



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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**TO:** Principals of Public Secondary Schools

**FROM:** Thomas J. Schoeck

**SUBJECT:** Component Retesting: Identifying the Appropriate Components  
for Eligible High School Students

This memorandum explains the procedures that schools must follow to determine which students will participate in the component retesting in Comprehensive English and in Mathematics A in May 2009, and which components they will take. The May 2009 Component Retests may be administered only to students who meet the eligibility criteria explained below and who have not yet earned a final score of 65 or higher on the regular Regents Examination.

**DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPONENT RETESTING**

To be eligible for component retesting in Comprehensive English, a student *must* be a high school *senior* and *must have done* the following:

- taken the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English at least twice and earned a score of 48 or higher on at least one of the two examinations taken most recently.

To be eligible for component retesting in Mathematics A, the student must be a *junior or senior* and *must have done* the following:

1. taken the Regents Examination in Mathematics A at least twice **AND** earned a score of 48 or higher on either of the two examinations taken most recently.

**OR**

2. taken the Regents Examination in Mathematics A only once **and** the Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra at least once **AND** earned a score of 48 or higher on either the Regents Examination in Mathematics A or the Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra taken most recently.

## IDENTIFYING WHICH COMPONENT(S) A STUDENT SHOULD TAKE

### General Guidelines for All Component Retests

Component retesting requires the school to identify and address patterns of weakness in the performance of its students who have failed the Regents Examinations in either Comprehensive English or Mathematics A at least twice or failed the Regents Examination in Mathematics A only once and the Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra at least once. First, review each eligible student's level of achievement on the two examinations in that examination title the student has taken most recently, and identify which component(s) were weaker on each of the examinations. Then apply the general considerations and specific guidelines that follow:

- First consideration:** If the eligible student's weaker component was the *same* component on both examinations, retest the student on that component.
- Second consideration:** If the eligible student's weaker component was a *different* component on each of the examinations, retest the student on the weaker component from the more recent examination.
- Third consideration:** If the eligible student's recent achievement in tasks related to a weak component has shown improvement, as demonstrated by classroom tests, etc., retest the student on that component.

### Specific Guidelines for Comprehensive English

The Regents Comprehensive Examination in English has two component retests: Component A, which corresponds to Session One of the examination, and Component B, which corresponds to Session Two. Each component consists of five modules (test sessions), administered on successive days, as detailed in the enclosed schedule. The selection process described below refers to the *Worksheet for Component Retesting in Comprehensive English* (DET 208) that accompanies this memorandum.

### Steps in the Selection Process for Components in Comprehensive English

1. Assemble the senior's answer papers for the two examinations taken most recently (or other documents that show the scores for each part of the examination).
2. Complete **Table I—Examination Data Table on the Worksheet for Component Retesting in Comprehensive English**. Compare the senior's score on each session to the criterion score given in **Table II—Criterion Scores for Components of the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English**.<sup>1</sup> Place a check mark in the Weak Component(s) row of Table I for each component for which the senior's score is lower than the criterion score. This determines the "weakness pattern" for Step 3.
3. Determine which component to administer based on **Table IV—Weakness Pattern/Identifying Component for Retesting**. Enter that information on Table I.

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<sup>1</sup>If you have no data other than the senior's final examination score, use **Table III—Determining Weaker Components When Complete Examination Data Are Unavailable** to help you determine which component is weaker. This table appears on page 3 of the enclosed *Worksheet for Component Retesting in Comprehensive English* (DET 208).

## Specific Guidelines for Mathematics A

The Regents Examination in Mathematics A is a measure of student performance on seven key ideas. Component retests are provided for four of these key ideas: Modeling/Multiple Representation (Component 4), Measurement (Component 5), Uncertainty (Component 6), and Patterns/Functions (Component 7). Each component retest consists of two modules (test sessions), given on two successive days, as indicated on the enclosed schedule. The selection process described below refers to the *Worksheets for Component Retesting in Mathematics A* (DET 212) that accompanies this memorandum.

### Steps in the Selection Process for Components in Mathematics A

1. Assemble the junior or senior's answer papers for the two Mathematics A examinations or for the Mathematics A and Integrated Algebra examination the student took most recently (or other documents that show the credits earned for each question on the Mathematics A examinations and final scale score for the Integrated Algebra examination).<sup>2</sup>
2. On the *Worksheets for Component Retesting in Mathematics A* (DET 212), complete Junior/Senior Worksheet 1 by filling in the relevant information on **Table A—Regents Examination in Mathematics A Map to Learning Standards/Criterion Scores for Components** for students who took the Regents Examination in Mathematics A at least twice. For students who took the Regents Examination in Mathematics A only once and the Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra at least once, fill out the worksheet in its entirety for Mathematics A and complete the heading only for Integrated Algebra. Compare the sum of the credits earned by the student on each component to the criterion score provided in Table A for that component. Place a check mark in the Weak Component(s) row of Table A for each component for which the eligible junior or senior's score is lower than the criterion score.
3. Copy the pertinent information from Junior/Senior Worksheet 1 to the applicable Junior/Senior Worksheet 2 located on page 8 or page 9. For students who have taken the Regents Examination in Mathematics A at least twice, use Junior/Senior Worksheet 2: **Table B-1—Mathematics A Data Table** on page 8 and refer to **Table D—Weakness Pattern/Determining Component(s) for Retesting** on pages 11–14 to determine the component(s) to retest. Enter that information on **Table B-1**. For students who have taken the Regents Examination in Mathematics A only once and the Regents Examination in Integrated Algebra at least once, use Junior/Senior Worksheet 2: **Table B-2—Mathematics A/Integrated Algebra Data Table** on page 9 and refer to **Table E—Weakness Pattern/Determining Component(s) for Retesting** on page 15 to determine the component(s) to retest. Enter that information on **Table B-2**.

### RECORDKEEPING

You must keep a copy of the completed worksheets for each eligible junior or senior who participates in component retesting on file in your school for at least one year beyond the date of the component retesting. At the conclusion of the May 2009 Component Retesting, selected schools will be required to submit the completed worksheets for each participating student to the Department's contractor, Measurement Incorporated, for Department Review.

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<sup>2</sup> If you have no data other than the junior or senior's scaled score, use **Table C—Determining Weaker Component(s) When Complete Examination Data Are Unavailable** to help you decide which component is weaker. This table appears on page 10 of the enclosed *Worksheets for Component Retesting in Mathematics A* (DET 212).