

Prairie State Achievement Examination

2011–2012



Teacher's Handbook

Illinois State Board of Education

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Starting in 2011–2012, this handbook is available only online. Additional PSAE resources are available online at www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm .	

Prairie State
Achievement Examination

Information for Teachers

General Information

This handbook contains information for high school educators—teachers, curriculum coordinators, counselors, and principals—as they prepare students to take the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE). This introductory section explains the purpose of the PSAE, gives timelines and test day schedules, and shows how the PSAE is constructed. The rest of the handbook provides an overview of each PSAE test (i.e., the reading, mathematics, and science tests) and includes the two test preparation booklets for students in appendices A and B: *Overview and Preparation Guide for PSAE Day 2* and *Preparing for the ACT for PSAE Day 1*. *The Overview and Preparation Guide for PSAE Day 2* contains an overview of the PSAE and sample Day 2 science, WorkKeys® *Applied Mathematics*, and WorkKeys *Reading for Information* test questions and answer keys, and *Preparing for the ACT for PSAE Day 1* contains practice ACT® English, mathematics, reading, and science tests for Day 1 and the scoring key for each test.

The PSAE test overviews include keys that give correct answers for the multiple-choice test questions found in the student booklets. The keys also identify the assessment objective(s) each item covers. The Illinois Assessment Frameworks, which contain the assessment objectives (clear and concise statements of testable material at grade 11), are available on the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Web site: www.isbe.net/assessment/IAFIndex.htm.

Additional information about the PSAE is available on the ISBE Web site: www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm.

What is the PSAE?

The PSAE is a state assessment given to grade 11 students and used for accountability.

The PSAE is a two-day test. Students take the ACT on Day 1. The ACT battery comprises four multiple-choice tests: English, mathematics, reading, and science.

On Day 2, students take one test developed by ISBE with assistance from Illinois teachers and two WorkKeys tests developed by ACT. The ISBE-developed test is in science. The WorkKeys tests assess mathematics and reading.

What is the purpose of the PSAE?

The PSAE shows the progress that students in schools, districts, and the state have made toward meeting the Illinois Learning Standards in three subjects: reading, mathematics, and science. In addition, it measures the academic achievement of individual students with respect to the Illinois Learning Standards and provides an opportunity for individual students to receive recognition for excellent performance. Current state law requires that students take the PSAE as a condition for receiving a regular high school diploma, unless a student is exempt. See www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm for more information about this requirement.

What are the Illinois Learning Standards?

The Illinois Learning Standards are statements of the specific knowledge and skills that every public school student should learn in school. Thousands of Illinois citizens—teachers, parents, school administrators, employers, community leaders, and representatives of higher education—identified what they believe students need to know and be able to do after they graduate from high school. The PSAE assesses student achievement in three of the subjects covered by the Illinois Learning Standards. There are also Illinois Learning Standards for social science, physical development and health, fine arts, and foreign languages. None of these subjects will be assessed statewide this school year.

Whether students intend to go directly to a job or plan to attend a vocational or technical school, junior college, or four-year college or university, those who meet the Illinois Learning Standards have the academic background they need to compete successfully.

The complete text of the Illinois Learning Standards is available on the ISBE Web site: www.isbe.net/ils/default.htm.

How do student scores relate to the Illinois Learning Standards?

Scores on the PSAE fall into four performance levels: Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, Below Standards, and Academic Warning. Performance level definitions, which describe what students know and can do at each performance level for reading, mathematics, and science, are available online at www.isbe.net/assessment/htmls/per_def.htm.

How were the performance levels set?

Following the first administration of the PSAE in spring 2001, panels made up of Illinois educators and representatives of the business community and of higher education met for three days to establish the relationship between performance on the PSAE and mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards, a process referred to as standard setting.

The panelists first studied performance level definitions that describe what students know and are able to do at the four performance levels: Exceeds Standards, Meets Standards, Below Standards, and Academic Warning. After studying the performance level definitions, panelists participated in a number of exercises to get a clear understanding of the minimal performance that is required for a student to achieve each level. Panelists then judged what percentage of students who just meet the minimal requirements of a given performance level would get an item correct. Those judgments were used to compute the cut points that define the score range for each performance level.

The cut points for subjects to be assessed in spring 2012 are provided below.

A report on the 2001 standard-setting process is available online at www.isbe.net/assessment/pdfs/psae/setting_standards.pdf.

PSAE Scale Score Cut Points (on 120–200 point scale)

Subject	Academic Warning	Below Standards	Meets Standards	Exceeds Standards
Reading	120–134	135–154	155–177	178–200
Mathematics	120–135	136–155	156–178	179–200
Science	120–135	136–157	158–177	178–200

Do students with disabilities take the PSAE?

