

# California Standards Tests (CST) Procedures and Timeline



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# Introduction

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The CSTs are:

- A major component of the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program assessing the state standards
- Comprised of multiple-choice tests in grades 2-11 and additional writing tests in grades 4 and 7
- A component of both the API and AYP state performance measures



# CST Chronology

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- 1997 STAR Program began with state board approved tests administered in each district
- 1998 Stanford Achievement Tests, Ninth Edition (Stanford 9) administered statewide in grades 2-11
- 1999 CSTs in English language arts (ELA) and math added to STAR Program to address state content standards



# Chronology Continued

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- ❑ 2001 CSTs in history, social science and science added in grades 9-11. Writing tests for grades 4 and 7 added
- ❑ 2003 California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition (CAT/6) replaced the Stanford 9
- ❑ 2004 CST grade 5 science added. STAR reauthorized until 2011
- ❑ 2006 Grade level science (NCLB compliant) was added to grades 8 and 10



# Who Takes the Tests?

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- ELA, grades 2-11
- Math, grades 2-11 (grades 7-11 based on course completion)
- History-social science, grade 8
- U S history, Grade 11
- World history, grades 9-11 based on course completion



# Who Takes the Tests?

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- ❑ Science, grades 9-11 based on course completion
- ❑ Science, grades 5, 8 and 10 NCLB compliance
- ❑ Writing, grades 4 and 7

## When Are the Tests Administered?

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- According to the Education Code, **all** the STAR tests must be administered within the 21-day window that is 85% of the calendar year plus or minus 10 days.
- The STAR tests include: CSTs, California Modified Assessment (CMA), California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA), and the Standards-based Tests in Spanish (STS).

# CST Testing Windows

<b>School Type</b>	<b>Calendar</b>	<b>Track</b>	<b>Testing Window</b>
Elementary	1 Track		May 11-22
	3 Track	A, B	May 26 - June 9
		C	March 23 - April 3
	4 Track	A, B, C	May 11-June 2
		D	March 23 - April 3
Middle	1 Track		May 11-22
	3 Track	A, B	May 12-26
		C	March 23 - April 3
	4 Track	A, B, C	May 11-15
		D	March 23 - April 3
High	1 Track		May 18-27
	3 Track	A, B	May 26 - June 5
		C	March 23 - April 3
Special Ed	1 Track		May 6-22



# What Does the Test Look Like?

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- With the exception of the writing tests, the CST items are multiple choice questions.
- Each question has four possible responses and the student must select the best choice.
- Most ELA items are related to passages the student reads.
- Math, science and social science, items often include a graph, display or figure.



# How Long Does It Take?

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- CST's are untimed
- District offers suggested times for administering test but students can take as much time as needed to complete the test

# Grade 5 ELA Sample Question

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Read this sentence.

Mrs. Molloy teach us many interesting facts about California history last year.

What is the correct way to write the underlined verb in this sentence?

- A teaches
- B taught
- C teached
- D teaching



# Grade 5 ELA Sample Question Answer

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The correct response is **B**.

# Grade 8 ELA Sample Question

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Read this sentence.

Violetta cooked the spaghetti, Gino made the salad, and I prepared the soup.

How is this sentence *best* written?

- A Violetta cooked the spaghetti. Gino the salad, and I preparing the soup.
- B Violetta cooked the spaghetti, Gino makes the salad, and I the soup.
- C Violetta cooked the spaghetti, Gino making the salad, and I prepare the soup.
- D Leave as is.



## Grade 8 ELA Sample Question Answer

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The correct response is **D**.

# Algebra Sample Question

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Which statement is false?

- A The order in which two whole numbers are subtracted does not affect the difference.
- B The order in which two whole numbers are added does not affect the sum.
- C The order in which two rational numbers are added does not affect the sum.
- D The order in which two rational numbers are multiplied does not affect the product.



# Algebra Sample Question Answer

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The correct response is **A**.



## Grade 10 Science Sample Question

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Which of the following sets of organisms would be found in a wetland ecosystem?

- A tortoise, lizard, fly
- B salamander, mosquito, frog
- C moose, seal, lemming
- D lion, giraffe, beetle



# Grade 10 Science Sample Answer

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The correct response is **B**.



## How Are the Test Results Used?

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- Provide student performance levels
- Determine if students have learned state standards
- Assist in instructional planning
- Meet federal and state guidelines
- Inform Parents
- Provide information to decision makers
- Screen students for special programs



# References

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The test items used in this presentation are taken from the *Released Test Questions* from the California Department of Education website.