

Washington Assessment of Student Learning

Grade 10

2008

Technical Report

Prepared by



for

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ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

Abbreviation or Term	Meaning
AP	Application of Science strand
AS	Algebraic Sense (content) Mathematics strand
CONV	Writing Conventions strand
COS	Content, Organization, & Style Writing strand
CU	Communicates Understanding (process) Mathematics strand
EALR	Essential Academic Learning Requirements
form	Operational items and imbedded pilot items that uniquely define a (test) form
GLE	Grade Level Equivalents
GS	Geometric Sense (content) Mathematics strand
IA	Informational Analysis Reading strand
IC	Informational Comprehension Reading strand
IEP	Individual Education Program
IN	Inquiry in Science strand
IRT	Item Response Theory
IT	Informational Thinking Critically Reading strand
LA	Literary Analysis Reading strand
LC	Literary Comprehension Reading strand
LT	Literary Thinking Critically Reading strand
MC	Makes Connections (process) Mathematics strand
ME	Measurement (content) Mathematics strand
NS	Number Sense (content) Mathematics strand
OSPI	Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction
PCM	Partial Credit Model
Pearson	Pearson Educational Measurement
PS	Probability and Statistics (content) Mathematics strand
PSC	Performance Scoring Center
SD	Standard Deviation
s.e.m.	Standard Error of Measurement
SR	Solves Problems & Reasons Logically (process) Mathematics strand
SY	Systems of Science strand
test	Operational test items in a testing booklet that contribute to reported student scores
WAAS	Washington Alternate Assessment System
WASL	Washington Assessment of Student Learning

PURPOSE OF THE TECHNICAL REPORT

The *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* (AERA, APA, NCME, 1999) identifies professional standards, criteria, and recommendations for test developers and test publishers. One of those standards is to provide sufficient documentation that enables potential test users to evaluate the quality of a test, including evidence for the reliability and validity of test scores. This annual technical report follows the format and composition of technical reports previously produced by The Riverside Publishing Company, and is one component of a suite of reports that documents the properties and characteristics of the 2008 *Washington Assessment of Student Learning* Grade 10 Assessment for Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science.

Unless otherwise noted, the analysis results and summaries about test performance are derived from the most recently available statewide student data file. Inclusion and exclusion rules to aggregate the data for purposes of these analyses may not necessarily coincide with the rules applied to produce operationally published score reports.

PART 1: OVERVIEW OF THE STATE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

In 1993, Washington State embarked on the development of a comprehensive school change effort with the primary goal to improve teaching and learning. Created by the state legislature in 1993 and sunset in 1999, the Commission on Student Learning was charged with three important tasks to support this school change effort.

- Establish Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs) that describe what all students should know and be able to do in eight content areas—Reading, Writing, Communication, Mathematics, Science, Health/Fitness, Social Studies, and the Arts.
- Develop an assessment system to measure student progress at three grade levels towards achieving the EALRs.
- Recommend an accountability system that recognizes and rewards successful schools and provides support and assistance to less successful schools.

The EALRs in Reading, Writing, Communications, and Mathematics were adopted in 1995 and revised in 1997. The EALRs for Science, Social Studies, Health/Fitness, and the Arts were adopted in 1996 and revised in 1997. (See <http://www.k12.wa.us/curriculuminstruct> for links to the EALRs and GLEs in all subject areas.) Performance “benchmarks” were previously established at three grade levels – elementary (Grade 4), middle (Grade 7), and high school (Grade 10).

The assessments for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics were developed at Grades 4 and 7 and were operationalized in Spring 1998. The Grade 10 assessment in these same content areas was pilot-tested in Spring 1998, and was operationalized in Spring 1999. Participation in the Grade 4 assessment became mandatory for all public schools in Spring 1998. Participation in the Grade 7 and 10 assessments was voluntary until Spring 2000. Participation in the Grade 3, 5, 6, and 8 Reading and Mathematics assessments were voluntary in 2004 and 2005, and become mandatory for first operational administration in Spring 2006.

Science was implemented as a voluntary operational administration for Grades 8 and 10 in Spring 2003 and became mandatory in 2004. Grade 5 Science was a voluntary operational administration in Spring 2004 with mandatory implementation in Spring 2005.

During the regular Spring 2005 testing period, Grade 11 students were allowed to retake any of the Grade 10 subject tests on which they had not met standard. Since students at all high school grades will eventually be able to take the tests, the Grade 10 assessments became known as the High School WASL. This report, however, is limited to the results of the students in Grade 10 who took the assessments during Spring 2008.

ELEMENTS OF THE WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

The assessment system has several major components: state-level assessments, classroom-based assessments, professional development, alternate assessment programs, the Certificate of Academic Achievement, and the Accountability System. The scope and subject of this report is necessarily limited to the technical characteristics of the regular state-level assessments, administered to the majority of students at specified grade levels.

State-Level Assessments in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science

The state-level assessments require students to select and to construct responses to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and understanding in each of the EALRs – from multiple-choice and short-answer items to extended responses, essays, and problem solving tasks. Student-, school-, district-, and state-level scores are reported for the operational assessments. The state-level operational test forms are standardized and “on demand,” meaning students are expected to respond to the same items, under the same conditions, and at the same time during the school year.

All of the state-level assessments are untimed; that is, students may have as much time as they reasonably need to complete their work. Guidelines for providing accommodations to students with special needs have been developed to encourage the inclusion of as many students as possible. Special needs students include those in special education programs, English language learners (ELL/bilingual), migrant students, and highly capable students. A broad range of accommodations allows nearly all students access to some or all parts of the assessment. (See *Guidelines for Inclusion and Accommodations for Special Populations on State-Level Assessments*.)

Classroom teachers and curriculum specialists throughout the State of Washington assisted with the development of all items for the state-level assessments. Content committees were created at each grade level and content area. Working with content and assessment specialists from Pearson Educational Measurement, these committees defined the test and item specifications consistent with the Washington State EALRs, reviewed all items prior to pilot testing, and provided final review and recommendations to approve selected items after pilot testing. A separate “bias and fairness” committee, comprised of individuals that reflect Washington’s diversity, also conducted a sensitivity review of all items for words or content that might be potentially offensive to students or parents or might disadvantage some students for reasons unrelated to the assessed skill or concept. Part 2 of this report provides further details about the test development process.

Hundreds of items were developed and pilot-tested to populate a pool of items in each grade level and content area. New forms of the assessment are constructed each year with selections from the item pool. Statistical equating procedures are applied to maintain the same performance level standards from year to year. The state-level assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Science include a mix of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-response items. The state-level assessments in Writing include two writing prompts in two different modalities, each scored for content and for writing conventions.

Following the first operational administration of each grade level content area assessment, a standard-setting panel recommended the level of performance to meet the standard on the EALRs. Additionally, “progress categories” above and below the standard were recommended in Reading, Mathematics, and Science. At the school and district levels, the percentage of students meeting the standard and in each progress category is reported. In preparation for the implementation of the Certificate of Academic Achievement, the standards for Reading, Writing, and Mathematics were revisited in February and March of 2004. Further details that describe the procedures, outline the recommendations, and summarize the results can be found in the *WASL 2004 Report and Results from Revisiting of the Standards for Grades 4/7/10 Reading, Mathematics, and Writing*.

Classroom-Based Assessment

There are several important reasons to include classroom-based assessment as part of a comprehensive assessment system. First, classroom-based assessments help students and teachers better understand the EALRs and recognize the characteristics of quality work that define good performance in each content area. Second, classroom-based assessments provide assessment of some of the EALRs for which state-level assessment is not feasible – oral presentations and group discussion, for example. Third, classroom-based assessments offer teachers and students opportunities to gather evidence of student achievement in ways that best fit the needs and interests of individual students. Fourth, classroom-based assessments help teachers become more effective in gathering valid evidence of student learning related to the EALRs. Effective classroom-based assessments can be sensitive to the developmental needs of students and provide the flexibility necessary to accommodate the learning styles of children with special needs. In addition to items that may be on the state-level assessments, classroom-based assessments can provide information from oral interviews and presentations, work products, experiments and projects, or exhibits of student work collected over a week, a month, or the entire school year.

Classroom-based assessment *Tool Kits* have been developed for the early and middle school years to provide teachers with examples of good assessment strategies. The *Tool Kits* include models for paper and pencil tasks, generic checklists of skills and traits, observation assessment strategies, simple rating scales, and generic protocols for oral communications and personal interviews. At the upper grades, classroom-based assessment strategies include models for developing and evaluating interdisciplinary performance-based tasks. The *Tool Kits* also provide content frameworks to assist teachers at all grade levels to relate their classroom learning goals and instruction to the EALRs. (See <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/toolkits/default.aspx> for links to the *Tool Kits*.)

Professional Development

A third major component of the assessment system emphasizes the need for ongoing, comprehensive support and professional training for teachers and administrators to improve their understanding of the EALRs, the characteristics of sound assessments, and effective instructional strategies that will help students meet the standards. The Commission on Student Learning established fifteen “Learning and Assessment Centers” throughout the state. Most are managed through Washington’s nine Educational Service Districts and a few are managed by school district consortia. These Centers provide professional development and support to assist school and district staff:

- link teaching and curriculum to high academic standards based on the EALRs;
- learn and apply the principles of good assessment practice;
- use a variety of assessment techniques and strategies;
- judge student work by applying explicit scoring rules;
- make instructional and curricular decisions based on reliable and valid assessment information; and
- help students and parents understand the EALRs and how students can achieve them.

Certificate of Academic Achievement

Beginning in 2008, graduating seniors may earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement in addition to the high school diploma. The Certificate will serve as evidence that students have achieved Washington’s EALRs by meeting the standards set for the High School Reading, Writing, and Mathematics assessments.

School and District Accountability System

The Academic Achievement and Accountability (A+) Commission developed recommendations for a school and district accountability system that recognizes schools who are successful in helping their students achieve the standards on the WASL assessments. These recommendations also address the need for assistance to those schools and districts in which students are not achieving the standards. The A+ Commission was dissolved in 2005 and their duties and responsibilities were transferred to the State Board of Education.

Components of the Alternate Assessment System

State assessment programs provide a vehicle to gauge student academic achievement in an educational system. The Washington State Assessment System provides accountability for instructional programs and educational opportunities for all students, including those receiving special education services. Alternate assessment is one component of Washington's comprehensive assessment system.

The Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS) program was developed by the Washington Alternate Assessment Task Force and expanded by Advisory Panels in response to requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1997:

The State has established goals for the performance of children with disabilities in the state that . . . are consistent, to the maximum extent appropriate, with other goals and standards for children established by the state.

The alternate assessments are based on Washington's EALRs in the content areas of Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science, and in this way, share a foundational link to the regular WASL assessments. The state prepared extensions for the EALRs that describe the critical function of the EALRs, the access skills, instructional activities, and assessment strategies that are designed to assist special education staff members to link functional IEP skills to the EALRs, to provide access to the general education curriculum, and to measure student progress toward achieving the EALRs.

The WAAS was designed for a small percentage of the total school population. Students with disabilities are expected to take the regular WASL tests, with or without necessary accommodations, unless the IEP team determines a student is unable to participate on one or more content areas of the WASL. In these instances, the IEP team may elect the WAAS portfolio assessment.

The Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW) and WASL-BASIC are alternatives to regular WASL administration for eligible students. The WASL-BASIC, previously called the WASL-MO (or WASL-Modified), is intended for students who take the WASL at grade level but the passing score is adjusted by the student's IEP teams from Proficient (Level 3) to Basic (Level 2). Eligibility criteria, requirements, and resource information can be found at <http://www.k12.wa.us/SpecialEd/assessment.aspx>.

CRITERION-REFERENCED TESTING

The purpose of an achievement test is to determine how well a student has learned important concepts and skills. Test scores are used to make inferences about students' overall performance in a particular domain. When we compare a student's performance to a target performance, this is considered a criterion-referenced interpretation. When we compare a student's performance relative to the performance of other students, this is considered a norm-referenced interpretation.

Criterion-referenced tests can measure the degree to which students have achieved a desired set of learning targets, conceptual understanding, and skills that are at grade level or developmentally appropriate. Much care and attention is spent to ensure that the items on the test represent only the desired learning targets and that there are sufficient numbers of items for each learning target to make reliable statements about students' degree of achievement related to that target. When a standard is defined on a criterion-referenced test, examinee scores are compared to the standard to make inferences about whether students have attained the desired level of achievement. Test scores are used to make statements like, "This student meets the minimum mathematics requirements for this class," or "This student knows how to apply computational skills to solve a complex word problem."

Norm-referenced tests provide a general measure of some achievement domain relative to the performance of other students, schools, and districts. Much care and attention is spent to create items that vary in difficulty to measure a broad range of ability levels. Items are included on the test that measure below grade level, on grade level, and above grade level concepts and skills. Items are distributed broadly across the domain. While some norm-referenced tests provide objectives-level information, items for each objective may represent concepts and skills that are not easily learned by most students until their later years in school. Examinee scores on a norm-referenced test are compared to the performance of a norm group or a representative group of students of similar age and grade. Norm groups may be local (other students in a district or state) or national (representative samples of students from throughout the United States). Scores on norm-referenced tests are used to make statements like, "This student is the best student in the class," or "This student knows mathematical concepts better than 75% of the students in the norm group."

To test all of the desired concepts and skills in a domain, testing time would be inordinate. Well designed state or national achievement tests, whether norm- or criterion-referenced, always include samples from the domain of desired concepts and skills. Therefore, when state or national achievement tests are used, we generalize from a student's performance on the sample of items in the test and estimate how the student would perform in the overall domain. For a broader measure of student achievement in a specific domain, it is necessary to use more than one assessment. District and classroom assessments are both useful and necessary to supplement information that is derived from state or national achievement tests.

It is possible and sometimes even desirable to have both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced information about students' performance. The referencing scheme is best determined by the intended use of the test, and this is generally determined by how the test is constructed. If tests are being used to make decisions about the success or the usefulness of an

instructional or administrative program, or the degree to which students have attained a set of desired learning targets, then criterion-referenced tests and interpretations are most useful. If the tests are being used to select students for particular programs or compare students, districts, and states, then norm-referenced tests and interpretations are useful. In some cases, both norm-referenced and criterion-referenced interpretations can be made from the same achievement measures. The WASL state level assessment is a criterion-referenced test. Student performance should be interpreted in terms of how well students have achieved the Washington State EALRs.

APPROPRIATE USE OF TEST SCORES

Once tests are administered, WASL performance is reported at the individual, school, district, and state levels. The information in these reports can be used with other assessment information to help with school, district, and state curriculum planning and classroom instructional decisions.

While school and district scores may be useful in curriculum and instructional planning, it is important to exercise extreme caution when interpreting individual reports. The items included on WASL tests are samples from a larger domain. Scores from one test given on a single occasion should never be used to make important decisions about students' placement, the type of instruction they receive, or retention in a given grade level in school. It is important to corroborate individual scores on WASL tests with classroom-based and other local evidence of student learning (e.g., scores from district testing programs). When making decisions about individuals, multiple sources of information should be used. Multiple individuals who are familiar with the student's progress and achievement – including parents, teachers, school counselors, school psychologists, specialist teachers, and perhaps the students themselves – should be brought together to collaboratively make such decisions.

DESCRIPTION OF THE 2008 TESTS

The Grade 10 2008 *Washington Assessment of Student Learning* (WASL) tests measure students' achievement of the EALRs in Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science. Tables 1 to 4 indicate the EALRs measured by each of the four tests, the test "strands," and the number of items per strand in the 2008 test.

Table 1. 2008 Grade 10 Reading Items - Content Classification

Type of Reading Passage	Test Strand	Number of Items
Literary ‡	Comprehension †	6
	Analysis †	5
	Thinking critically *†	5
Informational ‡	Comprehension †	9
	Analysis †	6
	Thinking critically *†	6
Total Number of Items		37

* Reading EALR 1: The student understands and uses different skills and strategies to read.

† Reading EALR 2: The student understands the meaning of what is read.

‡ Reading EALR 3: The student reads different materials for a variety of purposes

Table 2. 2008 Grade 10 Writing Prompts - Content Classification

Task	Purposes ¹	Process ²	Number of Prompts	Scores ³
Extended Piece	Persuade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prewrite • first draft • revise • edit • final draft 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content, Organization & Style • Writing Conventions
Extended Piece	Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prewrite • first draft • revise • edit • final draft 	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content, Organization & Style • Writing Conventions
Total Number of Prompts			2	

¹ Writing EALR 1: The student writes clearly and effectively (concept & design, style [word choice, sentence fluency, voice], and conventions).

² Writing EALR 2: The student writes in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes.

³ Writing EALR 3: The student understands and uses the steps of a writing process

Table 3. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Items - Content Classification

Process Strand	Concept Strand	Number of Items
Concepts & Procedures	Number Sense ¹	5
	Measurement ¹	6
	Geometric Sense ¹	5
	Probability and Statistics ¹	5
	Algebraic Sense ¹	6
Solves Problems ² & Reasons Logically ³		6
Communicates Understanding ⁴		3
Making Connections ⁵		5
Total Number of Items		41

¹ Mathematics EALR 1: The student understands and applies the concepts and procedures of mathematics.

² Mathematics EALR 2: The student uses mathematics to define and solve problems; Mathematics EALR 3 The student uses mathematical reasoning.

³ Mathematics EALR 4: The student communicates knowledge and understanding in mathematical and everyday language.

⁴ Mathematics EALR 5: The student makes mathematical connections.

Table 4. 2008 Grade 10 Science Items - Content Classification

Strand	Number of Items
Systems of Science	22
Inquiry in Science	15
Application of Science	5
Total No. of Items	42

¹ Science EALR 1: The student understands and uses scientific concepts and principles.

² Science EALR 2: The student knows and applies the skills and processes of science and technology.

³ Science EALR 3: The student understands the nature and contexts of science and technology.

SCHEDULE FOR TESTING – 10th GRADE - SPRING 2008

As the High School WASL becomes both a benchmark for graduation and a gateway to future educational and career opportunities, fairness and equity require standardized administration of the High School assessments. A mandatory standardized testing schedule was introduced for the High School 2008 WASL administration. High School Reading and Writing tests were administered during the March 10 – 11 and March 12 – 13, 2008 testing window. High School Math and Science tests were administered during the April 15 – 18, 2008 testing window. Tests were scheduled to begin at 8:00 A.M. or at the beginning of the established school day. The estimated working time for each session was 90-120 minutes. Approximately 25 minutes of additional time was expected to complete procedures associated with test administration. Table 5 shows the schedule as provided in the *Washington Assessment of Student Learning Assessment Coordinator's, Testing Window*.

Table 5. 2008 Grade 10 State Standardized Testing Schedule

March Tests	
Monday, March 10, 2008	Reading – day one
Tuesday, March 11, 2008	Reading – day two
Wednesday, March 12, 2008	Writing – day one
Thursday, March 13, 2008	Writing – day two
April Tests	
Tuesday, April 15, 2008	Math – day one (with tools)
Wednesday, April 16, 2008	Math – day two (without tools)
Thursday, April 17, 2008	Science – day one
Friday, April 18, 2008	Science – day two
August Retake	
Monday, August 11, 2008	Reading
Tuesday, August 12, 2008	Math
Wednesday, August 13, 2008	Writing – Expository Prompt
Thursday, August 14, 2008	Writing – Persuasive Prompt

SUMMARY

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is committed to developing an instructionally relevant, performance-based assessment system that enhances instruction and student learning. The assessments are based on the EALRs. Teachers and other professionals who provide pre-service and in-service training to teachers should be thoroughly familiar with the EALRs and the assessments that measure them. Teachers and administrators at all grade levels need to think and talk together about what they must do to prepare students to achieve the EALRs and to demonstrate their achievement on classroom-based and state-level assessments.

