

BUREAU CHIEF
Office of State Assessment

August 2023

TO: Principals of Secondary Schools

FROM: Nancy A. Viall *Nancy A. Viall*

SUBJECT: August 2023 Regents Examinations

This memorandum provides helpful information concerning the format, content, and credit allotment of the Regents Examinations to be administered in August 2023. Please make the information for each subject area available immediately to the teachers who will be administering these examinations.

The [School Administrator's Manual](#) s.

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Student Use of Communications Devices

All students are prohibited from bringing cell phones and certain other electronic devices (as defined in the script below) into a classroom or any other location where a State examination is being administered. Test proctors, test monitors, and school officials shall retain the right to collect and hold any prohibited electronic devices prior to the start of the test administration. Admission to the test shall be denied to any student who is in possession of a cell phone or other prohibited electronic device and refuses to relinquish it.

At the beginning of each test administration, proctors must read the following statement to all students taking State examinations:

You cannot have any communications device, including a cell phone, with you during this examination



The [Scoring Key, Rating Guide, and Model Response Set](#) will be made available on the Department's website. Posting time for the scoring materials for the August Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department's website will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

The Department will provide a *Model Response Set* to serve as additional scoring guidance. This guidance is intended to be part of the scorer training. Schools should use the *Model Response Set*, along with the rubrics in the scoring key and rating guide, to help guide the scoring of student work. While not reflective of all scenarios, the *Model Response Set* illustrates how less common student responses to constructed-response questions should be scored. The [Model Response Set](#) will be available on the Department's website on the same date and time as the scoring key and rating guide for this examination. The same password will be used to access the scoring key, rating guide, and the *Model Response Set*.

Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key and rating guide will include answers to the Part I multiple-choice questions and rubrics for scoring the constructed-response questions. A [chart for converting](#) the student's total-test raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's website.

Because scale scores corresponding to raw scores in the conversion chart may change from one administration to another, it is crucial that, for each administration, only the conversion chart provided for that administration be used to determine the student's final score. The student's scale score should be entered in the box provided on the student's separate answer sheet. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Each answer paper for all State examinations in mathematics must be rated by a committee with a minimum of three mathematics teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score no more than approximately one-third of the constructed-response questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination in mathematics after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The [Information Booklet for Scoring the Regents Examination in Algebra I](#) provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Schools should provide copies of this booklet to all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination.

Online Teacher Evaluation Form

Suggestions and feedback from teachers provide an important contribution to the test development process. The Department provides an online [evaluation form](#) for State examinations. It contains spaces for teachers to respond to several specific questions and to make suggestions.

Regents Examination in Geometry

The August 2023 Regents Examination in Geometry is similar in format to the test administered in June 2023. Prior to the date of the examination, schools must obtain for each student a standardized scannable answer sheet provided by the regional scanning center.

Schools *must* make a graphing calculator available for the exclusive use of each student while taking the Regents Examination in Geometry. The memory of any calculator with programming capability must be cleared, reset, or disabled when students enter the testing room. If the memory of a student's calculator is password-protected and cannot be cleared, the calculator must not be used. Remove any prohibited applications from the graphing calculator. No students may use calculators that are capable of symbol manipulation or that can communicate with other calculators through any means, nor may students use operating manuals, instruction or formula cards, or other information concerning the operation of calculators during the examination. Symbol manipulation calculators are calculators capable of doing symbolic algebra or symbolic calculus (for example: factoring, expanding, or simplifying given variable output).

Schools must be sure that each student has a compass and straightedge (ruler) while taking the Regents Examination in Geometry.

Students must write their answers to the questions in Part I on the separate answer sheet provided by the proctor. They must write their answers to the questions in Parts II, III, and IV in the examination booklet. Students must clearly indicate the necessary steps, including appropriate formula substitutions, diagrams, graphs, charts, etc., that they used in arriving at their answers to the questions in Parts II, III, and IV.

Students should write all work in the examination booklet in pen, except for graphs and drawings, which should be done in pencil. As the examination is being administered, proctors should check to see that students are using the proper writing implements to record their answers. However, if it is discovered

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THE SCIENCES

Regents Examination in Living Environment

The August 2023 Regents Examination in Living Environment is based on the *Living Environment Core Curriculum*. It is similar in format to the examination administered in June 2023. The examination has five parts, with a total of 85 questions. Students must answer all questions in all parts. Four-function or scientific calculators **must** be available to all students who wish to have them during the entire scheduled time for this examination. Students are not permitted to use graphing calculators when taking this examination. The following table shows the types of questions and credit allotment for each part of the August 2023 examination.

