



2008 California Modified Assessment (CMA) Fall Field Tests Frequently Asked Questions

Questions About the Students

What are the criteria for students to be eligible to take these field tests?

Students in grades five, seven, eight, and nine may participate in the CMA fall field test if they:

- Have an Individual Education Program (IEP);
- Scored *below basic* or *far below basic* in any subject in the spring 2008 CSTs and may have taken the CST with modifications; and
- Are not eligible to take the California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA).

Students should *not* take the CMA field tests if they:

- Do not have an IEP; or
- Are eligible to take the CAPA.

Students in grade five who took the operational CMA for grade four ELA in the previous STAR administration may take the grade five writing field test.

Questions About Test Dates

When should I administer the CMA fall field tests?

The CMA fall field tests must be administered during the week of September 15–19, 2008.

Is there a “makeup” date I should use to administer the test to those students who were absent?

Since this is a field test, there will be **no** makeup dates. Makeup tests should be administered within the test window of September 15–19, 2008.

Questions About CMA Field Test Questions

What will be tested by the CMA fall field tests?

The CMA measures student achievement of California content standards in English–language arts (ELA), mathematics, and science. Students in grade five will take an ELA writing test and a short ELA multiple-choice test only. Students in grade eight who take the full-length ELA multiple-choice test will also take an ELA writing test.

You may administer the tests in a single day with a break between parts or subjects, or you may administer the separate parts of the test on separate days. The content areas may be administered in any order, as long as parts are administered sequentially. However, when you administer an ELA writing test to students in grades five or eight the writing section must *always* be given before the multiple choice section.

How long will testing take?

Field test times are estimated as follows:

Grade 5	ELA writing/ELA multiple choice	110 minutes
Grade 8	ELA writing/ELA multiple choice	205 minutes
Grades 7, 9	ELA multiple choice	135 minutes



Grades 7, 8	Mathematics multiple choice	135 minutes
Grade 9	Science multiple choice	135 minutes

These times include 10 minutes to distribute materials, give directions, and collect materials.

The ELA writing test for grade five is administered in two sections, a writing prompt and a short ELA multiple-choice test. The writing test for grade five must be given before the multiple-choice test.

The total ELA test for grade eight is administered in four sections—one part writing and three parts multiple choice. The writing section must be given before the multiple choice sections.

Multiple-choice tests for ELA and mathematics for grades seven, eight, and nine, and the multiple-choice test for science in grade nine, are administered in three parts. However, remember that the CMA is an untimed test, so students should be given as much time as needed to finish each part. In addition, the student's IEP may also provide guidance in how each test is administered for that student.

How many questions are on each field test?

The grade five multiple-choice ELA test that accompanies the writing prompt consists of 18 questions. Content area field tests—ELA, mathematics, and science (grade nine only)—in grades seven, eight, and nine contain a total of 63 items each; the grade eight ELA field test also includes a writing prompt. Multiple-choice tests for grades seven, eight, and nine are administered in three parts per content area.

Why are there ELA multiple-choice questions with the grade five ELA writing field test?

Students who take the grade five ELA writing field test will also take a short (18-item) ELA multiple-choice test to increase the validity of the writing response.

Questions About Administering CMA Field Tests

Should a student who scored far below basic on the CST for Grade 7 ELA in 2008 take only the CMA for Grade 8 ELA field test?

An eligible student should take the field test in **all** content areas so long as the student meets the field test eligibility criteria described on page 1. A student who scored below basic or far below basic *in any one content area* of the 2008 CSTs and is taking the CMA field test should take all the tests at his or her grade level.

How should the grade five ELA writing field test be administered?

Test sites will administer the grade five ELA writing field test in two parts. Part 1 will consist of the writing prompt. Part 2 will consist of multiple-choice questions. Students must respond to the writing prompt first, take a break, then answer the 18 multiple-choice questions.

Booklets 1 and 2 may be administered on the same day or on two different days within the specified testing window.

How should the grade eight ELA writing field test be administered?

Test sites must administer the writing prompt of the grade eight ELA field test first, before administering the multiple-choice questions. It is recommended that the writing prompt and the multiple-choice questions be administered on different days. The writing prompt should be administered within one day during the specified testing window. The multiple-choice questions can be administered over more than one day during the specified testing window.



