physics, and biology TEKS.

Q: What do the questions look like?

A: See samples below:

5th-grade Science

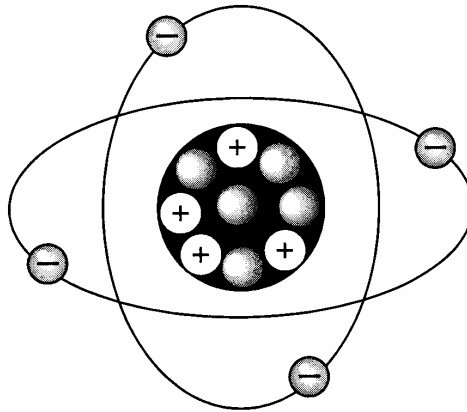
A student places a sugar cube in a beaker of water. What change will occur?

- A The sugar cube will not change.
- B More water will be formed.
- C The sugar cube will become smaller.
- D The water will form crystals.

This question measures Science Objective 3: Physical Sciences.

Science TAKS - continued

10th grade Science



The picture shows a model of the element --

- A fluorine
- B helium
- C beryllium
- D oxygen

This question measures Science Objective 4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the structure and properties of matter.

Science TAKS - continued

Q: What does the 5th grade science TAKS cover?

A: See below:

Science, Grade 5

Objectives		Test Questions per Objective
1	The Nature of Science Understand experimental designs, the collection and organization of data, and safety issues. Analyze scientific information from various sources.	13
2	Life Sciences Understand living things, such as plants and animals. Know how organisms meet their needs and interact with other organisms.	9
3	Physical Sciences Understand the structure and properties of matter. Know that forces cause matter to undergo changes.	9
4	Earth Sciences Understand the forces that are continually changing earth’s physical features. Know that earth is part of larger systems involving the sun, moon, and other planets in the solar system.	9
Total number of questions on science test		40

Science TAKS - continued

Q: What does the 8th grade science TAKS cover?

A: See below:

Science, Grade 8

Objectives		Test Questions per Objective
1	The Nature of Science Understand experimental designs, the collection and organization of data, and safety issues. Analyze scientific information from various sources.	14
2	Living Systems and the Environment Understand living things, such as plants and animals. Know how organisms meet their needs and interact with other organisms.	12
3	Structure and Properties of Matter Understand the structure and properties of matter. Know that forces cause matter to undergo changes.	6
4	Motion, Forces and Energy Understand basic physics (how motion, forces, and energy are related and how these relationships help explain many of the everyday phenomena people experience).	6
5	Earth and Space Systems Understand earth/space systems, structure of the universe and know the basic cycle found on the earth.	12
Total number of questions on science test		50

Science TAKS - continued

Q: What do the 10th and 11th science TAKS cover?

A: See below:

Science, Grades 10 & 11

Objectives		Test Questions per Objective, by Grade Level	
		10th	11th
1	The Nature of Science Understand experimental designs, safety issues, and methods for collecting and organizing data. Analyze scientific information from various sources.	17	17
2	The Organization of Living Systems Understand how living systems are organized, from the molecular level to cell structures to organisms to ecosystems.	11	8
3	The Interdependence of Organisms and the Environment Understand how all-living things depend on their environment and other organisms for survival.	11	8
4	The Structures and Properties of Matter Understand basic chemistry (what matter is composed of and what happens as matter changes).	8	11
5	Motion, Forces, and Energy Understand basic physics (how motion, forces, and energy are related and how these relationships help explain many of the everyday phenomena people experience).	8	11
Total number of questions on science test		55	55

Social Studies TAKS

Q: What grades take social studies TAKS?

A: Students in the 8th, 10th, and 11th grades take social Studies TAKS.

Q: Does the 8th grade social studies TAKS cover only TEKS found in the 8th grade?

A: Yes

Q: What TEKS are covered on the 10th grade social studies TAKS?

A: The 10th grade test covers 8th grade American History TEKS, and world geography and world history TEKS that the two courses have in common.

Q: What TEKS are covered on the 11th grade social studies TAKS?

A: The 11th grade test covers 8th grade American History TEKS, and world geography and world history TEKS that the two courses have in common, and 11th grade American History TEKS.

Q: What do the questions look like?

A: See samples below:

8th-grade Social Studies

Use the information in the box and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following question.

- Missouri Compromise (1820)
- Compromise of 1850
- Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

The goal of the compromises listed above was to

- A return fugitive slaves to their owners.
- B establish standards for achieving statehood.
- C** maintain a balance between free and slave states.
- D. end slavery in U.S. territories.

This question measures Social Studies Objective 1: Issues and Events in U.S. History.

Social Studies TAKS - continued

10th-grade Social Studies

During the 1700s, the textile industry became one of the first to use steam-powered machinery. This technological innovation increased production and led to

- A greater profits and a demand for more workers.
- B an end to the use of child labor.
- C a safer work environment and shorter workdays.
- D a decrease in demand for raw materials.

This question measures Social Studies Objective 2: Geographic Influences on History

Social Studies TAKS - continued

Q: What does the social studies TAKS cover?

A: See below:

Social Studies, Grades 8, 10, & 11

Objectives		Test Questions per Objective, by Grade Level		
		8th	10th	11th
1	<p>Issues and Events in U.S. History Understand major issues and events in U.S. history, such as the fight for independence during the American Revolution. 8th grade: Understand the challenges faced by the early U.S. government, such as westward expansion and the Civil War. 11th grade: Understand the role of the United States in World War I and World War II.</p>	13	7	13
2	<p>Geographic Influences on History Understand how geographic factors have influenced historical issues and events. 8th-grade example: the settlement of colonial America 10th-grade example: patterns of settlement in different parts of the world 11th-grade example: the construction of the Panama Canal Read maps, charts, and graphs.</p>	6	12	9
3	<p>Economic and Social Influences on History Understand economic and social influences on historical issues and events. 8th-grade examples: the spread of slavery and the Industrial Revolution 10th-grade examples: World War I and World War II 11th-grade examples: the causes of the Great Depression and the impact of various reform movements on American society Students in 10th grade must also understand the characteristics of different economic systems throughout the world.</p>	9	7	13
4	<p>Political Influences on History Understand political influences on historical issues and events, such as the development of representative government in colonial America and the fundamental principles of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.</p>	12	12	9

5	<p>Critical-thinking Skills Students must be able to show the ability to use critical-thinking skills to analyze social studies information. Students must also know how to interpret written and visual sources of historical information.</p>	8	12	11
Total number of questions on social studies test		48	50	55

Where is further information available?

For additional information about the state testing and accountability program, visit the Web site of the Texas Education Agency at this address: www.tea.state.tx.us

Visit the Web site of the New Caney Independent School district at this address: www.newcaneyisd.org

School counselors can provide more details about the TAKS test and about promotion and graduation requirements.

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