UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S SCIENCE TEST: GRADE 5, 8, AND 11

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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- **Students are required to take the OSAS Science Test in Grades 5, 8, and 11th.**
  - Your child's school will select testing dates between **March – June** (Grades 5 and 8th) and **February – June** (Grade 11th).

- The test is made up of test items aligned to the **Oregon Science Standards**. These standards are also called the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
  - **Each test item is three-dimensional, representing: one Disciplinary Core Idea, one Science and Engineering Practice, and one Cross Cutting Concept**

- **Disciplinary Core Ideas:** Help students build fundamental scientific knowledge. They are grouped into three domains: *Physical Science* (PS), *Life Science* (LS), *Earth and Space Science* (ESS).
- **Science and Engineering Practices:** Help students understand what "inquiry" means in science and all the different ways it needs thinking, social skills, and hands-on work.
- **Cross Cutting Concepts:** Help students to deepen their understanding, connections, and coherence within and across all the science topic areas. They help students see how different parts of science are related.

OREGON STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM
SCIENCE SUMMATIVE TEST

The mission of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is to foster equity and excellence for every learner through collaboration with educators, partners, and communities. ODE, along with your district and local school board, helps ensure your child has every advantage to reach their full potential.

High-quality science education is essential. Students need the kind of preparation that not only supports their learning now, but also gives them the tools and skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly and continuously changing world.

Your child's school has provided rich, meaningful instruction to support the **Oregon Science Standards**. These standards serve as a set of expectations for what all students across Oregon should know and be able to do at each grade level.

To measure your student's progress toward these standards, the State of Oregon tests students using **Oregon's Statewide Assessment System (OSAS) Science Summative Test**. This test requires students to engage in different questions and tasks. This test engages students with tasks that are based in authentic scientific scenarios.

The OSAS Science Summative Test measures how well students are gaining skills and knowledge towards Oregon's academic standards. These measures can help families, schools, and districts understand how students are learning. You can use this test result as a part of ongoing conversations with educators about your child's progress.

The OSAS Science Summative Test is only one way to measure your child's learning. Educational decisions should be based on more than state test results. Your child also shows progress on grade-level standards and skills through teacher observations, classroom work and projects, and other school activities.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW CAN I BETTER UNDERSTAND WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS ARE ON THE OSAS SCIENCE SUMMATIVE TEST?

Students will see a variety of test items (i.e., multiple choice, multiple select, simulations, etc.). ODE publicly publishes and provides Sample Tests. The sample tests are used to provide an opportunity for students to see the types of questions and interactions they may encounter on the test and become more comfortable with the technical aspects of the test.

HOW IS THE THE OSAS SCIENCE SUMMATIVE TEST STRUCTURED AND HOW LONG WILL THE TEST TAKE?

Summative tests are not timed; students may have as much time as they need to complete the assessments. The OSAS Science Summative Test is a Computer Adaptive Test (CAT), in general, most students in Grade 5 and 8 will need approximately 75 - 85 minutes. For students in Grade 11, the test can take approximately 90-100 minute.

WHAT IS A COMPUTER ADAPTIVE TEST (CAT)?

In a computer adaptive test (CAT), the test item difficulty will adapt to the appropriate level based on the student's previous responses. This allows for a more accurate representation of a student's understanding.

WHAT IF STUDENTS ARE ABSENT DURING AN ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION?

Students can take the OSAS Science Summative Test at any time during the ODE state testing window. However, once a student begins the OSAS Science Test they have 20 calendar days to finish, after which the student's test expires.

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE AVAILABLE TO MY CHILD WHILE TAKING THE OSAS SCIENCE SUMMATIVE TEST?

All students have access to numerous tools and accessibility features to use on the OSAS Science Summative Test. Some "Universal Tools" include a highlighter, line reader, strike-through text to eliminate answer choices, and scratch paper. The definitions of each tool and a full list of available Universal Tools, Designated Supports, and Accommodations can be found in the *Oregon Accessibility Manual*. Please talk with your child's educator about what supports may be helpful for your child during test administration.

WHEN WILL TEST SCORES OR RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?

ODE will publicly release statewide test results approximately in October during the next academic school year. This allows ODE to validate all test results with districts. Parents will receive an official score report from their district at the beginning of the next school year.

- ***Note:*** *Preliminary unofficial estimated scores are available to districts immediately once the student has completed the entire test.*

WHAT TYPES OF RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE?

Students will receive an "Overall Score" and "Achievement Level" (1 - 4) for Science based on all tested domains (earth and space, physical sciences , life sciences, and practices/crosscutting).

HOW ARE RESULTS FROM THE OSAS SCIENCE SUMMATIVE TEST USED?

Schools can use the results to identify specific areas to focus more attention on in the next school year. In contrast, teachers can use the results to identify and address individual student needs.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact your child's school for more information about the OSAS Science Summative Test.

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