

2015-16 TCAP Social Studies/U.S. History Design and Administration Information

The new content standards for social studies and U.S. history, which were passed by the State Board of Education in July 2013, went into effect during the 2014-15 school year. They are available [here](#). Students took a field test for new TCAP Achievement and End of Course social studies/U.S. history tests based on these standards in spring 2015. After Tennessee teachers and content area experts completed a review of field test data in summer 2015, operational testing will now begin in the 2015-16 school year. This memo includes detailed design and administration information.

Please contact TNcore.Questions@tn.gov with any questions about test design. If you have questions about test administration, please submit a “Contact Support” ticket in EdTools or email TNed.Assessment@tn.gov. For content questions, email our social studies coordinator, Kadie.Patterson@tn.gov.

Design and Administration	
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational social studies/US history testing will resume in the 2015-16 school year. • The assessments will be administered in two parts. Part I will include only extended response items (essays) and Part II will include only selected response items (multiple choice). Essays will be scored for both for the Tennessee social studies content and literacy expectations. • The testing windows for all grades are part of the 2015-16 comprehensive assessment program calendar available here. • The testing times are available here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students in grades 3-8 will have 45 minutes to complete one extended response item on Part I, and 90-100 minutes to complete 58 multiple choice items on Part II ○ Students in US history will have 90 minutes to complete two extended response items on Part I (one operational and one field test), and 90 minutes (across two subtests) to complete 58 multiple choice items on Part II
Format	The 2015-16 social studies assessments will be administered online to all students on the MIST platform. As with TNReady ELA and mathematics, schools that are eligible may apply to receive a waiver for online administration. Braille versions are available for students with an identified need.
Alternate Assessments	<p>For the 2015-16 school year, teachers should continue to use the same Alternate Performance Indicators and data collection methods for social studies and science as they have in previous years. The department is exploring options for an online data entry system instead of printing and shipping materials to be scored. Please continue to use the Evidence Sheet and Graph documentation currently posted to the department's site. The API and activity documentation is only pertinent to social studies and science. NCSC will be used for ELA and Math alternate assessment.</p> <p>The department will develop a new social studies alternate assessment which will be</p>

	<p>based on updated Alternate Performance Indicators aligned to the new social studies Standards. Due to the RFP process, a field test in order to develop a new alternate assessment may be necessary. If necessary, we anticipate that the field test will be administered in Spring 2016. Additional information regarding participation will be forthcoming.</p>
<p>Design</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students in Grades 3-8 and US history will respond to both selected response and extended response item(s). • Comprehensive blueprints that detail the overall design of each grade and subject with item count ranges and percentages, as well as lists of the standards assessed in both Part I and II, are now available here under “2015-16 Test Design.” Based on recommendations from teachers and content area experts, there are standards at each grade level that will not be assessed via selected response on Part II, and a list is included at the end of each document. • Scoring will include both the selected response and extended response sections of the test. Quick score reports, which provide teachers and parents with a snapshot of their student’s performance, may be provided to districts by early summer 2016. Student reports that include information about performance on both Part I and Part II will be available to districts in Fall 2016 after the standard setting process is complete. • For the extended response portion, students will engage with written or visual stimuli including text excerpts, maps and photographs. • Texts will be chosen based on a variety of factors, including quality, style, and subject matter, and will be reviewed by teachers for content and sensitivity.
<p>Educator Review Meetings</p>	<p>All items included on the 2015-16 operational social studies assessments have been reviewed for alignment, bias and sensitivity by current Tennessee social studies teachers and content area experts. Information regarding applying for future educator review meetings will be shared via Commissioner’s Update for Directors and Ed Tools.</p>
<p>Scoring and Accountability</p>	
<p>Scoring Process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2015-16 TCAP Achievement and EOC social studies/US history assessments will be centrally scored by Measurement, Inc. • Please note the following for the scoring of the operational test in 2015-16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both sections of the assessment, including the multiple choice items and extended response items will be scored centrally. No local scoring will be required. ○ The scoring process will be robust and driven by Tennessee students and educators. Educators will participate in a process called rangefinding using actual student work from Tennessee classrooms. Decisions made by the rangefinding committee will directly inform how the testing vendor trains their scorers. • The vendor will closely train and monitor their scorers to ensure validity. Scorers must meet minimum education requirements, participate in extensive training, and successfully score several rounds of qualification sets built from actual TN student responses before they are permitted to score live student responses. Scorers are also closely monitored by scoring leadership with the vendor and the Department of Education throughout the scoring window to ensure validity in scoring and identify and correct potential validity issues.