PART 2: TEST DEVELOPMENT

The content of the WASL state assessment is derived from the Washington State EALRs (see www.k12.wa.us/curriculuminstruct for links to the EALRs in all subject areas). These EALRs define what Washington students should know and be able to do by the end of Grades 3-8 and 10 in Reading, Writing, Communications, and Mathematics, and by the end of Grades 5, 8, and 10 in Social Studies, Science, the Arts, Health and Fitness. The 2008 WASL tests measured EALRs for Reading and Mathematics in Grades 3-8 and 10, for Science in Grades 5, 8, and 10, and for Writing in Grades 4, 7, and 10.

ITEM AND TEST SPECIFICATIONS

The first step in the test development process was to select “Content Committees” to work with staff from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Pearson Educational Measurement (Pearson) to develop the test items which make up the assessments at each grade level. Each Content Committee included 20 to 25 persons from throughout the state, most of whom were classroom teachers and curriculum specialists with teaching experience at or near the grades and in the content areas that were to be assessed.

The second step in the development process was attaining common agreement about the meaning and interpretation of the EALRs and identifying which EALRs could be assessed on a statewide test. It was important that the contractor, the Content Committees and OSPI staff were in agreement about what students were expected to know and be able to do and how these skills and knowledge would be assessed. Benchmark indicators were combined in various ways to create testing targets for which items would be written.

Next, test specifications were prepared. Test specifications define the kinds and numbers of items on the assessment, the blueprint and physical layout of the assessment, the amount of time to be devoted to each content area, and the scores to be generated once the test is administered. It was important at this stage to define the goals of the assessment and the ways in which the results will be used to ensure the structure of the test would support the intended uses. The test specifications are the building blocks to develop equivalent test forms in subsequent years and to create new items to supplement the item pool. The final test specifications document the following topics:

- purpose of the assessment
- strands
- item types
- general considerations of testing time and style
- test scoring
- distribution of test items by item type.

The WASL uses three types of items on the Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests: multiple choice, short answer, and extended response. For each multiple-choice item, students select the one best answer from among four choices provided. Each multiple-choice item is worth one point. These items are machine scanned and scored.

The other two “open-ended” item types – short answer and extended response – require students to produce their own response in words, numbers, or pictures (including graphs or charts). Short-answer items are worth two points (scored 0, 1, or 2) and extended-response items are worth four points (scored 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4). Student responses are assigned partial or full credit based on carefully defined scoring rules. These items cannot be scored by machine and require hand-scoring by well-trained professional scorers. Part 7 provides further detail about the hand-scoring process and results for the different subject area tests.

For Writing, students are asked to complete two writing prompts. For the Grade 10 test, students write one expository piece and one persuasive piece. The writing prompts may require students to write a letter requesting information, describe an important event or situation, or explain a procedure for completing a task or project. Each written piece is worth six points and is hand-scored for content, organization, and style (1, 2, 3, or 4 points) and for mechanics and spelling (0, 1, or 2 points). Beginning in 2003, each piece of writing was scored twice by different scorers.

Tables 6 through 9 represent the test blueprints for item content and item types for the Grade 10 Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science tests. Item specifications were developed from clarification of the EALRs and the test specifications. Item specifications provide sufficient detail including sample items to help item writers develop appropriate test items for each assessment strand. Separate specifications were produced for different item formats and different testing targets. The test and item specifications documents are not only essential for WASL test construction, but both are tools that teachers can use to develop their own assessments and administrators can use to evaluate instructional programs. Test and item specifications are updated annually as needed.¹ The most recent versions of these specifications are available through the web site for the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (See <http://www.k12.wa.us/assessment/WASL/testspec.aspx> for test and item specifications in all subjects.)

¹ It is important to note that, as more is understood about how to develop high quality items that assess the Washington State EALRs, item and test specifications must continually be refined. Refinements have been made annually since 2000. These refinements are an important part of the test development process and reflect what has been learned through ongoing studies of item level data from 1999 to the present and through external reviewers’ item evaluations. (See the Fourth Grade Mathematics Study conducted by the Northwest Regional Education Laboratory in 2000 and the Seventh and Tenth Grade Mathematics Study conducted by Stanford Research Institute in 2005 for examples).

Table 6. Grade 10 Reading Test Design

Text types/Strands	No. of Reading Selections	No. of Words Per Passage	No. of Multiple-Choice Items	No. of Short Answer Items	No. of Extended Response Items
<i>Literary</i> [‡]	3	up to 1300	10-15	3-6	1
Comprehension [†]			3-5	1-2	0
Analysis [†]			2-5	1-3	0-1
Thinking critically ^{†*}			2-5	1-3	0-1
<i>Informational</i>	3-4	up to 1300	10-15	3-6	1
Comprehension [†]			3-5	1-2	0
Analysis [†]			2-5	1-3	0-1
Thinking critically ^{†*}			2-5	1-3	0-1
Total	6-7	up to 2500	25	9	2

* Reading EALR 1: The student understands and uses different skills and strategies to read.

† Reading EALR 2: The student understands the meaning of what is read.

‡ Reading EALR 3: The student reads different materials for a variety of purposes

Table 7. Grade 10 Writing Test Design

Strands	Scored 0-2 Points	Scored 0-4 Points
<i>Expository</i>		
Content & Style		1
Conventions & Mechanics	1	
<i>Persuasive</i>		
Content & Style		1
Conventions & Mechanics	1	
Total Points [†]	4 × 2 = 8	8 × 2 = 16

¹ Writing EALR 1: The student writes clearly and effectively (concept & design, style [word choice, sentence fluency, voice], and conventions).

² Writing EALR 2: The student writes in a variety of forms for different audiences and purposes.

³ Writing EALR 3: The student understands and uses the steps of a writing process

† At Grade 10, each aspect is double-scored, resulting in twice the raw score points

Table 8. Grade 10 Mathematics Test Design

Strands	Multiple Choice	Short Answer	Extended Response
Number Sense ¹	3-5	1-2	0
Measurement Concepts ¹	3-5	1-2	0
Geometric Sense ¹	3-5	1-2	0
Probability and Statistics Procedures ¹	3-5	1-2	0
Algebraic Sense ¹	3-5	1-2	0
Solves Problems & Reasons Logically ²	0-2	2-3	2-3
Communicates Understanding ³	0	1-2	1-2
Making Connections ⁴	2-4	1-2	0
Maximum Number of Items	27	11	4
Maximum Number of Points	27	22	16

¹ Mathematics EALR 1: The student understands and applies the concepts and procedures of mathematics.

² Mathematics EALR 2: The student uses mathematics to define and solve problems and Mathematics EALR 3 The student uses mathematical reasoning.

³ Mathematics EALR 4: The student communicates knowledge and understanding in mathematical and everyday language.

⁴ Mathematics EALR 5: The student makes mathematical connections.

Table 9. Grade 10 Science Test Design

Essential Academic Learning Requirements Strands (# of WASL Learning Targets)	Multiple Choice	Short Answer	Extended Response	Range of Points	Approx. Percent of Total
SY Systems of Science Properties of Systems (6 targets) conceptual understanding (I) application/analysis (II)	1-2 1-2	1-3		6-8	10%
Structure of Systems (8 targets) conceptual understanding (I) application/analysis (II)	2-3 1-2	1-3	0-1	8-10	14%
Changes in Systems (10 targets) conceptual understanding (I) application/analysis (II)	2-3 2-3	1-3	0-1	9-11	16%
IN Inquiry in Science Investigating Systems (5 targets) conceptual understanding (I) application/analysis (II) Nature of Science (5 targets) conceptual understanding (I) application/analysis (II)	3-4 2-4 2-3 1-3	2-4 2-3	1-2 0-1	26-28	40%
AP Application of Science Designing Solutions for Human Problems Design Process (3 targets) conceptual understanding (I) application/analysis (II) Science, Technology, & Society (2 of 4 targets) conceptual understanding (I) application/analysis (II)	2-3 2-3 1-2 1-3	1-3 1-3	0-1	12-14	20%
Total Number of Items	28	11	3	42	
Total Number of Points	28	22	12	62	

¹ Science EALR 1: The student understands and uses scientific concepts and principles.

² Science EALR 2: The student knows and applies the skills and processes of science and technology.

³ Science EALR 3: The student understands the nature and contexts of science and technology.

CONTENT REVIEWS & BIAS AND FAIRNESS REVIEWS

Using test and item specifications, item writers prepare new items and scoring rubrics. Item writers include committees of Washington teachers who participate in item writer workshops for professional development opportunities, and Pearson Content Specialists. Washington teacher item-writers include novice and experienced item writers, who all receive focused training during Washington item writer workshops. Raw items are initially produced during these workshops, and later refined by Pearson’s full-time staff of Content Specialist professionals who have, on average, 14 years of classroom and pedagogical experience. All Pearson item writers receive in-depth training before actively working on a Pearson contract as Content Specialists. Half of the Content Specialists assigned to the Washington contract have advanced degrees in curriculum, instruction, assessment, or their subject area specialty.

Item writers develop items, passages, and scenarios that:

- match the passage, scenario, and item specifications;
- fulfill the test map specifications;
- display content accurately and clearly;
- are within the grade level reading range;
- are free of bias;
- are sensitive to students with special needs.

Before an item may be piloted, it must be reviewed and approved by the Content Committee and the Bias and Fairness Committee. A Content Committee’s task is to review the item content and scoring rubric to assure that each item:

- is an appropriate measure of the intended content (EALR);
- is appropriate in difficulty for the grade level of the examinees;
- has only one correct or best answer for each multiple-choice item;
- has an appropriate and complete scoring guideline for open response items.

The Content Committees can make one of three decisions about each item: approve the item and scoring rubric as presented, conditionally approve the item and scoring rubric with recommended changes or item edits to improve the fit to the EALRs and the specifications, or eliminate the item from further consideration.

Based on content reviews, items may be revised. Each test item is coded by content area (EALR) and by item type (multiple choice, short answer, extended response) and presented to the OSPI Assessment Specialist for final review and approval before pilot testing. The final review includes a review of graphics, art work, and page layout.

The Bias and Fairness Committee reviews each item to identify language or content that might be inappropriate or offensive to students, parents, or community members, or items which might contain “stereotypic” or biased references to gender, ethnicity, or culture. The Bias and Fairness Committee reviews each item and accepts, edits, or rejects it for use in item pilots.

ITEM PILOTS

Once an item has been approved for placement on a pilot test, pilot test forms are constructed by the contractor and must be approved by OSPI. Items are pilot tested with a sample of students from across the state. Pilot Reading and Mathematics items are included in operational testing sessions, but do not contribute to reported scores. Pilot Science items were previously administered in a stand-alone pilot testing program, but beginning in Spring 2006, they were also imbedded in the operational test. Pilot items are presented in similar locations across operational forms. No more than 7 items are piloted in any single test form, so no student is administered more than 7 pilot items. Since pilot items are administered together with operational test items, students tend to complete pilot items with the same level of motivation and attention they give to the operational test items. The data for these pilot items are considered to provide reasonable estimates to the item difficulty when the items become operational. A test form is defined by different sets of pilot items and a common set of operational items. Placing pilot items on the operational form and systematically distributing the pilot forms yields a statewide representative, randomly equivalent sample of students that respond to each pilot item. For the High School Writing program, new pilot prompts were administered to a volunteer sample in a stand-alone pilot program in Fall 2004. Further details of sampling procedures, analyses, and results are provided in *Fall 2004 Grade 11 Writing Pilot*.

For each pilot form, at least 1200 student responses are scored. Of the 1200 scored student responses and as a function of the number of total pilot forms administered at a grade level, approximately 100 responses per pilot item come from each of the OSPI-designated ethnic groups (African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, and Hispanic). A statewide representative sampling framework – specified by geographic region, district density, building enrollment type, grade level enrollment, proportion of ethnic groups within grade level, and percent of students receiving AFDC – is used to develop an intended sampling plan to distribute the pilot forms. Further details about the sampling framework and annual pilot form distribution plans are described in *Blue Dot Rotation Documentation*.

CALIBRATION, SCALING, AND ITEM ANALYSIS

After pilot administration, student responses are scored using the scoring rubrics approved by the Content Committees. Statistical analyses are completed using procedures based on classical test theory and modern item response theory to evaluate the effectiveness of the items and to empirically examine the presence of differential item functioning or “item bias.”

Two types of item analyses are completed for all items. Traditional item analysis statistics, based on classical test theory, include item means and item-test correlations. The Rasch Partial Credit Model is one class of mathematical models based on modern item response theory, used to estimate item location and item fit statistics. A generalized Cochran Mantel-Haenszel chi-square and a generalized Mantel-Haenszel alpha odds ratio are computed for each pilot item to evaluate the presence and directionality of differential item functioning or “item bias” for each pilot item. Differential item functioning is observed when examinees from different demographic groups with the same ability perform differently on the same item.

IRT Analysis

The Rasch Partial Credit Model is a class of Item Response Theory (IRT) models used to place all items with a common construct on the same scale. Differences between grade level development and subject area constructs frequently necessitate the development of separate grade level/subject area scales. Elementary grade level mathematics items, for example, are typically on a separate scale from elementary grade level reading items. Examinee abilities and item difficulty parameters share the same scale, and unlike traditional item means, IRT item difficulty parameters are essentially sample-independent. Stated another way, an item difficulty parameter is the same for different groups of examinees. Equations 1 and 2 specify the Rasch Partial Credit Model, defined by the probability of person n scoring x on item i as:

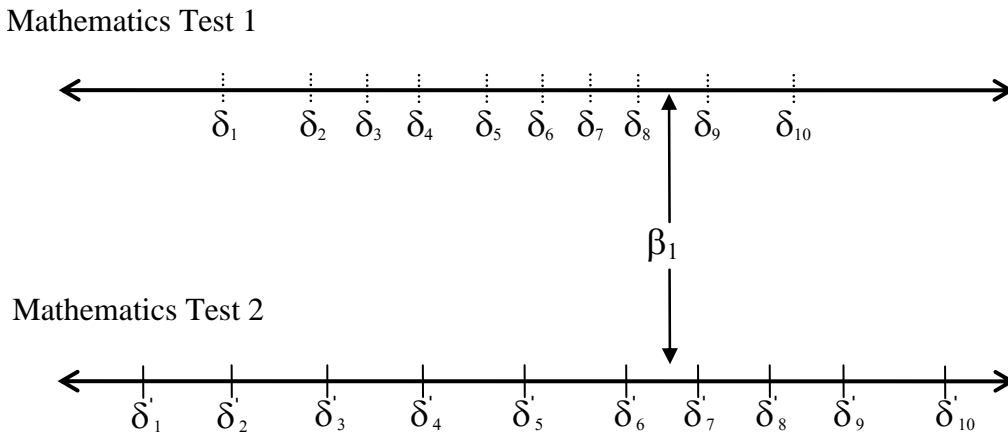
$$P_{xni} = \frac{\exp \sum_{j=0}^x (B_n - D_{ij})}{\sum_{k=0}^{m_i} \exp \sum_{j=0}^k (B_n - D_{ij})} \quad \text{(Equation 1)}$$

where $x = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m - 1$;
 B_n = person parameter;
 D_{ij} = item-category parameter; and

$$\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} (B_n - D_{ij}) = 0 \quad \text{(Equation 2)}$$

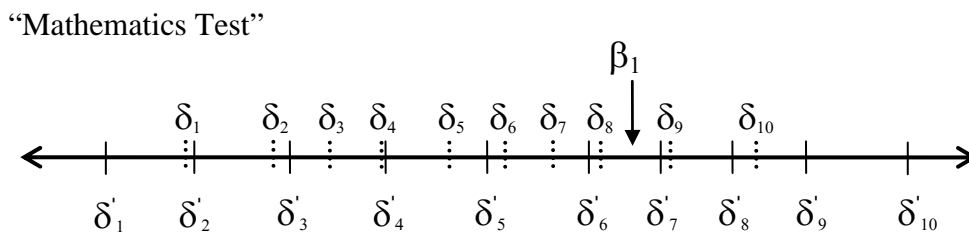
Item difficulties and examinee abilities can be estimated for a test using this mathematical model. The item difficulty is the location on the ability scale where examinees have a 50/50 chance of answering an item correctly. Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between examinee ability and item difficulty from two different tests.

Figure 1. Location of examinee β_1 on two tests with different items



Test scores can be conveyed in scaled scores or number correct scores. In Figure 1, above, an examinee correctly answered the first eight items on Mathematics Test 1 and the first six items on Mathematics Test 2. This example illustrates how number correct scores for the same examinee is a function of the particular set of items on a test. When all Mathematics items ($\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \dots, \beta_{10}$) are placed on the same scale, the examinee’s ability can be reported relative to an underlying, common scale – a value between δ_8 (from Test 1) and δ'_7 (from Test 2).

Figure 2. Location of examinee β_1 on the same “Mathematics Test” scale



When a collection of items shares a construct, calibrating and scaling items with the Rasch model places the items on the same scale so that examinee test scores reflect their location on the underlying scale rather than the number of items answered correctly on a particular test.

For polytomously scored items, the Rasch Partial Credit Model estimates the step difficulties for each item-category. For example, items with 3 possible score points (0, 1, 2) can have two step categories. The first step is the location on the scale where examinees with abilities equal to that location have an equal chance of getting a score of 0 or 1. The second step is the point on the scale where examinees with abilities equal to that location have equal probability of earning a score of 1 or 2.

For dichotomously scored, multiple-choice items, the Rasch Partial Credit Model becomes a special case of the Rasch one-parameter model:

$$P_{ni} = \frac{\exp(B_n - D_i)}{1 + \exp(B_n - D_i)} \quad (\text{Equation 3})$$

where B_n = person parameter;
 D_j = item parameter.

When item scores are placed on a scale, items are assessed for statistical fit to the Rasch model. In order for items to be included in the operational item pool, they must measure relevant knowledge and skill, represent desired locations on the ability scale, and fit the Rasch model.

IRT analyses are completed separately by grade level for each WASL content area. The adequacy of item fit depends on whether the items in a scale all measure a similar construct or whether the scale is essentially unidimensional. Just as height, weight, and body temperature are different dimensions of the human body, so are Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science different dimensions of achievement.

In order to place all grade level/content area pilot items from different test forms on the same Rasch scale, all test forms shared a common set of operational items. For Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests, the same set of operational items appeared in all test forms, but different sets of pilot items were imbedded in or appended to the operational sections. Pilot items were then calibrated and scaled to the grade level/content area scale through the common operational items.

Traditional Item Analysis

For multiple-choice items, item means or p-values and item-test correlations or point-biserials are computed. These are the classical test theory equivalents of item difficulties and item discriminations. The item p-value is the percentage of examinees that selected the correct answer choice, and ranges from 0.0 to 1.0. The point-biserial is an index of the relationship between performance on an item and overall performance on the test. Point-biserials can range from -1.00 to 1.00. Point-biserials are usually greater than 0.20, but these values can be deflated when item content is unfamiliar to all examinees regardless of performance on the total test or when the item does not distinguish between higher and lower test performance sufficiently well. Option biserials are correlations between incorrect answer choices and the overall test, and typically exhibit negative values.

Item means for short-answer and extended response item types reflect the average earned item score for examinees. For two-point items, item means can range from 0 to 2. For four-point items, item means can range from 0 to 4. Item-test correlations for polytomous items indicate the relationship between item performance and overall test performance. As with multiple-choice items, item-test correlations can range from -1.00 to 1.00.

