

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the 2019-20 school year, Assessment, in conjunction with the Department of Teaching and Learning (T&L), developed the *Assessments of Course Performance* (ACPs) as standardized final semester tests in grades one through 12 for Mathematics, Reading/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, English as a Second Language (ESL), World Languages, Instructional Technology, Health, Physical Education and Visual & Performing Arts courses. Overall, 131 tests were developed and six were trans adapted in Spanish. With eight single-semester tests and four high school tests also used for middle school students, a total of 149 ACPs were ready to be administered the 2019–20 school year. Due to COVID 19 and remote learning, only first semester ACPs, a total of 103, were administered.

ACP Development

Prior to the test development phase, T&L provided outlines, called blueprints, detailing the Student Expectations (SEs) that required assessment items. In addition, T&L provided item blueprints, which directed item writers to measure specific aspects of SEs with special content to ensure item validity.

The processes of item writing, editing, item analyses, and test approvals were managed through the Office of Test Development. Tests comprised approximately three-quarters of the well-performing items from the previous year and one-quarter new or revised items. Item writing during the summer generally focused on expanding and revising test item banks. All test blueprints were published on MyData Portal and blueprints, formula charts and sets of example items were published on the Assessment website at the beginning of the school year. All tests were aligned to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) using T&L's curriculum guides developed by each content area. After administration began, alignment pages were published on the Assessment website, which showed the specific aspect of the SE that each item measured.

Example Item Sets for ACPs

Assessment developed a representative set of items for each ACP, or Example Items, for teachers to gain an understanding of the format and rigor of the ACPs. At the beginning of each semester, Example Items were available for download and teachers could use these items, along with the test blueprint, as guides for preparing students for the ACP. They were intended to provide an understanding of some possible approaches to assessing the given SE. Each Example Item had the correct answer and content SE listed in the key.

Valid and Reliable Tests

The development of valid and reliable assessments is crucial for the evaluation of student knowledge and mastery of instructional material. Therefore, it is essential that the data provided by tests be valid and reliable. Content validity was demonstrated by using item and test blueprints, developed with T&L, and alignment pages, ensuring each item was aligned with the curriculum. Cronbach's alpha, a coefficient used to provide a general indicator of consistency across items within a test, ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 indicating no test reliability. Coefficients approaching 1 indicate high test reliability. Of the 103 ACPs administered, 102 ACPs had a reliability of .70 or higher, of which 67 were equal to or above .80. One ACP had a reliability below .60.

Curriculum Alignment

The ACPs were designed as measures of the taught curriculum. Although every SE in the curriculum was not measured, significant SEs were identified and included in the test design process. Teachers were surveyed only during first semester administration and asked to indicate the extent to which the ACPs successfully matched what was taught. The results are presented in Table 1. Almost 90 percent of the teachers reported courses and ACPs had a 75 percent to 100 percent match. Given that there were more SEs taught than can be measured on a 90 minute test, this level of matching was acceptable.

Table 1: ACPs Aligned with Taught Curriculum

Question	Response Category	Sem 1 (%)	Sem 2 (%)
To what extent does the ACP successfully assess (match) what is taught in this course?	100% match	36.2	--
	About 75% match	53.2	--
	About 50% match	8.7	--
	About 25% match	1.5	--
	No match at all	0.5	--

Scaled Scores

All 2019–20 ACPs used scaled scores to report student achievement. Tests aim to have at least 55 percent correct set to equal a scale score of 70, or passing. However, some tests have lower or higher passing percentages based on test difficulty. The 55 percent criterion was lowered on 59 and raised on 28 of 103 first semester tests. Maintaining the 55 percent standard would have led to unreasonably high or low passing rates.

Semester One Results

Table 2 reports semester one results for the 103 ACPs administered, including the mean ACP scale score, standard deviation, and the percentage of students passing the ACP. The mean scale score ranged from a low of 67.6 (Grade 3 Spanish Math) to a high of 87.3 (Kindergarten Reading), while the median scale score was 74.4. The percent of students passing the ACPs ranged from 39.0 percent (Reading LA 8 for ESL) to 91.9 percent (Kindergarten Spanish Reading).

