



BUREAU CHIEF  
Office of State Assessment

January 2016

**TO:** Principals of Secondary Schools  
**FROM:** Nancy A. Viall *Nancy A. Viall*  
**SUBJECT:** January 2016 Regents Examinations and Regents Competency Tests

This memorandum provides helpful information concerning the format, content, and credit allotment of the Regents Examinations and the Regents Competency Tests (RCTs) to be administered in January 2016. Please make the information for each subject area available immediately to the teachers who will be administering these examinations.

The *School Administrator's Manual* contains the general procedures to follow in administering these examinations. This manual is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/sam/secondary/>. Information concerning administering examinations to students with disabilities or to English Language Learners is also provided in this manual.

Also available online are seven Information Booklets pertaining to the scoring of the Regents Examinations administered in January, including three separate booklets specific to the new Common Core Regents Examinations. These booklets address the scoring of Regents Examinations in the following subject areas: English Language Arts (Common Core); Comprehensive English; Algebra I (Common Core); Geometry (Common Core); Geometry (2005 Standard), Algebra 2/Trigonometry (2005 Standard); the Sciences; and Global History and Geography, and United States History and Government. School administrators should print and photocopy these booklets and distribute copies to school personnel who will be involved in the scoring of these examinations.

A separate booklet, *Directions for Administering Regents Examinations, January 2016 Administration*, contains specific instructions for administering each Regents Examination. Each Regents Competency Test also has separate detailed directions for its administration and scoring. All directions are available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/>. Schools should print and distribute these directions to teachers and administrators. All persons involved in administering the January 2016 examinations must read these specific directions prior to the examination.

**Schools are not permitted to rescore any of the open-ended questions (including essays) on any State examination after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guide, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.**

**NOTE:** Teachers are **not** permitted to score their own students' answer papers.

**IMPORTANT:** When student papers for any State examination are scored in cooperation with other schools, answer papers may be transported to the collaborative scoring site. It remains the principal's responsibility to ensure the security of such papers while they are out of the building.

## Student Use of Communications Devices

All students are prohibited from bringing cell phones and certain other electronic devices, as defined in the script below, into a classroom or other location where a State examination is being administered. Test proctors, test monitors, and school officials shall retain the right to collect and hold any prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test administration. Admission to the test shall be denied to any student who is in possession of a cell phone or other prohibited electronic device and refuses to relinquish it.

**At the beginning of each test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking secondary-level State examinations:**

You cannot have any communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this exam or during any breaks (such as a restroom visit). Such devices include, but are not limited to:

- Cell phones
- Blackberry devices and other PDAs
- iPods and MP3 players
- iPads, tablets, and other eReaders
- Laptops, notebooks, or any other personal computing devices
- Cameras or other photographic equipment
- Headphones, headsets, or in-ear headphones such as earbuds, and
- Any other device capable of recording audio, photographic or video content, or capable of viewing or playing back such content

If you brought any of these items to the building today, and have not already stored it in your locker or turned it over to me, a test monitor or school official, you must give it to me now. You may not keep your cell phone or any of these items with you, or near you, including in your pockets, backpack, desk, etc. If you keep a cell phone or any of these items with you, your exam will be invalidated and you will get no score. Is there anyone who needs to give me any of these items now?

*[Proctor: repeat the list of devices.]*

This is your last opportunity to do so before the test begins.

*For Principals and Proctors:*

- a. Any student observed with any prohibited device while taking a State examination must be directed to turn it over to the proctor or monitor immediately. To allow for all possible outcomes of procedural due process, the student should be allowed to complete the examination. The incident must be reported promptly to the school principal. If the principal determines that the student had a prohibited device in his or her possession during the test administration, the student's test **must** be invalidated. No score may be calculated for that student.
- b. The incident must be promptly reported, in writing, to the Office of State Assessment (OSA) by fax to 518-474-1989 or by e-mail to [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov), as is the case for all student-related testing irregularities, misadministrations, or other violations of State testing policy and procedures.

**NOTE:** Some students with disabilities may use certain recording/playback devices **ONLY IF** this accommodation is specifically required as a provision of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Accommodation Plan (504 Plan). In addition, a student may be allowed to retain an otherwise prohibited device in his or her possession if there is documentation on file at the school from a medical practitioner that the student requires such a device during testing. Without such documentation, the general policy on communications devices as provided above is in effect, and the school may no longer allow the student to retain any such equipment while testing.

## ENGLISH

### **Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core)**

The January 2016 Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core) is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. The examination consists of three parts. Part 1 consists of three texts and 24 multiple-choice questions. Part 2 consists of four informational texts, which may include graphically-presented information. Students will write a 6-credit source-based argument essay. Part 3 consists of one text. Students will write a 4-credit, two-to-three paragraph expository response that identifies a central idea in the text and analyzes how the author's use of one writing strategy develops this central idea.

Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students must record their answers to the multiple-choice questions on the separate answer sheet provided by the proctor. Students must write their answers to the essay response questions in black or blue ink in the essay booklet. The essay booklet is available to schools on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/resources/625cc14.pdf>. Schools must provide copies of this essay booklet to students. Be sure to provide students taking the Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core) with the correct essay booklet for that particular examination.

The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the examination.

**January 2016 Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core)**

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
1	multiple choice	1–24	0 or 1	24
2	essay	Part 2	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, or 6.0	6
3	response	Part 3	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, or 4.0	4

**Before allowing students to begin the test, have them check the cover of the examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide contains the answers to the multiple-choice questions, scoring rubrics for the essay question and the response question, annotated anchor papers for each score level for each essay and response, and prescored practice papers without commentary for the essays and responses. A chart for converting students' raw scores to scale scores will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration**

**of the Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core) be used to determine the student's final score.**

Each student's essay for Part 2 must be scored independently by two raters, with a third rater available to rate essays with discrepant scores. (A discrepant score is one that varies by more than one credit on the 6-credit rubric.) Each student's response for Part 3 must also be scored independently by two raters, with a third rater available to rate responses with discrepant scores. (A discrepant score is one that varies by more than one credit on the 4-credit rubric.) Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the responses to constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination after each essay has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guide, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been calculated correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core)* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/english/>. This booklet includes detailed procedures for training scorers, resolving discrepant scores, and managing the logistics of the scoring process. School administrators should provide a copy of this booklet to all school personnel involved in scoring and coordinating the scoring of the Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core) prior to the date of the examination.