Unlike IRT item statistics, item means and item-test correlations are dependent on the particular group of examinees who took the test. When examinees are exceptionally well schooled in the concepts and skills tested, item means will be fairly high and the items will appear to be easy. When examinees are not well schooled in the concepts and skills tested, item means will be fairly low and items will appear to be difficult. When one group’s performance on an item does not relate well to performance on the test as a whole, the item-test correlation will be artificially low. Since scaled IRT item parameters can provide information about a pilot item relative to a larger item pool, both Rasch and classical item statistics are computed to evaluate the quality of items and their inclusion in the larger item pool.

Bias Analysis

The Mantel-Haenszel statistic is a chi-square (χ^2) statistic. Examinees are separated into relevant subgroups based on ethnicity or gender. Examinees in each subgroup are ranked relative to their total test score. Examinees in the focal group (e.g., females) are compared to examinees in the reference group (e.g., males) relative to their performance on individual items. Multiple 2x2 contingency tables are created for each item by each total test score and for every demographic contrast. The 2x2 contingency tables represent the number of examinees at a specific total test score in each subgroup who correctly answered the item and the number of examinees in each group who answered incorrectly. Table 10 is an example of a 2x2 table of performance on hypothetical multiple-choice “Item X” for males and females with Total Test Score Y_i for a gender contrast. Among these 200 examinees with total test score Y_i , the item appears to be more difficult for females than for males, and fewer examinees overall correctly answered the item.

Table 10. Scores on “Item X” for Examinees with Total Test Score Y_i by Gender

Item X	Number Responding Correctly	Number Responding Incorrectly
Males (N = 100)	50	50
Females (N = 100)	30	70

Examinees with Total Test Score = Y_i

To compute the Mantel-Haenszel statistic, similar 2x2 tables are created at every total test score. A χ^2 statistic is computed for each 2x2 table and the sum of all χ^2 statistics yields the total bias statistic for a single item. A generalized Mantel-Haenszel statistic is computed for polytomous items using all item score points. Items that demonstrate a high $\sum\chi^2$ are flagged for potential bias. Generally, a certain percentage of items in any given pool of items will be flagged for item bias by chance alone. Careful review of items can help to identify whether some characteristic of an item may cause the bias (e.g., the content or language is unfamiliar to girls) or whether the bias flag is likely a result of statistical error.

Mantel-Haenszel item statistics are computed for all pilot items and reviewed at Data Review as part of the evaluation process for inclusion into the active item pool. Mantel-Haenszel item statistics are not computed on operational items. Table 11 summarizes the percentage of items with statistically significant Mantel-Haenszel statistics from the 2008 pilot. The 2008 operational tests are comprised of items that were piloted in years prior to 2008, which were reviewed and approved by Content Review, Bias and Fairness Review, and Data Review Committees.

Table 11. Percent of Pilot 2008 Items with Statistically Significant Mantel-Haenszel Statistics

	MC pilot items					SA pilot items					ER pilot items				
	White-Asian	White-Black	White-Hispanic	White-Native American	Male-Female	White-Asian	White-Black	White-Hispanic	White-Native American	Male-Female	White-Asian	White-Black	White-Hispanic	White-Native American	Male-Female
Grade 10 Reading	21	14	29	5	18	3	1	1	3	7	4	3	1	0	4
# Pilot Items	71					17					8				
Grade 10 Mathematics	10	6	5	2	12	2	0	2	1	4	2	0	1	0	1
# Pilot Items	52					27					8				
Grade 10 Science	10	3	4	0	14	3	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
# Pilot Items	76					20					4				

The Grade 10 Writing Pilot was last administered in Spring 2007 to develop the current bank of operational prompt pairs. Further details about the pilot design, analysis procedures, and pilot results are provided in *Summary Report of the 2007 Imbedded Spring Grade 10 Writing Pilot*. No Grade 10 writing prompts were piloted in 2008.

DATA REVIEWS

After statistical analyses for pilot items have been completed, Data Review Committees review these results to evaluate item quality and appropriateness for inclusion in the larger item pool and candidacy for future operational use. Examples of Data Review reports used by Data Review Committees are provided in Appendix A. These committees include Washington educators, curriculum specialists, and educational administrators with grade-level and subject matter expertise relevant to the specific data review grade levels. All committee members are selected by OSPI from a recommendation pool of professional Washington education organizations and from a pool of Washington educators who complete an application to participate in OSPI professional development activities. OSPI content specialists, Pearson content specialists, and Pearson psychometricians facilitate the Data Reviews. Pilot items and scoring rubrics are re-evaluated to confirm fit to the EALRs, pilot item statistics are reviewed to determine whether content or language may have contributed to any significant DIF statistics. During these committee reviews, items are either accepted into or rejected from the active item pool.

Data Review meetings are usually conducted in late autumn and early winter to evaluate items piloted during the previous spring. The summary results from Data Review meetings are not available until late winter or early spring of the following year. In 2008, Data Review meetings were convened for Reading, Mathematics, and Science content areas at Grade 10.

ITEM SELECTION

Statistical review of items involves examining item means, Rasch item difficulties, and item-test correlations to determine whether items are functioning well. Statistical review also requires examining the adequacy of the model fit to the data. Items that exhibit poor fit to the model may need to be revised or removed from the item pool. Items that function poorly (too easy, too difficult, or have low or negative item-test correlations) may also need to be revised or removed from the item pool. Finally, items that are flagged for bias against any group are examined closely to decide whether they will be removed from the pool. Operational test forms are constructed with items from the active item pool.

TEST CONSTRUCTION

New operational forms are created for each test administration, usually sometime in the spring after Data Review. Building an operational form is a complex puzzle. OSPI content specialists, Pearson content specialists, and psychometricians jointly select items according to test build specifications and test blueprints. There are a number of factors that must be considered during the test construction process. Operational test forms are constructed according to the requirements outlined in the WASL test blueprints, test specifications, and test maps. Items are selected to satisfy the test map, meet target test difficulty, represent an overall test with balanced context. A test development checklist is used to review the initial test pulled during the test build. Test build is an iterative process to balance test content and its statistical properties.

Test specifications guide the item selection process to ensure that all relevant strands are represented in each operational form. Representation of all gender and ethnic groups – in character names, topics of reading passages, and item contexts – is reviewed to ensure that Reading passages, scenarios in Science, and stimulus materials used in the Mathematics and Writing tests include balanced representations of groups. The WASL is a criterion-referenced assessment with defined performance level standards on each operational test. Items are selected to cover a range of difficulty levels on each of the Reading, Mathematics, and Science scales.

When a new operational form is created for each test administration, test scores must be equated to the baseline scale to maintain interpretability over time. The baseline scale is determined when performance level standards are defined, typically following the first operational test administration until performance level standards are revisited or redefined. Each test has target statistical characteristics and criteria. The better the match to these criteria, the better the equating accuracy of test scores between different test administrations. The test developer's objective is to construct a new, parallel operational test form for each administration.

The weighted mean Rasch difficulty is used to construct an operational test form of the same level of difficulty from administration to administration. The mean item Rasch difficulty is weighted by the maximum raw item score for each operational item as its weighted item Rasch difficulty. The sum of weighted item Rasch difficulties is divided by the maximum total raw test score to compute the weighted mean Rasch difficulty for the test. The weighted mean Rasch difficulty for an operational form should approximate historical weighted mean Rasch difficulties unless there is a purposeful effort to shift the targeted difficulty level of a test. During the early years of a new assessment program, the target weighted mean Rasch frequently is near zero (0). Over time, however, item and test difficulties tend to shift. Table 12 lists the empirical weighted mean Rasch values from 2000 through 2008 Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests.

Table 12. Empirical Weighted Mean Rasch of 2000 ~ 2008 Grade 10 Reading, Mathematics, & Science Tests

Subject		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007*	2008*
Reading	Mean Rasch	0.06	0.23	0.33	0.20	-0.34	-0.06	-0.25	0.17	-0.07
	Cut Score	37 out of 56	33 out of 52	31 out of 52	32 out of 52	37 out of 52	38 out of 52	42 out of 51	38 out of 52	40 out of 52
	% Correct	66.1%	63.5%	59.6%	61.5%	71.2%	73.1%	82.3%	73.1%	75.8%
Mathematics	Mean Rasch	0.33	0.23	0.06	-0.11	-0.35	-0.26	-0.19	0.06, 0.11	0.11, 0.32
	Cut Score	35 out of 70	28 out of 64	35 out of 64	39 out of 64	42 out of 65	36 out of 65	40 out of 65	34 out of 65, 35 out of 65	31 out of 61, 29 out of 61
	% Correct	50.0%	43.8%	54.7%	60.9%	64.6%	55.4%	61.5%	52.3%, 53.8%	50.2%, 46.9%
Science	Mean Rasch	NA			0.25	0.12	0.27	0.37	0.26	0.22
	Cut Score				38 out of 66	40 out of 66	37 out of 66	29 out of 62	28 out of 62	28 out of 62
	% Correct				57.6%	60.6%	56.1%	46.8%	45.2%	45.3%

*Two parallel operational base forms (Form B, Form BB) were administered for Grade 10 Math only, beginning in Spring 2007. The 2008 Grade 10 Math values correspond to those for Form A and Form AA.

PART 3: VALIDITY

An important issue in test development is the degree to which the achievement test elicits the conceptual understanding and skills it is intended to measure. If students must use logical reasoning skills to respond to an item, for example, we need evidence that the item elicits logical reasoning in students' responses rather than memorization. Validity is an evaluative judgment about the degree to which test scores represent the intended construct. There are several different strategies to obtain evidence for the validity of test scores (Messick, 1989):

1. We can look at the content of the test in relation to the content of the domain of reference;
2. We can probe the ways in which individuals respond to the items or tasks;
3. We can examine the relationships among responses to the tasks, items, or parts of the test, that is, the internal structure of test responses;
4. We can survey relationships of test scores with other measures and background variables, that is, the test's external structure;
5. We can investigate differences in these test processes and structures over time, across groups and settings, and in response to . . . interventions such as instructional . . . treatment and manipulation of content, task requirements, or motivational conditions;
6. Finally, we can trace the social consequences of interpreting and using test scores in particular ways, scrutinizing not only the intended outcomes, but also the unintended side effects. (p. 16)

Validity is a judgment about the relationships between a test score and its context (including the instructional practices and the examinee), the knowledge and skills it represents, the intended interpretations and uses, and the consequences of its interpretation and use. Messick stated that multiple sources of evidence are needed to investigate the validity of assessments. The following sections provide descriptions about available validity evidence for the Grade 3 WASL, pertaining to types of validity evidence 1~3 above. Concurrent, predictive, and consequential validity evidence are not addressed in this report. The evidence includes correlations among scores and strands within the WASL and factor analysis studies to examine the construct validity of WASL.

CONTENT VALIDITY

Part 2 of this technical report, "Test Development," describes the processes used to ensure valid content representation, alignment, and conformity to the defined content area domains. Test blueprints, test specifications, and test maps define the framework of all WASL test development and test construction. Throughout the test development process, committees of professional educators, content area experts, and professionally trained test developers all provide on-going review, verification, and confirmation to ensure content validity of test content is aligned with the EALRs.

CONSTRUCT VALIDITY

Content representation and item quality are important aspects of a test, but they do not ensure the valid interpretation of test scores. To evaluate test score validity, it is important to determine whether the internal structure of the test is consistent, and whether subsets of items that purport to measure a particular construct do so consistently and in concert. This type of evidence represents the construct validity of test scores.

Studies were previously conducted to gather construct validity evidence for the Grade 10 WASL Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science tests. The *WASL Technical Reports for Grade 10* from 1999 to 2002 provide construct validity information for the 1999 through 2002 Grade 10 data. The internal structure of tests was evaluated by examining the correlations among strand scores for the WASL content area strands and by factor analyses of the strand scores. The relationship of the WASL to external measures has been studied through correlational analysis of WASL scores and, in 2001 and 2005, with scores on the *Iowa Test of Educational Development*. In this technical report, the internal structure of WASL was evaluated through correlational analysis between strand scores on WASL content area tests.

Correlations Among WASL Strand Scores

Table 13 lists the intercorrelations of strand scores between different 2008 WASL content area tests. These intercorrelations were completed only using the 47,930 cases for which all four Grade 10 WASL content area scores were available for analysis. Scores for Reading strands (Literary Comprehension, Literary Analysis, Literary Thinking Critically, Informational Comprehension, Informational Analysis, Informational Thinking Critically) exhibit correlations between 0.367 and 0.556. The Writing Content, Organization, & Style strand score correlated 0.471 with the Writing Conventions strand score. Intercorrelations of Mathematics concepts strand scores (Number Sense, Measurement, Geometric Sense, Probability and Statistics, and Algebraic Sense) range from 0.444 to 0.616. Shavelson, Baxter, & Gao (1993) showed that students perform differently on mathematical tasks that tap different mathematics skills. Intercorrelations between the Mathematics process scores (Solves Problems and Reasons Logically, Communicates Understanding, and Makes Connections) are moderately high (0.614 to 0.689) suggesting that the skills required in these strands share a common construct. Most mathematics items in the process strands involve short-answer and extended response item formats. Process strand scores for Solves Problems and Reasons Logically, Communicates Understanding, and Makes Connections are moderately to moderately well correlated with strand scores for all other content area strand scores (0.297 to 0.699). The three Science content strand scores are intercorrelated between 0.610 and 0.694.

Table 13. 2008 Grade 10 WASL Strand Score Intercorrelations

Strands	LC	LA	LT	IC	IA	IT	COS	CONV	NS	ME	GS	PS	AS	SR	CU	MC	SY	IN
LA	0.491	1																
LT	0.445	0.542	1															
IC	0.520	0.489	0.459	1														
IA	0.427	0.395	0.367	0.556	1													
IT	0.466	0.504	0.475	0.534	0.444	1												
COS	0.420	0.381	0.368	0.467	0.376	0.417	1											
CONV	0.369	0.323	0.335	0.463	0.400	0.378	0.471	1										
NS	0.356	0.299	0.269	0.434	0.358	0.323	0.350	0.308	1									
ME	0.378	0.326	0.284	0.470	0.392	0.340	0.369	0.321	0.607	1								
GS	0.348	0.290	0.264	0.434	0.380	0.315	0.332	0.339	0.520	0.566	1							
PS	0.315	0.269	0.246	0.397	0.328	0.292	0.313	0.292	0.474	0.510	0.444	1						
AS	0.388	0.331	0.294	0.467	0.384	0.355	0.375	0.344	0.588	0.616	0.529	0.485	1					
SR	0.434	0.379	0.349	0.524	0.434	0.404	0.440	0.381	0.645	0.699	0.598	0.541	0.661	1				
CU	0.407	0.348	0.323	0.490	0.404	0.369	0.404	0.375	0.557	0.599	0.550	0.483	0.565	0.657	1			
MC	0.386	0.335	0.297	0.468	0.386	0.354	0.383	0.330	0.606	0.681	0.583	0.500	0.601	0.689	0.614	1		
SY	0.431	0.354	0.299	0.535	0.443	0.380	0.387	0.341	0.528	0.592	0.503	0.468	0.546	0.610	0.577	0.575	1	
IN	0.481	0.443	0.412	0.579	0.472	0.472	0.483	0.431	0.528	0.574	0.509	0.453	0.558	0.646	0.595	0.585	0.659	1
AP	0.425	0.385	0.363	0.501	0.406	0.418	0.454	0.374	0.443	0.475	0.419	0.389	0.468	0.549	0.515	0.492	0.610	0.694

LC-Literary Comprehension

LA- Literary Analysis

LT-Literary Thinking Critically

IC-Informational Comprehension

IA-Informational Analysis

IT-Informational Thinking Critically

COS-Content, Organization, & Style

CONV-Writing Conventions

NS-Number Sense

ME-Measurement

GS-Geometric Sense

PS-Probability and Statistics

AS-Algebraic Sense

SR-Solves Problems & Reasons Logically

CU-Communicates Understanding

MC-Makes Connections

SY-Systems of Science

IN-Inquiry in Science

AP-Application of Science

Intercorrelations between Reading strand scores and Mathematics content strand scores are low to moderate (0.246 to 0.470). The intercorrelations between Reading strand scores and Mathematics process strand scores are slightly higher, but also modest (0.297 to 0.524). Science process strand Inquiry in Science is moderately correlated with most of the Reading, Writing and Mathematics strand scores (0.412 to 0.694). Intercorrelations between Writing strand scores and Mathematics strand scores are modest (0.292 to 0.440). Writing strand scores and Reading strand scores share slightly higher intercorrelations but are still modest (0.323 to 0.467). The correlations between Writing and Science strand scores range from 0.341 to 0.483. These intercorrelations suggest that, for Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science tests, writing skill, critical thinking, and synthesis are moderately related to performance. To further investigate the relationships between Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science, an exploratory factor analysis was completed on the content area strand scores.

Factor Analysis of Strand Scores

The relationships between the WASL strand scores were investigated with a principal components analysis, followed by a common factor model analysis using PROC FACTOR in SAS v 9.1. The number of factors was defined using two criteria – a scree plot, and a solution in which at least 60 percent of the variance is explained. The eigenvalues suggested a three-factor solution that explained 61 percent of the total variance. Rotation is a step in factor analysis that facilitates the identification of meaningful factor descriptions. Table 14 lists the rotated factor pattern for the three-factor solution. These patterns indicate distinct constructs between the Mathematics/Science, Reading, and Writing with Informational Analysis of Reading strand scores. For these analyses, a scree plot exhibited two prominent factors, and the presence of a third, less prominent factor. The first two factors alone accounted for 57% of the total variance.