When taking the multiple-choice test, students should have breaks between each part of the test.

Questions About Materials

How will the materials be packaged?

Shipments of test booklets, response booklets, and answer documents will be sent to districts in separate shrinkwrapped packages of fives. There will be one *Directions for Administration (DFAs)* for the grade included with every package of test booklets. The *CMA District and Test Site Coordinator Manual* will be packaged separately and will be shipped to the district for distribution to test sites.

Will you forward *CMA District and Test Site Coordinator Manuals* or *DFAs* before materials arrive so we can review the requirements of the field test?

Coordinator Manuals and *DFAs* will be included in the shipment of materials. PDF versions of the *Coordinator Manual* and the *DFAs* will be made available to districts on request and will be posted to www.startest.org.

When will the field test materials arrive in the district?

CMA field test materials will be delivered to districts before or during the week of September 1, 2008.

Where will materials be shipped?

Materials will be shipped to the primary shipping address that was current in the 2008 STAR Management System Web site as of August 15, 2008. You can view and edit this address by logging in to the STAR Management System and clicking “Profile” on the left navigation bar.

How can I order more test materials?

The test site will receive an overage of approximately 10% of test booklets, response booklets, and answer documents. The district will not receive an overage. If a test site in your district requires additional test booklets or any other materials, please contact the STAR Technical Assistance Center at 800-955-2954.

When should the district return materials?

The test site should return materials to the district the day after testing is completed. Districts will have two working days to package and ship materials for scoring. Please return materials by September 29, 2008.

Questions About Test Documents

Is demographic data required for the field test?

Yes, some student demographic information will be tracked for the field test. Fields that will require marking include, but are not limited to: Primary Ethnicity, Gender, and Primary Disability.

Will the documents be Pre ID'd or will I need to hand-mark student demographic information?

Pre-ID labels will be produced based on the roster of students identified by ETS from 2008 STAR test results. Documents will not be printed with student names, but the labels can be used to avoid hand-marking information; however, only minimal demographic information will be required.



If you administer a field test to a student listed on the roster, the Pre-ID labels may be affixed to the student's response booklet or answer document and no hand-marking would be required.

Questions About the CMA and the CMA Field Tests

Should we forward students' CMA field test materials to them at their current school?

Since the field test roster is based on 2008 CST administration, some students may be at another school in the district. If this is the case, please forward the materials to the student's new school—because results will not be reported to schools or districts, the school and district information in the Pre-ID label will not be used after tests have been scored.

If the student has left the district, destroy the label; unused test materials may be given to another eligible student.

What accommodations and modifications will be available to students during the field test?

The CMA was developed to provide to eligible students additional access to an assessment based on the California content standards. Any further modification of the CMA tests is not permitted. For example, the CMA test questions are presented in a larger font size than the CST test questions. In addition, most of the accommodations available during the administration of the California Standards Tests will also be available for the CMA field test. Audio and braille versions of the tests will not be available during the field test. Please review the Matrix for the California Modified Assessment Test Variations and Accommodations for the 2008 Administration, linked on the California Department of Education's CMA Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/cmastar.asp> (link name: "Appropriate test variations and accommodations for the 2008 administration of the California Modified Assessment (CMA) based on the study of item format and delivery mode from the CMA"), for further information.

When will the CMA be fully operational?

The CMA is anticipated to be fully operational in 2010. The plan for implementing the CMA follows:

2008

CMA operational tests—administered to students in grades 3–5 in ELA, Mathematics, and Science (grade 5 only)

CMA writing field tests—administered to students in grades 5 and 8

CMA multiple-choice field tests—administered to students in grades 7–9

2009

CMA operational tests—administered to students in grades 3–8 in ELA (including 4 and 7 writing), grades 3–7 in Mathematics, and grades 5 and 8 in Science

CMA field tests—tests for grades 9–11 administered as field tests to students in grades 10–12

2010

CMA operational tests—administered to students in grades 3–11 in ELA, grades 3–7 in Mathematics, Algebra, and to students in grades 5, 8, and 10 in Science.