

The number of CST test items varies, ranging from a minimum of 60 to a maximum of 75 multiple choice items.²

- The CSTs for ELA have 65 items for grades 2 and 3 but increase to 75 items beginning grade 4.
- All math CSTs have 65 items.
- Every science CST has 60 items.
- While the 8th grade history-social science CST contains 75 items, high-school history-social science CSTs include 60 items.

All CSTs have been calibrated so that students must score at least 350 points in order to be designated Proficient.

The number and percent of items students must get correct in order to score Proficient vary by subject and grade level.³

Finally, given that the CST comes directly from the California State Standards in each subject area, it is important that our school communities share the state standards with parents as a guide to what their children need to know.

² The ELA CSTs for 4th and 7th grade also include an item for Writing Applications (an essay). Accordingly, some sources indicate that these two exams have 76 items; other sources indicate that the number of items for these two tests is 83 because the item is given a weight of eight points, while all other items have a weight of one point.

³ For the 2007 administration of the CST, Integrated Math I has the lowest minimal percent correct for Proficiency (57%), while 2nd grade math has the highest minimum (75%). Note that, for technical reasons, these percentages may change over time.

English Language Arts

Grade	Total number of questions	Proficient Range	MINIMUM # of correct questions needed to score Proficient	MINIMUM Percent correct needed to score Proficient
2 nd	65	350-401	45	69%
3 rd	65	350-401	47	72%
4 th	75*	350-392	48	64%
5 th	75	350-394	49	65%
6 th	75	350-393	48	64%
7 th	75*	350-400	49	65%
8 th	75	350-394	51	68%
9 th	75	350-396	47	63%
10 th	75	350-391	53	71%
11 th	75	350-395	52	69%

*Multiple Choice only (does not include 1 essay question)

Math

Grade	Subject	Total number of questions	Proficient Range	MINIMUM # of correct questions needed to score Proficient	MINIMUM Percent correct needed to score Proficient
2 nd	Math	65	350-413	48	75%
3 rd	Math	65	350-413	48	74%
4 th	Math	65	350-400	48	74%
5 th	Math	65	350-429	42	65%
6 th	Math	65	350-414	42	65%
7 th	Math	65	350-413	41	63%
	General Math	65	350-413	41	63%
	Algebra I	65	350-427	38	58%
	Geometry	65	350-417	44	68%
	Algebra II	65	350-415	41	63%
	Summative High school Math	65	350-419	48	74%
	Integrated Math I	65	350-424	40	62%
	Integrated Math II	65	350-417	36	55%
	Integrated Math III	65	350-427	37	57%

Science

Grade - Subject	Number of questions	Proficient Range	MINIMUM # of correct questions needed to score Proficient	MINIMUM Percent correct needed to score Proficient
<i>5th Grade Science</i>	60	350-409	41	68%
<i>8th Grade Science</i>	60	350-402	36	60%
<i>10th Grade Life Science</i>	60	350-398	39	65%
<i>Biology</i>	60	350-393	38	63%
<i>Chemistry</i>	60	350-393	41	68%
<i>Earth Science</i>	60	350-392	40	67%
<i>Physics</i>	60	350-392	39	65%
<i>Integrated/Coordinated I</i>	60	350-389	40	67%
<i>Integrated/Coordinated II</i>	60	350-390	40	67%
<i>Integrated/Coordinated III</i>	60	350-390	36	60%
<i>Integrated/Coordinated IV</i>	60	350-396	40	67%

History-Social Science

Grade - Subject	Number of questions	Proficient Range	MINIMUM # of correct questions needed to score Proficient	MINIMUM Percent correct needed to score Proficient
<i>8th Grade</i>	75	350-395	45	60%
<i>10th Grade World History</i>	60	350-399	37	62%
<i>11th Grade US History</i>	60	350-400	36	60%