### **Online Teacher Evaluation Form**

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## Regents Comprehensive Examination in English

The January 2016 Regents Comprehensive Examination in English is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. The examination consists of four parts. Part 1 consists of a listening passage with 8 multiple-choice questions. Part 2 consists of one literary and one informational passage, each with 6 multiple-choice questions. Part 3 consists of two literary passages linked by a common theme and contains a total of 5 multiple-choice questions and two short constructed-response questions. One short constructed-response question is on the controlling idea of the passages and one is on a literary element or technique from one of the passages. Part 4, the Critical Lens, consists of one 6-credit essay question in which students apply a quotation to literature they have read. Distribute the teacher dictation copy for this examination, printed on blue paper, to the proctors *one hour* prior to the scheduled starting time so that proctors will have sufficient time to become familiar with the dictation materials before the start of the examination.

Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students must record their answers to the multiple-choice questions on the separate answer sheet provided by the proctor. Students must write their answers to the short constructed-response and essay questions in blue or black ink in the essay booklet. The essay booklet is available to schools on the Department's web site at [www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/english/hs/625ansbk.pdf](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/english/hs/625ansbk.pdf). Schools must provide copies of these essay booklets to students. Be sure to provide students taking the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English the correct essay booklet for that particular examination.

The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the examination.

**January 2016 Regents Comprehensive Examination in English**

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
1	multiple choice	1–8	0 or 1	8
2	multiple choice	9–20	0 or 1	12
3	multiple choice	21–25	0 or 1	5
	short constructed response	26, 27	0, 1, or 2	4
4	essay	28	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 5.0, 5.5, or 6.0	6

**Before allowing students to begin the test, have them check the cover of the examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Posting time for these scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide contains the answers to the multiple-choice questions, scoring rubrics for the short constructed-response questions and the essay question, annotated anchor papers for each score level for each written response, and prescored practice papers with commentary for the short constructed responses and without commentary for the essays. A chart for converting students' raw scores to scale scores will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Only one rater is to rate each student's short constructed response for Questions 26 and 27. Each student's essay response, Question 28, must be scored independently by two raters, with a third rater available to rate essays with discrepant scores. (A discrepant score is one that varies by more than one credit on the 6-credit rubric.) Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guide, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/english/>. This booklet includes detailed procedures for training scorers, resolving discrepant scores, and managing the logistics of the scoring process. School administrators should provide a copy of this booklet to all school personnel involved in scoring and coordinating the scoring of the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English prior to the date of the examination.

### ***Online Teacher Evaluation Form***

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## ***Regents Competency Test in Reading***

The January 2016 Regents Competency Test in Reading is a ***restricted*** test. The test booklet for each student is enclosed in a sealed envelope. Only students taking the test may open an envelope. School personnel are ***not*** permitted to open an envelope containing a test booklet or to examine a test booklet for any reason other than to read the test to students with disabilities whose IEPs or 504 Plans call for this accommodation. **Each copy of the test booklet is numbered, and all test booklets *must* be returned to the Department.**

The January 2016 Regents Competency Test in Reading is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. It uses the Degrees of Reading Power (DRP) test methodology to measure a student's ability to understand written material. It contains a total of 10 nonfiction prose passages and 70 multiple-choice test items, numbered 1–70. Each test item has five choices, labeled a, b, c, d, and e.

**Please note that only students with disabilities who first entered Grade 9 prior to September 2011 are eligible to take this test.**

**Before allowing students to begin the test, have them check the cover of the test booklet to be sure it has the correct title, date, and time.**

A student's raw score on the test is the total number of items that the student answers correctly. The student must obtain a raw score of 47 in order to pass the January 2016 test. The passing score is printed on the scoring key. There is no conversion chart for the Regents Competency Test in Reading.

Detailed directions for administering and scoring the ***restricted*** Regents Competency Test in Reading are available on the Department's web site at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/>. Each person involved in the administration of the examination should become thoroughly familiar with these special directions prior to the date of administration.

## ***Regents Competency Test in Writing***

The January 2016 Regents Competency Test in Writing is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. It is designed as a direct measure of a student's ability to organize and present ideas in written form. The tasks are set in a context that is related to the experience of students and that clearly indicates the purpose for the piece of writing and the specific audience for whom the piece is intended.

The test consists of three separate writing tasks: a business letter of complaint, a report based on information provided, and a composition. The Part III composition may be expository, narrative, descriptive, or persuasive in purpose. Teachers should keep in mind, however, that rarely are tasks *purely* of a single type. For example, a task might require students to *describe* an object and then *explain* something significant about it or *narrate* an incident related to it. Whatever the purpose(s) of the task, information provided to the students makes clear what is expected.

Each of the three tasks requires a relatively brief piece of writing, about 100–200 words. For each task, students are directed to prepare a first draft and then to edit and revise the draft before producing their final response. Students are to write their final responses in the answer booklet.

**Please note that only students with disabilities who first entered Grade 9 prior to September 2011 are eligible to take this test.**

Each student must be provided with a copy of the RCT in Writing Answer Booklet. The answer booklets for the Regents Competency Test in Writing can be found on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/resources/325-12.pdf>.

**Before allowing students to begin the test, have them check the cover of the test booklet to be sure it has the correct title, date, and time.**

Sufficient quantities of the rating guide will be printed and included in the shipment of nonsecure materials based on the number of tests requested. The rating guide contains a detailed outline of the procedure to follow in rating the students' answer papers. It also contains criteria for rating each of the three writing tasks. The criteria for the letter and the report remain the same for all administrations of the test; the criteria for the composition are task-specific for each new administration. Detailed directions for administering and scoring the Regents Competency Test in Writing are available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/>.

