

Content-Specific Scoring Clarifications for Mathematics Tests

1. All necessary signs of operation should be present for work to be considered mathematically complete and correct. If signs of operation in the work shown are missing but it is absolutely clear and apparent in the student's work which operation is being used, and if all other work required is correct, the student should receive full credit.
2. In questions that require students to provide bar graphs,
 - in Grades 3 and 4 only, touching bars are acceptable
 - in Grades 3 and 4 only, space between bars does **not** need to be uniform
 - in all grades, widths of the bars must be consistent
 - in all grades, bars must be aligned with their labels
 - in all grades, scales must begin at 0, but the 0 does **not** need to be written
3. If the question asks the student to provide an expression and the student provides an equation, this is an acceptable response in Grades 3 and 4 only.
4. In questions requiring number sentences, the number sentences must be written horizontally.
5. Column subtraction of more than two numbers, while not a preferred procedure, is acceptable, provided that the complete process is shown in the student's work.
6. Column multiplication of more than two numbers is acceptable beginning in Grade 5, provided that any computation that is not shown falls within the 12×12 multiplication table.
7. In pictographs, the student is permitted to use a symbol other than the one in the key, provided that the symbol is used consistently in the pictograph; the student does not need to change the symbol in the key. The student may **not**, however, use multiple symbols within the chart, nor may the student change the value of the symbol in the key.
8. In estimation items, the estimation must be performed at the beginning of the process; performing exact calculations and then rounding the result of the calculation is **not** acceptable.
9. The trial-and-error policy applies to Grades 7 and 8 only (and is particularly relevant to algebraic items which require a graphical procedure or in which a variable is to be found). In order for a response to receive full credit, evidence of three trials must be present. A correct answer accompanied by an incomplete trial-and-error procedure can receive only partial credit.

For additional clarification, more information can be found on the Department's web site at <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/mst/instructrec.doc>.