**Scoring Rubrics,
Weighting &
Performance Level
Descriptors**

- Scoring rubrics were used by educators to complete the rangefinding process in summer 2015, and slight revisions to the language were made based on this process. The final revised rubrics are available [here](#) under “Scoring and Accountability.”
- Scoring rubrics for the extended response section are trait-based, which means that student writing will be scored according to a number of specific and separate criteria instead of a single group of indicators. The rubrics will assess two traits: content and literacy. The rubrics have been designed to focus on how well a student has mastered and can communicate content knowledge.
- Part I:
 - Based on recommendations from teachers and content area experts who have participated in the assessment development process, the student’s content score will be **double-weighted**. This means that students can receive up to 8 points for content versus 4 points for literacy. The extended response item is worth 12 points total.
- Part II:
 - Part II consists of 58 multiple choice items, which includes 10 field test items that will not be factored into student scores, but will be used for future development. The 48 operational items are worth 1 point each for a total of 48 points.
- Part I and II total:
 - Students will receive a score report with information about their performance on both Part I and Part II combined. The total possible student score is 60 points. Part I is worth roughly 20% of the overall student score. Approximately 5-10% of the overall student score is derived from literacy.
- Scoring rubrics have been developed by the department to assess the extended response portion of the test. The rubrics are built directly from the language of the new Tennessee social studies/US history content and literacy standards. For grades without social studies literacy standards, the rubrics incorporate the Writing Strand from the new Tennessee standards for English language arts.
- Rubrics are differentiated by the following grade bands:
 - Grades 3-5
 - Grades 6-7
 - Grade 8 and US history
- In spring 2014, Tennessee educators in grades 3-8 and US history drafted Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs) to broadly describe the content knowledge, skills, and practices students performing at a given level should be able to demonstrate at each particular grade level. The PLDs outline the expectations about what type of performance is needed to demonstrate that students are prepared to engage successfully in further studies in the content area. These PLDs will serve as the basis for standard setting following the first operational administration.

Data Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick Score reports, which provide teachers and parents with a snapshot of their student's performance, may be provided to districts by early summer 2016. These may be used to help calculate final grades for report cards. • Districts receive individual performance reports which detail student performance in early fall 2016 after standard setting. Districts can choose how and when to share these reports with parents.
Reporting and Accountability	In 2015-16 and beyond, all social studies and US history assessments will be included in teacher, school, and district TVAAS calculations, as well as public reporting of school and district assessment results.
Technology	
MIST Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows 7 or later • OS X 10.6 or later • Linux Ubuntu 12.04 or later • iOS 7 or later • Chrome OS 35 or later
Devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iPad2 or later • Chromebooks • Windows desktops and laptops with full 1024 x 768 resolution • Mac desktops and laptops with full 1024 x 768 resolution
Bandwidth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 kb/s per student • 150 kb/s per student for audio accommodations
Technical Support	All questions should be submitted via Contact Support tickets on EdTools. The department will provide phone support details with administration information specific to test administration.
Tools, Accessibility Features, and Accommodations	
Features for all Students	<p>As previously communicated with districts in summer 2015, the 2015-16 social studies assessments will be administered on the same MIST platform as the TNReady ELA and mathematics assessments. As a result, all of the accommodations available to students on TNReady will also be available for social studies assessments.</p> <p>Click here for the complete accessibility guidelines and resources to support decision making and communications.</p>
Accommodations	Braille versions are available for students with an identified need. These forms will be reserved <u>only</u> for students with the accommodation listed in his/her IEP or 504 plan.
Support Plan	
Practice Materials	In early spring 2015, the department released one practice test for each grade/subject area to help teachers and students prepare for the new assessments. Tennessee teachers met in summer 2015 to review the practice tests, and we are now able to share revised and updated versions that reflect their edits and

	<p>recommendations. They are posted in PDF format here under “Practice Resources & Training,” and we are also working to make them available on the MIST platform for student practice, as well as an additional 7-12 items per grade in MICA. We will share more information with districts this fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These practice materials will illustrate the various types of items used to evaluate the student's mastery of the new social studies/US history standards.
<p>Professional Development</p>	<p>Summer 2015 training materials (here) focused on supporting 3-11 teachers in understanding the new expectations for student learning in social studies and instructional strategies that will support student success.</p>