



CLASSROOM DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS
Mathematics Spring 2010 Field Test
DISTRICT/SCHOOL TEST COORDINATOR FAQs

CONTENT OR GRADE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

- Q** What areas will be field tested for science?
A The tests available for science will be for grades 3-8, Biology, and Chemistry.
- Q** Should eighth grade students take the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) for grade 8 math or Algebra I?
A If eighth grade students are currently enrolled in an Algebra I course, they should take the Algebra I CDT mathematics field test. Otherwise, they should take the grade 8 CDT mathematics field test. The specific course mapping can be found in the appendix of the Classroom Diagnostic Tools Mathematics Spring 2010 Field Test User Guide.
- Q** Which students should take the CDT for Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry?
A Students that are currently enrolled in the specified course are encouraged to take the Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry CDT mathematics field test. The specific course mapping can be found in the appendix of the Classroom Diagnostic Tools Mathematics Spring 2010 Field Test User Guide.
- Q** What grade levels will be tested for high school?
A The tests available at the high school level for the CDT mathematics field test will be Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry.

TEST SETUP QUESTIONS

SETUP PROCESS

- Q** What is the process to setup multiple teachers?
A Most of the teachers should have been added to the Test Setup System using the February PIMS collection file. Any teachers not included in the February PIMS collection will need to be added one at a time to the Test Setup System.
- Q** Can I assign two teachers to a student group (class)?
A The current Test Setup System only allows one teacher to be associated with one student group. We are looking at this as a possible enhancement for the fall.
- Q** Can a teacher be associated with multiple grades?
A Yes, a teacher can be associated with multiple grades and courses.



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- Q** How do I enter students or teachers that were not part of the last PIMS data collection?
- A** The current system requires those teachers and students to be added one at a time within the Teacher and Student tabs in the Test Setup System. Please refer to the Classroom Diagnostic Tools Mathematics Spring 2010 Field Test User Guide for step-by-step instructions.

STUDENT LOGIN TICKETS

- Q** Can student login test tickets be printed in advance of the field test?
- A** Yes, student test login tickets can be printed prior to the start of the field test window. If this is done, please make sure the tickets are kept in a secure location. The tickets should only be distributed to the teachers/test administrators on the day of testing as they are considered secure material.
- Q** Can student login test tickets be distributed to the students as they take the test?
- A** Yes, it is recommended that the student login tickets are distributed when a student enters the classroom or computer lab to take the test.
- Q** How secure are the printed tickets with each student's PA ID number?
- A** In the Classroom Diagnostic Tools Mathematics Spring 2010 Field Test Directions for Administration Manual, it informs teachers/test administrators the tickets are secure material. All tickets should be collected and returned to the STC after the students have completed testing.
- Q** What is the process to follow if a student login test ticket is lost?
- A** If a student login ticket is lost and the student has not yet signed in to the test, the student should be removed from the student group and added back in. By doing this, a new password will be generated for that student and a new student login ticket can be printed. If a student login ticket is lost and the student has signed in to the test, the student login ticket will no longer work.
- Q** How long are the student login test tickets valid?
- A** A student login ticket is valid the entire testing window or until the student signs in and completes the test. An exception would be if a student login ticket is printed and the student is removed from the student group before taking the test, deactivating the student test login.



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SECURITY

- Q** When would I use the test examiner password?
- A** The test examiner password is required if a student does not complete the test within the same day that they started. If this happens, a student will use the same student test login ticket and will be prompted for the test examiner password when the Begin My Test button is selected. The test examiner password is unique to each school and can be changed by both the DTC and STC.
- Q** What is the recommendation if there are more students in the group than are testing in the class?
- A** As long as the student test login tickets are not distributed by the DTC, STC or TA to the students not testing, are accounted for, and destroyed, those students can remain in the student group. If there is a concern around security, the DTC or STC should remove the students from the student group.
- Q** Will the Standards Aligned System (SAS) have a secure sign-on?
- A** The goal is for SAS and PA eDIRECT to eventually have a single sign-on.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Q** How were PIMS course codes associated with the mathematics field tests?
- A** All of the Pennsylvania PIMS course codes were mapped to one of nine available grade/courses (tests). The specific course mapping can be found in the appendix of the Classroom Diagnostic Tools Mathematics Spring 2010 Field Test User Guide. If you believe the wrong association was made based on your curriculum, districts and schools can reassign students to different grades/courses in the Test Setup System.
- Q** In PA eDIRECT, what do I do if my action icons are grayed out?
- A** Please try refreshing your screen or log out and back in to PA eDIRECT. If the problem persists, please contact the PA Customer Service Team.
- Q** Will a parent/guardian letter be sent explaining the testing process?
- A** This question has been forwarded to PDE. If it is deemed necessary, a communication will be sent to all DTCs notifying them of the letter.