Table 14. 2008 Grade 10 Rotated Factor Pattern on WASL Tests for Three-Factor Solution

Variables	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3
Measurement (Math)	0.804*	0.185	0.136
Solves Problems & Reasons Logically (Math)	0.796	0.247	0.228
Makes Connections (Math)	0.793	0.197	0.152
Number Sense (Math)	0.756	0.171	0.122
Algebraic Sense (Math)	0.738	0.207	0.177
Communicates Understanding (Math)	0.710	0.217	0.265
Geometric Sense (Math)	0.697	0.150^	0.195
Systems of Science (Science)	0.670	0.240	0.312
Probability & Statistics (Math)	0.645	0.153	0.144
Inquiry in Science (Science)	0.604	0.356	0.421
Applications of Science (Science)	0.502	0.300	0.447
Literary Analysis (Reading)	0.198	0.803*	0.102^
Literary Thinking Critically (Reading)	0.144^	0.782	0.125
Informational Thinking Critically (Reading)	0.209	0.667	0.306
Literary Comprehension (Reading)	0.288	0.617	0.275
Informational Comprehension (Reading)	0.390	0.521	0.448
Conventions (Writing)	0.180	0.171	0.799*
Content, Organization, & Style (Writing)	0.246	0.274	0.684
Informational Analysis (Reading)	0.306	0.421	0.445

*Largest loading within a common factor

^Smallest loading within a common factor

Examining Construct Validity Through Confirmatory Factor Analysis

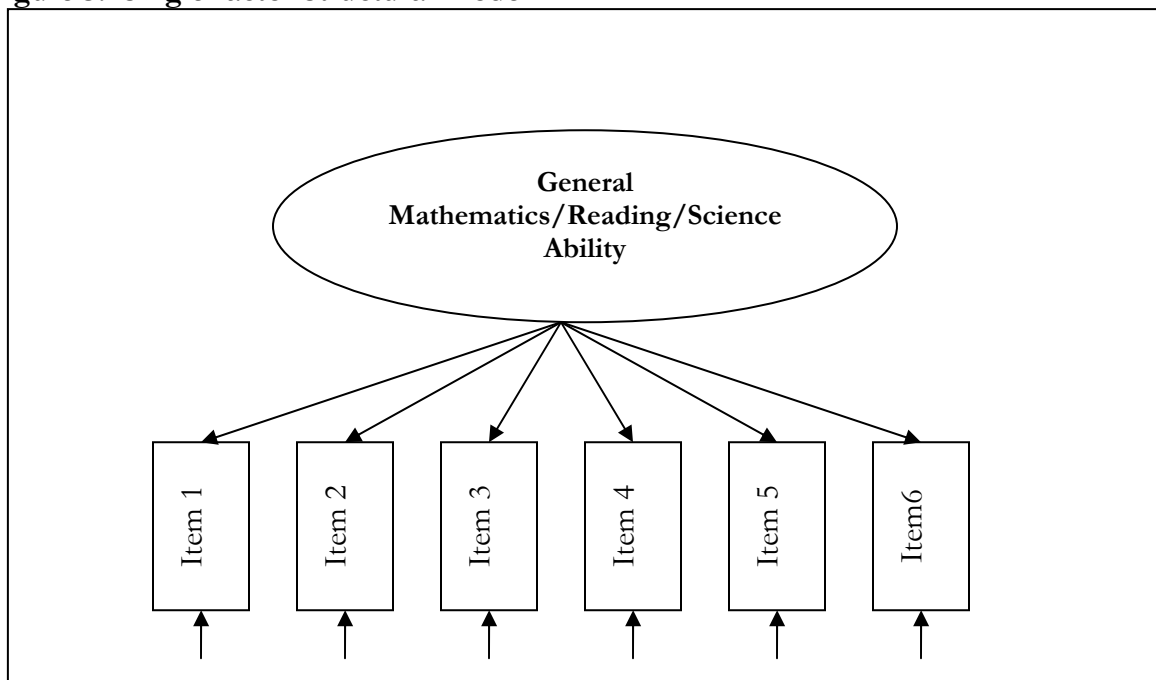
It is assumed that each WASL test is unidimensional to measure a specific content domain (e.g., mathematics or reading). Each WASL test is also designed to measure different sub-areas or strands within a specific content domain. For example, the WASL mathematics test includes items designed to assess students' knowledge about mathematical content strands (number sense, measurement, geometric sense, probability/statistics, algebraic sense) and mathematical process strands (solve problems, communicate understanding, make connections). These content and process strands represent different mathematical knowledge and skills but are correlated to some degree. Strand score indicators (+ or -) are reported to provide teachers, parents, and students more detailed information about students' learning and performance on the test.

Traditional approaches to evaluate construct validity include examining inter-item correlations and conducting exploratory factor analysis. These methods, however, offer limited information to compare and test various structural models about a test's underlying construct. Confirmatory factor analysis offers a method to compare and test models of constructs.

Two hypothetical constructs are statistically tested and compared to examine the structure of the WASL tests.

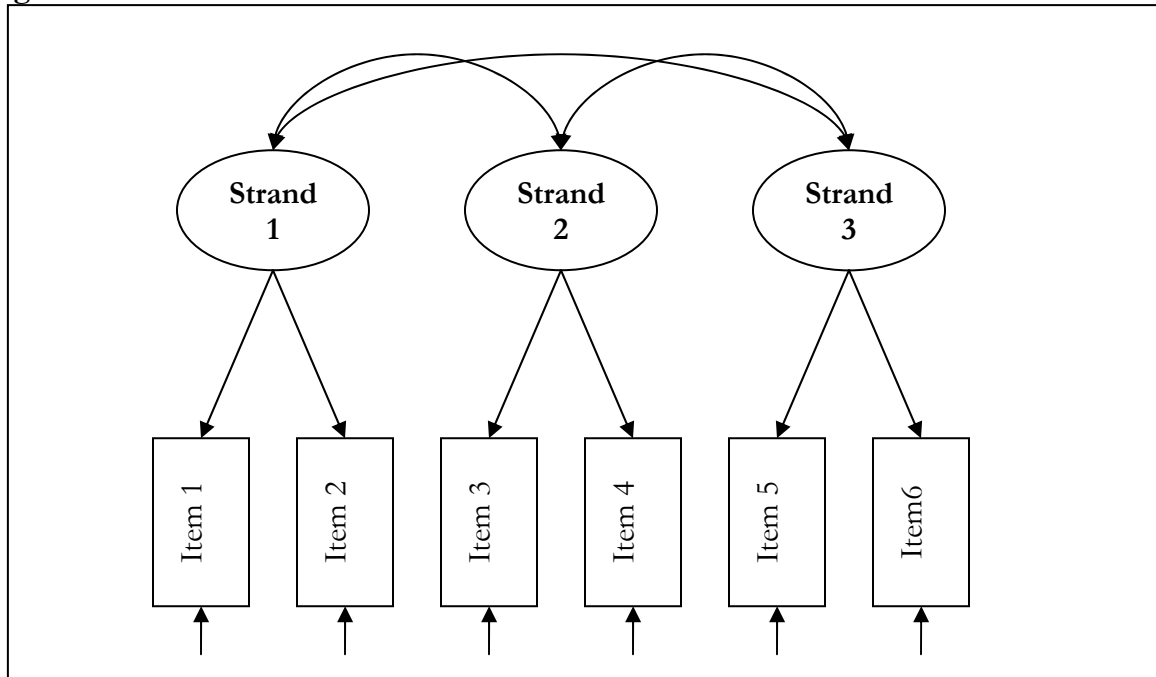
1. The WASL is strictly unidimensional where all items in a test measure a single knowledge and skill. As illustrated in Figure 3, this is a single-factor structural model in which all items load on a general factor. This model presumes all modeled items contribute to the estimation of a general ability factor.

Figure 3. Single-factor Structural Model



- The second structural model supports strand score reporting and hypothesizes that each WASL test measures several distinct but correlated knowledge and skills. This is a multi-factor model where an item loads on the strand to which it corresponds. The strands are correlated with each other as illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Multi-factor Structural Model



Parameter estimation was performed using the maximum likelihood (ML) method. This procedure was implemented using LISREL 8.80. ML assumes that the observed variables have a multinormal Wishart distribution. Although dichotomous and categorical (ordinal) data like those associated with the WASL tests rarely exhibit a multinormal Wishart distribution, ML estimation procedures are robust to nonnormality of data (Boomsma, 1983; Harlow, 1985).

To compare model fit to the data for each hypothesized model, several goodness-of-fit indices were examined. The chi-square test of goodness-of-fit, when significant, indicates significantly poor fit of a model to data. This measure is, however, sensitive to sample size. With large sample sizes, even a well-fitting model may produce a statistically significant chi square value (Bentler & Bonnett, 1980). Model fit is therefore evaluated by other goodness of fit measures for each model. The chi-square statistic divided by its associated degrees of freedom, the comparative fit index (CFI; Bentler, 1988), and the root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) were also computed to assess model fit. The difference between the chi-square values for nested models is itself distributed as a chi-square statistic. This index is used to evaluate the improvement of model fit with changes in parameters for related models. In this analysis, the correlated-multifactor model is tested against the more parsimonious single-factor model.

Following are the general criteria to assess the indices of fit in this analysis:

1. CFI statistics range from 0 to 1, and CFI greater than 0.90 is indicative of a model with good fit (Bentler, 1990; Cole, 1987).
2. Chi-square divided by associated degrees of freedom less than 2.0 indicates acceptable model fit (Arbuckle, 1997).
3. For RMSEA, a value less than 0.05 indicates a good fit, a value between 0.05 and 0.10 indicates a reasonable fit, and a value above 0.10 indicates poor fit.
4. If the χ^2 value of the more complex model (more parameters to be estimated) is significantly smaller than the χ^2 value of the more parsimonious model, the more complex model will be considered a better fitting model and thus better represents the data.

Due to the large number of cases analyzed, the chi-square statistics were all artificially inflated. However, the other fit statistics (CFI and RMSEA) are within acceptable ranges for good model fit. Since the single-factor model fits reasonably well to the data for all of the grade level-subject tests, the unidimensionality assumption and the IRT-based ability estimation are both supported.

When comparing the correlated-multifactor to the single-factor model, the WASL tests show significantly better fit for the multifactor, strand-based structural model. This supports the multifactor structure of WASL and offers a competing model with better fit than the single-factor model. While good model fit supports the current practice of reporting strand score indicators, the modest inter-strand correlations suggest caution in the separate interpretation of these strand scores when they are interdependent.

Table 15. Model Goodness-of-Fit Statistics

Grade	Model	χ^2	df	χ^2 / df	CFI	RMSEA
HS Reading	Single-factor	19466.44	629	30.95	0.95	0.050-0.051
	Multi-factor (Strand-based)	18097.83	614	29.48	0.95	0.049-0.050
	Comparison	1368.61	15			
HS_A Math	Single-factor	9414.77	779	12.09	0.99	0.020-0.020
	Multi-factor (Strand-based)	7998.71	751	10.65	0.99	0.018-0.019
	Comparison	1416.06	28			
HS_AA Math	Single-factor	5299.91	779	6.80	0.99	0.021-0.022
	Multi-factor (Strand-based)	4940.71	751	6.58	0.99	0.021-0.022
	Comparison	359.2	28			
HS Science	Single-factor	19894.92	819	24.29	0.97	0.042-0.043
	Multi-factor (Strand-based)	12847.72	809	15.88	0.97	0.038-0.040
	Comparison	7047.2	10			

PERFORMANCE IN DIFFERENT POPULATIONS

The validity of the WASL assessments lies primarily in the content tested, which is based on a statewide curriculum intended to be taught to all students. The WASL tests, therefore, are neither more nor less valid for any specific population.

Part 8 of this technical report includes summaries of examinee performance on the WASL according to particular categorical programs – Title I Reading, Title I Mathematics, LAP Reading, LAP Mathematics, Special Education, Highly Capable Students, ELL/Bilingual, and Title I Migrant. These data can be examined to determine whether patterns of performance are consistent with expectation based on examinees’ special needs. Students identified as “highly capable,” for example, are likely to outperform all other groups on all tests. Students who are in Title I Migrant and ELL/Bilingual programs frequently have difficulty with reading and writing performance. Whereas males and females perform equally well in Mathematics and Science, males perform slightly better than females in Mathematics, females perform slightly better than males in Science, and females outperform males in Reading and Writing. Male and female mean scaled scores are higher than the Level 3 “Proficient” cut score in Reading and Writing, near the Level 3 “Proficient” cut score in Mathematics for males, and below the Level 3 “Proficient” cut score in Science for both males and females.

SUMMARY

The results of these analyses provide evidence of validity based on test content and content area constructs of the 2008 Grade 10 WASL. Although achievement in one subject area is generally related to achievement in other subject areas, an examination of WASL strand scores suggest that Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science comprise different underlying dimensions of academic achievement and performance on the WASL tests.

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PART 4: RELIABILITY

The reliability of test scores is a measure of the degree to which the scores on the test are a “true” measure of the examinees’ knowledge and skill relevant to the tested knowledge and skills. In Classical Test Theory, reliability is the proportion of observed score variance that is true score variance.

There are several methods to estimate score reliability: test-retest, alternate forms, internal consistency, and generalizability analysis are among the most common. Test-retest estimates require administration of the same test at two different times. Alternate forms reliability estimates require administration of two parallel tests. These tests must be created in such a way that we have confidence they measure the same domain of knowledge and skills using different items. Both test-retest and alternate forms reliability estimates require significant examinee testing time and are generally avoided when there is potential impact from fatigue or loss of motivation.

The WASL is a system of rigorous measures that requires significant concentration on the part of students for a sustained period of time. For this reason, it was determined that test-retest and alternate forms reliability methods were unlikely to yield accurate estimates of score reliability. Internal consistency measures were used to estimate score reliability for Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests.

INTERNAL CONSISTENCY

Internal consistency reliability is an indication of how similarly students perform across items measuring the same knowledge and skills. How consistently does each examinee perform on all of the items within a test? Internal consistency can be estimated by Cronbach’s coefficient alpha. When a test is composed entirely of dichotomously scored multiple-choice items, a modification of Cronbach’s alpha can be used (KR-20). When a test includes polytomously scored items, the internal consistency estimate is computed by Cronbach’s coefficient alpha. There are two requirements to estimate score reliability:

1. the number of items should be sufficient to obtain stable estimates of students’ achievement, and
2. all test items should be homogeneous (similar in format and measure very similar knowledge and skills).

The WASL tests are complex measures that combine multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended response items. The Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests measure different strands that are components of the Reading, Mathematics, and Science content domains. Examinee performance may differ markedly from one item to another due to interactions with prior knowledge, educational experiences, and exposure to similar content or item format. The heterogeneity of items in the Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests may tend to underestimate the reliability of test scores estimated by Cronbach’s coefficient alpha. When items are heterogeneous in content and format as they are in the WASL, it is generally believed that the true score reliability is higher than the estimate computed by Cronbach’s coefficient alpha.

The WASL Writing test consists of two essays. There are four scores for the test (a COS and a CONV score for each essay), the items measure essentially the same ability and share the same item format. For the Grade 10 Writing test, each essay is double-scored by independent readers for a maximum total score of 24 points. The number of total score points and test structure may be barely sufficient to justify the use of Cronbach's alpha to compute an internal consistency estimate of reliability, but a more meaningful estimate of internal consistency may be obtained through applications of generalizability theory.

Cronbach's coefficient alpha is represented by:

$$r_{xx'} = \left(\frac{N}{N-1} \right) \left(1 - \frac{\sum s_i^2}{s_x^2} \right) \quad \text{(Equation 4)}$$

where $\sum s_i^2$ = sum of all of the item variances

s_x^2 = observed score variance, and

N = the number of items on the test.

Cronbach's coefficient alphas for each of the 2008 Grade 10 WASL tests are listed in Table 16. The 2008 WASL scores from Reading, Mathematics, and Science, as well as the shorter Writing test all exhibit relatively high coefficient alphas to support the expectation items within a content area test work in concert to measure a similar construct.

Table 16. 2008 Grade 10 WASL Test & Content Strand Reliability Estimates

Strand	Alpha Coefficient	Raw Score Standard Error of Measurement
Reading	0.87	2.83
LC	0.45	1.08
LA	0.49	1.19
LT	0.41	1.36
IC	0.66	1.14
IA	0.53	0.81
IT	0.50	1.50
Writing	0.76	1.48
COS	0.67	1.25
CONV	0.72	0.67

Table 16. 2008 Grade 10 WASL Test & Content Strand Reliability Estimates (Cont'd)

Strand	Alpha Coefficient	Raw Score Standard Error of Measurement
Mathematics – Form A	0.92	3.82
NS	0.53	1.19
ME	0.66	1.21
GS	0.56	1.04
PS	0.38	1.01
AS	0.60	1.13
SR	0.70	2.05
CU	0.63	1.30
MC	0.64	1.28
Mathematics – Form AA	0.91	3.76
NS	0.55	1.08
ME	0.67	1.17
GS	0.51	1.06
PS	0.32	0.98
AS	0.54	1.14
SR	0.71	2.02
CU	0.49	1.54
MC	0.54	1.22
Science	0.89	3.88
SY	0.75	2.33
IN	0.83	2.44
AP	0.65	1.53

*Two parallel Grade 10 Mathematics operational forms, Form A and Form AA, were used with the Spring 2008 administration.

LC-Literary Comprehension

LA- Literary Analysis

LT-Literary Thinking Critically

IC-Informational Comprehension

IA-Informational Analysis

IT-Informational Thinking Critically

COS-Content, Organization, & Style

CONV-Writing Conventions

NS-Number Sense

ME-Measurement

GS-Geometric Sense

PS-Probability and Statistics

AS-Algebraic Sense

SR-Solves Problems & Reasons Logically

CU-Communicates Understanding

MC-Makes Connections

SY-Systems of Science

IN-Inquiry in Science

AP-Application of Science

STANDARD ERROR OF MEASUREMENT

One way to interpret the reliability of test scores is with the conditional standard error of measurement (s.e.m.). The s.e.m. is an estimate of the standardized distribution of error around a particular score. An observed score bounded by one s.e.m. represents a 68 percent probability that, over repeated observations, an examinee's true score estimate falls within the band. A two-s.e.m. boundary represents a 95 percent probability that, over repeated observations, an examinee's true score estimate falls within the band. Under Classical Test Theory and traditional item analysis, we obtain the s.e.m. from:

$$\text{s.e.m.} = s_x \sqrt{1 - r_{xx'}} \quad (\text{Equation 5})$$

where: s_x is the observed score standard deviation, and
 $r_{xx'}$ is the reliability estimate or alpha coefficient.

Tables 21 through 24 list the 2008 Grade 10 conditional standard errors of measurement for the WASL Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests on the scaled score metric. Table 25 also includes the 2008 Grade 10 conditional standard errors of measurement for the WASL Writing test on the raw score metric.

INTERJUDGE AGREEMENT

Part 7 describes aspects about polytomous item scoring. Because constructed response items are scored by trained human readers, inter-rater agreement is another important facet of the consistent application of scoring standards and the subsequent reliability of test scores. When two trained judges independently assign the same score to a student's item response, this is evidence of the consistent application of a scoring standard. The evidence is strengthened when it can be replicated with increasing the numbers of different items, judges, students' responses, and ranges of item score points. The quality of inter-rater reliability can be evaluated empirically in three ways:

1. percent agreement between two readers
2. validity paper hit rates or percent agreement for a reader on validity paper sets
3. kappa coefficient.

Percent agreement between two readers is frequently defined as the percent of exact score and adjacent score agreement. Percent of exact score agreement is a stringent criterion which tends to decrease with increasing numbers of item score points. The fewer the item score points, the fewer degrees of freedom on which two readers can vary, and the higher the percent of agreement. WASL scores must be scored to satisfy a pre-defined level of exact + adjacent score agreement. In rare cases where the defined level of agreement is not met, OSPI actively evaluates the situation and may elect to accept the outcome or direct action at the individual rater level. This action may include disqualification of ratings, which will lead to new scores being given for papers rated by that individual. Conditions under which the scores may be accepted with agreement below the defined level include near hits (e.g., .1 from the target), or

when current scoring results for the item in question are similar to the historical information for the item.

Validity papers are student papers that, according to a panel of trained content and scoring professionals, represent specific item score points. Validity sets represent the full range of item score points as well as a range of performance within a given item score point (e.g., “high” 2-point papers, “low” 2-point papers, and mid-range 2-point papers to reflect the full range of a “2” item score point). These validity sets are imbedded throughout the operational scoring process to monitor rater drift to provide rater intervention and retraining or recalibration as necessary.

The kappa coefficient is an index of inter-rater reliability that incorporates a correction for the rate of chance agreement. Kappa is computed by:

$$\kappa = \frac{p_a - p_e}{1 - p_e} \quad (\text{Equation 6})$$

where p_a = overall proportion of exact agreement

$$p_e = \text{overall proportion of chance agreement} = \sum_{i=1}^m p_{i\bullet} p_{\bullet i}, \text{ for item score points } i \text{ to } m.$$

At the time of this report preparation, the necessary data file components were not available for analysis.

DECISION CONSISTENCY AND ACCURACY

Analyses were performed to estimate the accuracy and consistency of decisions about meeting standard on the WASL. The methods described by Livingston and Lewis (1995), and Young and Yoon (1998) were applied to complete these analyses.

Every discrete test administration will result in some error in the classification of examinees. When an assessment uses performance classifications as the primary method to report test results, accuracy and consistency of decisions become important indicators about the quality of the assessment. This section includes the results of decision consistency and accuracy analyses for the WASL tests administered in Spring 2008.