Students with disabilities must take the PSAE unless they have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that identify this assessment as inappropriate for them. Students with disabilities for whom the PSAE is appropriate may take it with or without accommodations, as determined by a student’s IEP team or Section 504 placement team. Students with IEPs who have significant cognitive disabilities and for whom the PSAE is not appropriate, even with accommodations, must participate in the Illinois Alternate Assessment (IAA). However, in accordance with state law, these students nevertheless have the option of taking the PSAE and must be allowed to do so with accommodations that address their respective disabilities.

Accommodations requests for the ACT (Day 1 of the PSAE) must be submitted to ACT. Two types of accommodations requests are available: ACT-Approved or State-Allowed.

ACT-Approved accommodations requests may be submitted only for students who need accommodations based on needs documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan. Students who are approved for ACT-Approved accommodations are eligible to receive college-reportable ACT scores provided that the tests are administered according to ACT’s guidelines.

State-Allowed accommodations requests may be submitted for students who do not qualify for ACT-Approved accommodations and only for those who need accommodations based on needs documented in an Individualized Education Program (IEP), Section 504 Plan, or based on needs associated with limited English proficiency (LEP). Scores earned by students testing with State-Allowed accommodations are used only to produce PSAE scores and cannot be reported to colleges or universities.

School personnel may use ACT’s approval as a guideline for accommodations to be provided on Day 2 of the PSAE. However, the decision for Day 2 is ultimately a local one based on accommodation determinations documented in a student’s IEP or Section 504 Plan or based on needs associated with LEP. For specific information, check with your school’s PSAE Test Accommodations Coordinator.

Do students with limited English proficiency take the PSAE?

In spring 2012, grade 11 students with limited English proficiency (LEP) must take the PSAE. This includes students who have been in a state-approved Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) program or Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI) for *more than five academic years* and students who have been in a TBE or TPI program for *five or fewer years*. It also includes LEP students who are not being served in a state-approved bilingual education program.

Please note that you may not translate any PSAE test items for students for whom English is a second language. However, as a State-Allowed accommodation you may use translated verbal test instructions written in a student’s native language. (These scripted instructions will be made available to Test Accommodations Coordinators at the time of testing.) Also as a State-Allowed accommodation, Spanish video DVDs for mathematics and science are available for Day 1 and Day 2. For more information about this State-Allowed accommodation, please visit www.isbe.net/assessment/SpDVD.htm.

LEP students who have been eligible for a TBE or TPI program for *up to five years* may receive extended time and oral presentation of the tests (via reader script, audiocassettes, audio DVDs, or Spanish video DVDs). For a student to test with any LEP accommodations on Day 1, a State-Allowed application must be completed and returned to ACT by the appointed Test Accommodations Coordinator at the school where the student is scheduled to test. Please note that if a State-Allowed accommodation is provided, ACT scores from the administration will not be reportable to colleges or universities. The results will be used for PSAE and state accountability purposes only.

Why does the PSAE include different kinds of tests?

The PSAE is designed to measure progress toward meeting the Illinois Learning Standards in three academic subjects and also to provide students with broad achievement information. For these reasons, the PSAE incorporates tests that measure the Illinois Learning Standards and that also measure workplace skills and readiness for college.

The four ACT multiple-choice tests measure what students have learned in English, mathematics, reading, and science. The two WorkKeys tests add depth and breadth; they also address the “Applications of Learning” that are part of the Standards for every academic area, and they increase the range of skills in reading and mathematics that are assessed. Comprehensive coverage of the Illinois Learning Standards for PSAE subjects is accomplished by the inclusion of an ISBE-developed test in science.

The PSAE score in each subject is based on two tests. For example, PSAE science comprises ACT Science on Day 1 and the ISBE-developed science test on Day 2. The chart on page 14 of this handbook shows how the tests that make up the PSAE fit together to assess each subject.

What are WorkKeys tests?

WorkKeys is a job analysis and assessment system developed by ACT. In recent years, members of the business community as well as the general public have been concerned that American workers, both current and future, lack the workplace skills needed to meet the challenges of rapidly evolving technical advances, organizational restructuring, and global economic competition. ACT designed WorkKeys to solve this problem. In developing the WorkKeys assessments, ACT listened to employers, educators, and experts in employment and training requirements to find out which skills are crucial in most jobs. Each WorkKeys skill scale describes a set of skill levels. For both the WorkKeys reading and mathematics assessments, there are five skill levels, with Level 3 requiring understanding of the least complex concepts and Level 7 requiring understanding of the most complex concepts.

