

Examples of Tests a Student May Take in Maryland

Assessment	Grade	Subjects	Purpose	Timing	Format	Administered By	How It Is Scored	How Results Are Used
High School Assessment (HSA)	9 th -12 th	Algebra/Data Analysis, English, Biology, Government	The Maryland High School Assessments (HSA) are tests that measure school and individual student progress toward Maryland's High School Core Learning Goals in English, Algebra/Data Analysis, Government and Biology. Passing the HSA is a graduation requirement.	April through May Students take each test whenever they complete the course. For example, some may take the algebra test in 7 th grade, others in 10 th .	Paper and computer-based Includes multiple-choice questions and questions requiring written responses	Maryland State Department of Education	Scores are reported numerically. There are two options for passing the HSA: 1. Students may achieve a combined score of 1602 on the English, Algebra/Data Analysis, Biology, and Government HSAs; or 2. Students may achieve a combined score of 1208 on the English, Algebra/Data Analysis, and Biology HSAs.	For a student who entered the 9 th grade in or after the 2005-06 school year to graduate from high school with a Maryland High School Diploma, he/she must meet the testing requirement as well as meet the State course requirements, service learning requirements, and local graduation requirements.
Modified HSA (MOD-HSA)	9 th -12 th	Algebra/Data Analysis, English, Biology, Government	The MOD-HSA is an alternative test for a student with disabilities who meets specific participation criteria based on an Individualized Education Program (IEP).	October through January	As outlined above	Maryland State Department of Education	As outlined above	As outlined above
Maryland School Assessment (MSA)	3 rd -8 th	Math, Reading, and Science Reading and math tests are taken in grades 3-8; the science test is taken in grades 5 and 8 only.	Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), every state must measure reading, math, and science achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Maryland fulfills this requirement with the MSA in elementary and middle school and with the High School Assessments in high school.	The reading and math tests are usually given in March. The science test is given in April or early May.	Paper and pencil Includes multiple-choice, short-answer and long-answer questions	Maryland State Department of Education	Scores are reported as basic, proficient, and advanced. Basic indicates a student is not passing standards and more work is needed to meet grade-level expectations. Proficient indicates a student is passing standards. Advanced indicates a student is performing above standards.	The MSA measures how well children are learning so parents and educators can be sure every child has the opportunity to succeed. Along with other measures (such as homework, classwork, quizzes, and other tests), the MSA provides information about students' academic progress—information that can help teachers and parents support students' schoolwork.

Maryland State Assessments Report Card: <http://www.msp.msde.state.md.us/Assessments.aspx?K=99AAAA>

Testing Calendar: http://marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/D880A550-54C3-4621-AE7E-1AC0ABC022C/32952/MSDE_TestingCalendar20122013_20142015_r080112_pdf.pdf

Other Information: <http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/testing/>

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National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)	4 th , 8 th & 12 th	Arts, Civics, Economics, Geography, Language, Reading, U.S. History, Science, Writing, Math, Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL)	<p>NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement nationally. The results of NAEP are released as The Nation's Report Card and are used by teachers, principals, parents, policymakers, and researchers to assess students' progress and develop ways to improve education in the country.</p> <p>Because NAEP assessments are administered uniformly using the same sets of test booklets across the nation, NAEP results serve as a common measure for all states and selected urban districts.</p>	Last week of January through first week of March	<p>Paper and pencil and computer-based</p> <p>Includes multiple-choice, short-answer, and long-answer questions, as well as problem-solving tasks based on interactive scenarios</p>	National Center for Education Statistics	NAEP results are presented in two ways: as average scores on the NAEP scale and as the percentages of students attaining NAEP achievement levels. The average scale scores represent how students performed on the assessment. The achievement levels represent how that performance measures up against set expectations for achievement. Thus, the average scale scores represent what students know and can do, while the achievement-level results indicate the degree to which student performance meets expectations of what they should know and be able to do.	NAEP provides results on subject-matter achievement, instructional experiences, and school environment for populations of students (e.g., all fourth-graders) and groups within those populations (e.g., female students, Hispanic students). NAEP does not provide scores for individual students or schools, although state NAEP can report results by selected large urban districts.
Advanced Placement Test (AP)	9 th -12 th	Arts, English, History, Language, Science, Math	Each AP Exam has a corresponding AP course and provides a standardized measure of what students have learned in the AP classroom.	May	Paper and pencil	The College Board	Students receive a score between one and five.	Students can earn college credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores. Scores go directly to individuals.
SAT	11 th	Writing, Reading, and Math	A standardized assessment of the critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing skills students have developed over time and that they need to be successful in college.	October through June	Paper and pencil	The College Board	Students receive a score up to 2400.	Scores are sent to students, who are then able to send their scores to colleges and universities with admissions applications.