

## Grade 8 Achievement Level Descriptors

For descriptions of the skills and sample test questions in each performance area, please visit <https://or.startingsmarter.org/>

### English Language Arts/Literacy

Performance Level and Scale Score Range	Description
<b>Level 4</b> Scale Score: 2668 and above	A student performing at Level 4 demonstrates a thorough ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read closely and analytically to comprehend texts of unusually high complexity and use textual evidence to demonstrate complex critical thinking.</li> <li>• produce compelling, well-supported writing for a diverse range of purposes and audiences.</li> <li>• critically interpret and use information delivered orally or audio-visually.</li> <li>• use research/inquiry methods to gather, analyze and integrate relevant information from multiple sources to produce an exploration of a topic.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b> Scale Score: 2567 - 2667	A student performing at Level 3 demonstrates an adequate ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• read closely and analytically to comprehend texts of moderate to high complexity and use textual evidence to demonstrate critical thinking.</li> <li>• produce effective and well-grounded writing for a range of purposes and audiences.</li> <li>• accurately interpret and use information delivered orally or audio-visually.</li> <li>• use research/inquiry methods to gather, analyze and integrate relevant information from multiple sources to produce an exploration of a topic.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b> Scale Score: 2487 - 2566	A student performing at Level 2 demonstrates a partial ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comprehend texts of moderate complexity and use partial text evidence to demonstrate critical thinking</li> <li>• produce writing for a range of purposes and audiences.</li> <li>• interpret or use information delivered orally or audio-visually.</li> <li>• use research/inquiry methods to gather, analyze and integrate relevant information from multiple sources to produce an exploration of a topic.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 1</b> Scale Score: 2486 and below	A student performing at Level 1 demonstrates a minimal ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• comprehend texts of low complexity and uses minimal textual evidence to demonstrate thinking.</li> <li>• produce writing for a range of purposes and audiences.</li> <li>• interpret or use information delivered orally or audio-visually.</li> <li>• use research/inquiry methods to gather relevant information from multiple sources to produce an exploration of a topic.</li> </ul>

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# Mathematics

Performance Level and Scale Score Range	Description
<b>Level 4</b>  Scale Score: 2653 and above	A student performing at Level 4 is able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with high precision and fluency.</li> <li>• Make sense of a range of complex and unfamiliar problems in pure and applied mathematics with no scaffolding.</li> <li>• Thoroughly apply mathematical concepts.</li> <li>• Analyze and interpret the context of an unfamiliar situation for problems of increasing complexity.</li> <li>• Construct chains of logic about abstract concepts autonomously.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3</b>  Scale Score: 2586 - 2652	A student performing at Level 3 is able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with adequate precision and fluency.</li> <li>• Make sense of and persevere in solving a range of unfamiliar problems in pure and applied mathematics with a limited degree of scaffolding.</li> <li>• Adequately explain and apply mathematical concepts. Use stated assumptions, definitions and previous results to identify and repair a flawed argument.</li> <li>• Reason abstractly and quantitatively to analyze complex, real-world scenarios. Construct and use mathematical models and appropriate tools to accurately solve problems.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>  Scale Score: 2504 - 2585	A student performing at Level 2 is able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with partial precision and fluency.</li> <li>• Make sense of and solve familiar problems in pure and applied mathematics with a moderate degree of scaffolding.</li> <li>• Partially explain and apply mathematical concepts. Find and identify the flaw in an argument.</li> <li>• Analyze familiar real-world scenarios, and use mathematical models and given tools to partially interpret and solve basic problems.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 1</b>  Scale Score: 2503 and below	A student performing at Level 1 is able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret and carry out mathematical procedures with minimal precision and fluency.</li> <li>• Make sense of and solve simple and familiar problems in pure and applied mathematics with a high degree of scaffolding.</li> <li>• Minimally explain and apply mathematical concepts. Construct arguments using concrete referents such as objects, drawings, diagrams, and actions.</li> <li>• Identify familiar real-world scenarios, and use simple mathematical models and given tools to solve basic problems.</li> </ul>

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## Science

Performance Level and Scale Score Range	Description
<b>Level 4</b>  Scale Score: 3507 and above	Student can synthesize the application of science and engineering practices, core ideas, and cross-cutting concepts to local and global phenomena, becoming community members who are critical consumers of scientific information capable of engaging in scientific argumentation from evidence on track for post high school college and career readiness. Middle School science assessments include topics such as: properties and states of matter, chemical reactions, gravitational, electrical, and magnetic forces in the natural world, energy, waves and their applications in technologies, solar system models, Earth and human activity, weather and climate, plate tectonics, natural hazards, natural resources, plant and animals, ecosystems, cycles of matter and energy, and heredity
<b>Level 3</b>  Scale Score: 3460* - 3506	Student can demonstrate the application of science and engineering practices, core ideas, and cross-cutting concepts to local and global phenomena, becoming community members who are critical consumers of scientific information on track for post high school college and career readiness. Middle School science assessments include topics such as: properties and states of matter, chemical reactions, gravitational, electrical, and magnetic forces in the natural world, energy, waves and their applications in technologies, solar system models, Earth and human activity, weather and climate, plate tectonics, natural hazards, natural resources, plant and animals, ecosystems, cycles of matter and energy, and heredity.
<b>Level 2</b>  Scale Score: 3433 - 3459	Student can demonstrate some application of science and engineering practices, knowledge of core ideas, and understanding of cross-cutting concepts tied to local and global phenomena. Middle School science assessments include topics such as: properties and states of matter, chemical reactions, gravitational, electrical, and magnetic forces in the natural world, energy, waves and their applications in technologies, solar system models, Earth and human activity, weather and climate, plate tectonics, natural hazards, natural resources, plant and animals, ecosystems, cycles of matter and energy, and heredity.
<b>Level 1</b>  Scale Score: 3432 and below	Student demonstrates minimal application of science and engineering practices, knowledge of core ideas, and understanding of cross-cutting concepts tied to local and global phenomena. Middle School science assessments include topics such as: properties and states of matter, chemical reactions, gravitational, electrical, and magnetic forces in the natural world, energy, waves and their applications in technologies, solar system models, Earth and human activity, weather and climate, plate tectonics, natural hazards, natural resources, plant and animals, ecosystems, cycles of matter and energy, and heredity.

\*Achievement of level 3 or higher demonstrates proficiency on the OSAS Science Assessment.

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Additional Information:

- Oregon Department of Education website concerning Statewide Assessment  
<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Pages/Statewide-Assessments.aspx>
- Oregon Statewide Assessment System Design and Purpose  
[https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Documents/OSAS\\_One-Pager.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Documents/OSAS_One-Pager.pdf)
- Why State Testing Matters  
[https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Documents/FamilyFlyer\\_English.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Documents/FamilyFlyer_English.pdf)
- Oregon Department of Education website concerning Statewide Assessment  
<https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Pages/Statewide-Assessments.aspx>
- Sample Test Scoring Guides for ELA  
<https://osasportal.org/resources/student-and-families/sample-test-scoring-guides-for-ela>
- Sample Test Scoring Guides for Math  
<https://osasportal.org/resources/student-and-families/sample-test-scoring-guides-for-math>
- Sample Test Scoring Guides for Science  
<https://osasportal.org/resources/student-and-families/sample-test-scoring-guides-for-science>

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