Test items simulate the characteristics of the workplace and are taken from actual workplace materials. Scores reflect the level of skill a student has achieved rather than his or her performance in relation to that of others taking the test. WorkKeys scores help students identify their strengths and weaknesses with respect to their education and career goals.

Why are WorkKeys tests included on the PSAE?

ISBE decided to incorporate two WorkKeys tests, *Reading for Information* and *Applied Mathematics*, into the PSAE for three reasons:

- (1) WorkKeys tests assess whether students can apply what they have learned in the classroom to non-classroom situations, as required by the “Applications of Learning” sections of the Illinois Learning Standards.
- (2) WorkKeys tests give students a set of scores that they can use to identify the workplace skills they already have and those they need to acquire.
- (3) WorkKeys scores are used by many employers as part of the process of determining whether a job applicant is suited for a particular job or training program. WorkKeys skill levels have been used to describe thousands of jobs ranging from entry-level to those requiring postsecondary degrees. Students may include their WorkKeys scores in their portfolio and present them for comparison with the requirements of the job they are seeking. They may also use their scores toward earning a National Career Readiness Certificate.

PSAE Results and Score Reports

Must PSAE scores appear on student transcripts?

Yes. State law requires students’ PSAE scores to be recorded on their transcripts. Transcripts should indicate subjects in which students earned a Prairie State Achievement Award.

In the shipment of PSAE score reports from the spring 2012 administration, ACT’s PSAE subcontractor, Pearson, will send schools a set of labels for transcripts that list the PSAE score in each subject for each student. These labels also indicate the subjects (if any) in which the student earned a Prairie State Achievement Award. These PSAE scores are the scores that must be recorded on student transcripts.

What is a Prairie State Achievement Award?

The PSAE legislation provides that students can receive a Prairie State Achievement Award in each PSAE subject by earning a score that is at the Exceeds Standards performance level. Students receive a certificate listing the subject(s) in which they earned an award.

Should ACT scores appear on student transcripts?

ACT scores generated by taking the PSAE should not automatically be placed on student transcripts. These scores should be included on transcripts only with a student’s written permission (or a parent’s or guardian’s written permission if the student is younger than 18 years old).

Are ACT scores from state PSAE testing accepted by colleges and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC)?

Yes. Colleges and universities throughout the United States and ISAC have indicated their willingness to use college-reportable ACT scores reported from state testing. ACT scores achieved using State-Allowed accommodations are NOT college-reportable.

Are ACT scores from state PSAE testing accepted by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)?

In 2006, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) implemented rules changes that allow the use of state ACT scores in determining initial eligibility for participation in Division I and Division II sports. These changes were effective January 9, 2006, for Division II and August 1, 2006, for Division I. As a result, students entering college on or after August 1, 2006, can use state ACT scores for both Division I and Division II initial eligibility. Questions may be directed to the NCAA Eligibility Center at 877/262-1492.

Are the WorkKeys scores from PSAE testing accepted for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)?

Yes, if the tests are taken under standard conditions or with approved accommodations, WorkKeys scores may be used toward a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). However, scores earned for WorkKeys *Applied Mathematics* using the Spanish DVD format will not be applicable for the NCRC.

How and when are PSAE scores distributed?

A schedule for the return of scores from the spring 2012 administration is provided below.

Test	From	To	Date Sent	Report(s)
ACT	ACT	Student (home address, as reported by student on Day 1 answer document)	May/June	Individual Student Report
ACT	ACT	High School Director of Counseling	May/June	High School Report ^{1,4,5} (paper) and two score labels for each student, High School List Report ^{2,3,4,5}
ACT	ACT	Colleges, as listed by student on Day 1 answer document	May/June	College Report for each student who listed that college to receive ACT scores
PSAE	Pearson	Home High School Principal	August/September	School Performance Profile School Roster Individual Student Reports (2 copies; 1 additional copy is sent to Testing School principal if different from Home School) Data CD
PSAE	Pearson	Home District Superintendent	August/September	District Performance Profile District Roster Data CD (if more than one high school in district)
PSAE	ACT	Home High School Principal	August/September	Illinois State Goals School Report Illinois State Goals Individual Student Reports (2 copies)
<i>WorkKeys Reading for Information and Applied Mathematics</i>	ACT	Home High School Principal	August/September	Rosters Individual Student Reports
Notification of Day 1 (ACT) State-Allowed results	ACT	High School Principal	September/October	Individual Student Reports ^{4,5}
ACT	ACT	High School Principal	October	Grade 11 ACT High School Profile Report ^{4,5} Grade 11 ACT College Readiness Standards Report ^{4,5} Data CD
ACT	ACT	District Superintendent	October	A copy of the Grade 11 ACT High School Profile Report(s) for school(s) in the district Data CD

¹ ACT mails reports as they become available for reporting. Most schools receive more than one group of results, usually one group from the initial test date followed by smaller groups of results for students from the makeup testing and students tested with accommodations.

