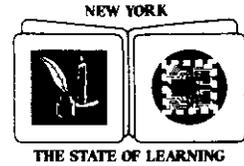


# **Mathematics A Regents Examination**



**Test Sampler Draft**

**Spring 1998**



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY N.Y. 12234

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT

May 1998

Dear Colleagues:

Two years ago a consortium of school districts, together with the state Education Department and consultants from the Educational Testing Service began the development of revised high school mathematics Regents examinations. These tests will measure student progress toward achieving the state's learning standards in mathematics. New York teachers, administrators, parents and members of the community have assisted in the development process in a variety of ways. Committees have developed and reviewed the test items; teachers and students have piloted questions for this Test Sampler Draft and will be involved in the field testing this year.

This Test Sampler Draft is being provided to each middle school and high school. The Test Sampler Draft provides examples of the types of questions, the formatting, and the scoring guides that we are developing for the actual test that will be first administered in June 1999. Additional refinement of the tests will occur as a result of the field tests that are being conducted this month. The draft may be duplicated for use in your classroom.

We are interested in receiving your feedback on these preliminary materials. A Comment Sheet is included on the inside back cover of the Test Sampler Draft so that you may forward your responses to us. The Comment Sheet may be faxed to (518) 486-1385 or mailed to the address listed below:

New York State Education Department  
Office of Curriculum and Instruction  
Room 671 EBA  
Albany, New York 12234

Sincerely,

Edward T. Lalor



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## Introduction

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The New York State Board of Regents has set higher learning standards for all students. The New York State Regents examination in mathematics will provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their achievement of the mathematics standards.

This Test Sampler Draft for Mathematics A Regents provides examples of the format and types of questions that are now being field tested in preparation for the first administration of the actual test in June 1999. Over the past two years, individuals in a consortium of school districts, State Education Department staff, and consultants from the Educational Testing Service have piloted questions for the new tests. Committees of teachers and school administrators have reviewed the content of proposed test questions. A panel of mathematics experts at the high school and collegiate level along with representatives from business and the community reviewed the draft materials. You will be able to provide feedback through a comment sheet in the back of the booklet. All of this work has one goal: to ensure that the test will be an appropriate measure of student achievement of the learning standards in mathematics. Any further revisions will be based on all the information received.

The Mathematics A Regents Examination will eventually be the test that all students must pass in order to graduate. The test requires students to demonstrate their ability to apply facts and definitions, solve problems, and show their understanding of mathematical procedures and problem-solving strategies.

The mathematical content of the Mathematics A Regents Examination comes from a subset of the Commencement Level Performance Indicators from the State's mathematics learning standards. The items on this Test Sampler Draft are only a sample. Teachers should review the mathematics Core Curriculum Outline for further detail of what might be asked on future examinations.

Some general information on the Mathematics A Regents:

- The test does not include choice.
- Students must answer all the questions listed.
- Formulas will not be provided on the test.
- Students should have access to a straightedge (ruler) and a compass.
- Scientific calculators must be available to all students.
- Graphing calculators will not be permitted during the first year of testing (June 1999, August 1999, and January 2000).

While many schools will continue to offer the Course I, II and III Regents Examinations until they are phased out in January of 2002, many other schools will choose to offer the Mathematics A Regents as early as June 1999.