

## Ohio Graduation Test Info

With the passage of Senate Bill 1, the Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT) became a requirement for graduation in the 2004-2005 academic year. The five areas tested are: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Every high school student must pass the OGT to receive a diploma in the state of Ohio. Tests are administered annually, usually in March. The OGT is based on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> grade benchmarks and indicators in each discipline found in the Ohio Academic Content Standards.

For complete information on the OGT including testing dates, cut-off scores, and sample tests and test items see <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/OGT/default.asp>.

### OGT Teacher TIPS

Teachers can assist students in their preparation in several ways:

1. The practice tests in each discipline and tools for teachers are available at:

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/proficiency/OGT/default.asp>

It is recommended that teachers administer the practice tests to students to determine areas of weakness. Planning for review can then be targeted to the areas most needed.

2. A student area has also been developed at the ODE website: <http://www.ode.state.oh.us/> under **HOT TOPICS**. At this site, students can practice taking tests and can view model student responses to Short Answer and Extended Response questions. Students can access this site from school or from home for test preparation.

3. Every school is different with a unique student body and curriculum. However, from previous field-testing in some of our schools, it has been found that our students need work in several areas:

- Social Studies – Students need to be better prepared in Economics and Cultural Diversity concepts and benchmarks.
- Science – Basic Chemistry and Physics concepts need to be addressed in the 9th and 10th grade because many of our schools do not address these areas until later in their high school curriculums.
- Mathematics – Conceptual understandings of mean, median and mode; probability and statistics are areas that need to be remediated.
- Reading – The focus on the OGT in reading is on works in nonfiction rather than fiction. The test excerpts tend to be technical in nature. Providing students practice with short excerpts of technical reading would be helpful.
- Writing – Conventions and Concepts of Print show need for remediation. These include sentence structure and sentence sequencing. It would also be wise to have students practice grammatical conventions through multiple choice questions as this is the type of question used for this skill in the OGT. The Writing Test of the OGT will be scored by a person not by automation.

4. Overall, students do better when they have familiarity with the format used in test questions. Our students are familiar with Multiple Choice questions. However, they might not be as familiar with the Short Answer or Extended Response questions for

certain disciplines. It is recommended that these types of questions be integrated in students' daily and weekly assessments to familiarize students with them. Samples for classroom practice can be found online at the ODE website previously cited.

5. In all disciplines, students must answer the question asked and answer all parts of the question. For example, many of the questions provide introductory material then pose the actual question. Students will need to read closely the question to find the essential material to be answered. In Extended Response questions, two, three, four or five responses might be required. Students will receive one point for every correctly answered response. In previous testing, some students have not achieved proficiency by one or two points. Answering every part of the question will make a difference in many of the final scores.
  
6. The key to student preparation is familiarity with the concepts found in the benchmarks and familiarity with how the questions are posed. The test is geared to application of content material rather than its memorization. To prepare students adequately, teachers must integrate the content and type of questions into students' daily work and assessments.



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