² Lists students included in the group for which results are being reported.

³ If a school or district has ordered electronic reporting of ACT results on diskette as an extra-cost service from ACT, the scores from state testing are included on the diskette generated after the June national test date.

⁴ Based solely on the ACT state testing results from spring 2012.

⁵ ACT scores are reported to the PSAE testing high school unless a different ACT High School Code is gridded in Block K of the PSAE Day 1 answer document.

Schedules: Test Dates and Test Administration

When do students take the PSAE?

In 2012, grade 11 students take the PSAE on a Tuesday and Wednesday in late April. Makeup tests are given two weeks later for students who are not in school on one or both of the initial test dates in April. Dates that have been set for spring 2012 follow:

Initial Test Dates

April 24–25, 2012

Makeup Test Dates

May 8–9, 2012

What should schools do if their spring break dates conflict with the test dates?

If a school’s 2012 spring break dates conflict with the initial PSAE test dates in April—and changing those spring break dates would violate a teacher’s contract or deny a community tradition—the school will be allowed to test all students on the makeup test dates in May. The school will not have an opportunity to conduct additional makeup testing in the spring.

What is the 2012 test administration schedule?

<p>Day 1 Tuesday, April 24, 2012</p>	<p>ACT English ACT Mathematics ACT Reading ACT Science</p>	<p>45 minutes (75 questions) 60 minutes (60 questions) <i>[required 15-minute break]</i> 35 minutes (40 questions) 35 minutes (40 questions)</p>
<p>Day 2 Wednesday, April 25, 2012</p>	<p>ISBE-Developed Science WorkKeys <i>Applied Mathematics</i> WorkKeys <i>Reading for Information</i></p>	<p>40 minutes (45 questions) 45 minutes (33 questions) <i>[required 15-minute break]</i> 45 minutes (33 questions)</p>

Note

Standard time makeup testing will follow this schedule and be administered on May 8 (Day 1) and May 9 (Day 2). Students should participate in makeup testing only on the day(s) they miss.

The Day 1 accommodations testing window is April 24–May 8, 2012, followed by the Day 2 accommodations testing window, which is April 25–May 9, 2012.

Students testing with accommodations on Day 1 and Day 2 must complete all Day 1 tests in order before completing all Day 2 tests in order.

2011–2012 PS AE Timeline

December 2011

December 14: Deadline for ACT to receive completed requests for off-site testing arrangements from schools. See ISBE Web site for request form:
www.isbe.net/assessment/psae.htm.

December 14: 2012 PS AE Test Administration Training Webinar recording is available on the PS AE website.

January–February 2012

January 12 and 25: Question and Answer Session Webinars hosted by ISBE and ACT.

January 27: Deadline for ACT to receive requests from schools for Day 1 ACT-approved test accommodations for individual students.

February 6 and 21: Question and Answer Session Webinars hosted by ISBE and ACT.

February 24: Pre-ID file is sent to ACT from the Student Information System for the production of PS AE Day 1 and Day 2 labels. Pre-ID labels are mailed to the Testing School indicated in the Pre-ID file.

March 2012

Copies of the parent informational brochure are shipped to principals from ACT. 2012 PS AE test-preparation materials and the Teacher’s Handbook (this book) are available only online.

March 9: Deadline for ACT to receive applications from schools for Day 1 State-allowed test accommodations for individual students.

Week of March 12: Test Supervisors receive Day 1 and Day 2 non-secure test materials (supervisor’s manuals, answer documents, pre-ID labels, and student pre-test materials).

March–April 2012

Mid March–April 23: Window for schools to conduct supervised sessions for all students to complete identifying and non-test portions of the ACT; these may *not* be completed on or after the test day.

April 2012

Test Supervisor and Back-up Test Supervisor train Room Supervisors and Proctors; Test Accommodations Coordinator trains staff assigned to help with accommodations testing.

Week of April 16: Schools receive shipments of secure test materials, including materials for accommodations testing. Day 1 shipment(s) from ACT, and Day 2 shipment(s) from Pearson. Early shipments to accommodate spring break schedules will be sent to arrive the week of April 9, 2012.

April 23: Teachers remind students to bring acceptable ID, pencils, and approved calculators on test days.

