



Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT)

Understanding the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT)

The Oklahoma Student Testing Program oversees the assessments given for students in grades 3-8, the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT), and the End-of-Course Examinations that students take in high school. These assessments are required by state and federal law. They are criterion-referenced tests in that the content of the test is referenced to the curriculum, or the criteria, that is taught in Oklahoma.

Students in grades 3-8 take yearly assessments in Reading and Mathematics as part of the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT). Additionally, students in grade 5 take Writing, Social Studies and Science. In grade 7 students also take Geography. In grade 8 students also take Science, U.S. History and Writing.

During high school students are required to take the ACE English II, ACE English I, ACE Algebra I, ACE Algebra II, ACE Geometry, ACE Biology I, and ACE US History. These are End-of-Instruction (EOI) assessments. All these tests are aligned to the standards designed in the Oklahoma *Priority Academic Student Skills*, which is the state curriculum.

The purposes of these assessments are many. Student performance on the standards can be monitored through yearly testing. In the event a student requires remedial instruction that can be seen through the assessments. The effectiveness of teaching and areas where more instruction is required can also be seen.

The progress schools are making at educating all children to the standards of is evidenced on the yearly assessments. One of the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act is that all schools have 100% of students reaching proficiency levels by the year 2014. Assessments that are aligned to the standards of the curriculum are the only valid way of determining student achievement.

Format of the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT)

Students in grades 3-8 who take the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests in Reading and Mathematics have a multiple-choice format exam. For the Geography and Science assessments students are also given multiple-choice questions. In grades 7 and 8 the assessments are given in a computer-based format, unless a student requires an accommodation for a paper and pencil version. The paper-and-pencil versions of the OCCT's are given in April and the online version is given in early May.

For students in grades 5 and 8 who take the Writing Assessment they are asked to respond to two essay prompts. The prompts will require students to read passages and base their responses on the reading selection. One essay prompt is a field test and will not be scored, although students will not know which of the two that is. Students will write in either a narrative or informative/explanatory style. The Writing Assessment is administered in February.

The End-of-Instruction (EOI) assessments are multiple-choice assessments and there is one writing prompt on the ACE English I and ACE English II examinations. Students will take the EOI exams in ACE Algebra I, ACE Algebra II, ACE Geometry, ACE Biology, ACE US History, ACE English I and ACE English II.

These assessments are administered online unless a student requires a paper-and-pencil version as an accommodation. Students will have multiple chances throughout the year to take this test and there are retesting options. These tests are generally scheduled over more than one day but that is at the discretion of the school district. While this is an online assessment, the portion of the ACE English II and ACE English III that requires an essay response is given in a paper-based format.

Taking the Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT)

The Oklahoma Core Curriculum Tests (OCCT) are aligned to the learning framework provided by the state-mandated curriculum. The subject areas are designed in the following manner, and these are also the topics covered in the assessments:

- Reading: vocabulary, comprehension and critical literacy, literature, and research and information.
- Mathematics: algebraic reasoning (patterns and relationship), number sense and operations, geometry, measurement and data analysis.
- Science: observation, classification, experimentation, and interpretation and communication.
- Geography: tools and skills, regions, physical systems (climate, natural disasters), human systems, and human/environment interactions.
- Social Studies: early exploration, colonial America, the American Revolution, the Federal Period, and geographic skills.

For students at the high school level, the blueprints for the End-of-Instruction examinations provide an overview of the curriculum and expectations for student learning. The EOI's are laid out in the following manner:

- Algebra I and Algebra II cover: number sense and algebra, relationships and functions and data analysis.
- Geometry covers: logical reasoning, properties of two-dimensional figures, triangles and trigonometric ratios, properties of three-dimension figures, and coordinate geometry.
- Biology I covers: observation and measurement, classification, experimentation, interpretation and communication and modeling of biological knowledge.
- English II and English III covers vocabulary, reading comprehension, literature, research and information, the writing process and language usage, and writing for a variety of purposes.
- U.S. History covers the Civil War Era, Westward Expansion and all major topics in 20th century American History.

The scores students receive arrive in more than one format. There is a scaled score which reflects the number of questions answered correctly and the range of difficulty of those questions. The scale score translates into a proficiency level. Students need to attain at least proficiency in order to have passed the assessment. In cases where students are unable to pass the assessment, remedial instruction will be recommended for that student. The assessment results will provide information on areas where that remedial instruction is most needed.

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