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If you have questions about the Regents Comprehensive Examination in English, the Regents Examination in English Language Arts (Common Core), the Regents Competency Test in Reading, or the Regents Competency Test in Writing for which you are unable to find answers on the Department's web site, send an inquiry by e-mail to [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) or call OSA at 518-474-5900.

## MATHEMATICS

### ***Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core)***

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center.

Schools *must* make graphing calculators available for the exclusive use of each student while taking the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core). The memory of any calculator with programming capability must be cleared, reset, or disabled when students enter the testing room. If the memory of a student's calculator is password-protected and cannot be cleared, the calculator must not be used. No students may use calculators that are capable of symbol manipulation or that can communicate with other calculators through any means, nor may students use operating manuals, instruction or formula cards, or other information concerning the operation of calculators during the examination. Symbol manipulation calculators are calculators capable of doing symbolic algebra or symbolic calculus (for example, factoring, expanding, or simplifying given variable output).

Schools must be sure that each student has a straightedge (ruler) while taking the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core).

Students must write their answers to the questions in Part I on the separate answer sheet provided by the proctor. They must write their answers to questions in Parts II, III, and IV in the examination booklet. Students must clearly indicate the necessary steps, including appropriate formula substitutions, diagrams, graphs, charts, etc., they used in arriving at their answers to questions in Parts II, III, and IV.

Students should write all work in the examination booklet in pen except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil.

Scrap paper is **not** permitted. Students may use the blank spaces and the page of graph paper included in the examination booklet as scrap paper. Schools should have a supply of graph paper available for students who request it in the event that they need to change their work on graphs.

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of the examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

The Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core) consists of four parts, with a total of 37 questions. Students must answer all 37 questions. The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the examination.

**January 2016 Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core)**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Question Type</b>	<b>Question Numbers</b>	<b>Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question</b>	<b>Total Number of Raw-Score Credits</b>
I	multiple choice	1–24	0 or 2	48
II	constructed response	25–32	0, 1, or 2	16
III	constructed response	33–36	0, 1, 2, 3, or 4	16
IV	constructed response	37	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6	6
TOTAL		—	—	86

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

For the January 2016 administration, the Department will provide a *Model Response Set* to serve as additional scoring guidance. This guidance is recommended to be part of the scorer training. Schools are encouraged to incorporate the *Model Response Set* into the scorer training or to use it as additional information during scoring. The same password will be used to access the *Model Response Set* and the scoring key and rating guide.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide will include answers to the Part I multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring the constructed-response questions. A chart for converting the student's total-test raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Each answer paper for all State examinations in mathematics must be rated by a committee with a minimum of three mathematics teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score no more than approximately one-third of the constructed-response questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination in mathematics after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in Algebra I (Common Core)* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Schools should provide a copy of this booklet to all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination. This booklet will be available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/math>.

### **Online Teacher Evaluation Form**

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## **Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core)**

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core) is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center.

Schools *must* make a graphing calculator available for the exclusive use of each student while taking the Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core). The memory of any calculator with programming capability must be cleared, reset, or disabled when students enter the testing room. If the memory of a student's calculator is password-protected and cannot be cleared, the calculator must not be used. No students may use calculators that are capable of symbol manipulation or that can communicate with other calculators through any means, nor may students use operating manuals, instruction or formula cards, or other information concerning the operation of calculators during the examination. Symbol manipulation calculators are calculators capable of doing symbolic algebra or symbolic calculus (for example, factoring, expanding, or simplifying given variable output).

Schools must be sure that each student has a compass and straightedge (ruler) while taking the Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core).

Students must write their answers to the questions in Part I on the separate answer sheet, provided by the proctor. They must write their answers to questions in Parts II, III, and IV in the examination booklet. Students must clearly indicate the necessary steps, including appropriate formula substitutions, diagrams, graphs, charts, etc., they used in arriving at their answers to questions in Parts II, III, and IV.

Students should write all work in the examination booklet in pen except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil.

Scrap paper is **not** permitted. Students may use the blank spaces and the page of graph paper included in the examination booklet as scrap paper. Schools should have a supply of graph paper available for students who request it in the event that they need to change their work on graphs.

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of the examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

The Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core) has four parts, with a total of 36 questions. Students must answer all 36 questions. The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the examination.

**January 2016 Regents Examination in Geometry (Common Core)**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Question Type</b>	<b>Question Numbers</b>	<b>Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question</b>	<b>Total Number of Raw-Score Credits</b>
I	multiple choice	1–24	0 or 2	48
II	constructed response	25–31	0, 1, or 2	14
III	constructed response	32–34	0, 1, 2, 3, or 4	12
IV	constructed response	35–36	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6	12
TOTAL		—	—	86

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

For the January 2016 administration, the Department will provide a *Model Response Set* to serve as additional scoring guidance. This guidance is intended to be part of the scorer training. Schools should use the *Model Response Set* along with the rubrics in the scoring key and rating guide to help guide the scoring of student work. While not reflective of all scenarios, the *Model Response Set* illustrates how less common student responses to constructed-response questions may be scored. The *Model Response Set* will be available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/home-hs.html> on the same date and time as the rating guide for this examination. The same password will be used to access the *Model Response Set* and the scoring key and rating guide.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide and *Model Response Set* to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide will include answers to the Part I multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring the constructed-response questions. A chart for converting the student's total-test raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Each answer paper for all State examinations in mathematics must be rated by a committee with a minimum of three mathematics teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score no more than approximately one-third of the constructed-response questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination in mathematics after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examinations in Mathematics* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Schools should provide a copy of this booklet to all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/math>.

### ***Online Teacher Evaluation Form***

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## **Regents Examination in Geometry (2005 Standard)**

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Geometry (2005 Standard) is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center.

Schools *must* make a graphing calculator available for the exclusive use of each student while taking the Regents Examination in Geometry (2005 Standard). The memory of any calculator with programming capability must be cleared, reset, or disabled when students enter the testing room. If the memory of a student's calculator is password-protected and cannot be cleared, the calculator must not be used. No students may use calculators that are capable of symbol manipulation or that can communicate with other calculators through any means, nor may students use operating manuals, instruction or formula cards, or other information concerning the operation of calculators during the examination. Symbol manipulation calculators are calculators capable of doing symbolic algebra or symbolic calculus (for example, factoring, expanding, or simplifying given variable output).

