
LEAP Assessment Guide, Social Studies Grade 8

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I. Purpose of the Guide

This document is designed to assist Louisiana educators in understanding the LEAP Social Studies assessment for grade 8, which will be administered online in spring 2017.

II. Introduction to LEAP Social Studies Assessments

The Department is committed to administering consistent and rigorous assessments in social studies. All students in grades 3 through 8 will take LEAP grade-specific summative assessments in social studies measuring the [2011 Louisiana Social Studies standards and Grade-Level Expectations \(GLEs\)](#). The Spring 2017 LEAP Social Studies assessments will be operational tests created using questions from the Spring 2016 Social Studies Field Test.

The LEAP Social Studies assessments will offer the following:

- Grade-specific assessments in grades 3 through 8
- Measurement of the full range of Louisiana content standards in social studies
- Ability to measure the full range of student performance, including the performance of high- and low-performing students

III. Design of LEAP Social Studies Assessment

Content and Claims

The new LEAP Social Studies assessments provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of social studies through a variety of item types and to engage with source documents while developing **claims** about social studies **content** and concepts.

The instructional priorities for social studies are reflected in the summative assessment.

- **Content:** Students answer meaningful questions to demonstrate an understanding of social studies **content** and concepts.
- **Claims:** Students apply understanding of social studies **content** and concepts by expressing and developing **claims** that make connections and/or show relationships among ideas, people, and events within and across time and place.

Test Design

The LEAP Social Studies assessments have a **set-based** design.

- One to four related source documents anchor sets of four to six questions.
- Questions ask students to use prior content knowledge and the source documents to show an understanding of social studies content and concepts.
- Item sets include selected-response (i.e., multiple-choice and/or multiple-select) questions and some sets culminate with a short constructed-response or technology-enhanced question.
- The task set contains selected-response questions and an extended response. The extended-response item is worth up to 8 points and scored using a two dimensional rubric measuring content and claims.
- Sample item and task sets for grades 3 through 8 are available [here](#). A sample item set for grade 8 can be found [here](#), and a sample task set for grade 8 can be found [here](#).

Source Documents

Sets include a variety of source documents, such as:

- an excerpt from a text-based primary or secondary source
- an authentic or historical map
- a chart, table, or graph

- a timeline or series of events
- graphic organizer or diagram
- an illustration, painting, or photograph
- a historical poster or political cartoon

Item Types

- Selected Response (SR): This item type includes traditional multiple-choice (MC) questions with four answer options and only one correct answer, as well as multiple-select (MS) questions with more than four answer options and two or more correct answers. All SR items are worth 1 point each. MS questions for grade 8 have five to seven answer options. The stem of the question identifies the number of correct answers students should fill in.
- Constructed Response (CR): This item type appears at the end of some item sets and asks students to write a brief response to a question that will be scored using a rubric with a 0-to-2-point scale. Some CR items may include two parts in order to support the assignment of 2 score points.
- Technology Enhanced (TE): This item type appears at the end of some item sets and uses interactive technology to capture students' understanding in ways that cannot be accomplished by selected-response items. TE items are worth up to two points and may include interactive features such as, but not limited to, drag and drop, drop-down menus, hot spots, and a text editor.
- Extended Response (ER): This item type appears at the end of the task set. The ER item asks students to write an in-depth response that expresses and develops a claim, incorporating their knowledge of social studies content and concepts along with evidence from the source documents. The ER item is worth up to 8 points and scored using a two-dimensional rubric, measuring content and claims. Each dimension is scored using a 0-to-4 point rubric.

In spring 2017, students will take full-length, operational LEAP Social Studies assessments. The Grade 8 test contains seven (7) operational item sets, twelve (12) discrete stand-alone items, and a task set. The test also contains embedded field test items (i.e., 2 item sets and 3 discrete stand-alone items) that do not count toward students' scores. In comparison, the Spring 2016 Social Studies Field Tests were shortened forms containing 4 to 5 item sets (depending upon grade level), a handful of discrete stand-alone items, and a task set.

The following information outlines the design of the Grade 8 Social Studies Assessment.

Spring 2017 Grade 8 Social Studies Test Design

Test Session	Component	Number of Source Documents per Set or Discrete Item	Numbers and Types of Questions	Time Allowed*
Session 1	Item Set	1 to 4	5 Selected Response 1 Technology Enhanced	X minutes
	Item Set	1 to 4	5 Selected Response 1 Constructed Response	
	Item Set	1 to 4	5-6 Selected Response	
	Item Set	1 to 4	4 Selected Response 1 Technology Enhanced	
	Item Set	1 to 4	4 Selected Response	
Session 2	Task Set	3 to 4	4 Selected Response 1 Extended Response	X minutes
Session 3	Item Set	1 to 4	5 Selected Response 1 Constructed Response	X minutes
	Item Set	1 to 4	5 Selected Response 1 Technology Enhanced	
	Discrete Items	1 to 2	15 Selected Response	
Total Operational Form	7 Item Sets 1 Task Set 12 Discrete Items		49-50 Selected Response 3 Technology Enhanced 2 Constructed Response 1 Extended Response	X minutes
Total Embedded Sets/Items	2 Item Sets 3 Discrete Items (embedded across Sessions 1 and 3)		13 Selected Response 2 Constructed Response or Technology Enhanced	

Field test timing data continues to be analyzed.

