



SC READY Assessment: A Brochure for Parents and Students

Overview

- The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Assessment (SC READY) program is a statewide assessment in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in grades 3–8 and science for grades 4 and 6. The SC READY tests measure the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards taught in ELA, Math, and Science classes. These standards are located on the SCDE website: <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/>
- All students, including students with disabilities and multilingual learners (MLs), must be administered SC READY except for those students who qualify for the South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt) as determined by their IEP team.

Testing Window

- The SC READY assessment **must be administered during the last twenty school days** as determined by each district's instructional calendar. Districts and schools will schedule specific testing dates and post these dates to their websites.
- The SCDE requires that districts schedule **grade three testing during the first week** of the testing window due to the need for test scores when making decisions required by the South Carolina Read to Succeed Act.

Test Administration

- The SC READY tests are not timed.
- The ELA test is administered over two days with one session each day. Except for grade 3, ELA sessions 1 and 2 may be administered in any order.
- The math test is administered in one day. In grades 6–8, the math test is divided into a “calculator” section and a “no-calculator” section, both to be administered in one day.

Test Format

- SC READY assessments are administered in a computer-based online format only, with the following exceptions:
 - Students who cannot take online assessments due to their disabilities, as specified in their IEPs or 504 plans, may be tested in a paper-based format.
 - Districts receiving a waiver from the State Board of Education may test in a paper-based format.

Translations/Accessibility

- Parent resources including this brochure, sample score reports, and the Writer's Checklist, are available in multiple languages and in an accessible format compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Go to the Student and Parent Resource webpage for translations, large print documents, and to request other alternate formats: <https://ed.sc.gov/tests/assessment-information/student-and-parent-resources/>

Types of Test Items

- ELA, mathematics, and science tests have test questions with varying degrees of difficulty.
- The ELA test consists of selected response (SR), multi-select (MS) and evidence-based selected response (EBSR) items. The ELA test also includes a Text-Dependent Analysis (TDA) item. The TDA item consists of a passage with a writing task related to the passage. For grades 6–8 only, students may respond to technology enhanced (TE) items by providing their answers through drag and drop items or text highlighting.
- The mathematics test contains SR items (grades 3–8), MS items (grades 5–8), and TE items (grades 6–8). TE items include items such as drag and drop, hot spot, drop down list, keypad input, and constructed-response (type in a number).
- The science test consists of SR, EBSR, and TE item types, such as drag and drop, hot spot (click to select), drop down list, and constructed-response (type a numeric response).



Sample Items

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Read the draft of a student's essay.

Zookeepers spend their days with animals. They learn what the animals like best and how to care for them. Many of the humans and animals form special relationships. The zookeepers are able to watch the animals grow and change over time. Sometimes, there is also an opportunity to feed and care for baby animals that are born in the zoo. What could be more fun and exciting than that?

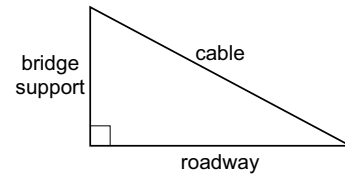
Which sentence would provide the **best** introduction for the paragraph?

- A. I hope to visit the zoo this summer with my family.
- B. Animals such as bears and monkeys can be seen in many zoos.
- C. I think that working at a zoo would be the best type of job.
- D. There are hundreds of zoos in cities around the world.

Key = C

MATHEMATICS

The figure shows a bridge support, a cable, and the roadway of a bridge.



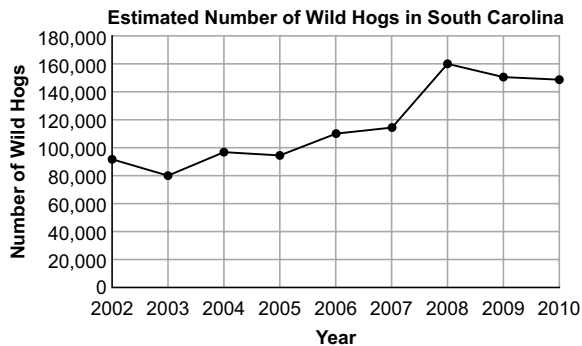
The bridge support is 80 feet tall. The length of the cable is 170 feet. What is the distance, in feet, from the base of the bridge support to the point where the cable connects to the roadway?

