



Department of Education

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

ASSESSMENT MEMORANDUM #11, 2007-2008

DATE: April 23, 2008

TO: PRINCIPALS OF ALL SCHOOLS

FROM: Joan Flig, Deputy Executive Director 
Content Assessment and Support & Summative Assessments
Office of Accountability (OA)

SUBJECT: 2008 Citywide and Statewide Testing for Grade 8 Acceleration Classes

OVERVIEW

Students in Grade 8 acceleration classes must pass the coursework and the examination at the end of the instructional sequence in order to receive high school credit. Students in these classes must meet the criteria for acceleration as outlined in Chancellor's Memorandum No. 47, 1989-1990, dated June 1, 1990 (1990-1991 Guidelines for Grade 8 Acceleration). Depending on the subject, the tests may be Regents examinations, New York State Second Language Proficiency Examinations, or New York City tests prepared for Talent Art and Global Studies. Special Education students participating in Grade 8 acceleration classes are to be tested as well.

TESTS TO BE GIVEN:

Second Language Proficiency Examinations (Oral & Written)

Citywide Acceleration Test in Talent Art

Citywide Acceleration Test in Talent Music

Citywide Global Studies Acceleration Test

Mathematics "A" Regents

Earth Science Regents Examination

Living Environment Regents Examination

DATE	TEST	GRADE	TESTING TIME	PREPARATION TIME	FORMAT
May through June	Second Language Proficiency Exam (oral)	8	Approx. 15 minutes	5-10 minutes	Individual Performance Based (oral)
May 19	Acc. Test in Talent Art	8	3 hours	5-10 minutes	Multiple Choice, Essay & Practicum
May 20	Acc. Test in Talent Music	8	Approx. 15 minutes	5-10 minutes	Individual Performance
May 21	Global Studies Acc. Test	8	3 hours	5-10 minutes	Multiple Choice & Essay
June 19	Mathematics "A" Regents	8	3 hours	5-10 minutes	Multiple Choice, Short & Extended Responses
June 20	Earth Science Regents	8	3 hours	5-10 minutes	Multiple Choice & Open-Ended Responses
June 23	Second Language Proficiency Examination (written)	8	Untimed (Approx. 2 hours)	5-10 minutes	Multiple Choice & Essay
June 24	Living Env. Regents	8	3 hours	5-10 minutes	Multiple Choice & Open-Ended Responses

ALL TEST BOOKLETS MUST BE PLACED IN A SECURE, LOCKED FACILITY BEFORE THE EXAM IS ADMINISTERED.

PROCEDURES

Using the forms at the end of this memorandum (Attachments #1A & 1B), list the students registered in accelerated classes in either Talent Music and/or Talent Art. The appropriate completed forms will be used to supply the schools with the test materials. Schools should keep a duplicate of these forms for reporting New York City student test scores after the tests are administered and graded. ***All schools must complete and submit the order form, whether tests have been ordered or not.***

Schools are reminded that it is the school's responsibility to order Regents and State Proficiency examinations directly from the State Education Department (SED).

Please refer to Assessment Memorandum #1, dated August 27, 2007, for authorized test modifications for Special Education, Resource Room students, students who have been decertified, and non-disabled students.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <u>May through June</u> | ADMINISTER individual formal and informal oral testing (Part One: Speaking Tasks) for the New York State Second Language Proficiency Examinations. |
| <u>By May 2</u> | One copy of both Grade 8 Acceleration Registration/Citywide Test Order Form (Attachments #1A & 1B) for each of the two designated subject areas is to be RETURNED to the Assessment Implementation Director (AID). |
| <u>By May 6</u> | The AID should review the Individual School Forms. Complete and sign the District Summary Forms (Attachment #1C) and fax to Stanley Winograd, (718) 349-5642. The AIDs must keep the Individual School Forms for one year. |
| <u>May 16</u> | Secure test materials for the Citywide Acceleration Test in Talent Art packaged by school will be DELIVERED to schools. <u>Do not open sealed envelopes.</u> Secure all materials in a locked facility. |
| <u>May 19</u> | ADMINISTER Citywide Acceleration Test in Talent Art. 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (Tests arrive 1 day prior to administration). |
| <u>May 20</u> | ADMINISTER Citywide Acceleration Test in Talent Music. Tests arrive 1 day prior to administration and must be administered individually.