The *accuracy* of decisions is represented by the agreement between the classifications based on students’ observed scores on the actual test form and the classifications that would have been made based on students’ true scores. True scores are assumed to be errorless but are not a known entity. They can, however, be estimated based on the expected values of test scores over all possible forms of the test. A false positive decision results when a true score corresponds to a classification below a critical cut score (e.g., “does not meet standard”) but the observed score corresponds to a “meets standard” classification. A false negative decision results when a true score “meets standard” but the observed score corresponds to a “does not meet standard” classification. Decision *consistency* is the agreement between two non-overlapping and equally difficult forms of the test. This index is estimated using response data from the

actual test form and a hypothetical alternate form, based on the actual test form's estimated reliability.

For each WASL test, the decision consistency and accuracy tables include the proportion of:

- overall accurate classifications
- overall false positives
- overall false negatives
- overall consistent classifications
- accuracy around critical cut point (“meets standard” vs. “does not meet standard”)
- consistency around critical cut point (“meets standard” vs. “does not meet standard”)

A classification accuracy table is a cross-tabulation of the true score vs. observed score classifications. A classification consistency table is a cross-tabulation of the observed score vs. hypothetical alternate form score classifications.

The proportion of overall accuracy and consistency classifications is computed as the sum of the diagonal cell entries (agreement between observed & true score decisions for accuracy; agreement between observed & hypothetical alternate form score decisions for consistency).

Accuracy and consistency classifications around a critical cut point (e.g., “meets standard” vs. “does not meet standard”) is similarly computed by collapsing all classification decisions into a dichotomized distribution around the critical cut point. For WASL assessments, “below basic” and “basic” performance levels result in a “does not meet standard” classification; “proficient” and “advanced” performance levels result in the “meets standard” classification.

Figure 5. Accuracy or Consistency Around Critical Cut Point

	Accuracy or Consistency = A + B				
	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced	Total
Below Basic	A				
Basic					
Proficient			B		
Advanced					
Total					

Results for Spring 2008 administration are provided in Table 17. Decision accuracy, based on errorless true score classification, is typically higher than decision consistency, which is based on two types of test scores that both contain measurement error.

Table 17. Summary Decision Consistency & Accuracy Index

Subject	Grade	N	Overall Accuracy	Overall False Positive	Overall False Negative	Overall Consistency	Cut Point Accuracy	Cut Point Consistency
Reading	10	60,391	0.80	0.09	0.11	0.72	0.94	0.92
Writing	10	59,698	0.76	0.10	0.14	0.67	0.94	0.91
Math Form A	10	46,011	0.79	0.11	0.10	0.71	0.92	0.89
Math Form AA	10	17,645	0.78	0.12	0.11	0.69	0.91	0.88
Science	10	63,656	0.77	0.13	0.10	0.69	0.91	0.87

Reference

- Livingston, S. A., & Lewis, C. (1995). Estimating the consistency and accuracy of classifications based on test scores. *Journal of Educational Measurement*, 32, 179–197.
- Young, M. J., & Yoon, B. (1998). Estimating the consistency and accuracy of classification in a standards-referenced assessment. CSE Technical Report 475. UCLA Center for the Study of Evaluation: Los Angeles, CA.

PART 5: SCALING AND EQUATING

The 2008 Grade 10 Reading, Writing, and Mathematics WASL item data and test scores were scaled to the results from the 2004 standards revisiting. Although very few adjustments to the standards were recommended, adopting those recommendations redefined the baseline scale from the initial 1999 definition to the scale defined in 2004 from standards revisiting. The 2008 Grade 10 Science item data and test scores were scaled to the original standard setting from baseline year 2002-03.

All WASL tests are scaled so that a scaled score of 400 is the cut score for Level 3 or “Proficient” and a scaled score of 375 is the cut score for Level 2 or “Basic.” To “meet standard,” students must either be Level 3 (Proficient) or Level 4 (Advanced).

SCALED SCORE DEVELOPMENT

Scores on the WASL are reported as scaled scores. Tables 21 through 25 provide the 2008 Grade 10 number correct to scaled scores conversions for each test. The Rasch model and Master’s (1982) Partial Credit Model produce in an equal interval scale, much like a ruler marked in inches or centimeters, for each test for which items and student scores can be reported. The Partial Credit Model (PCM) accommodates polytomously scored constructed-response items. Calibrating a test with the PCM produces estimated parameters for item difficulty and the difficulty of item score points or steps. The scaled score range for each test is sufficient to describe levels of performance from the lowest possible earned scaled score to the highest possible earned scaled score across all content areas tested.

Item Response Theory (IRT) uses mathematical models to describe the probability of choosing a response category as a function of a latent trait and item parameters. IRT models can be specified by three item parameters: item difficulty, item discrimination, and a “guessing” parameter. The Rasch and PCM models are one class of IRT models that also specifies theta (θ) for examinees. Rasch models do not explicitly parameterize item discrimination or guessing parameters (although empirical item discrimination and “guessing” can be evaluated by characteristics of Rasch fit statistics). This means that, unlike more complicated IRT models, there is a one to one relationship between the number correct score on a test and the θ score on the test.

Once θ scores are estimated, it is general practice to linearly transform θ to a positive, whole number scale. The linear transformation preserves the original shape of the distribution, facilitates group-level computations, and conveys information about an ability scale that is intuitively more clear and accessible to non-technical audiences.

Because the scaled scores are on an equal interval scale, it is possible to compare score performance at different points on the scale. Much like a yard-stick, differences are constant at different measurement points. For example, a difference of 2 inches between 12 and 14 inches is the same differences as a difference of 2 inches between 30 and 32 inches. Two inches is two inches. Similarly, for equal interval achievement scales, a difference of 20 scaled score points

between 360 and 380 means the same difference in achievement as a difference of 400 and 420, except that the difference is in degree of achievement rather than length.

One limitation of scaled scores is that they are not well suited to making score interpretations beyond “how much more” and “how much less.” Administrators, parents, and students ask, “What score is good enough? How do we compare with other schools like ours? Is a 40 point difference between our school and another school a meaningful difference?” For this reason, scaled scores are usually interpreted by using performance standards or by converting them to percentile ranks.

Based on the content of the WASL, committees set the performance standards for each content area test that would represent acceptable performance for a well taught, hard working Grade 10 student. Standard setting committees also identified two performance levels below standard (Level 1 = Below Basic; Level 2 = Basic) and one above standard (Level 4 = Advanced).²

The standard setting procedures identified the θ values associated with each committee’s recommended cut-score (i.e., the “Below Basic”/”Basic”, “Basic”/”Proficient”, and “Proficient”/”Advanced” cuts). These θ values defined the linear transformation system to derive scaled scores. To maintain the raw score to θ relationship, any two points on the θ scale can be fixed to any two specified scaled scores to define the linear transformation.

Following the standard setting and the standard revisiting process, a linear transformation was defined to convert the θ scores to a whole number scaled score. For all tests, the θ score from baseline associated with Level 3 “Proficient” was fixed to a WASL scaled score of 400. The θ score identified as Level 2 “Basic” was fixed to a WASL scaled score of 375. All θ scores are translated to scaled scores by specific linear transformation equations for each grade level content area test. The Level 4 “Advanced” scaled score varies by content area.

The general form of a linear equation of θ to scaled score is:

$$\mathbf{a} \cdot \theta + \mathbf{b} = \text{scaled score} \qquad \text{(Equation 7)}$$

² Following are the general descriptions of the performance levels established for the WASL:

Level 4 – Advanced: This level represents superior performance, notably above that required for meeting the standard at Grade 10.

Level 3 -- Proficient: This level represents solid academic performance for Grade 10. Students reaching this level have demonstrated proficiency over challenging content, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real world situations, and analytical skills appropriate for the content and grade level.

Level 2 -- Basic: This level denotes partial accomplishment of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for meeting the standard at Grade 10.

Level 1 -- Below Basic: This level denotes little or no demonstration of the prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for meeting the standard at Grade 10.

In all content areas, the standard (Level 3) reflects what a well taught, hard working student should know and be able to do.

where **a** is the slope and **b** is the intercept of the linear transformation to scaled scores.

Because two points define any line, the linear transformation equation is defined by simultaneously solving the system of two equations for constants **a** and **b**:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a} * (\theta \text{ associated with Level 3 "Proficient"}) + \mathbf{b} &= 400 \\ \mathbf{a} * (\theta \text{ associated with Level 2 "Basic"}) + \mathbf{b} &= 375 \end{aligned} \quad \text{(Equation 8)}$$

Table 18 lists the theta values at Level 2 “Basic” and Level 3 “Proficient” from the applicable baseline year used to define the θ to scaled score linear transformation equations for each content area. Because θ is equated to the baseline year θ scale, the same linear transformation is used from year to year until existing standards are revisited or new standards are set.

Table 18. Theta to Scaled Score Linear Transformation Equations

Content Area	θ at Level 2 “Basic” (Scaled Score 375)	θ at Level 3 “Proficient” (Scaled Score 400)	θ to Scaled Score Equation
Reading	-0.145	0.693	Scaled Score = 29.83294* θ + 379.3258
Writing †	NA		
Mathematics	-0.385	0.291	Scaled Score = 36.98225* θ + 389.2382
Science	0.004	0.575	Scaled Score = 43.78284* θ + 374.8249

† Writing results are reported on the total raw score metric.

In Reading, Mathematics, and Science, scaled scores below 375 are assigned to the Level 1 “Below Basic” performance level category. Scaled scores between 375 and 399, inclusive, are assigned to the Level 2 “Basic” category. Scaled score ranges assigned to the Level 3 “Proficient” category and Level 4 “Advanced” category varies according to content area test as illustrated in Table 19 below.

Table 19. Scaled Score Ranges for Performance Level Categories

Content Area	Level 1 “Below Basic”	Level 2 “Basic”	Level 3 “Proficient”	Level 4 “Advanced”
Reading	225-374	375-399	400-426	427-525
Writing †	0-12	13-16	17-20	21-24
Mathematics	200-374	375-399	400-433	434-575
Science	175-374	375-399	400-457	458-625

† Writing results are reported on the total raw score metric.

CUT POINTS FOR CONTENT STRANDS

Cut points for content strands in Reading, Mathematics, and Science are defined relative to the total content area scale using the following steps. Writing tests are not equated from year to year, and strand scores are not provided for Writing.

1. Content area operational items are scaled and calibrated.
2. All candidate anchor items on the operational test are subjected to a stability analysis to determine the final anchor item set in the year-to-year common item equating.
3. Operational items are calibrated with the final anchor item set.
[Further detail about Steps 1-3 above are described in the annual equating reports, *WASL Grade 10 Reading & Mathematics 2008 Equating Study Technical Report*, and *WASL Grades 5, 8, 10 Science 2008 Equating Study Technical Report*.]
4. Item parameter estimates resulting from Step 3, above, are used to score operational items specific to each content strand. This step produces a raw score-to- θ table for each content strand.
5. Strand score θ s greater than or equal to the Level 3 “Proficient” θ cut point (scaled score 400) from the baseline year is the “+/-” content strand cut point.

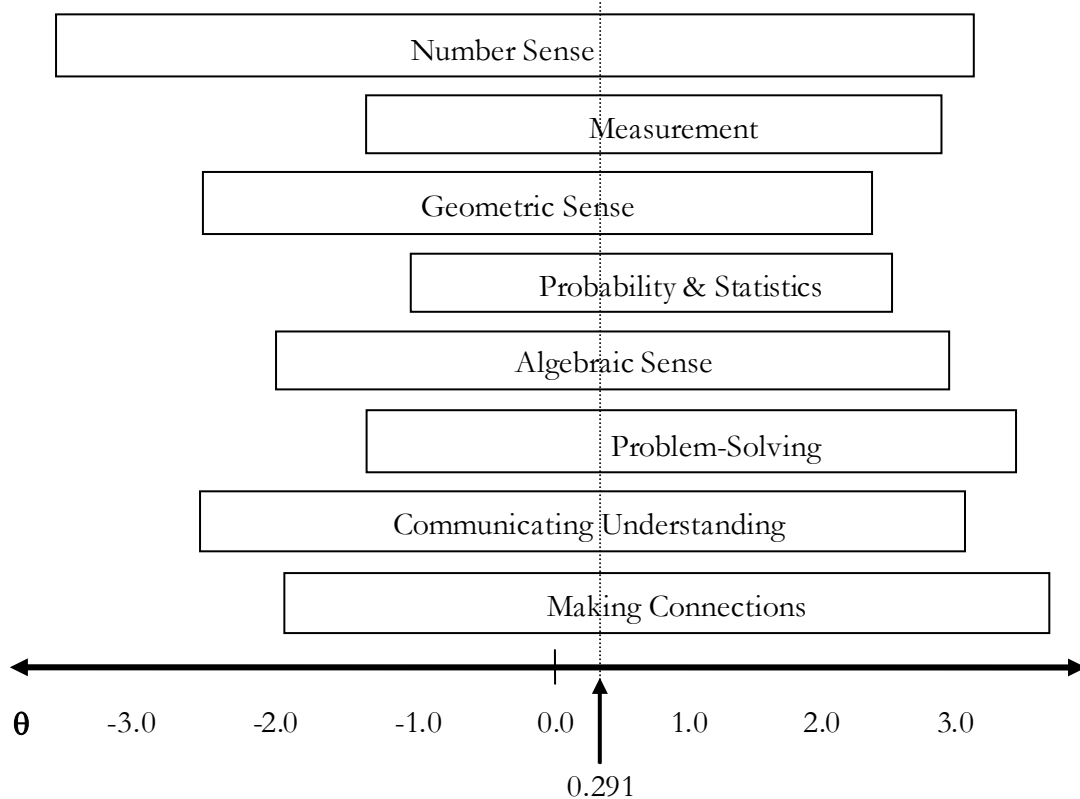
Table 20 lists the strand score and strand θ ranges, and the raw cut points that operationalize the “+/-” content strand cut point. The Writing test is not equated from year to year on a scale score metric, and therefore have no corresponding “+/-” content strand cut points.

Table 20. Content Strand Cut-Points

	Strand	θ Range	Max Raw Strand Score	“-” Strand	“+” Strand
Reading	LC	-3.578 ~ 3.762	8	0 – 5	6 – 8
	LA	-2.641 ~ 3.243	7	0 – 3	4 – 7
	LT	-3.683 ~ 3.383	8	0 – 4	5 – 8
	IC	-4.686 ~ 3.721	11	0 – 7	8 – 11
	IA	-4.319 ~ 2.521	7	0 – 5	6 – 7
	IT	-3.551 ~ 3.487	11	0 – 6	7 – 11
Mathematics Form A	NS	-3.004 ~ 2.628	6	0 – 3	4 – 6
	ME	-2.831 ~ 3.320	7	0 – 3	4 – 7
	GS	-4.076 ~ 1.944	6	0 – 4	5 – 6
	PS	-3.758 ~ 4.347	6	0 – 2	3 – 6
	AS	-3.660 ~ 3.293	7	0 – 4	5 – 7
	SR	-3.685 ~ 3.781	14	0 – 7	8 – 14
	CU	-2.287 ~ 4.199	8	0 – 3	4 – 8
	MC	-3.125 ~ 2.889	7	0 – 3	4 – 7
Mathematics Form AA	NS	-2.927 ~ 3.409	6	0 – 3	4 – 6
	ME	-3.018 ~ 3.399	7	0 – 3	4 – 7
	GS	-4.054 ~ 2.871	6	0 – 3	4 – 6
	PS	-3.733 ~ 4.782	6	0 – 2	3 – 6
	AS	-3.686 ~ 3.312	7	0 – 4	5 – 7
	SR	-4.196 ~ 3.788	14	0 – 6	7 – 14
	CU	-1.067 ~ 4.957	8	0 – 2	3 – 8
	MC	-2.931 ~ 4.165	7	0 – 2	3 – 7
Science	SY	-4.457 ~ 5.123	27	0 – 13	14 – 27
	IN	-4.751 ~ 3.871	24	0 – 15	16 – 24
	AP	-3.863 ~ 4.633	11	0 – 5	6 – 11

Figure 6 is a hypothetical distribution of item difficulties for Mathematics strand items, illustrating how the range of item difficulties can differ for each strand. What may be less apparent is that the number of items below and above the θ value of 0.291 (the θ for Mathematics Level 3 “Proficient” from baseline 2003-04, standards revisiting) can also vary by strand. This example highlights differences between strand difficulties and a caution when interpreting strand-level results based on a limited sample of items from a strand domain.

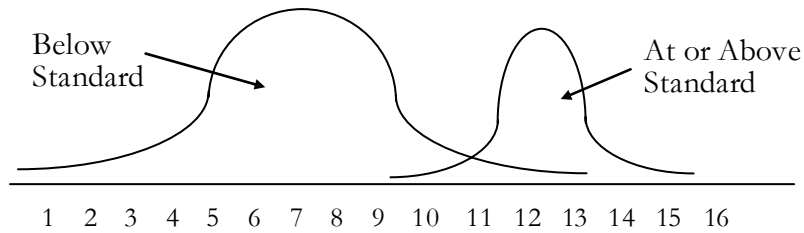
Figure 6. Hypothetical Range of Mathematics Strand Item Difficulties (θ)



The Writing test includes two strands from each of two writing prompts. Relatively few total score points on the total test limit the utility of explicitly equating test scores from year to year. All scaling was completed in the baseline year on the raw score scale. Performance level results on the raw score scale are applied to scored results from year to year.

Following standard setting in the baseline year, cut-scores for the two Writing strands were defined using a contrasting groups method. Total Writing scores were divided into two groups – those that “Meets Standard” and those that did not. For each group, raw strand score frequency distributions for Writing Content, Organization, and Style (COS) and for Writing Mechanics (CONV) were examined. Strand score cut-points were defined as the point with minimal overlap between the distributions of the two groups (see Figure 7).

Figure 7. Sample Score Distribution of Contrasting Groups – COS Strand



EQUATING

Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests were equated using similar designs and procedures. Multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-response items in the first operational year were calibrated and scaled using the PCM to define the baseline scale.

To equate the second year operational test to the first year operational test and the baseline scale, an anchor item set was used to link tests between administration years. “Test” refers to the set of operational items administered to all students that contribute to reported scores. The anchor item set is first subjected to a stability analysis before proceeding with anchor item equating. This procedure enables equating operational test scores from year to year and enables initial calibration and scaling of imbedded pilot items to the baseline scale. This general design and procedure is replicated from year to year to equate current test scores to the baseline scale.

The equating is completed on a sample of ~10,000 available scored student records for each content area test. Logistic, operational processing, and score reporting schedules necessitate the completion of equating on a sample of the statewide population before the completion of scoring. OSPI and Pearson initiated a concerted effort in 2006 to enhance consistent statewide representation in the equating sample from year to year. Geographic region, population density, building enrollment type, grade level enrollments, ethnic minority composition, and past WASL achievement were included in the statewide sampling framework. Several equivalent samples of school rosters were developed from the statewide sampling framework for annual use on a rotating basis. The intention is to prioritize processing and scoring of identified schools on an annual early-return roster for inclusion in the final equating sample.

Further details are described in the *WASL 2008 Grade 10 Equating Study Technical Reports* and previous annual equating study technical reports.

Equating the Writing Test

For Writing, writing prompts were selected for the 2008 WASL that were of similar difficulty and purpose as those from the 2001 WASL. These prompt characteristics were evaluated from a stand-alone pilot administration from which Writing prompt pairs are selected and reserved for future operational use. The Grade 10 Writing Pilot was last administered in Fall 2004 to develop the current bank of operational prompt pairs. Further details about the pilot design, analysis procedures, and pilot results are provided in *Summary Report of the 2004 Fall Grade 11 Writing Pilot for the WASL Grade 10 Writing Assessment*.

NUMBER CORRECT SCORES TO SCALED SCORES

The raw score to scaled score relationship on each WASL test varies from year to year as a function of the particular operational items that comprise a test. The underlying scale and scaled score interpretations are the same from year to year until standards are revisited or new standards are defined.