April 24: Day 1 standard time test date. Day 1 answer documents for students who completed testing and all used and unused test booklets packaged for return to ACT for April 25 pickup. *Retain uncompleted answer documents for makeup testing on May 8.*

April 25: Day 2 standard time test date. Day 2 answer documents for students who completed testing and all used and unused test booklets packaged for return to Pearson for April 26 pickup. *Retain uncompleted answer documents for makeup testing on May 9.*

April 25, 5 p.m. CST: Deadline for schools to submit orders for Day 1 standard time makeup materials to ACT using Online Services for State Testing.

April 25: FedEx picks up Day 1 shipments of packed test materials.

April 26, 5 p.m. CST: Deadline for schools to submit orders for Day 2 standard time makeup materials to Pearson using *PSAE TestSites Online*.

April 26: UPS picks up Day 2 shipments of packed test materials.

April–May 2012

Accommodations Testing Windows

April 24–May 8: Day 1 accommodations testing window for each student testing with ACT-Approved accommodations or State-Allowed accommodations. Students may use only the materials assigned to them; all materials packaged for return to ACT for May 9 pickup.

April 25–May 9: Day 2 accommodations testing window; all materials packaged for return to Pearson for May 10 pickup.

May 2012

By May 3: Schools receive standard time makeup test materials by this date, if April 25 and 26 deadlines for submitting orders to ACT and Pearson were met.

May 8: Day 1 standard time makeup test date for students absent on April 24. All Day 1 makeup materials packaged for return to ACT after testing for May 9 pickup.

May 9: Day 2 standard time makeup test date for students absent on April 25. All Day 2 makeup materials packaged for return to Pearson after testing for May 10 pickup.

May 9: FedEx picks up Day 1 shipments of standard time makeup test materials and test accommodations materials.

May 10: UPS picks up Day 2 shipments of standard time makeup test materials and test accommodations materials.

May 10: Assessment Correction window begins. Districts should verify that all student demographic data are accurate prior to the posting of preliminary scores on July 10.

May–June 2012

ACT mails ACT score reports from PSAE administration to students at their home addresses, to each school’s director of counseling, and to college choices, as applicable.

July/August 2012

July 10: Preliminary PSAE scores are posted in ISBE’s Student Information System.

July 17: Assessment Correction window ends. Rescore requests are due to ISBE.

Final PSAE scores are posted in ISBE’s Student Information System (anticipated no later than August 3, 2012).

August/September 2012

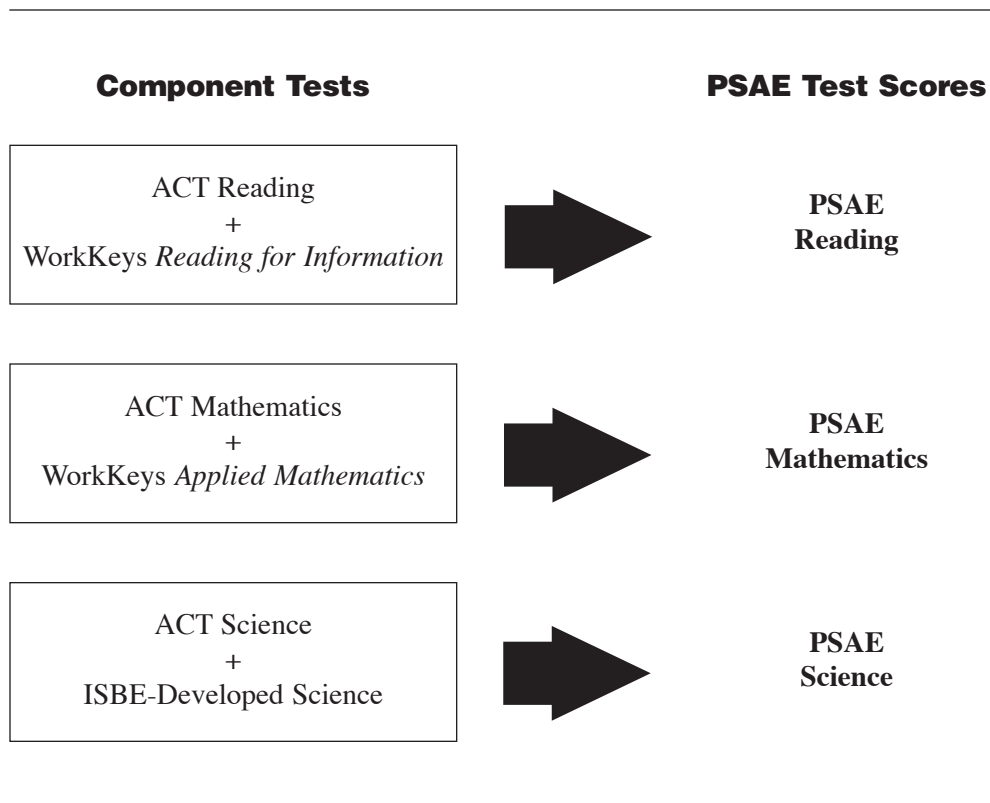
Pearson sends PSAE score reports, PSAE score labels for student transcripts, and certificates for students who earned a Prairie State Achievement Award in one or more subjects to home high school principals.

