

Updated Information on the 2013 Grades 3–8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Scoring

Q. What should be recorded on the student's answer sheet when scoring a response to an open-ended question that is blank?

A. When scorers are rating student responses to the open-ended questions on the Grades 3–8 ELA and Math Tests, they are to darken the circle with the A inside of it, in the column headed "No Response," when the student's response is blank.

Math Tools

Q. For the Math Tests, may students use rulers that include "½" printed on them at the ½" lines?

A. The specifications for rulers are provided on page A-2 of the [2013 School Administrator's Manual](#) and are the same specifications as in previous year editions of this manual. These specifications do NOT prohibit the inclusion of rulers that have "½" printed on them at the ½" lines. Therefore, for the Math Tests schools may have students use rulers that include "½" printed on them if the rulers used by students for classroom instruction or that were procured for use with the tests feature such printing.

Same Questions Appearing in Adjacent Grade-Level Tests

Q. Why do some ELA passages appear on ELA Tests in adjacent grades?

A. This is intentional. Typical testing processes include some questions that are tested in adjacent grades for vertical linking purposes. Only grade-level questions are counted in a student's score. Inclusion of the same test questions in adjacent grade-level tests will occur for both the ELA and Math Tests.