About the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC)

**TASC Test Structure**
The Test Assessing Secondary Completion™ is a secure, reliable, and valid assessment used to assess the achievement of examinees on core content areas taught and assessed as part of typical national high school curricula. The TASC test measures high school equivalency and college and career readiness in five subject areas: Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Descriptions of these five subjects are provided in this document. McGraw-Hill Education CTB worked with experienced adult education providers and secondary school teachers to support our standardized and rigorous TASC test item development process.

To pass the TASC test, examinees must demonstrate a level of achievement similar to that of typical high school seniors. The TASC exam is comprised of 5 sub-tests:
- Reading Literacy
- Writing
- Mathematics
- Social Studies
- Science

(Source: CTB McGraw Hill)

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**TASC Test Scoring. What is passing?**
To pass the TASC test at the overall level, an examinee must pass each content area test. There is no additional requirement to pass the TASC test at the overall level; examinees must simply achieve at least the minimum passing requirements for each subject area test. As noted in the table below, the minimum passing score is 500 in Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The TASC test Writing subtest has one additional requirement: the examinee must score at least 500 and achieve at least a 2 out of 8 possible points on the Writing essay.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Passing Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts Reading</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts Writing</td>
<td>500 and at least a 2 out of 8 on the Writing essay.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TASC Reading Literacy

The Reading test includes multiple-choice, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced questions that test an examinee’s ability to understand the information presented in excerpts from newspapers, magazines, novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and business or legal text passages. The Reading test includes both literary and informational texts.

Text Types

**Informational texts includes:**
- Literary nonfiction
- History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical texts
- Workplace and Community texts

**Literary texts includes:**
- Novel excerpts
- Poetry
- Drama excerpts

Content Structure

**Comprehension**
- Understanding what the passage says.
**Analysis**
- Examining how and why details are used.
**Application**
- Transferring ideas from one context to another.
**Synthesis**
- Putting ideas together to understand a larger meaning. Inference requires synthesis.

(Source: CTB McGraw Hill)

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TASC Writing

In the Writing test, examinees will answer multiple-choice, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced questions in which they must identify errors and make corrections in sentence structure, usage, mechanics, and organization. Examinees will also write a text-based essay.

Content Types

**Language Usage and Conventions**
Examinees are tasked with demonstrating their ability to revise and edit grammar, spelling, and other mechanical writing errors. The Writing test has both passage based items and stand-alone (or discrete) items. Passages are typical of draft writing that may be found in academic, business, or workplace settings, or other informational texts.

Each passage, when corrected, is an example of good writing. An examinee’s score will be determined by correctly answering multiple-choice, constructed-response, or technology-enhanced questions about edits and revisions needed in the passages.

**Writing Essay**
The Writing test also consists of writing an essay that either states and supports a claim or provides information about a topic of interest. Examinees plan, write, and revise their essays. Scoring is based on the following criteria:
- Clarity of expression
- Clear and strategic organization
- Complete development of ideas
- Sentence structure, punctuation, grammar, word choice, and spelling

Content Structure

**Organization**
- Ordering ideas, topic sentences, relevance, paragraphing.
**Sentence Structure**
- Run-ons, fragments, parallel structure.
**Usage**
- Subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, tense.
**Mechanics**
- Capitalization; punctuation (commas); spelling of homonyms, contractions, possessives.
**Contexts**
- Questions represent how-to documents, informative writing, and workplace correspondence

(Source: CTB McGraw Hill)
TASC Mathematics

In the Mathematics test there are number and quantity, algebra, functions, and geometry questions, as well as some that cover statistics and probability. Most are word problems and involve real-life situations or ask examinees to interpret information presented in diagrams, charts, graphs, and tables. Section 1 of the Mathematics test allows examinees to use a calculator. A calculator is not used in Section 2. Examinees will also be given a page of mathematic formulas to use during the test.

Content Types

Numbers and Quantities
• Provides an opportunity for the examinee to demonstrate an understanding of how quantities change with respect to one another.
• Provides evidence of the examinee’s ability to use units to solve problems.
• Requires the examinee to understand the properties of rational and irrational numbers.