ACT sends Illinois State Goals reports to home high school principals.

October 2012

ACT sends Grade 11 ACT High School Profile Reports to high school principals and district superintendents.

How Component Tests Combine to Produce PSAE Scores



Prairie State
Achievement Examination

**Overview:
The Reading Test**

Reading Introduction

What will be on the test?

The reading section of the Prairie State Achievement Examination consists of two components: ACT Reading, taken on Day 1, and WorkKeys *Reading for Information*, taken on Day 2.

These components assess the Illinois Learning Standards (ILS) for reading. They test students’ ability to read literary and informational texts with understanding and fluency.

ACT Reading

(35 minutes, 40 multiple-choice questions)

This component comprises four 750-word passages, each followed by 10 multiple-choice questions. Two of the passages are literary texts: one fiction and one nonfiction. The other two passages are informational texts: one social science and one natural science.

Across texts, the difficulty ranges from uncomplicated to challenging to complex. Questions assess students’ explicit and inferential understanding and the following reading skills: determining main ideas and significant details, identifying comparative and cause-effect relationships, determining meanings of words, making generalizations and drawing conclusions, and determining author’s tone.

More information about the passages and questions can be found in the *College Readiness Standards™*, available online at www.act.org/standard/pdf/CRS.pdf.

WorkKeys Reading for Information

(45 minutes, 33 multiple-choice questions)

This component includes 15 reading selections that range in length from about 50 up to 300 words. Each selection is followed by one, two, or three multiple-choice questions.

The selections include memos, policy statements, procedures, government regulations, and other such business texts and are arranged in five levels of increasing difficulty. Across texts, the questions assess student achievement in identifying main ideas and significant details, understanding word meanings, and applying instructions, information, and reasoning.

More information about the selections and questions can be found online at www.act.org/workkeys/assess/reading/index.html.

Keys and Assessment Framework

A sample ACT Reading Test and sample WorkKeys *Reading for Information* questions can be found in the two test preparation booklets: the *Overview and Preparation Guide for PS AE Day 2* and *Preparing for the ACT* for PS AE Day 1 (Appendices A and B). Keys that give the correct answer for each multiple-choice item in the student PS AE reading sample materials and identify the assessment objective covered by an item are on pages 17 and 18. The Illinois Reading Assessment Framework for PS AE grade 11, which contains descriptions of assessment objectives, is available on the ISBE Web site at www.isbe.net/assessment/IAFIndex.htm.

Key for ACT Reading Sample Test

Item Number	Assessment Objective	Correct Answer
1	1.11.12	B
2	1.11.29	F
3	1.11.19	B
4	1.11.06	J
5	1.11.10	C
6	1.11.09	G
7	1.11.11	D
8	1.11.19	J
9	1.11.02	C
10	1.11.19	H
11	1.11.12	A
12	1.11.13	H
13	1.11.19	D
14	1.11.09	F
15	1.11.19	A
16	1.11.28	J
17	1.11.09	D
18	1.11.09	G
19	1.11.09	D
20	1.11.09	G
21	1.11.13	C
22	1.11.19	J
23	1.11.10	B
24	1.11.28	G
25	1.11.19	C
26	1.11.19	F
27	1.11.09	C
28	1.11.09	G
29	1.11.28	A
30	1.11.11	H
31	1.11.09	C
32	1.11.09	F
33	1.11.09	C
34	1.11.09	J
35	1.11.19	B
36	1.11.10	J
37	1.11.09	A
38	1.11.02	H
39	1.11.09	D
40	1.11.30	G

Key for WorkKeys Reading for Information Sample Items

Item Number	Assessment Objective	Correct Answer
Level 3		
1	1.11.08	B
2	1.11.09	E
3	1.11.16	B
Level 4		
1	1.11.09	D
2	1.11.24	B
3	1.11.24	B
Level 5		
1	1.11.22	D
2	1.11.20	C
3	1.11.02	C
Level 6		
1	1.11.10	D
2	1.11.09	A
3	1.11.19	B
Level 7		
1	1.11.10	B
2	1.11.10	A
3	1.11.10	B

Prairie State
Achievement Examination

**Overview:
The Mathematics Test**

Mathematics Introduction

What will be on the test?

The mathematics section of the Prairie State Achievement Examination consists of two components: ACT Mathematics, taken on Day 1, and WorkKeys *Applied Mathematics*, taken on Day 2.

