

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the 2021–22 school year, Assessment's Test Development, 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 three 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, 119 tests were developed and four were trans-adapted into Spanish. With six single-semester tests and four high school tests also used for middle school students, a total of 133 ACPs were administered the 2021–22 school year.

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 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 and formula charts were published on MyData Portal and 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

Test Development developed a representative set of items for each ACP, called Example Items, for teachers and students to gain an understanding of the format and rigor of the ACPs. At the beginning of each semester, Example Items were available in Dallas Assessment Navigator (DAN) as tests. Teachers could activate the Example Item test for students and 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, not all, possible approaches to assessing the given SE.

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 as well as alignment pages, which ensured each item was aligned with the curriculum. Cronbach's alpha, a coefficient used to provide a general indicator of internal 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 133 ACPs administered, reliability scores were generated for 131 tests. Most ACPs had a reliability of .70 or higher, of which 90 were equal to or above .80. Six ACPs had a reliability between .62 and .69.

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 and asked to indicate the extent to which the ACPs successfully matched what was taught in the course. The results are presented in Table 1. Between 80% and 90% of the teachers reported courses and ACPs had a 75% to 100% match. Given that there were more SEs taught than can be appropriately 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?	About 100%	35.8	22.1
	About 75%	45.4	50.0
	About 50%	14.4	18.9
	About 25%	4.5	9.0

Scaled Scores

All 2021–22 ACPs used scaled scores to report student achievement. Tests aim to have at least 55% 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% criterion was lowered on 76 of 90 first semester tests and raised on 10. For second semester, it was lowered on 34 of 43 tests and raised on 6. Maintaining the 55% standard would have led to unreasonably high or low passing rates.

Semester One Results

Table 2 reports semester one results for the 90 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 61.6 (Pre-Calculus) to a high of 78.4 (Reading Language Arts 7 Honors), while the median scale score was 72.9. The percent of students passing the ACPs ranged from 25.7% (Grade 3 Spanish Math) and 28.5% (English I for ESOL Beginner) to 82.4% (Reading Language Arts 7 Honors).

Table 2: Semester One ACP Results

ACP	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
Grade 3 Math	71.9	13.0	56.3
Grade 3 Spanish Math	63.3	13.1	25.7
Grade 4 Math	73.5	16.8	62.0
Grade 4 Spanish Math	66.0	15.9	37.4
Grade 5 Math	75.9	16.3	66.5
Grade 5 Spanish Math	68.9	13.6	45.8
Math 6	72.5	8.5	62.2
Math 6 Honors	73.2	12.8	63.0
Math 7	68.7	10.4	43.7
Math 7 Honors	76.4	14.7	68.0
Math 8	69.1	13.0	47.3
Algebra I	67.1	14.3	43.0
Algebra I Honors	74.3	16.2	64.7
Geometry	70.8	9.3	49.7
Geometry Honors	70.8	10.9	50.9
Algebra II	68.0	11.7	44.8
Algebra II Honors	69.3	13.5	48.4
Pre-Calculus	61.6	13.7	30.9
Pre-Calculus Honors	63.4	14.1	33.2
Grade 3 Reading	66.5	12.0	40.3
Grade 3 Spanish Reading	72.9	13.6	59.8
Grade 4 Reading	71.2	10.8	54.2
Grade 4 Spanish Reading	70.7	11.0	56.5
Grade 5 Reading	78.2	10.4	77.2
Grade 5 Spanish Reading	76.8	11.1	70.2
Reading LA 6	69.1	7.3	45.5
Reading LA 6 Honors	76.0	10.6	75.2
Reading LA 7	71.5	8.9	57.0
Reading LA 7 Honors	78.4	10.1	82.4
Reading LA 8	72.0	8.7	58.9
Reading LA 8 Honors	75.5	10.7	74.4
English I	67.4	9.5	42.8
English I Honors	72.5	12.3	65.1
English II	69.7	9.2	49.3
English II Honors	74.6	10.4	71.8