Algebra
• Offers multiple-choice, gridded-response, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced items that require the examinee to apply algebraic rules to solve a linear equation, and learn how to use these functions to model real-life situations in basic courses.
• Demonstrates evidence that the examinee can apply algebraic rules, including distributive property.
• Computes algebraic expressions; specifically adding, subtracting, and multiplying polynomials.
• Requires the examinee to isolate a particular quantity of interest.

Functions
• Offers multiple-choice, gridded-response, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced items that will provide evidence regarding the examinee’s ability to analyze and represent constraints by using a system of equations.
• Requires the examinee to identify the system of equations that models the contextual situation by interpreting key words and phrases.

Geometry
• Provides evidence regarding the examinee’s ability to recognize and use geometric formulas to compute quantities of interest.
• Offers multiple-choice, gridded-response, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced items that require the examinee to apply proportional reasoning skills in a geometric context.
• Analyzes graphs to determine distances and areas that depend on the scale and units of measure.

Statistics and Probability
• Demonstrates evidence that the examinee can determine the subset representing the possible outcomes of a question, as well as the subset that describes the event of interest.
• Allows the examinee to focus on selecting the proper subset of the sample space that meets the criteria using quantitative reasoning skills.

Content Structure

Procedural Skills
• Selecting and applying procedures correctly.

Conceptual Skills
• Recognizing and applying math concepts and principles.

Application and Problem Solving
• Using strategies to solve problems and judge the reasonableness of solutions

(Source: CTB McGraw Hill)
TASC Social Studies

During the Social Studies test, examinees will be assigned with answering multiple-choice, constructed-response, and technology-enhanced questions on history, economics, geography, civics, and government. The Social Studies test gauges examinees’ understanding of the basic principles in each of those areas. To do well, examinees must be able to read passages, illustrations, graphs, and charts.


Content Types

U.S. History
• Civil War and Reconstruction (1850–1877)
• The Development of the Industrial United States (1870–1900)
• Post-War United States (1945–1970s)

World History
• Age of Revolutions (1750–1914)
• A Half-Century of Crisis and Achievement (1900–1945)
• World History: The 20th Century Since 1945: Promises and Paradoxes

Civics and Government
• U.S. Constitution: Embodies the Purpose, Values, and Principles of American Democracy
• Civic Life, Politics, and Government
• Role of the Citizen in American Democracy
• Foundations of the American Political System

Economics
• Government and Economics
• Macroeconomics
• Basic Economics
• Microeconomic

Geography
• Places and Regions
• Environment and Society
• Human Systems and Societies

Content Structure

Comprehension
• Understanding and being able to restate and summarize what is read.

Application
• Transferring ideas from one context to another.

Analysis
• Examining the logical structure of ideas; drawing conclusions from various types of data.

Evaluation
• Judging fact vs. opinion and the reliability of information. Please note that this list of subskills is not a complete list, but rather represents the most common subskills currently in use. The exhaustive list of subskills would be too long to list in this document.

(Source: CTB McGraw Hill)
TASC Science
For the Science test, multiple-choice questions are pulled from the fields of Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth and Space Science. Each discipline is subdivided into several Core Ideas, which each contain multiple performance expectations.

The Science test is designed to assess the high school performance expectations in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The NGSS performance expectations state what all learners should be able to do in order to demonstrate their understanding of science.

Earth and Space Sciences
• Earth’s Place in the Universe
• Earth’s Systems
• Earth and Human Activity

Content Structure

Comprehension
• Understanding what they read in text or see on a graphic.

Application
• Using information in a concrete situation.

Analysis
• Exploring relationships among ideas.

Evaluation
• Judging the soundness or accuracy of scientific information or methods.

Content Types

Physical Sciences
• Matter and Its Interactions
• Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions
• Energy
• Waves and Their Applications in Technologies for Information Transfer

Life Sciences
• From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
• Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
• Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
• Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity