



How to Prepare for Taking Tests

- Relax and do your best.
- You will show what you know and what you have learned in the classroom.
- You will use your reasoning/thinking skills to answer different kinds of questions.
- Try some questions and their tools using the [practice tests](#). Your parents and/or teacher can also show you and work with you on some of the material.

What is the test format for ELA and Mathematics?

1. The test format is called a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT) because it adjusts the questions and the level of difficulty based on your responses to pick the next question. The better you answer the question, the next question changes difficulty, and you might get a higher score.
2. The ELA and Math assessments have two parts: The first part (CAT) has about 22 questions and the second part has a Performance Task (PT).
3. Test questions have different formats;
 - **Multiple choice answers.**
 - **Multi-select answers.**
 - **True/False answers.**
 - **Drag and Drop answers.**
 - **Plot points** to show how to interpret graphs.
 - **Entering numbers, expressions, or equations** in a box using a keypad or your computer keyboard.
 - **Writing a few sentences or a short paragraph.**

Test Rules

What you CAN do on the Test

1. Do your best on each question.
2. Answer each question before moving to the next one – Remember this is an adaptive test and it will adjust the next question based on how you answered the previous one.
3. You must enter a response for each required task or question.
4. You may review past questions and change the entered response within a segment of the test. Once you left that segment of the test, you will not be able to return to questions in previous segments.
5. Use scratch paper to solve a math problem or prepare a response for the ELA test.
6. You can ask to pause your test if you need to. When you resume the test, the first page with unanswered questions appears.
7. If the test is stopped for more than 20 minutes, you will not be able to review your questions.
8. If you do not work on the questions for more than 20 minutes, the computer logs you out and you cannot answer more questions. You will have to wait for your teacher to allow you to log back in the test session for you to finish.
9. All your selected score options and answers are saved automatically.
10. You can use an online dictionary for the Performance Task when it is allowed.

What you CANNOT do on the Test

1. Cannot skip a question.
2. Cannot make noise during testing (talking, singing or other noises).
3. Cannot disturb other students taking the test.
4. Cannot leave the room without the teacher's authorization.
5. Cannot make noise after testing if you stay in the same room as your friends who are still testing.
6. Cannot use a computer when done with testing. Rest quietly
7. Cannot use a formula sheet for the math test to solve problems.
8. Cannot use a handheld calculator unless you have an accommodation for it.

Important: Your teacher should show the Test Security Video before testing.
Test Security for Students Grades 6-12 <https://youtu.be/eo1CnxYII2k>

Here are examples of what the ELA and Mathematics online test look like.

Questions: 7 | G5 ELA (7 out of 28) | Jane (Student ID: 999999909)

Navigation Buttons: Back, Next, Finished (Finished button)

Test Tools: Zoom Out, Zoom In

Help & Pause buttons: ?

Questions Drop-down: 7

Stimulus Context Menu

Item Context Menu

BAR GRAPHS

Category	Value
A	4
B	1
C	2

Point to the one on the graph?

- Score point 2
- Score point 1
- Score point 0

Questions: 1 | Grade 5 ELA - Interim Assessment (ICA) (0 out of 39) | D060, NICHOLE (STUDENT ID: 999999822) | DESSA-83C5-15

Navigation Buttons: Back, Next, Save, Pause, End Test

Zoom Out, Zoom In

Read the passage and answer the questions.

James Watt and the Teakettle
by James Baldwin

A little boy from Scotland was sitting in his grandmother's kitchen. He was watching the red flames in the wide open fireplace and quietly wondering about the causes of things. Indeed, he was always wondering and always wanting to know.

"Grandma," he presently asked, "what makes the fire burn?"

1











Click on the **two** sentences that **best** show that James Watt formed new ideas for what steam might do to help humans.

"There is a wonderful power in steam," he said to himself. "There was never a giant who had so much strength. If we only knew how to harness that power, there is no end to the things it might do for us. It would not only lift weights, but it would turn all kinds of machinery. It would draw our wagons, it would push our ships, it would plow and sow, it would spin and weave."

B I U T | Bulleted List, Numbered List, Indent, Outdent | Copy, Paste, Undo, Redo | ABC | English | Ω

The student uses this field to respond to the writing prompt.

Words 11/4000, # Chars 47/20000

<p style="text-align: center;">Global Tools</p> 	Description
Help button 	To view the on-screen Test Instructions and Help window, select the ? button in the upper-right corner.
Navigation buttons	To move between test pages, use the Back and Next buttons in the upper-left corner.
Pause button 	To pause a test, select Pause in the global menu. Pausing the test will temporarily log you out.
Questions drop-down list	To quickly navigate to a specific test page, select a task number from the drop-down list in the upper-left corner. Pages with questions that were marked for review display "(marked)" in this list.
Finished button 	This button appears after you enter answers for all questions. After reviewing your answers, click this button to start the submission process.
Zoom buttons  	To enlarge the text and images on a test page, select Zoom In in the global menu. You can zoom in up to four levels. To undo zooming, select Zoom Out in the global menu.
Line Reader 	Allows you to highlight an individual line of text or question. Select Line Reader in the global menu.
Mark for Review 	To mark a question for review, select Mark for Review from the context menu.
Notepad 	To take Notes, select the Notepad option next to the question.
Calculator 	To use the on-screen calculator, select Calculator in the global menu.
Dictionary 	To look up definitions and synonyms in the Merriam-Webster dictionary or thesaurus, select Dictionary in the global menu.
Highlighting	You can highlight text for either test (ELA and Math) to help you focus on some text. It doesn't work for selecting the options/answers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To activate the Highlighting Mode, select the tool and then highlight the text.
Strikethrough 	You can strikethrough text for either test (ELA and Math) to help you eliminate/focus on some options that might not be correct. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To activate the Strikethrough Mode, select the tool and then highlight the options you want to eliminate. OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Right Click on an answer/potion and select Strikethrough.