

Questions and Answers About the California High School Exit Examination for High School Students

Who takes the CAHSEE?

Beginning with the 2005-2006 school year, students in California public schools will have to pass both the English/language arts and mathematics sections of the California High School Examination (CAHSEE) as part of the requirements for a high school diploma. The purpose of the CAHSEE is to ensure that students who graduate from high school with a diploma can demonstrate grade level competency in reading, writing and mathematics.

When do I take the test?

Students take the test for the first time in the spring of their 10th grade year. In grade 11, students who have not passed one or both sections of the tests, have one opportunity in the fall and one opportunity in the spring. Grade 12 students also have fall and spring opportunities, plus one additional chance after grade 12.

If I am absent can I take a make-up test?

Grade 10 students who miss the first opportunity in the spring may be allowed a make-up opportunity later in the spring.

What will the test include?

CAHSEE has two parts: English-language arts and mathematics. Test questions are based on the academic content standards that students should master before graduation from high school. The English-language arts section includes multiple-choice questions, a writing task, reading and decoding section and a writing section. The mathematics test addresses state mathematics standards including: statistics, data analysis and probability, number sense, measurement and geometry, algebra and functions, mathematical reasoning, and Algebra.

Additional information, study guides, and released test items are available on the state website: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/hs/resources.asp>.

What is a passing score?

A scaled score of 350 or higher is required on both the English/language arts and mathematics portions of the CAHSEE to pass. Students do not need to pass both parts at the same test administration. Students who do not pass one or both parts of the CAHSEE in grade 10 will have additional opportunities in grade 11 and grade 12,

What happens if I am late or do not have my photo ID?

If you arrive after testing begins or without your photo ID, you may not be admitted to the test.

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What accommodations and modifications are allowed?

Students with IEPs and Section 504 Plans are allowed the accommodations and modifications listed in their IEPs and Section 504 Plans and that are used in their instructional program.

How long will I have to complete the test?

The CAHSEE is an untimed test. You will be allowed about 2 hours for the first section and 1 hour 30 minutes for the second section of the English/language arts test. You will have 1 hour 30 minutes for each section of the mathematics. If you need additional time, you will be allowed to continue working a reasonable amount of time. Sessions I and II for each of the tests must be completed in order for the test to be scored.

Are breaks allowed?

You are allowed a break between Sessions I and II for both the English/language arts and mathematics tests

When will I get the results?

Your school will receive the test results about two months after the test is given. The Student and Parent Report will be mailed to you. Check with your school counselor if you do not receive the results.

What should I bring with me to the test?

You should bring your ID with a picture (school ID or driver's license), No. 2 pencils, and erasers. During the testing only pencils, erasers, photo ID, test booklet, and answer documents will be allowed on you table or desk. All other items including notebooks, purses, water bottles, etc. must be placed under your table or desk. Food and drink are not allowed in the testing room.

The following items are not allowed: cell phones, blackberrys, PDAs, pagers, dictionaries, cameras, watches that beep or alarm and calculator watches. If these items are seen or used during the test, your test will be confiscated and you will not be allowed to continue the test.

You will be dismissed from the test for talking to other students, a cell phone or other device that rings or buzzes during the test, using a CD or iPod, cheating, or misbehavior.

If you have additional questions about the CAHSEE examination, contact your school counselor.