Schools must be sure that each student has a compass and straightedge (ruler) while taking the Regents Examination in Geometry (2005 Standard).

Students must write their answers to the questions in Part I on the separate answer sheet, provided by the proctor. They must write their answers to questions in Parts II, III, and IV in the examination booklet. Students must clearly indicate the necessary steps, including appropriate formula substitutions, diagrams, graphs, charts, etc., they used in arriving at their answers to questions in Parts II, III, and IV.

Students should write all work in the examination booklet in pen except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil.

Scrap paper is **not** permitted. Students may use the blank spaces and the page of graph paper included in the examination booklet as scrap paper. Schools should have a supply of graph paper available for students who request it in the event that they need to change their work on graphs.

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of the examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

The Regents Examination in Geometry (2005 Standard) has four parts, with a total of 38 questions. Students must answer all 38 questions. The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the examination.

**January 2016 Regents Examination in Geometry (2005 Standard)**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Question Type</b>	<b>Question Numbers</b>	<b>Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question</b>	<b>Total Number of Raw-Score Credits</b>
I	multiple choice	1–28	0 or 2	56
II	constructed response	29–34	0, 1, or 2	12
III	constructed response	35–37	0, 1, 2, 3, or 4	12
IV	constructed response	38	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6	6
TOTAL		—	—	86

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide will include answers to the Part I multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring the constructed-response questions. A chart for converting the student's total-test raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Each answer paper for all State examinations in mathematics must be rated by a committee with a minimum of three mathematics teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score no more than approximately one-third of the constructed-response questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination in mathematics after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examinations in Mathematics* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Schools should provide a copy of this booklet to all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/math>.

### ***Online Teacher Evaluation Form***

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center.

Schools must make a graphing calculator available for the exclusive use of each student while taking the Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry. The memory of any calculator with programming capability must be cleared, reset, or disabled when students enter the testing room. If the memory of a student's calculator is password-protected and cannot be cleared, the calculator must not be used.

No students may use calculators that are capable of symbol manipulation or that can communicate with other calculators through any means, nor may students use operating manuals, instruction or formula cards, or other information concerning the operation of calculators during the examination. Symbol manipulation calculators are calculators capable of doing symbolic algebra or symbolic calculus (for example, factoring, expanding, or simplifying given variable output).

Schools must also be sure that each student has a straightedge (ruler) while taking the Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry.

Students should write their answers to the questions in Part I on the separate answer sheet, provided by the proctor. They should write their answers to questions in Parts II, III, and IV in the examination booklet. Students must clearly indicate the necessary steps, including appropriate formula substitutions, diagrams, graphs, charts, etc., they used in arriving at their answers to questions in Parts II, III, and IV.

Students should write all work in the examination booklet in pen except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil.

Scrap paper is **not** permitted. Students may use the blank spaces and the page of graph paper included in the examination booklet as scrap paper. Schools should have a supply of graph paper available for students who request it in the event that they need to change their work on graphs.

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of the examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

The Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry has four parts, with a total of 39 questions. Students must answer all 39 questions. The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the examination.

**January 2016 Regents Examination in Algebra 2/Trigonometry**

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
I	multiple choice	1-27	0 or 2	54
II	open ended	28-35	0, 1, or 2	16
III	open ended	36-38	0, 1, 2, 3, or 4	12
IV	open ended	39	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or, 6	6
TOTAL		—	—	88

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide and *Sample Response Set* to supply one to each rater. The scoring materials include answers to the Part I multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring the open-ended questions. A chart for converting the student's total test raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Each answer paper for all State examinations in mathematics should be rated by a committee with a minimum of three mathematics teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score no more than approximately one-third of the open-ended questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions on any Regents Examination in mathematics after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examinations in Mathematics—2005 Standard* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Schools should provide a copy of this booklet to all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/math/>.

### ***Online Teacher Evaluation Form***

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State assessments. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## ***Regents Competency Test in Mathematics***

The January 2016 Regents Competency Test in Mathematics is a ***restricted*** test. The test booklet for each student is enclosed in a sealed envelope. Only students taking the test may open an envelope. School personnel are ***not*** permitted to open an envelope containing a test booklet or to examine a test booklet for any reason other than to read the test to students with disabilities whose IEPs or 504 Plans call for this accommodation. **Each copy of the test booklet is numbered, and all test booklets, both used and unused, must be returned to the Department.**

The January 2016 Regents Competency Test in Mathematics is based on the first seven units of the course described in the Department publication *General High School Mathematics*. The test is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. It is divided into two parts and contains a total of 60 questions. Part A consists of 20 completion questions for which students are to provide the answer. Each of the questions in Part A is worth one raw-score credit. Part B consists of 40 multiple-choice questions for which students are to select the correct answer from among the four choices given. The choices are labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each of the questions in Part B is worth one raw-score credit.

**Please note that only students with disabilities who first entered Grade 9 prior to September 2011 are eligible to take this test.** Students may use calculators when taking this test *only* if the use of these devices is included as a testing accommodation in the student's IEP or 504 Plan.

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of the test booklet to be sure it has the correct title, date, and time.**

Detailed directions for administering and scoring the ***restricted*** Regents Competency Test in Mathematics are provided to schools on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>.

The passing score for this test is a raw score (total number of correct answers) of 39. A table for converting total test raw scores to percents can be found in the directions.

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If you have questions about any of the Regents Examinations in mathematics or the Regents Competency Test in Mathematics for which you are unable to find answers on the Department's web site, send an inquiry by e-mail to [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) or call OSA at 518-474-5900.

## SCIENCE

### ***Regents Examination in Living Environment***

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Living Environment is based on the *Living Environment Core Curriculum*. It is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. The examination has five parts, with a total of 85 questions. Students must answer all questions in all parts. Four-function or scientific calculators must be available to all students who wish to have them during the entire scheduled time for this examination. Students are not permitted to use graphing calculators when taking this examination. The following table shows the types of questions and credit allotment for each part of the January 2016 examination.

