

I. Purpose of the NGSSS Assessments

The Statewide Science Assessment and Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) End-of-Course (EOC) assessments are part of Florida’s Next Generation Strategic Plan for the purpose of increasing student achievement and improving college and career readiness. The statewide assessment program assesses student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards through the implementation of the Statewide Science Assessment and the NGSSS Biology 1, U.S. History, and Civics EOC assessments.

II. Test Design Information for the Statewide Science Assessment and NGSSS EOC Assessments

A. Students to Be Tested

Statewide Science Assessment—In general, all Florida public school students enrolled in grades 5 and 8 participate in the Statewide Science Assessment.

NGSSS EOC Assessments—Table 1 provides an overview of the subjects assessed by the NGSSS EOC assessments. NGSSS EOC assessments are not grade-level specific; rather, they are designed to measure student achievement of the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for specific courses and their equivalents, as outlined in the course descriptions.

Table 1: NGSSS EOC Assessments by Course*

Course—Course Number	NGSSS Assessment
Biology 1—2000310	Biology 1 EOC Assessment
U.S. History—2100310	U.S. History EOC Assessment
Civics—2106010	Civics EOC Assessment

*For a complete list of courses for which students are required or eligible to take the NGSSS EOC assessments, see the most recent test administration manual available at the following website: <http://avocet.pearson.com/FL/Home>.

B. Content Categories

Tables 2–3 present the content categories and the percentage of raw-score points that will be derived from each content category for the Statewide Science Assessment and NGSSS EOC assessments.

Table 2: Statewide Science Assessment Content Categories

Grade	Nature of Science	Earth and Space Science	Physical Science	Life Science
5	17%	29%	29%	25%
8	19%	27%	27%	27%

Table 3: NGSSS EOC Assessments Content Categories

Test	Category	Percentage
Biology 1	Molecular and Cellular Biology	35%
	Classification, Heredity, and Evolution	25%
	Organisms, Populations, and Ecosystems	40%
U.S. History	Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century, 1860–1910	33%
	Global Military, Political, and Economic Challenges, 1890–1940	34%
	The United States and the Defense of the International Peace, 1940–Present	33%
Civics	Origins and Purposes of Law and Government	25%
	Roles, Rights, and Responsibilities of Citizens	25%
	Government Policies and Political Processes	25%
	Organization and Function of Government	25%

C. Test Length and Item Types

Table 4 displays the total number of minutes allowed for the 2016–17 regular test takers. The Statewide Science Assessment is administered in two sessions. NGSSS EOC assessments are administered in one session.

Table 4: Duration of Test

Grade/Course	Science	Social Studies
5	160	
8	160	
Biology 1	160*	
U.S. History		160*
Civics		160*

*For NGSSS EOC assessments, any student not finished by the end of the 160-minute test session may continue working; however, testing must be completed within the same school day.

Table 5 provides an approximate range for the number of items on each test. All items on the Statewide Science Assessment and NGSSS EOC assessments are multiple-choice items.

Table 5: Number of Items

Grade/Course	Science	Social Studies
5	60–66	
8	60–66	
Biology 1	60–66	
U.S. History		50–60
Civics		52–56

Note: Approximately 6–10 items on each of the tests listed above are field test items and are included in the ranges above but are **not** used to calculate student scores.

III. Cognitive Complexity

Items on the Statewide Science Assessment and NGSSS EOC assessments are classified using a model with origins in the works of Dr. Norman Webb¹ on depth of knowledge. With this system, items are classified on the cognitive demand inherent in the test item, not on assumptions about the student's approach to the item.

Low-complexity items rely heavily on recall and recognition. Moderate-complexity items require more flexible thinking and may require informal reasoning or problem solving. High-complexity items are written to elicit analysis and abstract reasoning. Table 6 presents the range for the percentage of raw-score points by cognitive complexity level on each NGSSS assessment.

Table 6: Percentage of Points by Cognitive Complexity Level for NGSSS Assessments

Grade/Course	Low	Moderate	High
5	10%–20%	60%–80%	10%–20%
8	10%–20%	60%–80%	10%–20%
Biology 1	10%–20%	60%–80%	10%–20%
U.S. History	20%–30%	45%–65%	15%–25%
Civics	15%–25%	45%–65%	15%–25%

¹ Webb, Normal L. and others. "Web Alignment Tool" 24 July 2005. Wisconsin Center for Education Research. University of Wisconsin-Madison. 2 Feb 2006. <http://wat.wceruw.org/index.aspx>