Tables 21 to 24 include the raw score (Raw) to scaled score (SS) relationship for the 2008 Grade 10 Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests. Because the Writing test is already “scaled” on the raw score metric, there is no raw score to SS relationship. Table 25 lists the conditional standard errors of measurement at each Writing raw score point.

Table 21. 2008 Grade 10 Reading Raw Score (Raw) to Scaled Scores (SS) with Conditional Standard Errors of Measurement (s.e.m.)

Raw	Reading SS	Conditional s.e.m.	Raw	Reading SS	Conditional s.e.m.
0	210	54.863	27	383	8.771
1	247	30.549	28	386	8.741
2	269	22.106	29	388	8.711
3	283	18.437	30	391	8.711
4	293	16.319	31	393	8.711
5	301	14.887	32	396	8.741
6	308	13.872	33	398	8.801
7	314	13.067	34	401	8.860
8	319	12.440	35	404	8.920
9	324	11.933	36	406	9.039
10	329	11.516	37	409	9.159
11	333	11.158	38	412	9.308
12	337	10.829	39	415	9.487
13	341	10.561	40	418	9.696
14	345	10.322	41	421	9.994
15	348	10.113	42	425	10.322
16	352	9.934	43	428	10.710
17	355	9.755	44	432	11.217
18	358	9.606	45	437	11.874
19	361	9.457	46	442	12.679
20	364	9.338	47	448	13.783
21	367	9.218	48	455	15.304
22	370	9.099	49	464	17.542
23	372	9.010	50	476	21.360
24	375	8.920	51	497	30.042
25	378	8.860	52	534	54.594
26	380	8.801			

Table 22. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Form A Raw Score (Raw) to Scaled Scores (SS) with Conditional Standard Errors of Measurement (s.e.m.)

Raw	Mathematics SS	Conditional s.e.m.	Raw	Mathematics SS	Conditional s.e.m.
0	188	67.936	33	401	9.357
1	233	37.722	34	403	9.393
2	260	27.182	35	405	9.467
3	277	22.559	36	408	9.541
4	289	19.859	37	410	9.615
5	298	18.010	38	413	9.726
6	307	16.679	39	415	9.837
7	314	15.643	40	418	9.948
8	320	14.830	41	421	10.096
9	326	14.127	42	424	10.244
10	331	13.536	43	427	10.429
11	336	13.055	44	430	10.614
12	340	12.611	45	433	10.836
13	344	12.241	46	436	11.095
14	348	11.908	47	439	11.391
15	352	11.575	48	443	11.723
16	355	11.317	49	447	12.056
17	359	11.058	50	451	12.500
18	362	10.799	51	455	12.981
19	365	10.577	52	460	13.572
20	368	10.392	53	465	14.275
21	371	10.207	54	471	15.126
22	374	10.022	55	478	16.198
23	376	9.874	56	485	17.604
24	379	9.763	57	495	19.490
25	381	9.652	58	506	22.300
26	384	9.541	59	522	26.997
27	386	9.467	60	549	37.648
28	389	9.393	61	595	67.936
29	391	9.357			
30	394	9.357			
31	396	9.320			
32	398	9.357			

Table 23. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Form AA Raw Score (Raw) to Scaled Scores (SS) with Conditional Standard Errors of Measurement (s.e.m.)

Raw	Mathematics SS	Conditional s.e.m.	Raw	Mathematics SS	Conditional s.e.m.
0	185	68.195	33	408	9.320
1	231	38.203	34	411	9.357
2	259	27.774	35	413	9.430
3	276	23.262	36	416	9.541
4	289	20.599	37	418	9.652
5	300	18.787	38	421	9.800
6	308	17.456	39	423	9.985
7	316	16.420	40	426	10.170
8	323	15.607	41	429	10.355
9	329	14.904	42	432	10.577
10	335	14.275	43	435	10.836
11	340	13.757	44	438	11.095
12	345	13.277	45	442	11.354
13	350	12.870	46	445	11.686
14	354	12.463	47	449	12.019
15	358	12.093	48	453	12.352
16	362	11.760	49	457	12.759
17	366	11.428	50	462	13.203
18	369	11.132	51	467	13.683
19	373	10.836	52	472	14.275
20	376	10.577	53	478	14.941
21	379	10.355	54	484	15.754
22	382	10.133	55	491	16.790
23	384	9.948	56	499	18.121
24	387	9.763	57	509	19.933
25	389	9.615	58	521	22.633
26	392	9.504	59	538	27.256
27	394	9.393	60	565	37.796
28	397	9.320	61	611	68.010
29	399	9.283			
30	401	9.246			
31	404	9.246			
32	406	9.283			

Table 24. 2008 Grade 10 Science Raw Score (Raw) to Scaled Scores (SS) with Conditional Standard Errors of Measurement (s.e.m.)

Raw	Science SS	Conditional s.e.m.	Raw	Science SS	Conditional s.e.m.
0	133	80.560	32	391	11.121
1	187	44.877	33	394	11.077
2	220	32.487	34	396	11.077
3	240	27.102	35	399	11.077
4	255	23.905	36	402	11.121
5	267	21.760	37	405	11.208
6	277	20.184	38	408	11.296
7	285	18.958	39	411	11.384
8	293	17.995	40	414	11.515
9	300	17.163	41	417	11.690
10	307	16.462	42	420	11.865
11	312	15.849	43	423	12.084
12	318	15.324	44	427	12.347
13	323	14.842	45	430	12.609
14	328	14.448	46	434	12.916
15	333	14.054	47	438	13.222
16	337	13.748	48	442	13.616
17	341	13.441	49	446	14.011
18	345	13.179	50	451	14.448
19	349	12.916	51	456	14.930
20	353	12.697	52	461	15.543
21	357	12.478	53	467	16.200
22	360	12.259	54	473	16.988
23	364	12.084	55	480	17.995
24	367	11.909	56	488	19.221
25	370	11.778	57	497	20.841
26	373	11.646	58	508	23.074
27	376	11.515	59	522	26.401
28	379	11.384	60	541	31.961
29	382	11.296	61	573	44.615
30	385	11.208	62	627	80.473
31	388	11.165			

Table 25. 2008 Grade 10 Writing Raw Scores (Raw) with Conditional Standard Errors of Measurement (s.e.m.)

Raw	Conditional s.e.m.	Raw	Conditional s.e.m.
0	2.923	13	1.150
1	1.687	14	1.112
2	1.280	15	1.084
3	1.116	16	1.083
4	1.029	17	1.118
5	0.980	18	1.200
6	0.956	19	1.340
7	0.951	20	1.472
8	0.966	21	1.465
9	1.000	22	1.482
10	1.054	23	1.782
11	1.118	24	2.961
12	1.159		

Reference

Masters, G. N. (1982). A Rasch model for partial credit scoring. *Psychometrika*, (47), 149-174.

PART 6: ESTABLISHING AND REVISITING STANDARDS

Standard setting for the Grade 10 WASL in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing was conducted in Summer 1999. Standard-setting for the Grades 8 and 10 WASL in Science took place in July 2003. Standard-setting for Science was completed after operational Spring 2003 test administration of the Grades 8 and 10 assessments and after the operational Spring 2004 test administration for Grade 5. Details of the standard setting procedures used for Reading, Mathematics, and Writing can be found in the 1999 through 2003 *Washington Assessment of Student Learning Grade 10 Technical Reports*. Details of the standard setting procedures used for Grades 8 and 10 Science can be found in the 2003 *Washington Assessment of Student Learning Grade 10 Technical Report*. The details of the standard setting procedures used for Grade 5 Science can be found in the 2004 *Washington Assessment of Student Learning Grade 5 Technical Report*.

It is recommended in the research literature that standards should be revisited over time and revised if necessary. Given the tenure of the assessments over a number of years, a history of education reform in the state, the requirements of the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act, and the introduction of high school graduation requirements, OSPI elected to revisit all of the standards for the existing Reading, Writing, and Mathematics tests. The revisiting of standards for Grades 4, 7, and 10 Reading, Writing, and Mathematics occurred in February and March of 2004. The 2004 *Washington Assessment of Student Learning Grade 10 Technical Report* provides details and results from the standard revisiting process.

The defined performance levels resulting from the initial standard setting and standards revisiting were based on criterion-referenced definitions and interpretations of content area performance. Following standards revisiting, an articulation committee comprised of all WASL content areas and grade levels considered all content/grade level performance levels descriptors, performance level cut points, and impact data in a total assessment system. Based on the standards revisiting recommendations and the articulation committee's review, subsequent changes to the initial standard setting results were very minimal, lending further credence and validation of the existing standards and assessment system.

PART 7: SCORING THE WASL OPEN-ENDED ITEMS

During item development, item-specific scoring rubrics are written. During item reviews, scoring rubrics are reviewed along with item content. A central aspect of the validity of test scores is the degree to which scoring rubrics are related to the appropriate learning targets or EALRs. A key aspect of reliability is whether scoring rules are applied faithfully during scoring sessions. The following procedures are used to score the WASL items and apply to all content areas that include open-ended questions calling for student-constructed responses. These procedures are used for the full pool of items that were pilot tested as well as for the operational tests.

QUALIFICATIONS OF SCORERS

Highly-qualified, experienced readers (scorers) are essential to achieving and maintaining consistency and reliability when scoring student-constructed (open-ended) responses. Readers selected to score the WASL tests are required to possess the following qualifications.

- A minimum of a bachelor's degree in an appropriate academic discipline with priority to English, English Education, Math, Math Education, Science, Science Education, or related fields.
- Demonstrable ability in performance assessment scoring.
- Teaching experience, especially at the elementary or secondary level, is preferred.

In 2008, Washington teachers were involved in the scoring of the open-ended responses. Teachers who wish to score are required to meet the same standards for selection and training criteria as professionally trained scorers hired by the test contractor. Involvement of teachers in the scoring of the WASL assessments is seen as a means to increase the knowledge of Washington teachers in the assessment of students. Some special education teachers are involved in the scoring as well. The number of teachers involved in scoring continues to increase each year.

Team leaders or scoring supervisors and table leaders, responsible for supervising small groups of scorers, are selected on the basis of demonstrated expertise in all facets of the scoring process including strong organizational abilities, leadership, and interpersonal communication skills.

RANGE-FINDING AND ANCHOR PAPERS

The thoughtful selection of papers for range-finding and the subsequent compilation of anchor papers and other training materials are the essential first steps to ensure that scoring is conducted consistently, reliably, and equitably.

In the range-finding process, OSPI facilitators, performance assessment and curriculum specialists working with team and table leaders and teachers from Washington, all become thoroughly familiar with and reach consensus on the scoring rules (rubrics) approved by the Content Committees for each open-ended item. The Performance Scoring Center (PSC) staff is responsible for preparing all training materials in consultation with and subject to approval from OSPI. These range-finding teams begin work with random selections of student responses for each item. They review these responses, select an appropriate range of responses, and placed them into packets, numbered for easy reference. The packets of responses are read independently by members of a team of the most experienced scorers. Following these independent readings and tentative ratings of the papers, the range finding group discusses both the common and divergent scores. From this work, they assemble tentative sets of example responses for each prompt.

The primary task of the range-finding committee then is the identification of anchor papers—exemplars that clearly and unambiguously represented the solid center of a score point as described in the scoring rubric. Those exemplary anchor papers form the basis, not only of scorer training, but of subsequent range-finding discussions as well.

Discussion is ongoing with the goal of identifying a sufficient pool of additional student responses for which consensus scores can be achieved and that illustrated the full range of student performance in response to the prompt or item. This pool of responses includes borderline responses – ones that appeared to straddle adjacent score points which therefore can present decision-making problems that trained scorers need to be able to resolve.

TRAINING MATERIALS

Following the range-finding sessions, the performance assessment specialists and team leaders finalize the anchor sets and other training materials, as identified in the range-finding meetings. The final anchor papers are chosen for their clarity in exemplifying the criteria defined in the scoring rubrics.

The anchor set for each 4-point question consists of a minimum of thirteen papers, three examples for each of the four score points and one example of a non-scorable paper. The anchor set for each 2-point question consists of a minimum of seven papers, three examples of each of each score point and one example of a non-scorable paper. Score point exemplars consist of one low, one solid mid-range, and one high example at each score point.

Additional training sets and qualifying sets of responses are selected to be used in scorer training. One training set consists of responses that are clear-cut examples of each score point; the second set consists of responses closer to the borderline between two score points. The training sets give scorers an introduction to the variety of responses they will encounter while scoring, as well as allowing them to develop their decision-making capability for scoring responses that do not fall clearly into one of the scoring levels. Calibration/validity papers to be circulated during scoring are also identified at this time, as are scorer qualifying sets.

After all training materials have been compiled, OSPI content specialists and assigned Pearson representatives document approval of all training materials to be used during the current year's scoring process.

Washington teachers and Pearson's professional scorers must be able to apply scoring standards to which they are trained in a consistent manner in order to qualify for scoring. For 2008, qualifying teachers scored the expository prompt for content (COS) on the Writing exam only. The remainder of constructed response items in each test that are not designated for teacher scoring are scored by Pearson professional scorers.

INTER-RATER RELIABILITY AND RATER CONSISTENCY

Scorer training for each prompt is led by performance assessment specialists and team leaders. The primary purpose of the training is to help the scorers understand the decisions made by the range-finding committee. Training also helps scorers internalize the scoring rubrics, so that they can effectively and consistently apply them.

Scorer training sessions include an introduction to the assessment itself. Scorers are informed of the parameters or context within which the students' performance was elicited. This gives scorers a better understanding of what types of responses can be expected, given such parameters as grade level, instruction or time limitations. Scorers next receive a description of the scoring rules that apply to the responses for each item.

The scoring rubrics are always presented in conjunction with the anchor papers. After presentation and discussion of the anchor papers, each scorer is given a training set consisting of ten papers. The scorers score the papers independently. When all scorers have scored the training set, their preliminary scores are collected for reference.

Group discussion of the scores assigned is the next step, allowing the scorers to raise questions about the application of the scoring rubric and giving them a context for those questions. The purpose of the discussion among the scorers in training is to establish a consensus to ensure consistency of scores between scorers. Even after scorers qualify for the scoring, training continues throughout the scoring of all responses to maintain high inter- and intra-rater reliability. Therefore, training is a continuous process and scorers are consistently given feedback as they score.

Frequent reliability checks are used to closely monitor the consistency of each scorer's performance over time. The primary method of monitoring scorers' performances is by a process called "back-reading." In back-reading, each table leader rereads and checks scores on an average of five to ten percent of each scorer's work each day, with a higher percentage early in the scoring. If a scorer is consistently assigning scores other than those the table leader would assign, the team leader and performance assessment specialist, together, retrain that scorer, using the original anchor papers and training materials. This continuous, on-the-spot checking provides an effective guard against "rater drift," (beginning to score higher or lower than the anchor paper scores). Scorers are replaced if they are unable to score consistently with the rubric and the anchor papers after significant training.

Tables 26 through 30 provide the rater agreement information for the open-ended items in the 2008 Grade 10 WASL. Two types of rater agreement were calculated from approximately 5 percent of the examinees randomly selected from the students' response booklets: score agreement for individual items and score agreement across the total score for the open-ended item set for each content area. For item-by-item interjudge agreement in Reading, the range of exact agreement was 79% to 94% and the range of exact and adjacent agreement was 99% to 100%. For interjudge agreement in Writing, the range of exact agreement was 82.0% to 90.8% and the exact and adjacent agreement was between 99.4% and 100%. For item-by-item interjudge agreement in Mathematics, the range of exact agreement was 75% to 97% and the range of exact and the range of exact and adjacent agreement was 97% to 100%. For item-by-

item interjudge agreement in Science, the range of exact agreement was 82% to 99% percent and the range of exact and adjacent agreement was 98% to 100%.

Table 26. 2008 Grade 10 Reading – Interrater Percent Agreement

Item	Points Possible	Number of Papers Scored	% Exact Agreement	% Adjacent + Exact Agreement	% Non-Adjacent Agreement
3	2	7812	86	99	1
6	2	7820	93	99	0
9	2	7826	91	100	0
12	2	7808	92	99	0
14	4	7804	79	97	3
19	2	7828	91	100	0
23	2	7818	88	99	1
26	2	7806	94	100	0
30	2	7806	92	100	0
31	2	7810	94	100	0
35	4	7792	84	98	2

Table 27. 2008 Grade 10 Writing – Interrater Percent Agreement

Item	Points Possible	Number of Papers Scored	% Exact Agreement	% Adjacent + Exact Agreement	% Non-Adjacent Agreement
Expository (COS)	4	150600	82.0	99.4	0.6
Expository (CONV)	3 (0,1,2)	150600	90.8	100.0	0.0
Persuasive (COS)	4	145592	82.9	99.6	0.4
Persuasive (CONV)	3 (0,1,2)	145592	89.0	100.0	0.0

Table 28. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Form A – Interrater Percent Agreement

Item	Points Possible	Number of Papers Scored	% Exact Agreement	% Adjacent + Exact Agreement	% Non-Adjacent Agreement
3	2	6138	97	100	0
7	4	5526	75	98	2
9	2	6134	92	99	1
10	2	8350	88	99	1
13	4	Not Scored			
17	2	7652	89	99	1
18	2	8322	92	100	0
20	2	8346	93	99	1
26	2	6134	83	99	1
29	4	6122	83	97	3
30	2	6130	92	100	0
34	4	6122	90	99	1
38	2	8338	94	100	0
40	2	6136	90	99	1
43	2	8332	88	99	1

Table 29. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Form AA – Interrater Percent Agreement

Item	Points Possible	Number of Papers Scored	% Exact Agreement	% Adjacent + Exact Agreement	% Non-Adjacent Agreement
3	2	2206	94	99	1
7	4	2194	80	99	1
9	2	2204	92	100	0
10	2	*			
13	4	Not Scored			
17	2	*			
18	2	*			
20	2	*			
26	2	2208	87	99	1
29	4	2178	86	98	2
30	2	2210	94	100	0
34	4	2204	87	99	1
38	2	*			
40	2	2212	88	99	1
43	2	*			

*These items appeared in both Form A and Form AA.