Table continues

Table 2 con't

ACP	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
English III	69.4	10.2	50.4
English IV	73.8	8.6	66.4
Grade 5 Science	78.2	15.5	73.1
Grade 5 Spanish Science	74.4	13.7	65.9
Science 6	69.9	9.2	46.5
Science 6 Honors	72.2	10.8	60.8
Science 7	71.8	13.0	57.9
Science 7 Honors	75.5	13.0	66.5
Science 8	72.8	11.3	57.4
Physics 8	73.1	10.3	63.5
Astronomy 8	73.2	13.1	57.9
Biology	71.6	9.1	55.0
Biology Honors	74.3	11.3	65.0
Chemistry	68.3	6.6	37.9
Chemistry Honors	71.6	12.2	53.1
Physics	70.5	8.0	50.5
Physics Honors	74.3	11.4	64.6
Environmental Systems	72.8	10.0	59.4
Astronomy	69.5	12.0	50.6
World Cultures 6	70.0	8.6	47.9
World Cultures 6 Honors	73.7	11.6	62.3
Texas Studies 7	68.7	10.7	41.7
Texas Studies 7 Honors	74.7	12.5	61.8
US Studies 8	71.2	10.6	50.6
US Studies 8 Honors	77.5	11.7	72.6
World Geography	70.8	9.9	51.0
World Geography Honors	71.6	14.1	57.3
World History	70.4	10.2	51.3
World History Honors	76.5	10.3	74.0
US History	71.0	13.5	56.3
Government	71.6	10.9	57.4
Economics	75.6	11.7	69.5
Reading LA 6 ESL YR 1	70.3	9.4	44.5
Reading LA 6 ESL YR 2	69.6	9.7	44.8
Reading LA 7 ESL YR 1	70.0	7.9	48.5
Reading LA 7 ESL YR 2	72.1	9.1	51.6
Reading LA 8 ESL YR 1	67.3	7.5	30.1
Reading LA 8 ESL YR 2	68.9	7.0	40.7
English I ESOL Beg	66.8	7.5	28.5
English I ESOL Inter	68.8	6.9	39.9
English II ESOL Inter	68.9	8.4	38.8
Technology Applications	71.0	11.6	55.1
MS Health Education 8	76.7	12.3	74.0
HS Health Education	75.8	12.1	70.0

Table continues

Table 2 con't

<i>ACP</i>	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
Studio Art I	73.3	7.7	67.4
MS Art I Studio	74.7	8.2	72.9
PE 6	75.1	10.7	70.7
PE 7 & 8	78.1	10.3	80.0
MS Varsity Band	72.1	9.0	53.7
HS Varsity Band	73.3	9.9	58.0
French I	72.5	9.5	61.9
French II	72.1	9.1	62.6
Spanish I	76.4	10.3	71.0
Spanish II	75.9	10.5	70.1
Spanish Heritage Speaker	73.5	10.3	67.0

Semester Two Results

Table 3 reports semester two results for the 43 *ACPs* administered, including the mean *ACP* scale score, standard deviation, and the percentage of students passing the *ACP*. Fewer *ACPs* were administered in the second semester because many courses for grades three through 11 required students to take the state test. The mean scale score ranged from a low of 68.4 (Environmental Systems) to a high of 81.8 (Spanish II), while the median scale score was 73.6. The percent of students passing the *ACPs* ranged from 42.0% (Science 6) to 83.0% (Spanish II).

Table 3: Semester Two *ACP* Results

<i>ACP</i>	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
Geometry	69.9	8.5	44.0
Geometry Honors	72.7	10.9	56.8
Algebra II	72.8	10.4	56.1
Algebra II Honors	77.5	11.1	72.9
Pre-Calculus	70.3	10.8	52.6
Pre-Calculus Honors	73.7	12.1	60.0
English III	71.3	9.4	56.1
English IV	72.2	10.9	68.2
Science 6	68.9	8.3	42.0
Science 6 Honors	78.2	11.0	75.4
Science 7	74.7	9.7	65.6
Physics 8	75.1	8.7	70.0
Astronomy 8	73.0	12.5	61.0
Chemistry	70.3	8.4	44.2
Chemistry Honors	74.0	13.3	62.4
Physics	71.6	6.2	60.1
Physics Honors	74.4	8.3	68.5

Table continues

Table 3 con't

<i>ACP</i>	Mean Scale Score	Scale Score SD	Percent Passing
Environmental Systems	68.4	12.0	45.5
Astronomy	71.6	9.8	61.0
World Cultures 6	69.3	9.4	46.5
World Cultures 6 Honors	76.0	10.4	71.5
Texas Studies 7	70.3	10.6	50.6
Texas Studies 7 Honors	74.2	10.4	64.4
World Geography	71.3	9.6	51.1
World Geography Honors	76.8	10.1	74.7
World History	69.4	10.6	47.6
World History Honors	73.4	11.7	65.8
Government	69.9	13.1	53.7
Economics	75.4	12.9	69.1
Technology Applications	74.9	11.4	65.4
MS Health Education 8	76.6	12.4	73.4
HS Health Education	75.8	12.4	70.9
Studio Art I	73.7	8.8	66.4
MS Art I Studio	71.0	7.8	56.9
PE 6	73.6	10.1	69.4
PE 7 & 8	77.7	11.6	76.9
MS Varsity Band	71.5	10.2	48.5
HS Varsity Band	75.2	10.0	69.7
French I	74.7	10.5	70.1
French II	73.6	8.7	67.5
Spanish I	79.2	11.4	77.8
Spanish II	81.8	10.9	83.0
Spanish Heritage Speaker	75.1	9.2	75.2

Course Grades

Scale score results were used in the calculation of the final semester grade for grades three through twelve. For grades three through five, *ACP* scale score results accounted for 5% of the final semester grade. Middle school results accounted for 10% of the final semester grade, while high school *ACP* scale score results accounted for 15% of the final semester grade.

Summer School *ACPs*

Summer school classes were provided for all students who did not pass courses during the school year. High school students who were instructed in Mathematics, Reading Language Arts (English), Science, and Social Studies were required to take the respective *ACP*. High school students enrolled in up to two courses and were assessed with the respective *ACPs* for each course.

EA22-220-4

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