**January 2016 Regents Examination in Living Environment**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Question Type</b>	<b>Question Numbers</b>	<b>Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question</b>	<b>Total Number of Raw-Score Credits</b>
A	multiple choice	1–30	0 or 1	30
B–1	multiple choice	31–43	0 or 1	13
B–2	1-credit open ended	44–46, 48, 51–55	0 or 1	12
	multiple choice	47, 49–50	0 or 1	
C	1-credit open ended	56–72	0 or 1	17
D	multiple choice	73–76, 81–82	0 or 1	13
	1-credit open ended	77–80, 83–85	0 or 1	
TOTAL		—	—	85

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of the examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a standardized scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students are to record their answers to all multiple-choice questions, including those in Parts B–2 and D, on the separate answer sheet. The answers to all constructed-response questions are to be recorded in the examination booklet in pen except for graphs and diagrams, which should be done in pencil.

**While the examination is being administered, proctors should check to make sure that students are recording their answers to all multiple-choice questions, including those in Parts B–2 and D, on their separate answer sheets.**

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department’s web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/science/>. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department’s web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide includes the answers to the multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring each of the open-ended questions. A chart for converting the student's total raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Each answer paper for all State examinations in science should be rated by a committee with a minimum of two science teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score approximately one-half or less of the open-ended questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions on any Regents Examination in science after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring Regents Examinations in the Sciences* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/science/>. Prior to the administration date, all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination should receive a copy of this publication.

### ***Laboratory Requirement***

Laboratory experience is required in each of the four Regents science courses. This requirement follows directly from the fact that these courses are laboratory sciences, and successful completion of any one of them earns for the student one unit of credit for a laboratory science. Students must be engaged in laboratory activities for at least thirty 40-minute periods, or the equivalent (1200 minutes), as certified by the secondary school principal.

Students must prepare satisfactory written reports of these laboratory experiences. Schools should keep these reports for six months following the date of the examination, except in instances where a senior requests such reports for further work.

Please note that Section 8.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents states: "Only those persons who have satisfactorily met the laboratory requirements as stated in the State syllabus for a science shall be admitted to a Regents Examination in such science."

### ***Online Teacher Evaluation Form***

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## ***Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science***

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. It is based on the *Earth Science Core Curriculum* and consists of two components: a laboratory performance test (Part D) and a written test.

### ***Performance Test***

The 2008 Edition (Revised 2010) Physical Setting/Earth Science Laboratory Performance Test features three stations. The total number of raw-score credits for the 2008 Edition (Revised 2010) Performance Test is 16. The student's raw score on the performance test should be recorded on the cover of the student's performance-test answer booklet and, after the written test has been administered, in the designated space on the student's answer sheet. As indicated below, a conversion chart will be provided for converting the student's score on the performance test and score on the written test to the final examination score.

The secure performance test is shipped to schools with the nonsecure test materials so that the Earth science staff can prepare for the administration of this performance component. The performance test is to be administered to all students, including those retaking the examination, during the last two weeks of the course but no later than the day before the administration of the written test.

Scores earned on the Earth Science performance test in conjunction with prior administrations of the written examination may no longer be carried over and applied to the student's final examination score for this Regents Examination. This requirement applies both to students enrolled in the course of study and to students who are registered only to retake the examination. All schools administering this examination must notify students of the date and time to appear for the performance test.

The *Directions for Administration*, printed on green paper, and the performance test rating guide, printed on yellow paper, provide specific directions for administering and scoring the 2008 edition (revised 2010). Teachers must review these directions before administering or rating the performance test. All parts of the performance test are considered secure materials and must **not** be shared with students prior to or after the performance test administration. Once the performance test is administered, all unused performance tests must be securely destroyed.

### ***Written Test***

The written test for January 2016 has four parts, with a total of 85 questions. Students must answer all questions. The table on the next page shows the types of questions and credit allotment for each part of the January 2016 examination.

## January 2016 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science

Performance Test Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
Performance Test	7-credit open ended	station 1	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7	16
	4-credit open ended	station 2	0, 1, 2, 3, or 4	
	5-credit open ended	station 3	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5	
Written Test Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
A	multiple choice	1–35	0 or 1	35
B–1	multiple choice	36–50	0 or 1	15
B–2	1-credit open ended	51–65	0 or 1	15
C	1-credit open ended	66–85	0 or 1	20

**Before allowing students to begin the written test, have them check the covers of the examination booklet, answer booklet, and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

Prior to the date of the written test, schools must obtain for each student a standardized scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students are to record their answers to all the multiple-choice questions in Part A and Part B-1 on the scannable answer sheet. The answers to all the open-ended questions in Part B-2 and Part C in the written test must be recorded in the answer booklet provided in pen except for graphs and diagrams, which should be done in pencil. The answer booklets are printed on ivory paper and are shrink-wrapped in the same package with the examination booklets.

At the administration of the written test, each student *must* be provided with a copy of the 2011 edition of the *Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Earth Science* along with an examination booklet, an answer sheet, and an answer booklet. Some of the questions on the written test require the use of the reference tables. Schools are required to use the online version of the 2011 edition, including translations, and to print sufficient copies for the use of each student. The reference tables can be found on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/reftable/>. *Schools may want to consider collecting the reference tables at the end of the written test and keeping clean copies for future use in the school's instructional program.*

In addition, each student **must** have a four-function or scientific calculator to use while taking the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science. Students are not permitted to use graphing calculators when taking this examination.

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide provides answers to the multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring the open-ended questions. A chart for converting the student's total raw scores on the performance test and the written test to a scale score will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the January 2016 administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Each answer paper for all State examinations in science should be rated by a committee with a minimum of two science teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score approximately one-half or less of the open-ended questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions on any Regents Examination in science after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examinations in the Sciences* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/science/>. Prior to the administration date, all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination should receive a copy of this publication.

### **Laboratory Requirement**

Laboratory experience is required in each of the four Regents science courses. This requirement follows directly from the fact that these courses are laboratory sciences, and successful completion of any one of them earns for the student one unit of credit for a laboratory science. Students must be engaged in laboratory activities for at least thirty 40-minute periods, or the equivalent (1200 minutes), as certified by the secondary school principal.