- A. 90
- B. 150
- C. 190
- D. 250

Key = B

SCIENCE—GRADE 4

The graph shows the estimated population of wild hogs in South Carolina between 2002 and 2010.



Which information is **best** supported by these data?

- A. The wild hog population increased between 2008 and 2009.
- B. More wild hogs were in South Carolina in 2010 than in 2002.
- C. The wild hog population decreased between 2005 and 2008.
- D. More people in South Carolina had wild hogs in 2007 than in 2008.

Key = B

SCIENCE—GRADE 6

Which pair of statements **best** explains an environmental stimulus and a bear's response to survive winter?

- A. Environmental stimulus: The bear senses that food is becoming scarce.
Response: The bear consumes less food, and its heart rate increases.
- B. Environmental stimulus: The days are becoming shorter.
Response: The bear consumes more food, and its heart rate decreases.
- C. Environmental stimulus: The bear is hungry.
Response: The bear consumes more food, and its heart rate increases.
- D. Environmental stimulus: The days are becoming longer.
Response: The bear consumes less food, and its heart rate decreases.

Key = B

Sample Questions, Tutorials, and Online Tools Training (OTT)

The SC READY webpage (<https://ed.sc.gov/tests/middle/sc-ready/>) provides practice, preparation, and reference resources including:

- Samples of test questions from previous years.
- Online Testing Video Tutorial, with step-by-step instructions on how to use the online testing system. Schools should review these tutorials with students in advance of testing.
- Online Tools Training (OTT) computer module that simulates the testing environment and allows students to practice using the testing software and tools available during testing such as the highlighter, magnifier, and calculator.

Test Results

- Districts will receive electronic copies of Individual Student Reports (ISRs) by July 12. By August 1, districts will receive paper copies to distribute to parents.
- Student results are reported as scale scores, performance levels (Exceeds, Meets, Approaches, or Does Not Meet), and performance by reporting category (Low, Middle, or High) for each test.



South Carolina State Examinations (Spring 2023)

Investigating Potential Testing Violations from Electronic Device Usage:

During statewide testing, the South Carolina Department of Education does not permit students to use or be in possession of any electronic device (e.g. cell phone, smart watch) for any state-mandated assessment. Students who use an electronic device for documented medical purposes (e.g., glucose monitoring, cardiac monitoring) may be allowed access to device(s) during testing. Students are required to not have any electronic devices with them in testing environment and the school will collect devices prior to test administration.

In the event a student brings a prohibited device into the test environment but does not have the device out during testing, school staff must collect the device once they become aware of its presence, staff should allow the student to continue testing.

In the event a student accesses a prohibited device in the test environment, school staff must collect the device and remove the student from the testing environment. A school administrator will contact the parent / legal guardian and schedule a conference with the parent / legal guardian, student, principal, and School Testing Coordinator.

The parent / legal guardian will be asked to review the student's electronic device with the group to determine if testing materials were recorded or any form of cheating took place. If the parent / legal guardian does not comply with reviewing the electronic device, school administration will contact local law enforcement regarding the test security incident, requesting that the electronic device in question be reviewed for testing violations. The police department may conduct a forensic analysis of the electronic device to examine it for illegal testing content.

If cheating or testing violations occurred, the student's test shall be invalidated. School administration must enforce any school discipline policies that are applicable. The District Testing Coordinator is required to notify the South Carolina Department of Education Office of Assessment and Standards that a test security violation has occurred.

Questions:

If you have any questions or concerns, please first contact your student's school principal or the school's testing coordinator by calling the school. If you have additional questions or concerns that were not addressed at the school level first, you can then contact the District Office:

- Kellie Pendley, District Testing Coordinator, kellie.pendley@beaufort.k12.sc.us or 843-322-0730
- Nicholas Flowers, Director of Accountability, robert.flowers@beaufort.k12.sc.us or 843-322-5418