



Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA)- What's Different About Them?

Old Assessments

Smarter Balanced Assessments

Grade levels tested

Grades 2 - 11

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics

Grades 3-8 and 11

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics

Mode of delivery



Paper and pencil tests

Computer-based tests



Question type

Same set of questions for every student

Only multiple choice question type:
25% chance of guessing the correct answer

Computer adaptive – difficulty level adapts to student's last answer

Technology-enhanced question types: students drag and drop, type in their responses, select several correct answers from a list, match and sort

Sample Mathematics Test Item: Old vs. New

Solve for x .

$$6\frac{2}{8} + 3\frac{5}{8} = x$$

(A) $7\frac{2}{8}$
(B) $9\frac{7}{8}$
(C) $9\frac{2}{8}$
(D) $18\frac{7}{8}$

OLD

VS

Jared is testing how much weight a bag can hold. He plans to put juice bottles into three bags. He wants each bag to have a total weight within the given range.

- Drag juice bottles into each bag so that the weight is within the given range.
- Leave the bag empty if the given range is not possible using juice bottles.

Coyote

Between 6 lb and 7 lb Between 10 lb and 11 lb Between 14 lb and 15 lb

NEW!

Sample English Language Arts Test Item: Old vs. New

Which two words are synonyms for heap?

(A) pile
(B) row
(C) corner
(D) mound
(E) pattern

OLD

VS

Read the sentences from the passage.

As he neared the hollow tree he heard a growling hum. He made a similar noise and he saw one or two bees land on his bear suit.

What does the use of the word *similar* suggest? Pick **two** choices.

Coyote was surprised and made an unusual sound.
 The sound Coyote made was meant to calm the bees.
 Coyote made a sound like a bear growling to tease the bees.
 The sound Coyote made blended in with the sound of the bees.
 The sound Coyote made was meant to scare away the bees.

NEW!

Performance bands and scale scores

Scores ranged from 150 – 600

- Advanced
- Proficient
- Basic
- Below Basic
- Far Below Basic

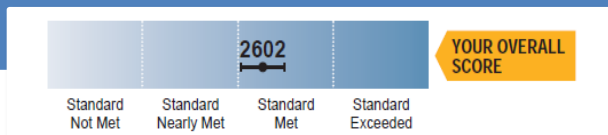


CAUTION!

There is no direct comparison.
New standards, new type of test, new scale and new performance bands.

Scores range from 2000 – 3000

- Standard Exceeded
- Standard Met
- Standard Nearly Met
- Standard Not Met



Performance in claim areas

On the back of the report, the overall scores are broken into more detail for each subject area, called "claims".

English Language Arts has 4 claim areas:

- 1 Reading** – demonstrating understanding of literary and non-fiction texts
- 2 Writing** – producing clear and purposeful writing
- 3 Listening** – demonstrating effective communication skills
- 4 Research/Inquiry** – investigating, analyzing and presenting information

Mathematics has 3 claim areas:

- 1 Problem Solving & Modeling/Data Analysis** – using appropriate tools and strategies to solve real world and mathematical problems
- 2 Concepts & Procedures** – applying mathematical concepts and procedures
- 3 Communicating Reasoning** – demonstrating ability to support mathematical conclusions

For each claim, students' scores will reflect that their progress is: *Above Standard, At or Near Standard, or Below Standard*

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?
School personnel will use the results to help adjust programs and services to assist students.

What's next?

Take the Smarter Balanced Practice and Training Tests here:

<http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test/>

Visit <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ca/> and watch "Understanding Your Child's Score Report" or "Entendiendo el Reporte de Calificaciones Individual de CAASPP del Estudiante" under the *Students and Parents* tab.