The items on both components are closely aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards (ILS) for mathematics. The two components assess problem-solving skills and critical thinking in mathematics.

ACT Mathematics

(60 minutes, 60 multiple-choice questions)

Questions require the use of reasoning skills to solve practical problems in mathematics in six areas: pre-algebra (23%), elementary algebra (17%), intermediate algebra (15%), coordinate geometry (15%), plane geometry (23%), and trigonometry (7%).

Though all problems can be solved without using a calculator, certain types of calculators may be used during the test. However, other types of calculators are prohibited, and ACT regularly updates information about which ones are not allowed. For the latest information, visit www.actstudent.org/faq/answers/calculator.html or call 1-800/498-6481 for a recorded message.

Computational skills and knowledge of basic formulas are assumed, but extensive computation and knowledge of complex formulas are not required. More detailed information about the problems and questions can be found in the *College Readiness Standards*, available online at www.act.org/standard/pdf/CRS.pdf.

WorkKeys Applied Mathematics

(45 minutes, 33 multiple-choice questions)

This component measures a student’s skill in using mathematical reasoning to solve work-related problems. Students set up and solve problems like those that actually occur in a workplace. Students may use a calculator; a formula sheet is provided. The questions in this component come in five levels of increasing difficulty.

More information about the problems and questions can be found online at www.act.org/workkeys/assess/math/index.html.

Keys and Assessment Framework

A sample ACT Mathematics Test and sample WorkKeys *Applied Mathematics* questions can be found in the two test preparation booklets: the *Overview and Preparation Guide for PSAE Day 2* and *Preparing for the ACT for PSAE Day 1* (Appendices A and B). Keys that give the correct answer for each multiple-choice item in the student PSAE mathematics sample materials and identify the assessment objective(s) covered by an item are on pages 21 and 22. The Illinois Mathematics Assessment Framework for PSAE grade 11, which contains descriptions of assessment objectives, is available on the ISBE Web site at www.isbe.net/assessment/IAFIndex.htm.

Key for ACT Mathematics Sample Test

Item Number	Assessment Objective(s)*	Correct Answer
1	6.11.16	D
2	6.11.13	G
3	7.11.07	C
4	8.11.01	J
5	7.11.03	C
6	8.11.01	J
7	6.11.18	C
8	8.11.16, 8.11.01	H
9	9.11.09	D
10	9.11.09, 9.11.05	F
11	6.11.12	E
12	7.11.03, 9.11.05	J
13	6.11.18, 10.11.01	A
14	6.11.17, 10.11.01	H
15	10.11.02, 10.11.01	B
16	7.11.06, 7.11.03	G
17	8.11.09, 9.11.09	E
18	6.11.17	H
19	6.11.01	C
20	7.11.03, 6.11.08	G
21	8.11.18	A
22	8.11.01	K
23	9.11.11	E
24	8.11.14	K
25	7.11.05, 9.11.12	B
26	8.11.16	G
27	6.11.17, 8.11.14	C
28	10.11.10	J
29	7.11.05	E
30	6.11.18	G

Item Number	Assessment Objective(s)*	Correct Answer
31	7.11.03, 8.11.06	D
32	8.11.01, 8.11.21	H
33	10.11.05, 10.11.01	B
34	9.11.05	H
35	8.11.01	E
36	8.11.16	F
37	9.11.02, 9.11.10	C
38	9.11.22	K
39	9.11.05, 9.11.17	B
40	6.11.17	H
41	9.11.19	B
42	6.11.13	J
43	9.11.05, 9.11.17	B
44	7.11.03	G
45	6.11.02	E
46	8.11.19	K
47	10.11.04	A
48	9.11.17	F
49	8.11.19, 8.11.22	C
50	8.11.08	F
51	10.11.07, 10.11.10	D
52	9.11.09, 9.11.17	F
53	9.11.22	D
54	7.11.03	J
55	8.11.20	E
56	9.11.10	G
57	8.11.13, 8.11.16	E
58	8.11.02, 8.11.22	F
59	9.11.09, 7.11.03	A
60	8.11.04, 8.11.06	F

*If more than one assessment objective is assigned to an item, the first is considered to be the item’s primary classification.

Key for WorkKeys *Applied Mathematics* Sample Items

Item Number	Assessment Objective	Correct Answer
Level 3		
1	6.11.10	E
2	6.11.02	D
3	6.11.13	B
Level 4		
1	6.11.13	E
2	7.11.01	B
3	6.11.17	B
Level 5		
1	6.11.18	E
2	6.11.13	E
3	7.11.01	C
Level 6		
1	7.11.03	B
2	7.11.02	D
3	7.11.07	C
Level 7		
1	8.11.17	C
2	6.11.18	D
3	6.11.14	C

Prairie State
Achievement Examination

**Overview:
The Science Test**

Science Introduction

What will be on the test?

