

Suggestions for Use of NECAP Practice Tests, Released Items and Support Materials

Annually as part of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP), test items are released and support materials are provided for use by schools and districts. Several documents are posted on the RIDE website, also making them available to families. This introduction provides a very brief summary of each document and suggestions for how the documents might be used effectively.

How do I find NECAP support materials on RIDE's website?

- ✓ GO TO: www.ride.ri.gov/assessment/NECAP.aspx
- ✓ Locate: NECAP Released Test Items, Practice Tests, and Resource Materials
- ✓ Select the content area of interest – Reading or Mathematics or Writing
- ✓ Then, select the grade level and the document(s) of interest to review or print

Below is the format of the website, with a brief description of each document. All are in PDF format.

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Released Items and Support Materials for (content area)</i>	
5	Released Items Oct. 07	Support Materials Oct. 07
	Released Items Oct. 06	Support Materials Oct. 06 Student Work Samples Oct 06
	Released Items Oct. 05 Practice Test May 05 ~ Grades 3-8 Reading & Mathematics Aug. 07 ~ Grade 11 Reading, Writing & Mathematics	Support Materials Oct. 05 Resource Materials May 05 ~ grades 3-8 Reading & Mathematics Aug. 07 ~ Grade 11 Reading, Writing & Mathematics
		Reference Sheet Grades 5 - 8 & 11 - Mathematics only Student Answer Booklet Grades 5 - 8 & 11 - matches Practice Test

What grades are available?

- Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11; measuring grade level/grade span expectations (GLEs/GSEs) from prior grade

What released items and support materials are available?

- **Released Items (year)** – released items in test format with chart of information that provides item number in the released set, content strand/cluster, GLE/GSE measured, depth-of-knowledge level, item type, correct answer for multiple choice (MC) and number of possible points. (For grades 3, 4 & 5 Mathematics only: If any item requires the Tool Kit, the entire Tool Kit is included in this document.)
- **Support Materials (date)** include:
 - test item (Beginning with Oct. 06, the text of the GLE/GSE is printed above each item.)
 - scoring guide (for all non-MC items)
 - sample responses of student work at each score point, with annotations (for all non-MC items)
- **Student Work Samples** – the same sample responses of student work (as in the Support Materials), **without** scores and annotations
- **Practice Test (date)** – items in test format, released following the initial field-testing
- **Resource Materials** – for Practice Test; same components as Support Materials
- **Reference Sheet** – formulas and definitions, provided to all students in grades 5 and above for all Mathematics test sessions
- **Student Answer Booklet** – sample layout (For grades 5 and above, students receive 2 booklets, one with the test items and one in which to record their answers; for grades 3 & 4, students record their answers in the test booklet.)
- **Item Map** located in the **Mathematical Materials for All Grades** section – This document cross references the GLEs/GSEs with all items released as of February, 2008

Suggested Uses of These Documents

The best test preparation is good teaching and building a positive learning environment in the classroom. (Langer, 2001; *American Educational Research Journal*) Here are a few suggestions that support good teaching using NECAP resources available on the web.

1. Embed individual **Items** to align instruction and assessment activities
 - as illustrative examples or models to share with students
 - for small group or individual support
 - to become familiar with items and materials (***Practice Test, Student Answer Booklet, Reference Sheet*** and Teacher Tips)
 - to understand rubrics and scoring guides (***Support Materials***)
 - to support connected learnings among knowledge, skills and concepts across lessons, classes and grades, and across in-school and out-of-school applications
 - for explicit teaching of strategies for planning, organizing, completing, and reflecting on content and activities

The **Item Map** listed on the previous page will assist teachers in embedding individual items within their instruction and/or assessments in the content area of Mathematics.

2. Discuss ***Student Work Samples*** and ***Support Materials***
 - for one or more items
 - for comparison of student practice responses to ***Support Materials***
 - for practice scoring with professional colleagues (***Student Work Samples***)
3. Analyze ***Items*** and ***Support Materials*** with students and colleagues to understand
 - various item types
 - integration of skills and content of the GLEs/GSEs in a grade level
 - articulation of skills and content of the GLEs/GSEs across grade levels
 - conditions required for an item to be completed (*e.g.*, Mathematics – with or without calculators, hundreds charts, multiplication tables. Writing – planning boxes)
 - use of various item types to measure a GLE/GSE and/or different aspects of that GLE/GSE
4. Analyze ***Items*** and ***Support Materials*** based on patterns observed in the NECAP Item Analysis Report – each year, from year to year and grade to grade
 - for strengths and weaknesses of students, subgroups, *etc.*
 - for strengths and weakness of students in the same GLE/GSEs, clusters and strands