August 2023 Regents Examination in Living Environment

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
A	multiple-choice	1–30	0 or 1	30



Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. The scoring key provides the answers to the multiple-choice questions. The rating guide provides rubrics for scoring each of the constructed-response questions. A [chart for converting](#) the student's total raw score to a scale score will be provided on the Department's website. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Because scale scores corresponding to raw scores in the conversion chart may change from one administration to another, it is crucial that, for each administration, only the conversion chart provided for that administration be used to determine the student's final score. The student's scale score should be entered in the box provided on the student's separate answer sheet. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Each answer paper for all State examinations in science should be rated by a committee with a minimum of two science teachers to ensure the accuracy of the scores. Each rater is to score no more than approximately one-half or less of the constructed-response questions on any student's answer paper. Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the constructed-response questions on any Regents Examination in science after each question has been rated once, regardless of the final examination score. Schools are required to ensure that the raw scores have been added correctly and that the resulting scale score has been determined accurately.

The [Information Booklet for Scoring Regents Examinations in the Sciences](#) provides further information about the scoring of this examination. Prior to the administration date, all school personnel involved in the scoring of this examination



Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science

The August 2023 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science is similar in format to the test administered in June 2023. It is based on the

August 2023 Regents Examination in Physical Setting/Earth Science



scores to scale scores will be provided on the Department's website. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Because scale scores corresponding to raw scores in the conversion chart may change from one administration to another, it is crucial that, for each administration, only the conversion chart provided for that administration be used to determine the student's final score. The student's scale score should be entered in the box provided on the student's separate answer sheet. The scale score is the student's final examination score.

Two teachers must rate each Part III essay response independently, with a third teacher available to rate essays with discrepant scores. (A discrepant score is one that varies by more than one credit on a 5-credit rubric.) Only one qualified rater is to rate each student response to the short-answer constructed-response questions. If staffing is sufficient, separate teams of teachers should rate the Part II constructed-response questions and the Part III essay. **No teacher is to score any of the responses written by their own students.** Schools are **not permitted** to rescore any of the open-ended questions (including essays) on any Regents Examination after each question has been rated the required number of times as specified in the scoring manual.

Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework)

The August 2023 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework) is similar in format to the test administered in June 2023. The examination has three parts. Students are to answer all questions in all parts. Part I contains 28 multiple-choice questions. Part II contains two sets of open-ended questions. Part III contains six short-answer (scaffold) questions and one essay question based on several documents and the student’s knowledge of specific social studies content.

Prior to the date of administration, schools must obtain for each student a standardized scannable answer sheet provided by a regional scanning center. Students are to write their answers to the Part I questions on the answer sheet provided by the proctor. They are to write their answers to the Part III A short-answer (scaffold) questions in pen directly in the examination booklet. In a separate essay booklet, they are to write in pen their answers to the Part II short essay questions (Set 1 and Set 2) beginning on page 3, and the Part III B essay question beginning on page 7. The [essay booklet](#) is available to schools on the Department’s website. Schools must provide copies of the essay booklet to students. Students may use scrap paper, provided by the school, for planning essays. Be sure that students write their names on their scrap paper.

The following table shows the types of questions and the credit allotment for each part of the August 2023 examination.

August 2023 Regents Examination in United States History and Government (Framework)

Part	Question Type	Question Numbers	Raw-Score Credits Attainable for Each Question	Total Number of Raw-Score Credits
I	multiple-choice	1–28	0 or 1	28
II	essays	Short Essay Question Set 1 (29)	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5	10
		Short Essay Question Set 2 (30)	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5	
III A	1-credit open-ended short-answer (scaffold) questions	31–36	0 or 1	6
III B	essay	Civic Literacy Document-Based Essay (37)	0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, or 5.0	5

Before allowing students to begin this examination, have them check the cover of their examination booklet and answer sheet to be sure that they have the correct title, date, and time.

The [Scoring Key and Rating Guide](#) will be made available on the Department’s website. Schools must print sufficient copies of the scoring key and rating guide to supply one to each rater. Posting time for the scoring materials for the August Regents Examinations will be approximately 11:00 a.m. for morning examinations and approximately 3:00 p.m. for afternoon examinations. All scoring keys and rating guides posted on the Department’s website will be password-protected. Passwords needed to open the files for the posted scoring keys and rating guides will be made available to principals in the Online Examination Request System on the day of the examination. In order to access the scoring keys and rating guides, all schools will be required to enter the passwords from the Online Examination Request System.

The scoring key for this examination provide