Secure test materials for the Citywide Global Studies Acceleration Test packaged by school will be DELIVERED to schools. <u>Do not open sealed envelopes.</u> Secure all materials in a locked facility. |
| <u>May 21</u> | ADMINISTER Citywide Global Studies Acceleration Test. 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (Tests arrive 1 day prior to administration.) |
| <u>May 23</u>
<u>By 12:00 noon</u> | Citywide Acceleration Test materials are to be packaged, labeled and RETURNED to the AID. |
| <u>May 23</u>
<u>By 2:00 PM</u> | The Office of Accountability PICKS-UP secure Citywide Acceleration Tests and completed answer documents from the AID. |

- May 23
By 2:00 PM **RETURN** copies of the SED Test Report Forms to the AID.
- May 23
By 2:00 PM Copies of completed Grade 8 Accelerated Registration/Citywide Test Order Forms WITH FINAL SCORES ENTERED are to be **DELIVERED** to the AID.
- June 19 **ADMINISTER** Mathematics A Regents.
1:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Tests arrive 1 day prior to administration.)
- June 20 **ADMINISTER** Earth Science Regents.
1:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. (Tests arrive 1 day prior to administration.)
- June 23 **ADMINISTER** Second Language Proficiency Examinations.
9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. (Tests arrive 1 day prior to administration.)
- June 24 **ADMINISTER** Living Environment Regents.
9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. (Tests arrive 1 day prior to administration.)
- June 26 All Acceleration exam scores are to be entered into the ATS system. (See page 4, for options.)

TEST INSTRUMENTS

Talent Art consists of five parts. It is administered to students who complete a year-long course of study based on the New York City Curriculum, Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts, and The New York State Standards for the Arts.

Part I – Multiple Choice (20 points)

Forty questions using visual analysis and literacy applied to major landmarks of art, the elements and principles of design, and the use of techniques and media. Most questions use visuals.

Part II – Essay (15 points)

An essay of approximately 250 words responding to a premise based on given art works. Students should demonstrate critical thinking skills and knowledge of art vocabulary while effectively using the conventions of English language arts.

Part III – Drawing Applications (20 points)

Completion of two or more drawing exercises using pencil.

Part IV- Drawing From Direct Observation (20 Points)

Drawing from direct observation in a black and white medium. Students should demonstrate skills in composition and modeling form.

Part V – Color Design Application (25 points)

A painting or design using a color medium or combination of color media. Students should demonstrate creativity and competency in solving a visual problem.

Talent Music will be administered in two parts:

Part 1 - Sight reading at Level 3, New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) ranking.

Part 2 - Solo performance at Level 3, NYSSMA ranking.

The Examination:

- o Each pupil will be asked to perform one prepared selection and one sight-reading selection at the same level of difficulty.
- Both the prepared and sight-reading selections must be chosen from the NYSSMA manual, Level 3.
- o Pupils will perform their selections before a panel of two music teachers (one of whom should be from another school). The two teachers will average their ratings to reach a final score on this test.
 - o Pupil performances must be tape recorded on blank tapes provided by schools. As many as four students may be recorded on one tape.

EXTENT OF THE TESTING PROGRAM

Students in acceleration classes who have met both the general criteria and specific subject criteria as outlined in the Chancellor's Memorandum No. 47, 1989-1990, dated June 1, 1990 (1990 -1991 Guidelines for Grade 8 Acceleration) are eligible for participation in this testing program. For acceleration in foreign languages, all students selected for Grade 8 Acceleration in a second language should be given the appropriate Second Language Proficiency Examination.

GRADING AND REPORTING OF INFORMATION AND TEST SCORES ON GRADE 8 ACCELERATION REGISTRATION/CITYWIDE TEST ORDER FORM

Schools will arrange to grade these examinations. Scores are to be entered on the duplicate copies of the forms. The passing grade for all examinations is 65%. Only students who receive a grade of 65 or above and pass the course, will receive high school credit. For the examinations listed below, enter the information requested in the columns marked A through D on the registration and order form.

Talent Music: (Attachment #1A)

- Column A - "INST" if pupil is a candidate for testing in instrumental music or "VOC" if student is a candidate for testing in vocal music
- Column B - Name of the instrument or the voice classification
- Column C - Total Test Score
- Column D - Course Grade-Pass/Fail - use "P" or "F"

Talent Art: (Attachment #1B)

- Column A - Total Test Score
- Column B - Course Grade-Pass/Fail - use "P" or "F"

PLEASE NOTE: Determination about the scale score needed to obtain English credit for students who completed 8th grade Accelerated English will be provided after the results of the State ELA test are released.