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Standards Assessed

All 2011 Louisiana Social Studies standards and Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) for grade 8 are eligible for assessment, including all units in the [Social Studies Scope and Sequence for Grade 8](#). Item sets that assess content from the final unit include carefully chosen source documents that allow students to respond using their social studies skills and content knowledge from previous units. The task set, which contains the extended-response question, will not assess content from the final unit.

The percentage of score points by reporting category for the item sets and discrete items is shown in the table below. As the strand to be addressed by the task set varies by year, the percentages by reporting categories do not take the task set into account.

Reporting Category	Percentage of Score Points Based on Item Sets and Discrete Items for Grade 8
History	50
Geography	17
Civics	17
Economics	17
Total	100

IV. Sample Test Items

A sample [item set](#) and [task set](#) providing examples of how content and claims may be assessed in a grade 8 are available. The sets include source documents, technology-enhanced, selected-, constructed-, and extended-response questions.

V. Testing Materials

All students will be provided the following testing materials:

- Scratch paper
- Two sharpened no. 2 pencils with good erasers (extras should be available)
- [Extended Response Checklist](#) for grades 6, 7, and 8

VI. Test Administration Policies

Administration Schedule

The LEAP Social Studies assessment will be administered April 3 – May 5, 2017, and will be available to schools as computer-based tests (CBT).

Computer-Based Test Administration Schedule: Grade 8		
Test Window: April 3, 2017 – May 5, 2017		
Social Studies	Session 1: Item Sets	X minutes
	Session 2: Task Set	X minutes
	Session 3: Item Sets and Discrete Items	X minutes

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Students in grades 5 through 8 must take the assessment online.

Computer-Based Tests

Students taking the grade 8 LEAP Social Studies will enter their answers into the online testing system. The way each answer is entered depends on the item type. When composing their written responses for a constructed- or extended-response question, students will type their responses into an answer box using the typing tools provided.

The computer-based tests include the following online tools, which allow a student to select answer choices, “mark” items, eliminate answer options, take notes, enlarge the item, guide the reading of a text or an item line by line, and access the Extended-Response Checklist. A help tool is also featured to assist students as they use the online system.

- Pointer tool 
- Highlighter tool 
- Cross-Off tool 
- Sticky Note tool 
- Magnifying tool 
- Line Guide 
- Extended-Response Checklist 
- Help Tool 

All students taking the computer-based assessment should work through the [Online Tools Training](#) available through INSIGHT to practice using the online tools so they are well prepared to navigate the online testing system.

VII. Resources

- [2011 Social Studies Grade-Level Expectations](#): provides the Social Studies standards and GLEs for all grade levels
- [Extended Response Checklist](#): provides students in grades 6, 7, and 8 with support when developing their extended response
- [Grades 6-8 Social Studies Teacher Library](#): provides links to grade-specific resources, such as the standards, shared teacher resources, and instructional plans
- [Grades 6-8 Social Studies 2004 and 2011 GLE Comparison Charts](#): provides a side-by-side look at the 2004 and 2011 GLEs, identifying the changes so teachers can better understand the new instructional and assessment direction
- [Grades 3–8 Assessments page](#) of LDOE website: provides links to instructional and assessment information, including links to the Teacher Toolbox and other valuable resources
- [LEAP Accessibility Features and Accommodations Overview](#): provides information on the accessibility features and accommodations for grades 3 through 8 assessments
- [Online Tools Training \(OTT\)](#): provides teachers and students examples items so they can become familiar with the computer-based testing format
- [Social Studies Grade 8 Sample Item Set](#): provides examples of how content and claims may be assessed in a grade 8 item set; includes a constructed-response question
- [Social Studies Grade 8 Sample Task Set](#): provides examples of how content and claims may be assessed in a grade 8 task set; includes an extended-response question
- [Social Studies Resources page](#): provides links to social studies resources for each grade-level, including instructional tasks that show how to incorporate the instructional priorities of content and claims; instructional tasks for grade 8 include:
 - [Civil Rights \(Grade 8\)](#)
 - [Impact of Citizens \(Grade 8\)](#)
 - [Specialization in Louisiana’s Economy \(Grade 8\)](#)
- [Social Studies Scope and Sequence for Grade 8](#): provides a yearlong overview of the GLEs categorized into units to show how they support the development of content and claims