Table 2: Semester One ACP Results

ACP	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
Grade 1 Math	81.3	15.1	78.8
Grade 1 Spanish Math	73.4	16.2	65.5
Grade 2 Math	79.7	15.4	76.5
Grade 2 Spanish Math	66.6	14.3	44.2
Grade 3 Math	76.5	15.0	70.6
Grade 3 Spanish Math	70.1	14.8	56.5
Grade 4 Math	77.9	16.6	71.7
Grade 4 Spanish Math	69.1	15.6	50.0
Grade 5 Math	80.8	15.6	78.3
Grade 5 Spanish Math	71.8	15.3	55.9
Math 6	74.6	9.6	68.6
Math 6 Pre-AP	77.2	12.9	72.9
Math 7	69.7	11.5	52.0
Math 7 Pre-AP	76.6	13.7	69.7
Math 8	72.9	13.4	60.1
Algebra I Pre-AP	78.6	13.8	76.3
Algebra I	75.6	14.7	68.9
Geometry	71.3	9.5	52.5
Geometry Pre-AP	75.9	12.5	68.1
Algebra II	71.1	12.0	58.1
Algebra II Pre-AP	74.6	11.0	68.7
Pre-Calculus	69.5	12.8	51.1
Pre-Calculus Pre-AP	75.9	12.8	69.8
Algebraic Reasoning	72.0	14.6	56.7
Grade 1 Reading	86.2	11.5	91.2
Grade 1 Spanish Reading	87.1	12.8	89.5
Grade 2 Reading	77.8	14.4	72.1
Grade 2 Spanish Reading	78.7	15.4	75.0
Grade 3 Reading	73.3	12.9	62.6
Grade 3 Spanish Reading	72.2	12.7	57.7
Grade 4 Reading	74.5	10.4	68.9
Grade 4 Spanish Reading	79.7	12.7	80.7
Grade 4 Language Arts	74.7	15.8	68.2
Grade 4 Spanish Lang Arts	74.8	15.7	68.6
Grade 5 Reading	77.3	9.0	79.5
Grade 5 Spanish Reading	78.8	12.8	79.8
Reading LA 6	71.9	9.6	58.0
Reading LA 6 Pre-AP	77.3	10.0	81.2
Reading LA 7	74.9	9.5	68.5
Reading LA 7 Pre-AP	78.1	9.4	83.1
Reading LA 8	73.3	9.2	67.6
Reading LA 8 Pre-AP	76.8	9.3	80.0
English I	70.0	12.5	53.2
English I Pre-AP	77.4	13.7	75.4
English II	73.3	11.1	62.4
English II Pre-AP	78.1	10.8	79.5
English III	71.7	10.5	59.1
English IV	74.3	9.7	70.1

table continues

Table 2 (continued)

ACP	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
Grade 5 Science	79.4	15.5	76.5
Grade 5 Spanish Science	78.1	14.1	73.2
Science 6	70.9	11.0	53.4
Science 6 Pre-AP	76.9	10.6	75.3
Science 7	73.3	15.7	62.8
Science 7 Pre-AP	80.4	10.3	84.8
Science 8	73.7	13.5	63.8
Physics 8	74.7	13.4	70.5
Astronomy 8	74.0	13.7	66.1
Biology	73.3	8.5	64.0
Biology Pre-AP	76.2	10.6	73.3
Chemistry	68.4	8.2	41.1
Chemistry Pre-AP	75.8	13.3	69.5
Physics	70.3	10.9	54.2
Physics Pre-AP	74.3	12.3	65.3
Environmental Systems	75.0	11.7	68.6
Astronomy	67.9	11.2	46.9
World Cultures 6	69.7	9.2	48.4
World Cultures 6 Pre-AP	76.2	10.3	74.8
Texas Studies 7	69.6	10.5	48.5
Texas Studies 7 Pre-AP	77.2	11.3	74.5
US Studies 8	71.4	10.0	53.0
US Studies 8 Pre-AP	77.3	10.3	77.2
World Geography	71.2	9.4	55.0
World Geography Pre-AP	76.2	11.0	75.2
World History	69.5	9.6	51.7
World History Pre-AP	76.4	9.6	76.6
US History	72.9	12.1	63.9
Government	71.5	10.5	59.4
Economics	76.0	10.8	74.4
Reading LA 6 ESL YR 1	69.2	8.4	41.0
Reading LA 6 ESL YR 2	68.7	8.4	39.3
Reading LA 7 ESL YR 1	67.7	7.0	32.9
Reading LA 7 ESL YR 2	69.6	8.5	41.9
Reading LA 8 ESL YR 1	70.6	9.1	49.6
Reading LA 8 ESL YR 2	68.5	11.7	41.1
English I ESOL Beg	68.1	10.3	38.9
English I ESOL Inter	68.7	8.9	41.0
English II ESOL Inter	71.5	10.5	48.6
Technology Applications	71.2	12.7	58.9
MS Health Education 6	74.8	12.3	69.6
MS Health Education 7	78.6	11.3	78.6
MS Health Education 8	77.0	11.8	76.6
HS Health Education	76.2	10.8	73.5
PE 6	76.0	9.7	76.5
PE 7 & 8	78.2	10.3	80.9
Studio Art I	78.3	10.3	77.9
MS Art I Studio	78.1	10.9	74.7
MS Varsity Band	73.0	10.1	58.1
HS Varsity Band	77.4	11.3	70.9
French I	74.6	11.6	69.2
French II	74.2	13.0	66.7
Spanish I	78.8	12.8	76.1
Spanish II	78.3	11.6	76.3
Spanish Heritage Spkr Fund	73.4	8.8	69.4

Semester Two Results

Students were taught remotely for the majority of semester two due to COVID-19. ACPs were not administered. Therefore, there are no semester two ACP results.

Course Grades

Scale score results were used in the calculation of the final semester grade for grades three through twelve. For grades one and two, *ACP* scores were not factored into final semester grades. For grades three through five, *ACP* scale score results accounted for 5 percent of the final semester grade. Middle school results accounted for 10 percent of the final semester grade, while high school *ACP* scale score results accounted for 15 percent of the final semester grade.

Summer School *ACPs*

Summer school classes were provided for remote learning for all students who did not pass courses during the school year. High school students enrolled in up to two courses and those who were instructed in Mathematics, Reading Language Arts (English), Science, Social Studies and Health were not required to take the respective *ACP* due to COVID-19 and remote learning.

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