Table 30. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Interrater Percent Agreement

Item	Points Possible	Number of Papers Scored	% Exact Agreement	% Adjacent + Exact Agreement	% Non-Adjacent Agreement
2*	2 point item				
a – One Energy Trans	1 att	7404	90	100	0
b – Where Trans Happ	1 att	7404	89	100	0
c - An. Energy Trans	1 att	7404	89	99	1
d – Where Trans Happ	1 att	7404	86	100	0
6*	4 point item				
a - Gather Info	1 att	7164	90	100	0
b - Gather Sci Info	1 att	7164	93	99	1
c - Explore Ids	1 att	7164	88	100	0
d - Explore Sci Ids	1 att	7164	93	99	1
e - Plan Sum	1 att	7164	94	100	0
f - Steps to Do Plan	1 att	7164	91	99	1
g - Diagram Plan	1 att	7164	96	100	0
h - Lab Diagram Plan	1 att	7164	92	100	0
i - Test Solution	1 att	7164	91	99	1
j - Sci Test Solution	1 att	7164	96	100	0
9*	2 point item				
a – Concl Statement	1 att	7178	94	100	0
b – Supp Data pH4	1 att	7178	93	99	1
c - Supp Data pH7	1 att	7178	94	100	0
d – Exp Language	1 att	7178	87	99	1
13*	4 point item				
a - Prediction	1 att	7112	90	100	0
b - Prediction Reason	1 att	7112	92	100	0
c - Materials	1 att	7112	93	100	0
d - Controlled Var	1 att	7112	91	99	1
e - Manipulated Var	1 att	7112	93	99	1
f - Responding Var	1 att	7112	93	99	1
g - Record Measurmts	1 att	7112	93	99	1
h - Repeated Trials	1 att	7112	91	99	1
i - Experimental Ctrl	1 att	7112	99	100	0
j - Validity Measures	1 att	7112	91	100	0
k - Logical Steps	1 att	7112	90	100	0
16	2	7358	88	100	0
19*	2 Point Item				
a-Compare Motion Spd	1 att	7444	91	99	1
b-Compare Motion Acl	1 att	7444	92	100	0
c-Appropriate Data	1 att	7444	93	100	0
21	2	7102	83	99	1
23	2	7536	87	99	1

Table 30. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Interrater Percent Agreement (Cont'd)

Item	Points Possible	Number of Papers Scored	% Exact Agreement	% Adjacent + Exact Agreement	% Non-Adjacent Agreement
25*	2 point item				
a – Concl Statement	1 att	7572	94	100	0
b – Supp Data 4 grams	1 att	7572	97	99	1
c - Supp Data 86 grams	1 att	7572	97	100	0
d – Exp Language	1 att	7572	89	100	0
28	2	7326	89	99	1
30*	4 point item				
a - Prediction	1 att	7384	92	100	0
b - Prediction Reason	1 att	7384	91	99	1
c - Materials	1 att	7384	95	99	1
d - Controlled Var	1 att	7384	95	100	0
e - Manipulated Var	1 att	7384	95	99	1
f - Responding Var	1 att	7384	93	99	1
g - Record Meas'ts	1 att	7384	94	100	0
h - Repeated Trials	1 att	7384	93	100	0
i - Validity Measures	1 att	7384	95	99	1
j - Logical Steps	1 att	7384	92	100	0
37	2	7311	88	100	0
40*	2 point item				
a – Concl Statement	1 att	7564	93	100	0
b – Supp Data 0 Degree	1 att	7564	97	99	1
c - Supp Data 90 Degree	1 att	7564	97	99	1
d – Exp Language	1 att	7564	91	100	0
42	2	6910	82	98	2

*Items with attribute scores.

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS FOR SCORING WRITING

Although *training* to score Writing is the same as described above, various approaches can be used to evaluate the quality of Writing. For the WASL, a “focused holistic” approach was selected. Focused holistic scoring, or general impression scoring, assesses relative writing fluency and measures the degree to which a writer has connected to the scorer of a paper. When a paper is scored holistically, a scorer considers the overall effectiveness of the piece of writing and assigns a score that reflects the scorer’s impression of the paper’s overall quality. In a focused holistic approach, the scorer also takes into account all of the elements that make up a successful piece of writing, for example content, organization, style, and mechanics. In the WASL Writing test, Content, Organization, and Style are scored together on a 4-point scale (score points 1-4) and Writing Mechanics are scored on a 3-point scale (score points 0-2). Beginning in 2005, each piece of writing was scored by two scorers. These four scores are combined to provide a maximum of 12 points on any one piece of writing, or 24 total points on the overall Writing test..

PART 8: PERFORMANCE OF 2008 GRADE 10 STUDENTS

The summary data presented in Tables 31 to 57 are descriptive of Grade 10 student performance on the 2008 WASL. Included are raw score means and standard deviations for strand scores and the Writing test, scaled score means and standard deviations for other Grade 10 WASL tests, and numbers of Grade 10 students tested and disaggregated by a variety of groups. Means and standard deviations were calculated relative to the number of students tested, rather than number of students in the population. Table 31 provides the statewide mean scores for Grade 10 students who took the WASL tests in Spring 2008. The column “Maximum Scaled Score” lists the highest reported scaled score points for each of the 2008 tests. Actual calculated maximum scaled score point values are listed in Tables 21-25 in Part 5 of this report. The next two columns contain the mean scaled score and scaled score standard deviations for students tested statewide. Table 32 lists the 2008 Grade 10 statewide summary statistics for content strands in each WASL test on a raw score metric.

Table 31. 2008 Grade 10 Means & Standard Deviations (SD) Test Scores

Test	Number Tested	Maximum Scaled Score † or Raw Score *	Mean Scaled Score † or Raw Score *	SD
Reading †	60,391	525	425.8	30.4
Writing *		24		
Mathematics Form A†	46,011	575	396.4	40.8
Mathematics Form AA†	17,645	575	397.0	38.7
Science †	59,961	625	385.8	40.8

†Scaled Scores computed and reported for Reading, Mathematics, and Science tests.

*The Writing test is reported on the raw score metric. No Scaled Scores are computed or reported for this test.

Table 32. 2008 Grade 10 Raw Test Score Summaries, Percent Students with Strength in Strand

Strand	Number Tested	Points Possible	Raw Score Mean	SD	Percent with Strength in Strand
Reading	60,391	52	40.4	7.8	
Literacy Text Comprehension	60,391	8	6.0	1.4	66.3
Literacy Text Analyze/Interpret	60,391	7	5.1	1.7	80.4
Literacy Text Critical Thinking	60,391	8	5.8	1.8	71.9
Informational Text Comprehension	60,391	11	8.8	1.9	76.0
Informational Text Analyze/Interpret	60,391	7	6.0	1.2	74.0
Informational Text Critical Thinking	60,391	11	8.6	2.1	82.5
Writing	59,698	24	20.7	3.0	
Writing Content, Organization Style	59,698	16	13.3	2.2	82.6
Writing Conventions	59,698	8	7.3	1.3	88.2
Mathematics	63,656	61	30.5	13.3	
Number Sense	63,656	6	3.2	1.7	44.0
Measurement	63,656	7	3.4	2.1	45.9
Geometric Sense	63,656	6	4.0	1.6	50.1
Probability & Statistics	63,656	6	2.7	1.3	53.0
Algebraic Sense	63,656	7	3.9	1.8	37.2
Solves Problems/ Reasons Logically	63,656	14	6.7	3.7	44.1
Communicates Understanding	63,656	8	3.0	2.1	43.4
Makes Connections	63,656	7	3.5	2.1	50.8
Science	59,961	62	31.0	11.7	
Systems of Science	59,961	27	12.3	4.7	38.0
Inquiry in Science	59,961	24	13.4	5.9	40.9
Application of Science	59,961	11	5.3	2.6	49.8

Tables 33 through 44 summarize the number of students tested, the mean scaled score, and scaled score standard deviation by various demographic and categorical programs for each WASL test.

Table 33. 2008 Grade 10 Reading – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Gender

Gender	Number Tested	Mean	SD
Males	31,284	422.2	29.9
Females	29,101	429.8	30.6

Table 34. 2008 Grade 10 Reading – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number Tested	Mean	SD
Alaska Native/Native American	1530	414.2	29.4
Asian	4804	430.4	30.7
African American/Black	3119	412.1	29.6
Latino/Hispanic	7288	412.4	30.0
White/Caucasian	42,180	429.3	29.5
Pacific Islander	275	412.0	28.9
Multi-Racial	786	424.8	29.9

Table 35. 2008 Grade 10 Writing – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Gender

Gender	Number Tested	Mean	SD
Males	30,873	20.1	3.2
Females	28,823	21.3	2.6

Table 36. 2008 Grade 10 Writing – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number Tested	Mean	SD
Alaska Native/Native American	1500	19.6	3.2
Asian	4750	21.3	2.8
African American/Black	3001	19.6	3.4
Latino/Hispanic	7245	19.1	3.6
White/Caucasian	41,836	21.0	2.8
Pacific Islander	261	20.0	3.3
Multi-Racial	771	20.8	2.8

Table 37. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Gender

Gender	Number Tested	Mean	SD
Males	32,483	398.7	41.4
Females	31,162	394.4	38.8

Table 38. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number Tested	Mean	SD
Alaska Native/Native American	1586	380.4	36.0
Asian	5133	408.4	42.4
African American/Black	3356	369.6	37.0
Latino/Hispanic	7792	373.9	36.2
White/Caucasian	44,217	402.1	38.4
Pacific Islander	276	376.6	37.3
Multi-Racial	857	393.8	39.3

Table 39. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Gender

Gender	Number Tested	Mean	SD
Males	30,512	384.3	42.8
Females	29,440	387.3	38.6

Table 40. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number Tested	Mean	SD
Alaska Native/Native American	1455	367.2	40.4
Asian	4876	394.4	40.9
African American/Black	2834	361.6	41.5
Latino/Hispanic	6899	364.6	39.8
White/Caucasian	42,574	390.7	39.0
Pacific Islander	252	364.6	40.3
Multi-Racial	827	382.8	39.4

Table 41. 2008 Grade 10 Reading – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Categorical Program

Categorical Program	Number Tested	Mean	SD
LAP Read	1637	403.8	25.5
LAP Math	2290	406.8	25.4
Title I Read	1618	416.3	31.0
Title I Math	808	410.8	31.7
Gifted	1409	453.0	27.3
Special Ed	3612	393.7	30.4
Migrant	954	404.6	30.1
ELL/Bilingual	2578	390.4	28.4

Table 42. 2008 Grade 10 Writing – Raw Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Categorical Program

Categorical Program	Number Tested	Mean	SD
LAP Read	1587	18.5	3.3
LAP Math	2246	18.7	3.4
Title I Read	1572	19.4	3.5
Title I Math	767	18.8	4.1
Gifted	1433	22.7	1.6
Special Ed	3253	16.9	4.0
Migrant	937	17.9	4.1
ELL/Bilingual	2558	16.2	4.1

Table 43. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Categorical Program

Categorical Program	Number Tested	Mean	SD
LAP Read	1691	364.6	32.8
LAP Math	2520	365.2	28.4
Title I Read	1781	378.6	38.3
Title I Math	955	376.8	39.4
Gifted	1407	445.8	35.6
Special Ed	3623	351.3	34.8
Migrant	1002	366.3	33.1
ELL/Bilingual	2684	355.9	36.0

Table 44. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Scaled Score Means & Standard Deviations (SD) by Categorical Program

Categorical Program	Number Tested	Mean	SD
LAP Read	1506	351.6	36.4
LAP Math	2200	355.8	35.1
Title I Read	1614	369.6	42.6
Title I Math	898	365.7	44.2
Gifted	1444	424.2	31.3
Special Ed	3852	336.0	38.8
Migrant	891	352.4	37.9
ELL/Bilingual	2284	335.3	35.9

PERCENT MEETING STANDARD

Tables 45 through 56 list the percent of students in each gender, ethnic, and categorical program group who did or did not meet standard for each content area.

Following are general descriptions of the performance level standards for the WASL.

Level 4 “Advanced”: This level represents superior performance, notably above that required for meeting the standard at Grade 10.

Level 3 “Proficient”*: This level represents solid academic performance for Grade 10. Students reaching this level have demonstrated proficiency over challenging content, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to real world situations, and analytical skills appropriate for the content and grade level.

Level 2 “Basic”: This level denotes partial accomplishment of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for meeting the standard at Grade 10.

Level 1 “Below Basic”: This level denotes little or no demonstration of the prerequisite knowledge and skills that are fundamental for meeting the standard at Grade 10.

** In all content areas, “Proficient” reflects what a well taught, hard working student should know and be able to do.*

For all WASL tests, “Meets Standard” is defined by Level 3 “Proficient” and Level 4 “Advanced.” Level 1 “Below Basic” and Level 2 “Basic” do not meet standard.

As noted in each of Tables 45 to 56, the percentage entries are based on the number of students within a particular subgroup or program category. Performance Level 1 “Below Basic” in these tables includes students who attempted the WASL but received no score for unexcused absence, missing booklet, incomplete record, refusal to test, invalidated test, or testing with an out of grade level test. “Not tested” consist of students excluded from testing on the basis of limited English proficiency (LEP), medical condition, excused absence, partial enrollment during the testing window, exemptions due to previously passing tested content, or exemption due to participation in the alternate assessment portfolio (WAAS) or in the Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW). In the following tables, “Percent Exempt” is a subset of “Percent Not Tested,” and reflects the percent of total grade level enrollment that participated in the WAAS or DAW programs. Within each row of the following tables, “Meets Standard,” “Does Not Meet Standard,” and “Percent Not Tested” percentages sum to 100%.

Table 45. 2008 Grade 10 Reading – Percent Meeting Standards by Gender

Group	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
All Students	79,635	49.3	30.3	10.3	3.7	6.4	0.8
		79.6		14.0			
Females	38,888	55.0	27.8	8.6	2.8	5.8	0.7
		82.8		11.4			
Males	40,707	44.2	32.7	11.8	4.5	6.8	0.9
		76.9		16.3			

Table 46. 2008 Grade 10 Reading – Percent Meeting Standards by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
Alaska Native/Native American	2100	31.9	33.2	15.5	6.9	12.4	1.1
		65.1		22.4			
Asian	6368	57.5	27.3	8.6	2.8	3.7	0.7
		84.8		11.4			
African American/Black	4175	31.0	35.5	16.9	8.0	8.6	1.1
		66.5		24.9			
Latino/Hispanic	9639	32.4	33.2	16.9	8.8	8.7	0.7
		65.6		25.7			
White/Caucasian	55,055	54.1	29.9	8.5	2.4	5.1	0.8
		84.0		10.9			
Pacific Islander	353	34.1	33.8	15.9	9.1	7.1	0.0
		67.9		25.0			
Multi-Racial	1070	47.2	30.4	12.2	2.7	7.5	0.8
		77.6		14.9			

Table 47. 2008 Grade 10 Writing – Percent Meeting Standards by Gender

Group	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
All Students	79,148	53.6	31.5	6.8	1.8	6.3	0.8
		<i>85.1</i>		<i>8.6</i>			
Females	38,786	62.2	27.2	4.2	0.9	5.5	0.6
		<i>89.4</i>		<i>5.1</i>			
Males	40,322	45.7	35.6	9.2	2.7	6.8	0.9
		<i>81.3</i>		<i>11.9</i>			

Table 48. 2008 Grade 10 Writing – Percent Meeting Standards by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
Alaska Native/Native American	2081	35.7	38.2	11.9	2.7	11.5	1.1
		<i>73.9</i>		<i>14.6</i>			
Asian	6354	63.7	26.5	4.8	1.1	3.9	0.7
		<i>90.2</i>		<i>5.9</i>			
African American/Black	4153	38.9	38.3	10.1	3.5	9.1	1.2
		<i>77.2</i>		<i>13.6</i>			
Latino/Hispanic	9574	34.7	38.6	13.9	4.7	8.1	0.8
		<i>73.3</i>		<i>18.6</i>			
White/Caucasian	54,720	58.2	30.3	5.3	1.2	4.9	0.8
		<i>88.5</i>		<i>6.5</i>			
Pacific Islander	350	47.0	32.6	6.5	2.5	8.4	0.0
		<i>79.6</i>		<i>9.0</i>			
Multi-Racial	1058	54.3	33.1	5.1	1.0	6.5	0.8
		<i>87.4</i>		<i>6.1</i>			

Table 49. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics – Percent Meeting Standards by Gender

Group	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
All Students	79,456	18.2	27.9	21.1	25.5	7.3	0.8
		46.1		46.6			
Females	38,741	16.0	28.1	22.6	26.6	6.7	0.6
		44.1		49.2			
Males	40,675	20.4	27.7	19.7	24.5	7.7	0.9
		48.1		44.2			

Table 50. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics – Percent Meeting Standards by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
Alaska Native/Native American	2091	7.2	19.8	22.2	37.5	13.3	1.1
		27.0		59.7			
Asian	6366	28.4	30.2	18.5	18.6	4.4	0.7
		58.6		37.1			
African American/Black	4194	4.6	15.9	21.3	47.4	10.8	1.1
		20.5		68.7			
Latino/Hispanic	9613	5.4	18.3	21.6	45.1	9.6	0.8
		23.7		66.7			
White/Caucasian	54,903	21.3	31.0	21.4	20.4	5.9	0.8
		52.3		41.8			
Pacific Islander	347	6.7	18.3	23.8	39.9	11.3	0.0
		25.0		63.7			
Multi-Racial	1074	16.2	24.0	24.4	26.9	8.4	0.9
		40.2		51.3			

Table 51. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Percent Meeting Standards by Gender

Group	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
All Students	80,375	2.5	34.2	21.1	28.1	14.1	0.8
		36.7		49.2			
Females	39,081	2.2	35.5	22.7	26.6	13.0	0.6
		37.7		49.3			
Males	41,254	2.7	33.1	19.7	29.6	15.0	0.9
		35.8		49.3			

Table 52. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Percent Meeting Standards by Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
Alaska Native/Native American	2136	0.5	19.3	18.3	40.8	21.1	1.1
		19.8		59.1			
Asian	6395	4.6	41.7	20.4	22.9	10.4	0.7
		46.3		43.3			
African American/Black	4280	0.4	14.7	18.9	42.4	23.5	1.1
		15.1		61.3			
Latino/Hispanic	9747	0.4	17.1	19.5	43.5	19.5	0.7
		17.5		63.0			
White/Caucasian	55,519	2.8	39.1	22.1	24.5	11.5	0.8
		41.9		46.6			
Pacific Islander	350	0.3	18.3	20.3	43.5	17.6	0.0
		18.6		63.8			
Multi-Racial	1087	1.8	32.2	21.5	31.2	13.3	0.9
		34.0		52.7			

Table 53. 2008 Grade 10 Reading – Percent Meeting Standards by Categorical Program

Categorical Program	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
LAP Read	1967	21.0	36.6	25.2	10.9	6.3	0.1
		<i>57.6</i>		<i>36.1</i>			
LAP Math	2886	23.4	38.9	23.0	8.6	6.1	0.0
		<i>62.3</i>		<i>31.6</i>			
Title I Read	2281	34.7	31.4	15.0	6.7	12.2	0.5
		<i>66.1</i>		<i>21.7</i>			
Title I Math	1222	30.2	33.2	19.6	10.1	6.9	0.3
		<i>63.4</i>		<i>29.7</i>			
Gifted	1668	87.1	10.9	1.1	0.1	0.7	0.1
		<i>98.0</i>		<i>1.2</i>			
Special Ed	5428	13.2	26.8	25.4	20.1	14.5	11.4
		<i>40.0</i>		<i>45.5</i>			
Migrant	1190	24.3	32.7	20.8	13.7	8.5	0.4
		<i>57.0</i>		<i>34.5</i>			
ELL/Bilingual	3325	10.4	28.1	28.9	23.5	9.1	0.4
		<i>38.5</i>		<i>52.4</i>			

Table 54. 2008 Grade 10 Writing – Percent Meeting Standards by Categorical Program

Categorical Program	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
LAP Read	1961	24.1	46.5	18.7	4.0	6.7	0.1
		<i>70.6</i>		<i>22.7</i>			
LAP Math	2870	28.8	44.2	16.5	4.5	5.9	0.0
		<i>73.0</i>		<i>21.0</i>			
Title I Read	2267	36.4	36.2	11.7	3.6	12.0	0.7
		<i>72.6</i>		<i>15.3</i>			
Title I Math	1213	34.6	34.5	15.9	6.8	8.1	0.3
		<i>69.1</i>		<i>22.7</i>			
Gifted	1668	88.1	11.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1
		<i>99.2</i>		<i>0.4</i>			
Special Ed	5037	13.8	36.6	23.9	11.1	14.6	12.3
		<i>50.4</i>		<i>35.0</i>			
Migrant	1187	25.0	39.4	19.5	8.1	8.0	0.4
		<i>64.4</i>		<i>27.6</i>			
ELL/Bilingual	3310	10.4	37.2	29.3	13.8	9.3	0.4
		<i>47.6</i>		<i>43.1</i>			

Table 55. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics – Percent Meeting Standards by Categorical Program