TUTORIAL AND PRACTICE TEST QUESTIONS

- Q** How long will it take to complete the student tutorial?
- A** The student tutorial is 9 minutes in length. It is recommended to allow 15 minutes to complete the tutorial to allow students to review parts more than once.



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- Q** How long will it take to complete the practice test?
A This will vary depending on the student, but it is recommended to allow approximately 20 minutes to complete.
- Q** Will there be a parent/guardian letter sent out giving information on where the tutorial is located?
A No, but this information can be provided at the district or school discretion.

PROCTORING TEST QUESTIONS

SOFTWARE QUESTIONS

- Q** Will teachers be able to monitor the test?
A A teacher will not be able to monitor the test via the Test Setup System, but will be able to monitor the testing environment in the classroom/computer lab.
- Q** What happens if a student inadvertently exits the test?
A All answer responses will be saved. Any mark-ups using the highlighter, cross-off, notepad, or flag buttons will not be saved. To get back into the test, the student should use the same username and password. If the student does not resume the test until the next day, they will be prompted to enter a test examiner password and will need to notify their teacher/Test Administrator.
- Q** How often will the software for the CAT have to be updated?
A After the fall 2010 administration, the intent would not be very often. If updates were to occur, they would always be several weeks in advance of any fixed testing window.

TIME LIMIT QUESTIONS

- Q** Does the CDT field test have a time limit for a student to complete?
A No, there is no time limit for the CDT field test.
- Q** What is the time limit that should be allotted for the test?
A The test should take most students 50 - 75 minutes to complete.
- Q** Can a student complete the test the next day or at a later time?
A Yes, but this is not recommended and will require the use of the test examiner password.



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AUDIO ACCOMMODATIONS QUESTIONS

- Q** Can a student have a question read aloud similar to the accommodation available for the PSSA?
- A** Yes, as long as other students testing are not interrupted. Please note that all students, even those taking the same grade/course (test) will receive a different set of questions so questions could not be read aloud to multiple students at the same time.
- Q** Will audio be available for the Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDT) field test?
- A** Audio will not be available for the spring 2010 field test. However, audio will be available in fall of 2010.

CALCULATOR QUESTIONS

- Q** What is the functionality of each of the calculators?
- A** There is a basic, scientific, and graphing calculator. The graphing calculator is a graphing tool and should only be used for graphing purposes. It is not intended to perform basic mathematics calculations. A reference document on how each of the calculators operate will be provided on PA eDIRECT.
- Q** What version was used as the basis for the online graphing calculator?
- A** The functionality was built to accommodate industry standard graphing capabilities. A reference document on how each of the calculators operate will be provided on PA eDIRECT.
- Q** Can students use their own calculators instead of the online calculators when taking the test?
- A** Students are not permitted to use their own calculators when taking the field test. It is recommended that students practice using the online calculators as part of the practice test prior to the field test.

REPORTING RESULTS QUESTIONS

- Q** What information will school districts and students receive as results from taking the field test?
- A** There will not be an immediate score provided to the student after they complete the test. DRC is working with PDE to provide data at the school and district level with performance results for students. If it is determined valuable results can be produced from the field test, the files will be provided via PA eDIRECT a few weeks after the close of the testing window.



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- Q** Can DTCs and STCs have access to the student survey data?
- A** This question has been forwarded to PDE. If a decision is made to share results of the student surveys, a communication will be sent to all DTCs notifying them of the information.
- Q** Can multiple teachers, such as the mathematics teacher and special education teacher, be assigned to the same student group for reports?
- A** DRC is looking into the best solution to accommodate situations where more than one teacher would be able to see the same report for a particular student.
- Q** Will a parent/guardian letter be sent explaining the results?
- A** This question has been forwarded to PDE. If it is deemed necessary, a communication will be sent to all DTCs notifying them of the letter.

FALL 2010 ADMINISTRATION QUESTIONS

- Q** When the Mathematics CDT is available fall 2010, what will the testing window be?
- A** This is yet to be determined by PDE.
- Q** In the fall of 2010, will the results from the CDT predict how a student will perform on the PSSA and/or Keystone exams?
- A** The CDT will provide a report of the student's performance relating to the grade and corresponding PSSA or Keystone reporting categories.
- Q** How is the Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) designed as far as the estimated time it will take students of varying abilities to complete the test? Specifically, will students with lower abilities finish the test in a shorter time as opposed to advanced students?
- A** The CAT will be built to ensure all students have a comparable number of items regardless of ability level during testing.