Students must prepare satisfactory written reports of these laboratory experiences. Schools should keep these reports for six months following the date of the examination, except in instances where a senior requests such reports for further work.

Please note that Section 8.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents states: "Only those persons who have satisfactorily met the laboratory requirements as stated in the State syllabus for a science shall be admitted to a Regents Examination in such science."

### **Online Teacher Evaluation Form**

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Chemistry

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Chemistry is based on the *Chemistry Core Curriculum*. It is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015. The examination has four parts, with a total of 85 questions. Students must answer all questions. The following table shows the types of questions and credit allotment for each part of the January 2016 examination.

January 2016 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Chemistry

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
A	multiple choice	1-30	0 or 1	30
B-1	multiple choice	31-50	0 or 1	20
B-2	1-credit open ended	51-65	0 or 1	15
C	1-credit open ended	66-85	0 or 1	20
TOTAL		—	—	85

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the covers of the examination booklet, answer booklet, and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

Prior to the date of the written test, schools must obtain for each student a standardized scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students are to record their answers to all the multiple-choice questions in Part A and Part B-1 on the scannable answer sheet. The answers to all of the open-ended questions in Part B-2 and Part C must be recorded in the answer booklet provided in pen except for graphs and diagrams, which should be done in pencil. The answer booklets are printed on ivory paper and are shrink-wrapped in the same package with the examination booklets.

Each student *must* be provided with a copy of the 2011 edition of the *Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Chemistry* along with an examination booklet, an answer sheet, and an answer booklet. Some of the questions on the written test specifically require the use of the reference tables. Schools are required to use the online version of the 2011 edition to print sufficient copies for the use of each student. The reference tables can be found on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/reftable/>. Schools may want to consider collecting the reference tables at the end of the written test and keeping clean copies for future use in the school's instructional program.

In addition, each student **must** have a four-function or scientific calculator to use while taking the Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Chemistry. Students are not permitted to use graphing calculators when taking this examination.

The scoring key and rating guide will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide provides answers to the multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring the open-ended questions. A chart for converting the student's total raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Each answer paper for all State examinations in science should be rated by a committee with a minimum of two science teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score approximately one-half or less of the open-ended questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions on any Regents Examination in science after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring Regents Examinations in the Sciences* provides further information about the scoring of this examination. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/science/>. Prior to the administration date, all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination should receive a copy of this publication.

### ***Laboratory Requirement***

Laboratory experience is required in each of the four Regents science courses. This requirement follows directly from the fact that these courses are laboratory sciences, and successful completion of any one of them earns for the student one unit of credit for a laboratory science. Students must be engaged in laboratory activities for at least thirty 40-minute periods, or the equivalent (1200 minutes), as certified by the secondary school principal.

Students must prepare satisfactory written reports of these laboratory experiences. Schools should keep these reports for six months following the date of the examination, except in instances where a senior requests such reports for further work.

Please note that Section 8.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents states: "Only those persons who have satisfactorily met the laboratory requirements as stated in the core for a science shall be admitted to a Regents Examination in such science."

### ***Online Teacher Evaluation Form***

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State assessments. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Physics

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Physics is a **restricted** examination. The examination booklet and the answer booklet for each student are enclosed together in a sealed envelope. Only students taking the examination may open an envelope. School personnel are **not permitted** to open an envelope containing an examination booklet and an answer booklet or to review these examination documents for any reason other than to read the examination to students with disabilities whose IEPs or 504 Plans call for this accommodation. **Each copy of the test booklet is numbered, and all test booklets, both used and unused, must be returned to the Department.**

The January 2016 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Physics is based on the *New York State Learning Standards for Mathematics, Science, and Technology*, as included in the *Physical Setting/Physics Core Curriculum*. There are four parts to the examination. It is similar in format to the examination administered in June 2015 except that, in addition to being a restricted examination, the January 2016 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Physics has a total of 79 questions and certain open-ended questions in Parts B–2 and C are worth a maximum of two raw-score credits. Students must answer all questions on the examination.

The following table shows the types of questions and credit allotment for each part of the January 2016 examination.

**January 2016 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Physics**

Part	Question Type	Number of Question	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
A	multiple choice	35	1-35	0 or 1	35
B-1	multiple choice	15	36-50	0 or 1	15
B-2	open ended	12	51-62	0, 1, or 2*	15
C	open ended	17	63-79	0, 1, or 2*	20
TOTAL		79	—	—	85

\* In Part B–2, three items have a maximum of two raw-score credits; in Part C, three items have a maximum of two raw-score credits.

Detailed directions for administering and scoring the restricted January edition of this examination are provided in the Department publication, *Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Physics, Restricted Edition, Directions for Administering and Scoring, January Administration*, which is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/>. All school personnel involved in the administration and scoring of this examination must carefully read these directions prior to the administration date.

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the covers of their examination booklets, answer booklets, and answer sheets to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

Each student **must** have a scientific or graphing calculator, centimeter ruler, and protractor for his or her exclusive use during the entire examination.

Students are to record all of their answers in the answer booklet provided. (Answer booklets are printed on ivory paper and are shrink-wrapped in the same package with the examination booklets.) For each multiple-choice question in Part A and Part B–1, students record their answers on the appropriate line on the cover page of the answer booklet. For these questions, students are to choose the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question. Students are to

record their answers to the open-ended questions in Part B–2 and Part C in the subsequent pages of the answer booklet.

Each student *must* be provided with a copy of the 2006 edition of the *Reference Tables for Physical Setting/Physics* along with an examination booklet, an answer sheet, and an answer booklet. Some of the questions on the test specifically require the use of the reference tables. Schools are required to use the online version of the 2006 edition to print sufficient copies for the use of each student. The reference tables can be found on the Department’s web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/reftable/>. After each student completes this restricted examination, the student must place the reference table and all scrap paper inside the front cover of his or her examination booklet before replacing the examination booklet in the envelope and resealing the envelope.