Categorical Program	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
LAP Read	1952	2.4	13.0	21.6	56.0	7.0	0.1
		<i>15.4</i>		<i>77.6</i>			
LAP Math	2908	1.0	11.2	24.8	55.3	7.7	0.0
		<i>12.2</i>		<i>80.1</i>			
Title I Read	2274	7.8	19.0	21.5	37.7	14.0	0.7
		<i>26.8</i>		<i>59.2</i>			
Title I Math	1221	6.5	21.2	22.5	38.6	11.2	0.3
		<i>27.7</i>		<i>61.1</i>			
Gifted	1667	68.5	22.5	6.1	2.3	0.6	0.1
		<i>91.0</i>		<i>8.4</i>			
Special Ed	5368	2.2	6.8	11.7	63.7	15.6	11.5
		<i>9.0</i>		<i>75.4</i>			
Migrant	1190	2.5	14.4	21.5	52.6	9.0	0.4
		<i>16.9</i>		<i>74.1</i>			
ELL/Bilingual	3353	2.8	9.4	14.0	63.5	10.3	0.4
		<i>12.2</i>		<i>77.5</i>			

Table 56. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Percent Meeting Standards by Categorical Program

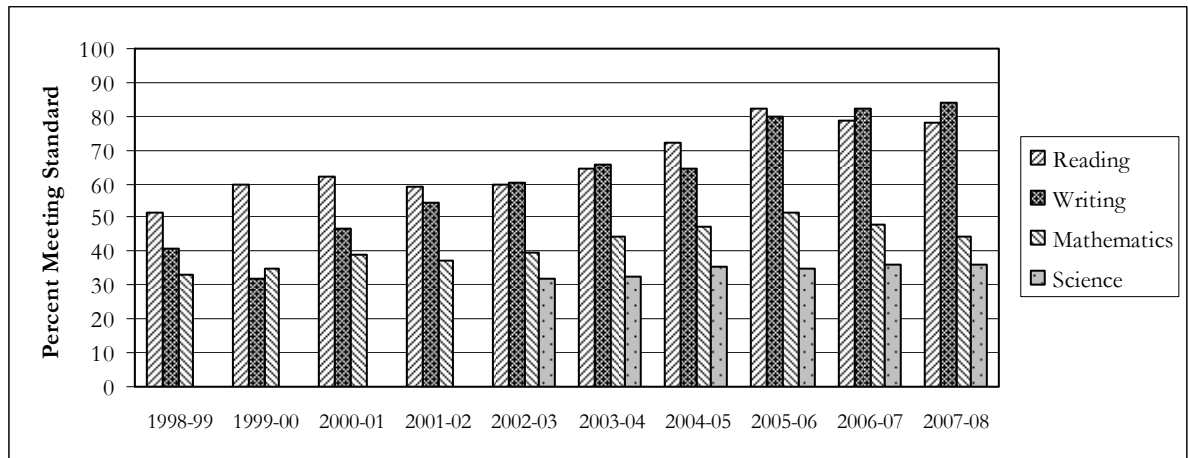
Categorical Program	Number of Students	Meets Standard		Does Not Meet Standard		Percent Not Tested	Percent Exempt
		Percent Level 4	Percent Level 3	Percent Level 2	Percent Level 1		
LAP Read	2010	0.1	8.7	14.7	58.7	17.8	0.1
		8.8		73.4			
LAP Math	2933	0.2	9.0	18.6	54.2	18.0	0.0
		9.2		72.8			
Title I Read	2288	1.2	20.0	17.8	37.7	23.3	0.5
		21.2		55.5			
Title I Math	1245	1.0	20.4	17.4	41.3	20.0	0.3
		21.4		58.7			
Gifted	1667	14.1	67.6	11.3	5.0	2.0	0.1
		81.7		16.3			
Special Ed	6294	0.2	5.3	8.5	62.4	23.6	9.7
		5.5		70.9			
Migrant	1212	0.2	9.8	16.9	53.3	19.8	0.4
		10.0		70.2			
ELL/Bilingual	3380	0.0	3.8	9.0	66.0	21.2	0.4
		3.8		75			

Table 57 and Figure 8 illustrate the trend in student performance from 1998-99 to 2007-08 in each content area. These data are based on information from published statewide score reports.

Table 57. Grade 10 Percentage of Students Meeting Standard from 1998-99 through 2007-08

	Administration Year									
	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Reading	51.4%	59.8%	62.4%	59.2%	60.0%	64.7%	72.4%	82.0%	78.9%	78.1%
Writing	41.1%	31.7%	46.9%	54.3%	60.5%	65.4%	64.7%	79.8%	82.3%	83.8%
Mathematics	33.0%	35.0%	38.9%	37.3%	39.4%	44.1%	47.1%	51.2%	48.0%	44.3%
Science	NA				31.8%	32.3%	35.6%	35.1%	36.1%	35.8%

Figure 8. Grade 10 Results for 1989-99 through 2007-08 by Content Area



MEAN ITEM PERFORMANCE AND ITEM-TEST CORRELATIONS

Traditional item statistics and IRT-based item statistics were computed to evaluate the quality of pilot items and their eligibility for future operational use. Pilot items that met quality standards, statistical requirements, and content criteria were retained in the item pool for future operational use. Approved items from the pool were selected to construct the 2008 tests.

The data listed in Tables 58 through 62 indicate the number of points possible for each operational item, the item means, the item-test score correlations, and the Rasch item difficulties for each of the items in the Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science tests.

Table 58. 2008 Grade 10 Writing – Operational Item Statistics

Prompt	Score Type	Score Points Possible	Score Mean	Score-Total Test Correlation
1	Expository Content, Organization & Style	8	6.689	0.48
	Expository Writing Conventions	4	3.693	0.55
2	Persuasive Content, Organization & Style	8	6.630	0.59
	Persuasive Writing Conventions	4	3.651	0.59

Table 59. 2008 Grade 10 Reading – Operational Item Statistics

Item Number in Test Booklet	Points Possible	Item Mean	Item-Test Correlation	Rasch Item Difficulty
1	1	0.953	0.30	-1.735
2	1	0.795	0.38	0.052
3	2	1.631	0.37	-0.036
4	1	0.759	0.43	0.252
5	1	0.944	0.23	-1.423
6	2	1.756	0.36	-0.419
7	1	0.918	0.39	-1.216
8	1	0.783	0.48	0.015
9	2	1.641	0.46	0.000
10	1	0.747	0.14	0.100
11	1	0.881	0.30	-0.806
12	2	1.302	0.39	0.911
13	1	0.758	0.25	0.183
14	4	2.264	0.47	1.276
15	1	0.563	0.15	1.102
16	1	0.890	0.36	-0.782
17	1	0.879	0.37	-0.793
18	1	0.668	0.27	0.660
19	2	1.423	0.41	-0.278
20	1	0.935	0.35	-1.518
21	1	0.575	0.26	1.112
22	1	0.905	0.32	-1.101
23	2	1.478	0.52	0.513
24	1	0.851	0.40	-0.501
25	1	0.900	0.27	-0.818
26	2	1.424	0.37	0.439
27	1	0.861	0.35	-0.520
28	1	0.512	0.37	1.416
29	1	0.956	0.32	-1.534
30	2	1.527	0.39	-0.218
31	2	1.314	0.42	0.870
32	1	0.859	0.47	-0.603
33	1	0.959	0.33	-1.897
34	1	0.931	0.39	-1.409
35	4	3.142	0.49	0.339
36	1	0.769	0.40	0.061
37	1	0.950	0.36	-1.714

Table 60. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Form A – Operational Item Statistics

Item Number in Test Booklet	Points Possible	Item Mean	Item-Test Correlation	Rasch Item Difficulty
1	1	0.695	0.31	-0.819
2	1	0.343	0.31	0.938
3	2	1.425	0.55	-0.834
4	1	0.612	0.35	-0.352
5	1	0.726	0.38	-1.093
6	1	0.839	0.31	-1.751
7	4	1.278	0.64	1.003
8	1	0.704	0.36	-0.863
9	2	0.797	0.67	0.642
10	2	0.869	0.58	0.411
11	1	0.536	0.28	-0.050
12	1	0.637	0.40	-0.472
13	Not Scored			
14	1	0.620	0.43	-0.333
15	1	0.549	0.31	-0.058
16	1	0.652	0.37	-0.560
17	2	0.451	0.48	1.555
18	2	0.750	0.49	1.033
19	1	0.613	0.46	-0.251
20	2	0.547	0.54	1.190
21	1	0.498	0.57	0.215
25	1	0.444	0.49	0.469
26	2	0.998	0.54	0.160
27	1	0.672	0.43	-0.846
28	1	0.666	0.42	-0.676
29	4	2.074	0.74	0.147
30	2	1.138	0.42	-0.220
31	1	0.387	0.42	0.961
32	1	0.443	0.34	0.463
33	1	0.329	0.17	1.018
34	4	1.653	0.67	0.582
35	1	0.830	0.38	-1.712
36	1	0.731	0.42	-1.005
37	1	0.875	0.30	-2.096
38	2	0.983	0.65	0.321
39	1	0.542	0.44	-0.092

Table 60. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Form A – Operational Item Statistics (Cont'd)

Item Number in Test Booklet	Points Possible	Item Mean	Item-Test Correlation	Rasch Item Difficulty
40	2	0.988	0.65	0.208
41	1	0.613	0.36	-0.141
42	1	0.690	0.34	-0.763
43	2	0.830	0.51	0.498
44	1	0.593	0.50	-0.248
45	1	0.511	0.31	0.116

Table 61. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Form AA – Operational Item Statistics

Item Number in Test Booklet	Points Possible	Item Mean	Item-Test Correlation	Rasch Item Difficulty
1	1	0.786	0.38	-1.316
2	1	0.338	0.30	0.938
3	2	0.697	0.54	0.839
4	1	0.357	0.34	0.899
5	1	0.728	0.35	-1.093
6	1	0.820	0.33	-1.558
7	4	2.385	0.62	-0.487
8	1	0.708	0.36	-0.863
9	2	0.443	0.57	1.558
10	2	0.851	0.56	0.411
11	1	0.520	0.25	-0.050
12	1	0.615	0.54	-0.330
13	Not Scored			
14	1	0.630	0.43	-0.333
15	1	0.653	0.44	-0.519
16	1	0.211	0.13	1.743
17	2	0.461	0.46	1.884
18	2	0.755	0.45	1.033
19	1	0.617	0.44	-0.251
20	2	0.521	0.53	1.190
21	1	0.733	0.44	-0.977
25	1	0.518	0.56	0.123
26	2	0.235	0.39	2.204
27	1	0.675	0.42	-0.846
28	1	0.688	0.30	-0.741
29	4	1.606	0.69	0.543
30	2	0.481	0.52	1.500
31	1	0.348	0.41	0.961
32	1	0.141	0.03	2.268
33	1	0.442	0.42	0.511
34	4	1.895	0.53	0.347
35	1	0.872	0.35	-2.038
36	1	0.638	0.10	-0.473
37	1	0.894	0.26	-2.096
38	2	1.039	0.62	0.321
39	1	0.536	0.42	-0.092

Table 61. 2008 Grade 10 Mathematics Form AA – Operational Item Statistics (Cont'd)

Item Number in Test Booklet	Points Possible	Item Mean	Item-Test Correlation	Rasch Item Difficulty
40	2	0.945	0.56	0.383
41	1	0.624	0.35	-0.141
42	1	0.486	0.46	0.286
43	2	0.876	0.48	0.498
44	1	0.584	0.40	-0.214
45	1	0.491	0.39	0.240

Table 62. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Operational Item Statistics

Item Number in Test Booklet	Points Possible	Item Mean	Item-Test Correlation	Rasch Item Difficulty
1	1	0.891	0.34	-2.195
2	2	0.801	0.50	0.745
3	1	0.655	0.29	-0.493
4	1	0.733	0.29	-0.988
5	1	0.560	0.33	-0.115
6	4	1.995	0.54	0.566
7	1	0.716	0.47	-0.699
8	1	0.770	0.50	-0.898
9	2	0.960	0.59	0.255
10	1	0.793	0.38	-1.086
11	1	0.383	0.15	0.640
12	1	0.342	0.21	0.950
13	4	1.426	0.59	0.810
14	1	0.434	0.24	0.646
15	1	0.719	0.37	-0.689
16	2	0.450	0.43	1.289
17	1	0.780	0.31	-1.155
18	1	0.882	0.42	-2.018
19	2	0.916	0.52	0.452
20	1	0.411	0.25	0.580
21	2	0.767	0.47	0.821
22	1	0.230	0.19	1.574
23	2	0.322	0.38	1.763
24	1	0.757	0.43	-0.967
25	2	1.279	0.61	-0.123
26	1	0.530	0.32	0.197
27	1	0.707	0.36	-0.710
28	2	0.285	0.35	1.896
29	1	0.788	0.23	-1.246
30	4	1.602	0.53	0.608
31	1	0.382	0.21	0.907
32	1	0.762	0.38	-1.157
33	1	0.550	0.34	0.258
34	1	0.467	0.15	0.575
35	1	0.536	0.30	0.029
36	1	0.500	0.33	0.193

Table 62. 2008 Grade 10 Science – Operational Item Statistics (Cont'd)

Item Number in Test Booklet	Points Possible	Item Mean	Item-Test Correlation	Rasch Item Difficulty
37	2	0.992	0.52	0.024
38	1	0.891	0.45	-1.862
39	1	0.860	0.51	-1.576
40	2	0.819	0.56	0.587
41	1	0.633	0.35	-0.198
42	2	0.700	0.51	1.022

APPENDIX A: EXAMPLE OF DATA REVIEW REPORTS

**WASL SPRING 2008 PILOT MATHEMATICS
CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE ITEM STATISTICS SUMMARY**

**MATHEMATICS GRADE 10
STRAND-TARGET: NS03
ITEM CODE: 27665**

CHARACTERISTIC: ac

**FORM 0A #46
TOOLS DAY: X**

FLAGS? YES

VALID N-COUNT: 954

GROUP	ITEM MEAN	RID	ITEM-TOT CORR	%0	0 PT CORR	%1	1 PT CORR	%2	2 PT CORR	%3	3 PT CORR	%4	4 PT CORR	% BLANK	TOTAL COUNT
ALL STUDENTS	0.58	1.055	0.58	56	-0.57	10	0.18	20	0.51	0		0		14	1112
AM IND	0.33		0.53	60		4		10						26	90
ASIAN	0.85		0.64	47		13		33						7	96
BLACK	0.39		0.54	55		8		10						26	87
HISPANIC	0.16		0.39	77		2		5						15	91
WHITE	0.64		0.56	54		12		22						12	739
MALE	0.62		0.61	52		8		21						20	531
FEMALE	0.55		0.56	60		13		19						9	580
FLAGS	0s >15% Blanks >5% Steps UNORDR														

DIF SUMMARY

CONTRAST	SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL	FLAG	DIRECTION
MALE VS. FEMALE	0.043	**	+F
WHITE VS. AMERICAN INDIAN	0.687		
WHITE VS. ASIAN	0.584		
WHITE VS. AFRICAN AMERICAN	0.785		
WHITE VS. HISPANIC	0.057		

**WASL SPRING 2008 PILOT READING
MULTIPLE CHOICE ITEM STATISTICS SUMMARY**

READING GRADE 10

FORM 0J #38

KEY: D

PASSAGE: THE GREAT PYRAMID AT GIZA

STRAND-TARGET: IA15

ITEM CODE: 39702

FLAGS? Y

VALID N-COUNT: 1214

GROUP	P-VAL	RID	PBis	%A	PB A	%B	PB B	%C	PBC	%D	PBD	% OMIT	TOTAL COUNT
ALL STUDENTS	0.81	-0.190	0.42	6	-0.22	12	-0.29	2	-0.16	80	0.42	1	1229
AM IND	0.79		0.34	3		14		3		79		0	29
ASIAN	0.83		0.54	3		11		3		81		2	102
BLACK	0.63		0.47	16		18		3		63		0	68
HISPANIC	0.60		0.33	13		24		3		59		2	131
WHITE	0.85		0.39	4		10		1		84		1	893
MALE	0.80		0.44	6		13		2		79		1	612
FEMALE	0.82		0.40	6		11		1		81		1	617
FLAGS		Distr<5%											

DIF SUMMARY

CONTRAST	SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL	FLAG	DIRECTION
MALE VS. FEMALE	0.196		
WHITE VS. AMERICAN INDIAN	0.840		
WHITE VS. ASIAN	0.087		
WHITE VS. AFRICAN AMERICAN	0.001	**	+W
WHITE VS. HISPANIC	0.000	**	+W

**APPENDIX B: WASHINGTON ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT
LEARNING ADVISORY MEMBERS**

National Technical Advisory Committee Members

Patricia Almond, University of Oregon

Peter Behuniak, University of Connecticut

Richard Duran, Professor, University of California – Santa Barbara

George Engelhard, Professor, Emory University

Robert Linn, Professor Emeritus, University of Colorado and UCLA/CRESST

William Mehrens, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University

Joseph Ryan, Professor Emeritus, Arizona State University

Catherine Taylor, Associate Professor, University of Washington

Washington State Assessment Advisory Team

Jan Baxter, Director of Assessment, Kelso School District

Charisse Berner, Director of Curriculum Director and Assessment Coordination, Oak Harbor School District

Phil Dommes, Director of Assessment and Evaluation, North Thurston Public Schools

Linda Elman, Director of Research and Evaluation, Central Kitsap School District

Tersea Easley, Assistant Director of Assessment, Tacoma School District

Bev Henderson, Director of Assessment and Staff Development, Kennewick School District

Peter Hendrickson, Assessment Specialist, Everett Public Schools

Feng-Yi Hung, Director of Assessment and Program Evaluation, Clover Park School District

Nancy Katims, Director of Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, Edmonds School District

June Lee, District Assessment Coordinator, Soap Lake School District

Allen Miedema, Information Systems Manager, Northshore School District

Michael Power, Director of Instruction and Assessment, Mercer Island School District

Nancy Skerritt, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Assessment, Tahoma School District

Robert Silverman, Executive Director, Assessment and Accountability, Puyallup School District

Nancy Steers, District Assessment Coordinator, Seattle Public Schools

**APPENDIX C: RULE FOR ASSIGNING
RAW SCORE CUT POINTS AND SCALE VALUES**

Rule for Assigning Raw Score Cut Points and Scale Values

- A. Thetas are linearly transformed to scaled scores using the specified grade/subject equation.
- B. The following rules are applied to identify cut point scaled scores:
- Identify the scaled score closest to the cut point scaled score. If the rounded scaled score matches the cut point scaled score, use the associated raw score and rounded scaled score for that cut point.
 - If the rounded scaled score is greater than the cut point scaled score and:
 - a) the decimalized portion of the unrounded scaled score is greater than 0.499 (e.g., 400.501), use the next lowest raw score as the performance level cut and rename the associated scaled score as the cut point scaled score.

Example: A raw score of 39 is associated with the unrounded scaled score 400.501, a raw score 38 is associated with the unrounded scaled score 398.982. Raw score 38's scaled score is renamed & used as the 400 scaled score cut point.
 - b) the decimalized portion of the scaled score is 0.499 or less (e.g., 400.498), use the corresponding raw score point and truncate the unrounded scaled score for the cut point scaled score.

Example: A raw score of 39 is associated with the unrounded scaled score 400.498. The scaled score is truncated, and raw score 39's scaled score is used as the 400 scaled score cut point.
- C. Scaled scores are rounded to the nearest whole number scaled score (decimalized values less than 0.500 are truncated; decimalized values greater than or equal to 0.500 are rounded up to the nearest whole number).