

Scarsdale High School Common Assessments, 2016-17

Members of each department at Scarsdale High School work together to establish common course goals, devise approaches to teaching material, and create final assessments. The following table identifies each department's common assessments.

Arts

Ninth grade art classes participate in a Cooper Hewitt Museum project and a required final art project, which is posted on Schoolwires.

English

Ninth grade: Shakespeare Festival; essays of literary analysis

Tenth grade: essays of literary analysis; digital argumentation

Eleventh grade: literary research paper; essays of literary analysis; New York State Regents Exam

Twelfth grade: research paper; essays of literary analysis

Mathematics

Grades 9-12: At monthly course meetings, teachers share lessons, unit tests and quarterly tests with each other, so the assessments are not *exactly* the same, but the formats and questions are similar. Each course culminates in a common final exam.

AT Statistics: Juniors in AT Statistics do a year-end project for which the requirements and grading rubric are common to all sections of the course. The students formulate and analyze a research question using the Adolescent Health Database from the University of North Carolina Population Center. This project is funded by the National Science Foundation, and students use Google Hangouts to communicate with Wesleyan University students who help students to learn the software program "R" and develop techniques for analyzing their data. This project is in addition to a common final exam.

Performing Arts

Assessments for performing ensembles include individual evaluations of prepared selections, live or recorded performances, and winter and spring concerts or performances. In academic music classes, such as AT Music Theory, Digital Music, and Music Appreciation, students may compose a piece or write music for a film clip or make presentations in which they connect aural and multi-media materials to an issue, style, or concept.

Physical Education

During each quarter students participate in skills performance assessments, often in both of the two units that are covered. Assessments can be live action viewing, video playback self-assessment, peer-assessment, or teacher-assessment. Each has its own rubric. A quarterly cognitive assessment piece takes the form of either a formal written test or a variety of writing assignments developed by the department (i.e., a review of a fitness-based app, a self-designed workout plan for a specific fitness goal, etc.).

Science

All ninth-graders take the New York State Living Environment Regents exam. Chemistry 513 students take the New York State Chemistry Regents exam. All other students take a local final exam that grows out of collaborations among teachers of each course. For the last two or three years, Environmental Science has concluded with presentations of research or culminating projects.

Social Studies

9th Grade World History: World Cities Project

10th Grade World History

- document-based question on globalization
- multi-step, process-oriented research paper project
- New York State Regents Exam in Global History

Eleventh grade

- multi-step, process-oriented research paper project
- New York State Regents Exam in United States History

Twelfth grade

- multi-step, process-oriented research paper project

Advanced Topics courses (AT U.S. History, AT U.S. Constitutional Law, AT American Government, AT International Politics, AT Psychology, AT Macroeconomics): common final exam in each course

World Languages

Common assessments in World Languages are designed by the teachers within each course team (e.g., Spanish 323, French 344, etc.). All common assessments evaluate the four skills of language. In Spanish AT Language & Culture, a portfolio of student work serves as the final assessment.