Printed copies of the restricted scoring key and rating guide are provided to indicate the correct answers to the multiple-choice questions and the principles and procedures for rating Parts B–2 and C. In addition, teachers should become familiar with the 2015 edition of the *Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Physics: Rating Guide for Parts B–2 and C*. This publication can be found on the Department’s web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/science/phyratg02.pdf>. This guide provides a set of directions, along with some examples, to assist teachers in rating Parts B–2 and C of this examination. Each restricted scoring key and rating guide is numbered and is enclosed in a sealed envelope, which must be given, one to each rater, with the seal intact. Please note that the student responses to the multiple-choice questions and the open-ended questions must be hand scored. No form of scanning, re-recording, or reproduction of the students’ responses to any examination question is permitted.

The restricted edition of this examination must be scored and rated without reference to the examination booklet. All information necessary for scoring is contained in the scoring key and rating guide. If raters have any questions regarding a student response that is not addressed in the rating guide, they should call the Department at 518-474-5900.

A chart for converting the student’s total raw score to a scale score will be provided in the scoring key and rating guide as well as on the Department’s web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student’s final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that scorers use *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration to determine the student’s final score.**

Each answer paper for all State examinations in science should be rated by a committee with a minimum of two science teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score approximately one-half or less of the open-ended questions on any student’s answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions on any Regents Examination in science after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

**All examination booklets (both used and unused), all scoring keys and rating guides (both used and unused), all answer booklets (both used and unused), all student reference tables, and all scrap paper must be returned to the Department. Photocopying and/or retaining copies of any examination material and/or notes pertaining to any of their contents are strictly prohibited.**

### ***Laboratory Requirement***

Laboratory experience is required in each of the four Regents science courses. This requirement follows directly from the fact that these courses are laboratory sciences, and successful completion of any one of them earns for the student one unit of credit for a laboratory science. Students must be engaged in laboratory activities for at least thirty 40-minute periods, or the equivalent (1200 minutes), as certified by the secondary school principal.

Students must prepare satisfactory written reports of these laboratory experiences. Schools should keep these reports for six months following the date of the examination, except in instances where a senior requests such reports for further work.

Please note that Section 8.2 of the Rules of the Board of Regents states: “Only those persons who have satisfactorily met the laboratory requirements as stated in the core for a science shall be admitted to a Regents Examination in such science.”

***Online Teacher Evaluation Form***

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State assessments. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department’s web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## ***Regents Competency Test in Science***

The January 2016 Regents Competency Test in Science is a ***restricted*** test. The test booklet for each student is enclosed in a sealed envelope. Only students taking the test may open an envelope. School personnel are **not permitted** to open an envelope containing a test booklet or to examine a test booklet for any reason other than to read the test to students with disabilities whose IEPs or 504 Plans call for this accommodation. **Each copy of the test booklet is numbered, and all test booklets, both used and unused, must be returned to the Department.**

**Please note that only students with disabilities who first entered Grade 9 prior to September 2011 are eligible to take this test.** Students may use calculators when taking this test *only* if the use of these devices is included as a testing accommodation in the student's IEP or 504 Plan.

The January 2016 Regents Competency Test in Science is similar in format to the test administered in August 2015 and is based on the 10 blocks of the *Science Syllabus for Middle and Junior High Schools* identified in the publication *Information Bulletin: Regents Competency Testing Program in Science, A Guide to the Core Process Skills and Content Understandings*.

The test consists of 70 questions, all of which the students must complete. The passing score is a minimum of 46 correct answers. The test gives equal coverage to the life, physical, and Earth sciences. About 10 percent of the test covers the core material from *Block J: Science, Technology, and Society*. Questions test knowledge of basic vocabulary and specific core understandings, comprehension of those understandings and their application to new situations, and mastery of the core process (inquiry) skills. A scoring key that accompanies the examination includes the answers to the multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring question 70.

**Before allowing students to begin this test, have them check the cover of the test booklet to be sure it has the correct title, date, and time .**

The answer sheet is printed as the last page of the test booklet. Instruct students to detach this answer sheet from the test booklet prior to beginning work. Students are to record their answers to Questions 1 through 69, which are multiple-choice questions, on the first page of this answer sheet. Question 70 may require students to construct a data table, complete a graph, explain a described activity, or demonstrate mastery of other core science process (inquiry) skills. Students are to write their responses to Question 70 on the reverse side of the multiple-choice answer sheet.

The detailed directions for administering and scoring the ***restricted*** Regents Competency Test in Science are available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/>.

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If you have questions about scoring any of the Regents Examinations in the sciences or the Regents Competency Test in Science for which you are unable to find answers on the Department's web site, send an inquiry by e-mail to [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) or call OSA at 518-474-5900.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### ***Regents Examination in Global History and Geography***

### ***Regents Examination in United States History and Government***

The Regents Examinations in Global History and Geography and in United States History and Government assess student achievement of the New York State Learning Standards in social studies at the commencement level. The Regents Examination in Global History and Geography is based on the content column of the *Global History and Geography Core Curriculum*. The Regents Examination in United States History and Government is based on the content column of the *United States History and Government Core Curriculum*. Some of the questions are designed to test the student's ability to apply the social studies skills listed in the core curriculum.

Both examinations have three parts. Students are to answer all questions in all parts. Part I contains 50 multiple-choice questions. Part II contains one thematic essay question. Part III A contains open-ended questions based on several documents, and Part III B contains one essay question based on the documents and the student's knowledge of specific social studies content.

**Before allowing students to begin either of these tests, have them check the cover of the examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a standardized scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center. Students are to write their answers to the Part I questions on the answer sheet provided by the proctor. Students are to write their answers to Part III A open-ended questions in pen directly in the examination booklet. They are to write their answers to Parts II and III B essay questions in pen in a separate essay booklet made available to schools on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/resources/635-12.pdf>. Schools must provide copies of these essay booklets to students. Students may use scrap paper, provided by the school, for planning essays. Be sure students write their names on their scrap paper.

The tables on the next page show the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the January 2016 examinations.