REVIEW OF TEST PAPERS

Short answer, essay, and performance papers for Talent Art and Music examinations will be reviewed by a committee of content area specialists. Therefore, for these subjects, student test papers must be submitted with the

completed registration forms. For Talent Music, papers and tapes should not be submitted until specifically requested. In some cases, scores may be reversed. Any changes in scores will be reported to the schools within five (5) working days upon the receipt of the test papers. Second Language Proficiency Examinations and Regents are subject to review by the SED.

REPORTING GRADE 8 ACCELERATION SCORES ON ATS

All 8th grade accelerated test scores, including Regents examinations, New York State Second Language Proficiency exams, and New York City tests, must be submitted through the ATS system. Schools must submit information electronically by **June 26, 2008**. Score reversals resulting from the review process will be reported to the schools and to ATS.

To receive high school credit, students **must pass both the course and the examination**. Schools are required, therefore, to submit both the **final grade** and the **exam score**. If there is a "blank" for either, ATS will not be able to transmit the records to the high school for credit.

NOTE: Entry of **all** accelerated course and exam scores on this computerized roster is **in addition to** the completion of the hand-written test order form which is used for citywide accelerated exam scores only.

August Administration of Regents Examinations

Integrated Service Centers (ISCs) will provide for August administration of Regents examinations. In second language, it is anticipated that students who fail or are absent in June may satisfactorily complete 8th grade acceleration by passing the foreign language term-two course in summer high school and by passing the summer school uniform final examination.

ISCs must assume responsibility for informing students of the opportunity for retesting and the location of the summer test sites. **Schools will use a Transmittal Form, Summer 2008 Acceleration Testing for accelerated students to register for summer high school retesting**. This transmittal form is sent to the middle schools and K-8 elementary schools in the spring as an attachment to a Chancellor's Memorandum on summer high school programs for incoming students.

STORAGE AND SECURITY OF EXAMINATIONS

The 8th grade acceleration tests should be locked in a secure location in the same way that Regents examinations are stored. All copies of these examinations, including extras, must be secured after the test is administered for return to the AID. **Tests may not be duplicated or used for instructional purposes.**

All used and unused acceleration test materials and answer documents are to be packaged, labeled, and returned to the AID no later than May 23, 2008.

For additional information, please contact your AID.

This memorandum is also available at:
http://schools.nyc.gov/daa/testmemos_0708/default.asp.

JF: am
Attachments

c: Marcia Lyles
James Liebman

Arthur VanderVeen
Assessment Implementation Directors

GRADE 8 - 2008 CITYWIDE REGISTRATION AND ORDER FORM – TALENT MUSIC

BOROUGH # _____ DISTRICT # _____ SCHOOL # _____ CLASS # _____

TEST SCORES

STUDENT'S NAME (Last, First)	Instrument or Vocal	Name of Instrument or Voice Clarification	Total Test Scores	Course Grade (P or F)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				
21.				
22.				
23.				
24.				
25.				
26.				
27.				
28.				
29.				
30.				
31.				
32.				
33.				

Total School Quantity of Talent Music Exams Requested _____ (Total must match number of students listed)

_____ Check here if your school will **NOT** administer the 2008 Grade 8 Talent Music Examination.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT NO LATER THAN MAY 2, 2008 TO THE ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTION DIRECTOR.

Person completing this form _____

Telephone # _____ E-Mail address _____

Approved _____
Principal

DUPLICATE AND RETAIN THIS FORM AS IT WILL BE USED TO REPORT STUDENT TEST SCORES.

GRADE 8 - 2008 CITYWIDE REGISTRATION AND ORDER FORM – TALENT ART

BOROUGH # _____ DISTRICT # _____ SCHOOL # _____ CLASS # _____

STUDENT'S NAME (Last, First)	Total Test Score	Course Grade (P or F)
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		
13.		
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		
21.		
22.		
23.		
24.		
25.		
26.		
27.		
28.		
29.		
30.		
31.		
32.		
33.		

Total School Quantity of Talent Art Exams Requested _____ (Total must match number of students listed)

_____ Check here if your school will **NOT** administer the 2008 Grade 8 Talent Art Examination.

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT NO LATER THAN MAY 2, 2008 TO THE ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTOR.

Person completing this form _____

Telephone # _____ E-Mail address _____

Approved _____
Principal

DUPLICATE AND RETAIN THIS FORM AS IT WILL BE USED TO REPORT STUDENT TEST SCORES.

