



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

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David Abrams, Assistant Commissioner  
Office for Standards, Assessment and Reporting

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**TO:** District Superintendents  
School Superintendents  
Principals of Public and Nonpublic High Schools  
Principals of Charter Schools  
English Department Chairs and Coordinators  
High School English Teachers

**FROM:** David Abrams

**SUBJECT:** Specifications for the New Three-Hour, One-Day Regents Comprehensive Examination in English: First Administration—January 2011

The first administration of the new three-hour, one-day Regents Comprehensive Examination in English will take place in January 2011. This examination will replace the current two-session examination that will continue to be administered during each Regents examination period prior to January 2011.

At their February 2009 meeting, the Board of Regents directed the Department to develop a new three-hour, one-day test format for the examination. The new examination will:

- assess the high-school level of the 2005 New York State English Language Arts Core Curriculum, and
- be based on the current English Language Arts Core Performance Indicators, Standards 1-3 and the key ideas of listening, reading, and writing.

By late May 2010, the Office of State Assessment will provide schools with the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English Test Sampler. This Test Sampler will provide examples of the types of passages, questions, the formatting, and the scoring guides that are being developed for the examination. It may be duplicated for classroom instruction and will be available at: <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/osa/hseng.html>.

As is the case with all State examinations, New York State teachers have made essential contributions to all aspects of the test development process for the new three-hour, one-day Regents Comprehensive Examination in English, including developing the test specifications.

Thank you for your help and for all the work you do on behalf of the students in New York State.

Attachment

**The University of the State of New York  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
Albany, New York 12234**

**Specifications for the Three-Hour Regents Comprehensive Examination in English  
(First Administration—January 2011)**

The questions on the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English will assess the high-school level of the 2005 New York State English Language Arts Core Curriculum. The examination will assess the core performance indicators, Standard 1, Standard 2, and Standard 3, and the key ideas of listening, reading, and writing. The examination will consist of four parts and will include 25 multiple-choice questions, two short constructed-response questions, and one essay.

**Question Types**

The Regents Comprehensive Examination in English will include the following parts and numbers and types of questions:

<b>Part</b>	<b>Number of Questions</b>	<b>Question Type</b>
<b>Part 1</b> Listening Passage	8	One-Credit Multiple Choice
<b>Part 2</b> One Literary Passage	6	One-Credit Multiple Choice
One Informational Passage	6	One-Credit Multiple Choice
<b>Part 3</b> Two Literary Passages linked by a common theme	5 2	One-Credit Multiple Choice  Two-Credit Short Constructed Response—one on the controlling idea and one on a literary element or technique from one of the passages
<b>Part 4</b> Critical Lens Quotation	1	Six-Credit Essay applying the quotation to literature read for school

## Alignment with Core Performance Indicators, Standards, and Key Ideas

The table below shows the percentage of total credits\* that will be aligned with each core performance indicator or standard, and key idea.

	Core Performance Indicators	Standard 1	Standard 2	Standard 3
Listening 14%	0 - 2%	2 - 5%	2 - 5%	4 - 7%
Reading 31%	4 - 9%	4 - 9%	4 - 9%	13 - 20%
Writing 55%	30 - 34%	6 - 10%	7 - 11%	3 - 7%

\*Note that the percentages of the questions that are aligned with each core performance indicator or standard for writing have been adjusted to account for the fact that the three writing tasks on the examination will be assigned a weighting of three.