The science section of the Prairie State Achievement Examination consists of two components: ACT Science, taken on Day 1, and an ISBE-developed science test, taken on Day 2.

Test questions are distributed equally across the Illinois Learning Standards that cover science inquiry; the life, physical, and Earth and space sciences; and the relationship among science, technology, and society. Both components measure critical thinking skills, including interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reasoning, and problem-solving, required in the natural sciences.

The use of calculators is not permitted on either of the science tests administered as part of the PSAE.

ACT Science

(35 minutes, 40 multiple-choice questions)

The ACT Science Test presents seven sets of scientific information in the form of reading passages and data summaries, each followed by a series of multiple-choice questions. The content includes biology, chemistry, physics, and Earth and space sciences. More information about the passages and questions can be found in the *College Readiness Standards*, available online at www.act.org/standard/pdf/CRS.pdf.

ISBE-Developed Science

(40 minutes, 45 multiple-choice questions)

The ISBE-developed science test presents scientific information in the form of short prompts, with each followed by one multiple-choice question. Test questions are distributed across the Illinois Learning Standards.

Keys and Assessment Framework

A sample ACT Science Test and sample ISBE-developed science questions can be found in the two test preparation booklets: the *Overview and Preparation Guide for PSAE Day 2* and *Preparing for the ACT for PSAE Day 1* (Appendices A and B). Keys that give the correct answer for each multiple-choice item in the student PSAE science sample materials and identify the assessment objective covered by an item are on pages 25 and 26. The Illinois Science Assessment Framework for PSAE grade 11, which contains descriptions of assessment objectives, is available on the ISBE Web site at www.isbe.net/assessment/IAFIndex.htm.

Key for ACT Science Sample Test

Item Number	Assessment Objective	Correct Answer
1	11.11.01	D
2	11.11.01	G
3	11.11.01	D
4	11.11.01	F
5	11.11.01	A
6	11.11.01	F
7	11.11.01	C
8	11.11.01	J
9	11.11.01	C
10	11.11.01	J
11	11.11.01	B
12	11.11.01	J
13	11.11.01	D
14	11.11.01	H
15	11.11.01	A
16	11.11.01	H
17	11.11.01	A
18	12.11.07	F
19	11.11.01	B
20	12.11.07	G
21	11.11.01	C
22	11.11.01	G
23	11.11.01	C
24	11.11.01	H
25	11.11.01	B
26	11.11.01	F
27	11.11.01	B
28	11.11.01	H
29	11.11.01	C
30	11.11.01	G
31	11.11.01	D
32	11.11.01	G
33	11.11.01	D
34	11.11.01	H
35	11.11.01	D
36	11.11.01	J
37	11.11.01	A
38	11.11.01	F
39	11.11.01	B
40	11.11.01	J

Key for ISBE-Developed Science Sample Items

Item Number	Assessment Objective	Correct Answer
1	12.11.21	A
2	12.11.36	A
3	12.11.09	D
4	12.11.01	D
5	12.11.13	D
6	12.11.12	B
7	12.11.15	B
8	12.11.29	C
9	12.11.35	D
10	12.11.33	D
11	12.11.50	A
12	12.11.39	B
13	12.11.47	D
14	12.11.58	C
15	12.11.57	B
16	12.11.62	C
17	12.11.87	D
18	12.7.72	B
19	12.7.75	A
20	12.11.102	B
21	12.11.77	B
22	12.7.79	A
23	12.7.79	B

Item Number	Assessment Objective	Correct Answer
24	12.11.106	B
25	12.11.79	B
26	13.4.08	C
27	13.11.04	B
28	12.11.78	A
29	12.11.102	A
30	12.11.62	B
31	12.11.81	B
32	12.11.79	B
33	12.11.102	C
34	12.11.76	B
35	13.11.01	D
36	12.11.97	D
37	12.11.28	A
38	12.11.103	B
39	13.11.09	A
40	11.11.06	A
41	12.11.95	D
42	13.11.01	C
43	12.11.56	A
44	13.11.09	A
45	12.11.36	C

Prairie State
Achievement Examination

Appendices

Appendix A

Overview and Preparation Guide for PSAE Day 2

Click on the title "Overview and Preparation Guide for PSAE Day 2" to open this document.

Appendix B

Preparing for the ACT **for PSAE Day 1** **2011–2012**

Click on the title "Preparing for the ACT for PSAE Day 1 2011-2012" to open this document.