

There are three different forms of the TASC test. Is one easier than the other?

Most large-scale assessment programs, including TASC, use more than one test form for security and re-testing purposes. Each form is built to specifications that make it comparable to other forms, and ensure that achieving passing scores is no more or less difficult on any form.

Is it possible to pass TASC just by guessing?

It is statistically possible to pass any test containing multiple-choice items through guessing; however, given the fact that the cut scores are not at the chance level, it would be very unlikely.

Are current TASC tests easier than prior years' forms? How do we know?

No, all TASC forms are comparable in terms of the difficulty and for any slight differences, a technical procedure called *equating* ensures that the same level of performance results in the same scale score, regardless of which form is taken. This allows scores to be compared from one year to the next or across forms of the test. In the equating process, the raw score points (or number of correct responses on a test) are adjusted slightly to ensure that scale scores and performance levels are comparable from year to year. If the test is slightly easier, the number of raw score points needed to earn a performance level may increase slightly in order to maintain the performance standard. If the test is slightly harder, the number of raw score points needed to earn a performance level may decrease slightly in order to maintain the performance standard.

Why is field testing necessary for TASC questions and why don't questions get field tested on high school students every year?

TASC field testing involves including a small number of new test questions that don't count toward a student's score during the test. This allows the new questions to be checked for quality and analyzed to obtain item statistics (such as difficulty).

The best information from field testing is obtained when the population taking the field test is similar to the population that will take the actual test. For TASC, the intended population is adults not currently enrolled in high school. Thus high school students provide some useful information in terms of the knowledge and skills measured on the TASC, but the major focus is on those who are taking the TASC to obtain a high school equivalency credential.

Why are passing scores set where they are?

DRC set TASC Test passing scores in the fall of 2013 based on the performance of a group of nationally representative high school seniors. Based on the level of knowledge and skills shown by these students, the passing scores for Math, Reading, Writing, Science, and Social Studies were set at the thirtieth percentile of the distribution of TASC scores. This is consistent with performance on other high school equivalency tests. As states become more familiar with the CCR-AE standards, both the implementation of those standards and student performance will improve.

In 2014, a research study resulted in adjustments to the passing scores to ensure that TASC cut scores correspond to high school students nationwide. The expectation is that students who pass TASC have the skills associated with the country's graduating high school seniors.

How do we know TASC measures the skills and knowledge required of a high school graduate?

The TASC test is aligned with the College and Career Readiness Standards for Adult Education (CCR-AE) and to other national standards for Science and Social Studies. These standards define the expectations of students preparing for college and careers. DRC develops the assessment with consistent expectations between the skills and knowledge required of a high school graduate and an adult learner seeking a high school equivalency. The changing national educational landscape, and the desire to maintain "equivalency," mean that DRC must monitor the state of high school assessments nationwide. DRC will continue to monitor TASC cut scores, with flexibility and responsibility, until after the implementation and measurement of the CCR-AE is stable across the nation.