**January 2016 Regents Examination in Global History and Geography**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Question Type</b>	<b>Question Numbers</b>	<b>Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question</b>	<b>Total Number of Raw-Score Credits</b>
I	multiple choice	1–50	0 or 1	50
II	essay	Part II thematic essay	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, or 5.0	5
III A	1-credit open ended	1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 6, 7a, 7b, 8, 9a, 9b	0, 1, or 2	13
	2-credit open ended	5	0, 1, or 2	
III B	essay	Part III DBQ essay	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, or 5.0	5

**January 2016 Regents Examination in United States History and Government**

<b>Part</b>	<b>Question Type</b>	<b>Question Numbers</b>	<b>Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question</b>	<b>Total Number of Raw-Score Credits</b>
I	multiple choice	1–50	0 or 1	50
II	essay	Part II thematic essay	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, or 5.0	5
III A	1-credit open ended	1a, 1b, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7a, 7b, 8, 9	0 or 1	11
III B	essay	Part III DBQ essay	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, or 5.0	5

The scoring key and rating guides will be made available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/scoring/>. Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guides to supply one to each rater. Posting time for the scoring materials for the January Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's web site will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

The scoring materials for these examinations provide the answers to the multiple-choice questions, content-specific rubrics for the Parts II and III B essay questions, and the answers to each Part III A open-ended question. For each essay question, the Department provides annotated anchor papers for each score level and annotated prescored practice papers. A chart for converting students' raw scores to scale scores will be provided on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/>. The scale score is the student's final examination score. **Because the scale scores corresponding to raw scores change from one examination administration to another, it is crucial that *only* the conversion chart provided for the *January 2016* administration be used to determine the student's final score.**

Two teachers must rate each essay response independently, with a third teacher available to rate essays with discrepant scores. (A discrepant score is one that varies by more than one credit on a 5-credit rubric.) Only one rater is to rate each student response to a scaffold question. If staffing is sufficient, separate teams of teachers should rate the Part II thematic essay, the Part III A scaffold questions, and the Part III B essay. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions (including essays) on any Regents Examination after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in the rating guide, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The *Information Booklet for Scoring Regents Examinations in Global History and Geography and United States History and Government* provides further information about the scoring of these examinations. This booklet is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen>. This booklet includes detailed procedures for training scorers, resolving discrepant scores, and managing the logistics of the scoring process. Prior to the date of the examinations, all school personnel involved in coordinating the scoring process, as well as scoring, should receive a copy of this booklet.

### ***Online Teacher Evaluation Form***

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online evaluation form for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions. This form is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.forms2.nysed.gov/emsc/osa/exameval/reexameval.cfm>.

## ***Regents Competency Test in Global Studies***

## ***Regents Competency Test in United States History and Government***

The January 2016 Regents Competency Tests in Global Studies and United States History and Government are **restricted** tests. The test booklets (Part 1 and Part 2) for each student are enclosed in a sealed envelope. Only students taking the test may open an envelope. School personnel are **not** permitted to open an envelope containing the test booklets or to examine the test booklets for any reason other than to read the tests to students with disabilities whose IEPs or 504 Plans call for this accommodation. **Each copy of the test booklets is numbered, and all test booklets must be returned to the Department. Each rating guide for scoring the essay section of these tests is also numbered and must also be returned to the Department.**

The Regents Competency Test in Global Studies is based on the syllabus *Social Studies 9 & 10: Global Studies*. The questions on this test are based on the “Content Outline” and “Major Ideas” sections of the syllabus. The Regents Competency Test in United States History and Government is based on the syllabus *Social Studies 11: United States History and Government*. The questions on this test are based on the “Content Outline” and “Major Ideas” sections of the syllabus. Some of the questions on these tests are designed to test the student’s ability to apply the social studies skills listed in the syllabi.

**Please note that only students with disabilities who first entered Grade 9 prior to September 2011 are eligible to take these tests.**

**Before allowing students to begin the test, have them check the covers of the test booklets to be sure they have the correct title, date, and time.**

Each of these tests has two parts. Part 1 consists of 50 multiple-choice questions, numbered 1–50, for which a total of 50 credits is allowed. Students are to record their answers to this part on a detachable answer sheet, which is included as the last page of the Part 1 test booklet. Part 2 consists of four 10-credit essay questions. Students are required to answer a total of *two* essay questions, worth a maximum of 20 credits. They are to write their responses to the essay questions directly in the test booklet.

In Part 1, some of the questions require students to interpret and to draw conclusions from data presented in various forms.

Each Part 2 essay question consists of two parts. Part A, worth a maximum of 4 credits, is designed to elicit data. Part B is a writing component worth a total of 6 credits. Scorers are to rate the Part B writing activity on a holistic basis using the chart “Criteria for Rating Student Responses: Essay Questions, Part B” provided with the rating guide for the test.

The essay questions in Part 2 are drawn from the total curriculum in global studies and in United States history and government, respectively. Some essay questions may be based on specific units; while others may be more broadly based and reflect major ideas from several units or subunits. Some of the questions may give students an opportunity to show an understanding of the processes involved in interpreting information presented in a variety of forms.

**The maximum total raw score on each of these tests is 70 (50 on Part 1 and 20 on Part 2). The passing score is a minimum raw score of 46 credits.**

A **restricted** rating guide accompanies each test to enable scorers to evaluate Part 2 answers. In addition to the criteria for rating essays, each guide includes a listing of some objectives tested by the question and sample data for each question. It also includes a table for converting total test raw scores to percentages. The *Table for Converting Total Test Raw Scores to Percents* can be found on the last page of the *Rating Guide for Part 2 Essay Questions*.

Detailed directions for administering and scoring the **restricted** Regents Competency Test in Global Studies and the **restricted** Regents Competency Test in United States History and Government are available on the Department's web site at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/hsgen/>. Each person involved in the administration of these tests must become thoroughly familiar with these special directions prior to the date of administration.

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If you have questions about examinations in social studies for which you are unable to find answers on the Department's web site, send an inquiry by e-mail to [emscassessinfo@nysed.gov](mailto:emscassessinfo@nysed.gov) or call OSA at 518-474-5900.